

their skills on the field under the direction of Head Coach Jeff Cordell and his coaching staff in preparation for the 2017 football season.

#### KIMBERLEY MEYER | THE DEVIL'S RIVER NEWS

# **Broncos Gear Up for Pre-Season Two-a-Days Trai**

#### **By Kimberley Mever**

Two-a-days training opened Monday, August 7, 2017 for the Sonora Broncos in preparation for the 2017 football season.

Although, athletes have been conditioning during the summer, this practice is symbolic of the team's overall success in the fall. Under the direction of Head Coach Jeff Cordell, the season goal remains the same as is every year - to win a state championship.

"The focus is the same as any year," Cordell said. "Win a state championship. I think that's anybody's goal across the state of Texas. And, I think it's a realistic goal for us. The key for us, just like with any small school is to stay healthy. The skill set is there. Our O-line and D-line will determine our success.'

Despite the fact that many expect the Broncos to be right back in the thick of things, following their deep playoff success last season, there are some recognizable changes this year.

There are a lot of young faces on the field as well as fewer coaches. Additionally, Jeff Cordell, as the new head coach, is leading the Broncos this

#### season.

This year will serve as a year to find out the new names of the broncos and get a glimpse of the type of program Cordell is building.

Cordell, a defensive coordinator for the Broncos replaced David Sine as Head Coach and Athletic Director at the end of the school year last year.

Additionally, absorption from state funding across the district affected athletics and the number of coaches went from thirteen to nine this year.

This year's varsity team of thirty-three players will follow the lead of six well-seasoned returning athletes. The junior varsity includes a team of fortyseven players. There is no freshman team this season.

Excited about the 2017 football campaign, Cordell said, despite the challenges, he and his coaching staff are ready to keep the Broncos' tradition on-going.

"While all of the coaches remain focused on the goals, the turnover of talent from last year is significant allowing a fresh pool of new talent to make a name for themselves this season," Cordell said. "We've

got a lot of young talent that not a lot of people are aware of in the other districts. They have really stepped up and have had a phenomenal spring and summer for us."

Of course, going into the season Cordell said he sees both strengths and weaknesses.

**Playing under the Friday** night lights will be a challenge for younger players who are used to playing on Thursday he said. The pace of the game is a lot faster and the intensity is greater. Developing these players in a hurry to prepare for their opening game against interstate rival Ozona is going to be the detail.

However, returning players Kaden Cordell and Jarrett Jackson keeps the odds more in their favor according to Cordell.

"Kaden being the quote, unquote, leader offensively for us and then having two years under his belt as a starter is a strength. JJ, with two years, had a phenomenal season last year. As well, our coaching staff is going

to be a strength for us, even though we decreased the number of football coaches that we have going into the 2017 campaign," Cordell said. "I am also excited about the coaching staff, I think our kids are in good hands."

New this year, Charlie Bunch, known for his years of experience and success as a defensive coordinator and **Creighton Henderson, former** coach at Stony Point High School in Round Rock.

'They bring a lot of experience and we are very fortunate to have them," Cordell said.

Although the goal of a state championship remains at the fore front, Cordell said he fully understands its more than just winning. In addition to teaching athletes the necessary skills and drills, Cordell said he also encourages them always be the best they can be in everything they do in life.

"Winning a football game is not what life is about," Cordell said. "I tell our kids on a daily basis you winning a football

game doesn't make you a winner and losing a game doesn't make vou a loser. How we represent ourselves on a daily basis is what defines us as young men and women in society. Always, be the best that you can be."

Supporting that mind set, this year's motto, "Leave No Doubt", speaks for the overall reputation of Sonora student athletes.

"When our students leave a place, I want there to be no doubt that Sonora was there." Cordell said. I want people to know we are a class act based on how we carry ourselves on a daily basis. That is the culture that we want to create here in Sonora. It's about creating a culture where people want to be a part of it because of the great things and positive things taking place."

Ranked number six in the state of Texas in class 3-A Division II, according the Dave Campbell's Texas Football, the Broncos gear up for a scrimmage against Mason Friday, August 18

**SEE BRONCOS ON PAGE 5** 



## **Countywide Burn Ban Lifted**

The Sutton County Commissioners lifted the burn ban, effective Thursday, August 3, 2017. Controlled outdoor burning

is allowed until further notice. If you plan on burning please contact the Sheriff's office at 325-387-2288.

### **Commissioners Keep Tax Rate Same as Last Year**

In unanimous agreement, **Sutton County Commissioners** approved keeping the effective tax rate the same as last year during a special meeting, Monday, August 7, 2017.

After reviewing budget needs and commitments, the court agreed that keeping the same rate of 68.0127 cents per \$100 of taxable value will allow the county to maintain the new fiscal year budget as proposed in the last meeting of the court.

None the less, a careful eye on the numbers throughout the year is key to a positive balance at the end of the year.

Also on the agenda, the court approved to waive the fees for West Texas Rehab to use the Civic Center to host the annual Sonora Sensation. Judge Steve Smith mentioned the possibility of Sutton County Days being rescheduled to August 2018. Additionally, he reported that he will be attending a Ports-to-Plains meeting and conference September 12-14 in Lubbock.

**Commissioner Carl Teaff** reported on his research findings on Windmill Farming in Sutton County. The idea has been discussed in previous meetings. Teaff has spoken with a number of individuals who have firsthand knowledge as well as an understanding about implementing, maintaining and

benefits of Windmills.

No decisions have been made on whether or not to move forward with this opportunity.

With no further discussion or visitor comments the meeting was adjourned.

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

The next regular meeting of the Sutton County Commissioners is set for Monday, August 14, 2017 at 9:00 a.m. at the Sutton County Annex Building.

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### House Passes Bills to Give Retired Teachers Health Care Cost Relief

AUSTIN - The Texas House on Aug. 1 approved House Bill 20, legislation appropriating \$212.7 million from the "rainy day" reserve fund to help defray rising healthcare costs for retired school employees.

Primary authors of HB 20 include: Trent Ashby, R-Lufkin; Drew Darby, R-San Angelo; Gary VanDeaver, R-New Boston; John Zerwas, R-Katy; and Donna Howard, D-Austin.

The House also approved HB 80, legislation that through the Teacher Retirement System of Texas would make a one-time cost-of-living adjustment to the retirement benefits paid to certain retirees, disability retirees and survivors. To be eligible for the increase, the annuitant must have retired

between Aug. 31, 2004 and Aug. 31, 2015.

Primary authors of HB 80 include: Rep. Darby, Ryan Guillen, D-Rio Grande City; Rene Oliveira, D-Brownsville; and Bobby Guerra, D-McAllen.

Speaker Joe Straus, who presides over the House, applauded the action, saying: "Since the end of the regular session, House members across the state have heard from retirees who are concerned about some significant increases in premiums and deductibles. Based on the feedback we've heard back home, the House cast an overwhelming vote (Aug. 1) to help retired teachers who are facing very steep increases in their monthly expenses."

In other news, the House passed HB 25, which would appropriate \$34 million from the state's \$11 billion rainy day fund and \$45 million in federal funds for fiscal year 2018, plus another \$36 million from the rainy day fund and \$48.3 million in federal funds for fiscal year 2019 to the Health and Human Services Commission for Medicaid acute care therapy services.

Primary authors of HB 25 include: Sarah Davis, R-Houston; Walter "Four" Price, R-Amarillo; Rep. Guerra; Rep. Darby; and Matt Krause, R-Fort Worth.

These and all House bills, however, must be approved by the Senate in order to move forward to the governor's desk for final consideration.

Former governor dies

Mark White, who served as governor of Texas from 1983 to 1987, died Aug. 5 at age 77. He was the last living Democrat to have held the post.

White also served as Texas attorney general from 1979 to 1983, and as Texas secretary of state from 1973 to 1977.



び By Ed Sterling

Gov. Abbott ordered flags statewide to be lowered to half-staff in honor of Gov. SEE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS ON PAGE 5

## **The Second Battle** of the Alamo

#### **BY RICHARD L. RANGE** SAVE THE ALAMO COMMITTEE

A second Texas Revolution is currently brewing in the Lone Star State. This all comes as a result of a seemingly laudable plan promoted to and passed by the state's legislature some four years ago. The plan involved the rebuilding and improvement of the state's most iconic shrinethe Alamo. The plan as promoted and approved would have rebuilt certain historic structures present at the time of the 1836 battle, as well as give visitors there a better and more complete understanding of the physical environment existing at the time of the conflict.

Consequent to the plan's passage, **Texas General Land Office Commissioner** George P. Bush, whose office is now in charge of running the Alamo, brought in a number of out-of-state planners to design the project. What they came up with was something very different from what its backers originally envisioned.

Much to their dismay, the originators of this effort were astounded to learn that the new focus of the Alamo would no longer be the 1836 battle for which it is world famous. In the words of Bush's Master Planner George Skarmeas, "We cannot single out one moment in time.' Instead the Alamo would be transformed into a multi-cultural hodgepodge of world history. In fact, its very name would be changed. The site would no longer be referred to as the Alamo-instead, it would be known as the San Antonio de Valero mission. 🕞

And this does not comprise the full extent of the plan's disturbing features. Instead of rebuilding the mission's outerperimeter defensive walls using the origi-



# An Uphill Battle

It seemed like such a good idea, as most bad ideas do initially. My motives were sound and intentions genuine. I'd help the environment while whipping myself into shape. I'd save on wear and tear to my car. And, I'd set a good example for my kids by walking the walk and talking the talk (or pedaling the pedal as the case may be).

I was surprised I hadn't thought of the grand plan before.

It was a no-brainer, really, an inspired concept: I'd get myself a bike and ride it to the grocery store. I'd save on gas and burn calories all at the same time. I patted

job and ordered a couple

of metal baskets to attach

to the large fender to hold

ies. I bought a bike lock because you can

never be too careful and found some reus-

able shopping bags that fit perfectly in my

baskets. I checked the tires and filled with

My family supported me in my

taking off on tangents - wherever and

whenever an idea hits - which is often.

I tossed a bottle of water into my front

basket and hopped aboard. Off I went,

wind in my hair, grocery list in my back

pocket, Queen playing in my ears. "Get on

I didn't have far to go, just a couple of

miles on side roads, with little or no cross

traffic. I avoided busy streets, no reason

I traveled at a reasonable clip - no

need for speed - and arrived at my desti-

nation without incident. Decreasing my

even easier than I thought. I secured my

Half an hour later, I emerged with

two filled bags. I'd been cognizant of the

volume of my purchases because of my

limitations for moving them from point A

to point B. Larger items like toilet paper and a case of soda would have to wait for

carbon footprint was turning out to be

eco-friendly transport and entered the

to get too crazy with this adventure.

Everything was going as planned. I

The time came for my maiden voyage.

My husband even helped attach the

endeavor - mostly. They are used to me

my filled bags of grocer-

felt like hugging a tree.

your bikes and ride!"

air as needed.

baskets.

store.

a motorized trip, as would ice cream and freezer pops. It wasn't a perfect system but - hey - I was trying. I was happy and proud I'd been able to fit everything in the two bags, which fit neatly into my two metal baskets.

I loaded, unlocked and prepared to pedal my way out of the parking lot. Little did I know my brilliant idea was about to

hit the brakes - in more ways than one.

It all came down (or up, actually) to a slight but significant miscal-culation on my part. As with so many things in life, the answer could be summed up in three vorus. location, location,

location. The trip to the

store had gone without

a hitch; I practically and

### **Hemphill Museum Honors the Columbia Shuttle Disaster**

Some friends in Jasper told me I should visit the Columbia Shuttle Museum in Hemphill. So I went there and was greatly impressed and moved by what



I found. When I went in I was immediately enveloped in an atmosphere of profound reverence. The museum covers

T by Tumbleweed Smith 3,400 square feet and the displays are professional. So is a video about the spacecraft on its return to earth.

On February 1st, 2003, the space shuttle Columbia re-entered the earth's atmosphere and disintegrated over Sabine County in East Texas. All seven astronauts on board were killed.

"It was a normal Saturday, the sun was shining and skies were clear," says Belinda Gay, museum curator. "Everybody was doing their normal activities. Then all of a sudden the earth shook. I knew something was going on because my dog was acting crazy. He was all over the place, real antsy. Then my house started vibrating. I could hear pictures on the wall just rattling, then things started falling off the wall. I heard two loud booms and wondered what they were. I thought maybe a butane tank had blown up. Then we started hearing reports that the shuttle blew up over Dallas. I called my mom and told her it was not in Dallas. It's here."

Belinda went to the store she owned at the time and people started bringing in pieces of spacecraft and telling stories of other items that had been found in dif-

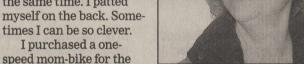
nal limestone as has been done at the other four San Antonio missions, the Alamo's walls would be constructed of modern-day see-through plexiglass. Other bizarre aspects by the designers are also present, including a tree-lined body of flowing water coursing through the middle of the site's Main Plaza complete with tables, chairs, and canopies under which tourists may sip their drinks in comfort. In short, the effect will be more reminiscent of a modern-day tourist theme park than that of a hallowed and sacred battleground.

Needless to say, upon learning these facts Texans across the state have met this plan with vociferous opposition. There are now statewide efforts ongoing to ensure that it is never implemented; these Texans are outraged and adamant that a plan conforming to the original intent of the legislature when proposed and passed be enacted.

It is safe to assume that this fight will be loud and ugly. It is also highly likely that when it is over, George P. Bush's oncepromising political career in the state will be finished.

Richard L. Range is a Texas historian and author and a member of the Alamo Defenders Descendants Association. He is treasurer of the Save the Alamo Committee and a member of the board of directors of the Alamo Society.





Slices of Life

### By Jill Pertler

literally coasted. The trip home was another story, because the journey was uphill - on a less-than-streamlined

mom-bike outfitted with pounds and pounds of (heavy) groceries.

Riding an old-fashioned one-speed bike uphill is no walk in the park. I made it home, but barely. There were times when I thought I'd have to get off and walk my two-wheeled friend, who felt less like a friend with every uphill block I groaned my way through.

Initially it sounded like such a good idea, like so many things do. Unfortunately implementation wasn't workable in real life. I didn't beat myself up - too much. I tried, but the little bike experiment ended after just one trip and I moved on to other creative tangents.

Because despite my failure to attain grocery store biking status, the journey must go on. It's how I roll.

Jill Pertler is an award-winning syndicated columnist, published playwright, author and member of the National Society of Newspaper Columnists. Don't miss a slice; follow the Slices of Life page on Facebook.



ferent parts of the county. A command post was set up at the local VFW post and hundreds of volunteers, some from nearby states, began the huge recovery effort. They searched on foot, on horseback and by helicopter. Spacecraft debris was found in streets, yards, bushes and the nearby forest.

"One of the miracles of this is that not one piece of shuttle debris hit any person. Nobody was hurt by the items falling from the sky.

By the 12th day the bodies of all seven astronauts had been recovered.

Hemphill, the county seat of Sabine County, has 1,100 residents. They were greatly affected by the accident and established many solid relationships with NASA personnel. They knew that something needed to be done to remember the event.

A Columbia Memorial Committee was formed and fund raising began to start a museum. Mr. Al Smith donated money to build the museum in the library building, which he had also funded. The museum opened in 2011 and is extremely impressive.

You do not expect to see a museum of this quality in such a small town. NASA helped provide some articles and there are dramatic photos of the recovery. People from all 50 states and 17 different countries have visited the museum. Personal items from the seven astronauts are on display. Family members of the astronauts wanted a classroom as part of the museum and their request was granted. Inside the classroom is a replica of the cockpit of the Columbia Shuttle. It has a landing simulation so visitors can land the shuttle.

www.tumbleweedsmith.com

Heard Around Town

Can you believe what happened on Game of Thrones last night? When that dragon swooped down and... Don't spoil it, I haven't seen it yet!

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lishing, Inc., at 224 E. Main Street in Sonora, Texas. **POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to THE

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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

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### **9th Annual Bronco Football Camp**



Youth ranging in age from 5 years to 15 years participated in the 9th annual Sonora Bronco Football Camp Monday through Wednesday, July 31 - August 2, at Bronco Stadium. The three day camp included basic skill training, conditioning, friendly competition and a camp t-shirt. Participants will also lead the varsity players onto the field at the start of the first season game, September 1, 2017, at Bronco Stadium in Sonora.

## Ways and Means Committee Hears Testimony on Rep. Murr's Legislation

### Chavarria Travels to Austin to Testify in Support

AUSTIN, TX – Last Wednesday, the Texas House Ways and Means Committee conducted a hearing on House Bill 285, Rep. Andrew Murr's newly filed legislation that would fully end the "Robin Hood" school finance system and cut the average homeowner's property tax bill by almost half. Governor Abbott and Lieutenant Governor Patrick have both called for property tax relief during the current special session of the legislature. Rep. Murr said he believes the key to relief lies in a complete overhaul of the school finance system.

"Texas has the sixth highest property tax burden in the nation," Rep. Murr said at the August 2nd committee hearing. "The constituents I represent want relief, but without reforming the way in which we fund public education, any relief is just going to be a band aide. This is a hefty, weighty issue that can get very complicated, but I think we owe it to our constituents to have the discussion."

If passed, House Bill 285 would eliminate the portion of a property owner's tax bill dedicated to the maintenance and operation (M&O) of school districts and replace it with an increase in the state sales tax from 6.25% to 12%. On average across the state, M&O school taxes account for roughly 43% of an owner's property taxes (varying depending on locality). It is also the part of our property taxes that are subject to recapture, otherwise known as "Robin Hood." Raul Chavarria, the Superintendent of the Crockett County Consolidated Common School District traveled to Austin to speak in support of the legislation. He said that Crockett County schools and taxpayers are suffering under the burden of the recapture system.

"We are sending 52% of our M&O budget back to the state," Chavarria said. "We've already cut 15% across the board...but we are still close to a million dollars short meeting the demands of our district. For a district of our size, a million dollars is crucial. It could kill us. Those aren't scare tactics. Those are just the facts. I totally agree with ending recapture. When we send 50% of our money out and don't get any in return, then there's SEE MURR ON PAGE 4



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# DEATH NOTICES

### Gilberto Martinez, Jr. November 5, 1945 - July 31, 2017

Gilberto Martinez, Jr., age 71, of Sonora, died Monday, July 31, 2017. He was born November 5, 1945. Survivors include son Gilbert Martinez of California. Funeral services were held Monday, August 7, 2017 at St. Ann's Catholic Church. Burial followed in Sonora Cemetery. Arrangements were under the direction of Love Funeral Home.

### Joe Russell Oliver February 26, 1942 - July 7, 2017

Joe Russell Oliver, age 75, passed away Friday, July 7, 2017, in Odessa. He was born February

26, 1942.

Survivors include a son, Michael "Mike" Oliver and wife Jutta of Graford, daughter, Kay Hasson and husband Trevor of Lufkin, sister, Sue Ann Flinn of Sonora, brothersin-law, Bobby Claborn and Kenneth Claborn and **42 - JULY 7, 2017** wife Debby, sister-in-law, Beverly Holt and husband Brad, grandchildren, Michah Morrison, Jessica Rodriguez, Lyla Oliver, Seth Oliver and Weston Hasson and one great-grandchild, Izabella Hasson.

Funeral services were held Thursday, July 13, 2017, at Faith Community Baptist Church in Odessa. Interment followed in the Kermit Cemetery.

#### SONORA WEATHER FORECAST Thu Fri Sat Sun Mon 8/10 8/11 8/12 8/13 8/14 94/75 96/76 94/73 90/71 92/72 -1-Possible T-Storms Mostly Sunny Partly Couldy **Mostly Sunny Partly Cloudy** nrise 7:06 a.m. nset 8:30 p.m. Sunrise 7:07 a.m Sunset 8:29 p.m Sunrise 7:07 a.m Sunset 8:28 p.m Sunrise 7:08 a.m Sunset 8:26 p.m Sunset 8:27 p.m. Sponsored By: Herndon's

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August 1-8	0.57 in.	August 1-8	0.71 in.
July	4.21 in.	July	3.79 in.
June	3.07 in.	June	0.41 in.
May	3.68 in.	Мау	2.92 in.
April	1.23 in.	April	2.48 in.
March	0.79 in.	March	1.00 in.
February	1.36 in.	February	1.48 in.
January	2.40 in.	January	1.68 in.
2017 Year-to-Date Total	17.31 in.	2017 Year-to-Date Total	14.47 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.

# **Insurance Dollars Cover SISD Roof Replacement**

Sonora ISD students return to classes this month sheltered by a shiny new red metal roof paid for by insurance.

Despite some controversy heard over the matter, the district chose to replace roofs of all of the buildings at each campus as well as the teacher housing due to damages sustained from hail last year.

"In a way, it was a blessing for some of the buildings," Superintendent Ross Aschenbeck said. "We were able to replace them on insurance instead of paying for it out of fund balance, or go out for a bond for new roofs."

After filing a claim with insurance, the school district got the go ahead to seek bids for replacing the roof tops of all campus buildings and teacher housing.

During their regular meeting in January, school board trustees entertained presentations by three companies including DK Haney Roofing, Big Bear Roofing and Parson's Roofing, before making a decision.

During that same meeting, the board approved to engage in negotiations with Parson's Roofing to replace roof materials including the red metal roofs covering school structures and composite materials over district housing units.

Once details were ironed out work began in early March while students were on Spring Break. Upon ending the school year, work resumed continuing throughout the summer months.

Although the estimated cost for the project totaled 3.285 million dollars, SISD was responsible only for \$20,000, the cost of their insurance deductible.

In the long term, it was a wise decision for the district, according to Aschenbeck.

Normal depreciation, from age, was already visible on many of the building roofs requiring attention to avoid further damages to building themselves. Individual repairs are a costly burden to the districts already troubled budget.

Further, many of the roofs were nearing their age expectancy.

The metal roof on the Vocational building was last replaced in 2008 and the Junior High School building roof was last replaced in 2003. Further, the roof over the Administration Building hasn't been replaced since 1980.

"For the short term, we could have taken the depreciated value and put that money in the bank, but what happens when it starts rusting and leaking?' Aschenbeck said. "You can't file another claim and it becomes an issue if you ever want to pass a bond later. The point is, your getting a 30 year, brand new, roof for the insurance deductible. So, for \$20,000 you're getting a 3-milliondollar roof that's going to last for thirty years."

As the first day of school quickly approaches, roofing crews are expected to wrap up their work. Last in the project will be the curved metal roof covering the field house.

Once complete, district employees and students can continue to provide a sound education as well as prepare for a successful future under the protection of a new roof.

mandments of canning food

Starting Sept. 1, all

skills examination appli-

cants 18 and older must

complete the free ITYD

course, and obtain proof of

course completion prior to

taking the driving skills

examination. In addition,

drivers 18 to 24 must com-

education course prior to

ITYD is the second

course\* offered through the

Impact Texas Driver (ITD)

program, which was devel-

the skills examination.

plete the 6-hour adult driver

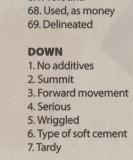
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### Weekly Crossword Puzzle

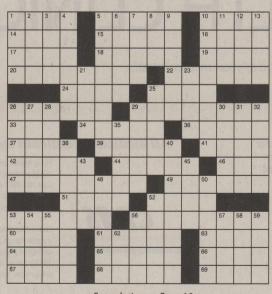
ACROSS 1. When you have a poor hand. 5. Divided 10. Cross 14. Able 15. Tremor 16. Awry 17. Stagger 18. Give voice to 19. Tehran is its capital 20. Speed up, as a project 22. Very seldom 24. She's quite contrary 25. Ostentatious display 26. Musical about circus great 29. Negligent 33. Cotton state: abbr. 34. Started 36. Re the fleet 37. Playthings 39. Loves to excess 41. Connecticut university 42. Singing group 44. Regulations 46. Female rabbit 47. Encumbrance 49. Respectable

51. Wicked 52. An amateur: var. 53. Entertained 56. Student's assignment 60. Skin growth 61. Solicit 63. English river 64. Moved almost imperceptibly 65. Mature 66. Renovate



67. Profound

### "GEOGRAPHIC"



See solution on Page 10

This crossword puzzle is sponsored each week by LOVE FUNETAL HOME Family Owned and Operated Monuments • Pre-Need Burial Insurance

(325) 387-2266 (325) 853-3043

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.
Sponsored By: Texas Farm Bureau Insurance Ruth Wallace (325)387-6504

## www.DEVILSRIVER.NEWS

8. Mr. Eisenhower

11. Fairy tale monster

9. Extreme fear 10. Sportsmanlike

12. Genuine

21. Smear

at one time

27. Hawaii, the

13. Say it isn't so

23. Prayer ending

25. Jury members

28. Synthetic fabric

30. Stay away from

31. Drawing room

35. Goat antelope

43. Split asunder

45. Dried up

48. Fruit juice

beverages

50. Poltroon

52. Souvenir

54. Constructed

53. Cowed

55. Impulse

57. Finished

62. Bigwig

56. Fond wish

58. Was borne

59. Be aware of

40. Dregs

32. Small, icy droplets

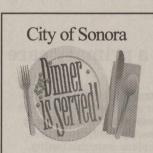
38. Avoid, as an issue

29. Act clownish

26. Quantity produced

\_State

action



Senior Center

#### Monday August 14

Chicken Tenders, Gravy, Corn, Cabbage,Red Peppers, Wheat Bread, Apple, Milk **Tuesday August 15** Pork Roast, Broccoli, Carrots, Raisins, Salad, Wheat Roll, Fruit Cake, Milk **Wednesday August 16** Chicken Salad, Lettuce, Potato Salad, Pea Salad, Wheat Roll, Fruit Salad, Cookie, Milk

Thursday August 17 Chicken, Fluffy Rice, Green Beans, Cucumbers, Salad, Wheat Bread, Apple Crisp, Milk Friday August 18 Smothered Steak, Mashed Potatoes, Carrots, Corn Bread, Apricots, Milk

For transportation to and from the center call 325-387-5657

To sponsor this menu call the Devil's River News at 325-387-2507

### **Combat Distracted Driving**

**New Driver Course Aimed to** 

### Required for drivers 18 and older starting Sept. 1

AUSTIN – The Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) today announced a new one-hour driving course to educate drivers on the dangers of distracted driving.

The Impact Texas Young Drivers (ITYD) course will be required for certain drivers beginning Sept. 1, 2017.

"Driving is one of the most dangerous things we do on a daily basis, and it should command our undivided attention," DPS Director Steven McCraw said. "This new component of the department's distracted driving initiative uses research and compelling true stories to highlight the many risks facing drivers. This important program is designed to provide Texas drivers with critical information to help keep their focus on driving - and to ultimately save lives on Texas roadways."

### MURR:

### CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

something wrong with the system."

In addition to Chavarria, several prominent conservatives either registered in support of Rep. Murr's specific legislation or testified more broadly in support of the concept. Dr. Vance Ginn, an economist for fiscal policy with the conservative Texas Public Policy Foundation said the ultimate policy goal of the legislature should be to eliminate the property tax by increasing and expanding the sales tax.

Ginn said, "By doing this tax swap there would be more economic growth, about \$63 billion more in personal income, 337,000 new jobs that would be oped by DPS in 2015 to help save lives through awareness and education related to distracted driving. The first course launched under the ITD program was Impact Texas Teen Drivers, which drivers ages 16 and 17 are required to complete. For additional informs

For additional information on ITD and ITYD, visit http://www.dps.texas.gov/ DriverLicense/ITD.htm.

created...You have to think about the dynamic effects of going to a more efficient and more effective sales tax instead of the property tax. It also tends to be more conservative..."

State Republican Executive Committeeman Terry Holcomb also spoke on the need to more evenly distribute the burden of financing public education.

Holcomb said, "Part of the problem with the system we have today is that we have far too many exemptions and the load is continuing to be put on fewer and fewer people..."

The Ways and Means Committee left House Bill 285 pending when it adjourned on Wednesday afternoon.

### **Vaccination Programs for Cattle Guards Against Common Disease**

We do a great deal to protect our livestock.

We use locks on gates, maintain perimeter fences in good condition, and sometimes have quarantine areas and periods for new animals.

However, in addition to those things, practicing good biosecurity and having a timely vaccination program (including boosters) is money

well spent. **Pascual Hernandez** A few weeks ago we discussed how vaccines work. Now let's focus on identifying some important vaccines for cattle.

There are many diseases that can affect cattle but the ones that affect all of us include the Blackleg or Clostridial diseases.

These are also called the "Sudden Death Diseases" since they can kill the animal quickly. Animals of all ages can be affected.

A second disease that is prevalent is Leptospirosis, which can cause late term abortions in cattle.

The parasite is found in ground water sources like tanks or ponds.

A third disease of importance is Vibriosis, which like Leptospirosis. causes abortions and is transmitted sexually from cow to cow by the bull. Bulls are not affected.

Another group of diseases are called the Respiratory Complex and consist of four diseases once thought to be only in feedlot cattle.

They are **Infectious Bovine** Rhinotracheitis (IBR), Para Influenza

Type III (PI3), Bovine Viral Diarrhea (BVD), and **Bovine Respiratory Sync**tial Virus (BRSV).

Two of these diseases can cause abortion but all can have an impact on your cattle's health.

Your veterinarian might recommend vaccination for other diseases that are endemic to our area, but these are among the most common.

Always seek the assistance of a veterinarian. The veterinarian will

know the most prevalent diseases in our area and can recommend the best products and times to vaccinate.

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR Letters to the Editor express the opinions of their

author. They do not necessarily reflect the views or opinions of the staff, management or ownership of the Devils River News

### Seeing Stars in Greenville

That game [When Greenville Beat the Yankees June 2017) was the beginning and end of my baseball career.

As a 14-year-old, I sold refreshments in the stands or shagged over-the fence balls at Majors Field.

When the Yankees were warming up out on the field, I got my glove and ambled out on the field near Joe DiMaggio.

I was much too awed to speak to him.

Soon a medium-hot grounder came my way, and Joe said, "Wanna get that, kid?"

Boy, did I!

My chance to be recognized by the major leagues! About a yard in front of me, that ball took a hop and beaned me.

Next thing I knew, the great DiMaggio was standing over and looking down at me.

'You OK, kid?" he asked.

I was, but my fantasy baseball career was beyond repair.

David Smith

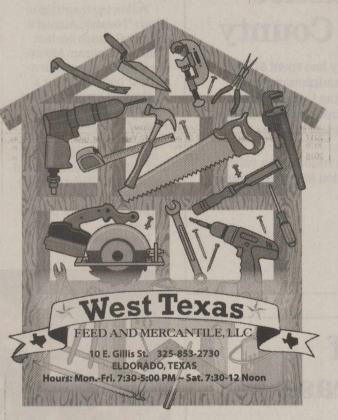
Sonora Southwest Texas EC

A story by Evault Boswell, about the referenced game was published in the June 2017 issue of Texas Co-op Power magazine.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1 and then Brady, Thursday, August 24, before facing the Ozona Lions in their first non-district game, Friday, September 1, in Sonora.

While wins and losses are what most fans look for Cordell and his team of coaches and players hope to do their best in every game as they work on achieving their ultimate goal of a state championship. The 2017 season will provide them an opportunity to do just that.

"I have some big shoes to fill, but the record speaks for itself," Cordell said. We have had some great leadership over the years. Tradition rich, with regards to football, is tremendous here [Sonora]. I am excited about the new season. We want to go undefeated in non-district play but the bottom line will be to get our team prepared for that district run, district title and chase that six-state championship.'



**KHOS** Radio voice of the sonora broncos !! oonora, Te REVOLUTION BROADCASTING

August 10, 2017 • Page 5 • The Devil's River News

WANTED: **Indian Arrowheads** Point type - Clovis, Yuma, Plainview, Eden, **Firstview**, Midlands Any unbroken Alibate Point

> **Must be Authentic** Will pay \$50 up to \$7500 Call 979-218-3351 or text photos



### **TAMU AgriLife Extension to Host Food Preservation Workshop**

The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Office of Sutton County is hosting a food preservation workshop Saturday, September 9, 2017. from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon at the Sutton County **Extension** Office.

Workshop topics include food safety concerns when canning and the 10 commandments of canning food safely at home.

Participants will be involved in hands-on activities allowing them to produce their own ready to Preserve" cookbook.

The cost for the class is \$20 per person and the class will be limited to 10 adult individuals.

**Registration deadline is** August 25th.

To pre-register or for more information, contact the Sutton County AgriLife Extension office at 387-3604.

Participants with special needs requiring auxiliary aid should contact the Sutton County office of Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service prior to the

take home jam product. Additionally, partakers will receive a "So Easy to

program in order for appropriate accommodations to be arranged.

### **CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS:** Mark White

**CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2** White. "Mark White cared deeply about Texas, and he devoted his life to making our state even better, particularly when it came to educating our children," Abbott said.

While White served as governor, the Texas Legislature passed the "no-pass, no-play" law affecting secondary school athletes. Lawmakers also passed a tax to fund teacher pay-raises.

Plans are for White's body to lie in state in the Capitol Rotunda. Burial will be in the state cemetery.

#### **Tax revenue increases**

**Texas Comptroller** Glenn Hegar on Aug. 1 announced that state sales tax revenue totaled \$2.56 billion in July, 7.9 percent more than in July 2016.

Sales tax receipts from all major economic sectors were up compared to last year and total sales tax revenue for the three months ending in July 2017 is up 7.3 percent compared to the same period a year ago. Hegar said.

"The most notable increases were from oil- and gas-related industries, as spending on well development continues to rebound. Despite the recent uptick, sales tax revenue remains in line with recent estimates from my office," he added.

#### **Railroad funding** arrives

The U.S. Department of Transportation on Aug. 3 announced the Texas Department of Transportation has received a \$7 million federal grant to

help rebuild the Presidio-Ojinaga, Mexico, International Rail Bridge and 72 miles of track on the stateowned South Orient Rail Line that runs from the border to near Coleman.

**Texas Transportation Commission Chairman** Tryon Lewis hailed the "FASTLANE" grant as a critical investment in the West Texas oil and gas industry.

'Cross-border trade is the lifeblood of many communities in my district," commented U.S. Rep. Will Hurd, R-San Antonio, whose congressional district includes the affected area. "As one of five border crossings between Texas and Mexico, these repairs are vital to Texas' economy," he added.

#### Hurricane briefing is held

Gov. Abbott on Aug. 4 announced that he joined President Donald Trump, heads of federal agencies and other governors from across the country via teleconference for a 2017 White House Hurricane Briefing.

During the meeting, Abbott said, "Texas is in a constant state of hurricane preparedness and the safety of Texans is our top priority."

**Business Cards** and **Self-Inking Stamps** on sale now at HE DRN 224 E. Main Street 387-2507



# No More Roaming Charges

With a new LTE MAXX Data Plan, you can eliminate roaming charges across the US forever! These incredible plans start as low as \$39.95 a month and are available to current and new West Central customers. You can save even more when you add additional lines for as low as \$20 a month per line.

Refer a friend, family member, or co-worker to West Central and when they sign up for cellular or Internet service, you can get \$100 in gift cards. \*See store for details.

You can also get a new

Samsung smart phone

for under \$100 or only

\$2.67 a month.

Starting at

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1-800-695-9016 Local Connections. Nationwide Reac

### **PUBLIC NOTICE**

### 2017 Property Tax Rates in Sutton County, Sutton County Hospital District and City of Sonora

#### 2017 PROPERTY TAX RATES IN SUTTON COUNTY, SUTTON COUNTY HOSPITAL DISTRICT AND CITY OF SONORA

This notice concerns 2017 property tax rates for Sutton County. It presents information about three tax rates. Last year's tax rate is the actual rate the taxing unit used to determine property taxes last year. This year's effective tax rate would impose the same total taxes as last year if you compare properties taxed in both years. This year's rollback tax rate is the highest tax rate the taxing unit can set before taxpayers can start tax rollback procedures. In each case these rates are found by dividing the total amount of taxes by the tax base (the total value of taxable property) with adjustments as required by state law. The rates are given per \$100 of property value.

		County General		County FM&FC	County Hospital	City of Sonora
Last year's tax rate:						
Last year's operating taxes	\$	3,102,864	\$	619,748 \$	1,093,630 \$	783,191
Last year's debt taxes	\$	0	\$	0 \$	0 \$	0
Last year's total taxes	\$	3, 102,864	\$	619,748 \$	1,093,630 \$	783,191
Last year's tax base	\$	534,650,657	\$	532,850,307 \$	569,018,270 \$	117, 250,751
Last year's total tax rate	\$	.566659/\$100	\$	.113468/\$100 \$	.192196/\$100 \$	.610000/\$100
This year's effective tax rate:						
Last year's adjusted taxes (after	\$	3,033,289	\$	605,392 \$	1,094,978 \$	718,201
Subtracting taxes on lost property)	•					
+This year's adjusted tax base	\$	537,894,118	\$	536,217,118 \$	574,114,041 \$	113,984,498
(After subtracting value of new Property)						
=This year's effective tax rate	\$	.563919/\$100	\$	.112900/\$100 \$	.190724/\$100 \$	.630086/\$100
Total effective tax rate	\$	.676819/\$100				
(Maximum rate unless unit publ	lish	es notices and	hol	ds hearings.)		
This year's rollback tax rate:						
Last year's adjusted operating tax						

Adjusting for any transferred fun Tax increment financing, state or Justice mandate, and /or enhance	ction, iminal						
Health care expenditures)	\$ 3,044,763	\$ 616,866		1,326,130	\$	808,207	
+This year's adjusted tax base	\$ 537,894,118	\$ 536,217,118	S	574,114,041		113,984,498	
=This year's effective operating	\$ .566052/\$100	\$.115040/\$100	S	.230987/\$100	19.2		
Rate							
X 1.08 = this year's maximum	\$ .611336/\$100	\$.124243/\$100	\$	.249465/\$100	\$.	.765772/\$100	
Operating rate							
+This year's debt rate	\$.000000/\$100	\$ .000000/\$100	\$	.000000/\$100	\$.	.000000/\$100	
=This year's rollback rate	\$.611336/\$100	\$.124243/\$100	\$	.249465/\$100	\$.	.765772/\$100	
for each fund							
This year's total rollback rate	\$.735579/\$100						
- Sales tax adjustment rate					\$	.071804/\$100	
-Rollback tax rate					\$	.693968/\$100	
-Inditional and the		and the second se			-		

### State Criminal Justice Mandate for Sutton County

The Sutton County Auditor certifies that Sutton County has spent \$17,099 in the previous 12 months beginning 8/01/2016 for the maintenance and operations cost of keeping inmates sentenced to the Texas Department of Criminal Justice. Sutton County Sheriff has provided information on these costs, inclusion the state revenues received for reimbursement of such costs. It of attracts and the state revenues received for reimbursement of such costs.

This notice contains a summary of actual effective and rollback tax rates' calculations. You can inspect a copy of the full calculation at Sutton County Appraisal District.



Mary Kyle Johnson goes up for a kill during a scrimmage between the Varsity Lady Broncos and the Lady Horns Saturday, August 5, 2017. The ladies faced players from Early and Junction during the preseason dual warm-up. KIMBERLEY MEYER | THE DEVIL'S RIVER NEWS

### **Lady Broncos Prepare for 2017 Volleyball Season**

The Lady Broncos served their competition a glimpse of this year's talent during a season opener scrimmage Saturday, August 5, 2017 in Sonora.

Varsity, Junior Varsity and Freshman players from Sonora, Early and Junction matched up respectively for a day of volleyball matches at Sonora High School.

Focusing on all aspects of the game, digs, kills, serves and sets, the Lady Broncos demonstrated exceptional skills on the court.

Continuing to prepare for their upcoming non-district games before heading into district play, the ladies are set to participate in two additional scrimmage matches.

Following their trip to Llano Tuesday, August 8, for a dual match against Llano and Ingram Moore, the Lady Broncos return to their home court for a dual match against Center Point and Bronte Tuesday, August 15, at Sonora High School.

Looking forward to the 2017 volleyball season, Head Coach Kayla Perez said she was very pleased with the performance of her players overall.



Haley Smith focuses on her serve during a pre-season scrimmage match between the Junior Varsity Lady Broncos and the Lady Eagles Saturday, August 5, 2017.

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things," Perez said. "I am very excited about this sea-

Everyone is encouraged to come out and show

Mary Bustamante Chief Appraiser

August 07, 2017

6

# Statement of Increase/Decrease

If **SUTTON COUNTY** adopts a 2017 tax rate equal to the effective tax rate of \$0.676819 per \$100 of value, taxes would increase compared to 2016 taxes by \$37,950.

If **SUTTON COUNTY HOSPITAL DISTRICT** adopts a 2017 tax rate equal to the effective tax rate of \$0.190724 per \$100 of value, taxes would increase compared to 2016 taxes by \$10,188.

If **CITY OF SONORA** adopts a 2017 tax rate equal to the effective tax rate of \$0.630086 per \$100 of value, taxes would decrease compared to 2016 taxes by \$43,850.**UNENCUMBERED FUND BALANCES** 

The following estimated balances will be left in the unit's property tax accounts at the end of the fiscal year. These balances are not encumbered by a corresponding debt obligation.

Sutton County	TYPE OF PROPERTY General Fund FM&FC	BALANCE \$ 5,116,006 \$ 629,148			
Hospital District	General Maintenance	\$ 0.00			
City of Sonora	Restricted Fund Unrestricted Fund	\$1,791,807 \$205,842			

### Expected Revenue From Addictional Sales Tax for City of Sonora

(For hospital districts, cities and counties with additional sales tax to reduce property taxes)

In calculating its effective and rollback tax rates, the unit estimated that it will receive \$82,228 in additional sales and use tax revenues.

For County: The county has excluded any amount that is or will be distributed for economic development grants from this amount of expected sales tax revenue. son. My expectations are to make history this year."

their support for the Lady Broncos.



Carly Brown goes for a dig, keeping the ball in play, during Saturday's volleyball scrimmage between Sonora and Early, August 5, 2017, in Sonora. KIMBERLEY MEYER | THE DEVIL'S RIVER NEWS

# **MOVE-IN SPECIAL**

### **\$99 First Month's Rent**

# The Landmark Apartments

103 Dollie - Sonora, TX 76950

### 1, 2, & 3 Bedrooms Available



August 10, 2017 • Page 7 • The Devil's River News



The Blotter is a summary of the previous week's activity by the Sonora Police Department and the Sutton County Sheriff's Office. For practical reasons of time and space, The Blotter does not include every call made to the police department or Sheriff's Office, 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 laws.

#### SONORA PD ARRESTS

#### SUTTON COUNTY SHERIFF ARRESTS

AUGUST 4 • Jose Vasquez, 27-year-old male of Eldorado. Arrested for Warrant out of Schleicher County. INCIDENTS

JULY 31 - 6:39 PM • 9-1-1 hang up call at 500 block of E. 2nd. Officer responded. 9:37 PM • Alarm call at 300 block of College. Officer responded.

**9:38 PM** • Caller requested assistance with accident/wreck on I-10 WB Mile Marker 400. Officer responded.

**AUGUST 1 - 8:35 AM •** Caller reported an accident/wreck on Ramp Mile Marker 400. Officer responded.

11:18 AM • Caller reported a Welfare Concern at Best Western. Officer responded.
8:56 PM • Caller requested an officer 100 block of W. Chestnut. Officer responded.
9:00 PM • Caller reported a Welfare Concern at Mile Marker 399. Officer responded.
AUGUST 2 - 6:16 PM • Caller

reported a vehicle blocking road North Frontage Road. Officer responded. **10:19 PM •** Caller requested

assistance with vehicle search at Road Ranger. Officer responded.

AUGUST 3 - 11:57 AM • Caller requested EMS assistance at 200 block of Hillside. Officer responded.

**5:48** • Caller requested an officer at 600 block of Fay. Officer responded.

**AUGUST 4 - 1:10 PM •** Caller reported a suspicious person in vehicle 400 block of E. College. Officer responded.

AUGUST 5 - 1:46 PM • Alarm call at 200 block of Water avenue. Officer responded. 1:48 PM • Caller requested Sheriff Deputy assistance with burglary of storage unit on US Hwy 277 S. Officer responded. 3:50 PM • Caller requested ARRESTS JULY 31 • Matthew Price, 25year-old male of Eighty Four. Arrested for warrant out of Florida.

Gloria Patterson, 23-year-old female of Waynesburg. Arrested for Hinder Apprehension or Prosecution of a known Felon.
2 Illegals were detained and picked up by BP.

**AUGUST 3** • Evelio Montalvo-Soto 43-year-old male of El Paso. Arrested on a Sutton Co. Warrant.

**AUGUST 4** • James Buffalo 21-year-old male of San Antonio. Arrested for Evading Arrest and Possession of Marijuana under 2oz.

**AUGUST 5** • Monica Ojeda 39-year-old female of Sonora. Arrested for a Sutton Co. Warrant.

**AUGUST 6** • Lee Anthony Torres 30-year-old male of San Antonio. Arrested for a Bexar Co Warrant.

#### INCIDENTS

JULY 31 - 2:43 AM • Caller reported a kidnapping on I-10 at rest area west of town. Deputies responded.

**10:48 PM** • Caller reported suspicious activity out at Camp Allison. Deputies responded. **AUGUST 4 - 2:00 AM** • Caller reported an 18 wheeler rolled over on I-10 at 432 mm WB. Deputy, EMS, DPS, and TX-Dot all responded.

**12:42 AM** • Caller reported suspicious activity on Rock Ave. and Calle Useus. Deputy and PD unit responded.

9:14 AM • Caller reported a suspicious male at the 394 mm rest area. Deputy responded.

**AUGUST 6 - 6:37 PM ·** Caller reported an 18 wheeler hit and run on I-10. Vehicle was stopped at mile marker 418. Deputy responded.

### You Looked!

### **NOTICE OF SALE**

### THE STATE OF TEXAS OF SALE

**BY VIRTUE OF AN ORDER** 

### **COUNTY OF SUTTON**

### DATED: July 28, 2017

**PUBLIC NOTICE** 

and issued pursuant to a judgment decree of the District Court, 112th Judicial District, of Sutton County, Texas, by the District Clerk on said date, and to me directed and delivered as Sheriff of said County, I have on the 7th day of August, 2017, seized, levied upon, and will on the first Tuesday in September, 2017, the same being the 5th day of said month, at the Courthouse door, of said County in the City of Sonora, beginning at 11:00 o'clock a.m., on said day, proceed to sell for cash to the highest bidder all the right, title and interest of the defendants in such suit to the following described real estate levied upon as the property of said defendants, the same lying and being situated in the County of Sutton and the State of Texas, to-wit:

### CAUSE NO. 5270; SUTTON COUNTY APPRAISAL DISTRICT V. TYLER, RODGER WAYNE A/K/A RODGER TYLER, ET AL

### **TRACT 1: R100991**

Being Lots 1 &2, Block 66A, South Heights Addition, Sutton County, Texas.

CAUSE NO. 6010; SUTTON COUNTY APPRAISAL DISTRICT V. PAT BROWN, DECEASED

### **TRACT 1: GEO: R101528**

Being Lot 7, Block W-35, Town of Sonora, Sutton County, Texas; being that property more particularly described in a Warranty Deed recorded in Volume 79, Page 359 of the Deed Records of Sutton County, Texas.

CAUSE NO. 6033; SUTTON COUNTY APPRAISAL DISTRICT V. JOHN LOPEZ, DECEASED

### **TRACT 1: GEO: R100956**

Being the NW 40' of Lot5, Block 59A, South Heights Addition, Town of Sonora, Sutton County, Texas; being more particularly described in a Warranty Deed recorded in Volume 298, Page 744 in the Deed Records of Sutton County, Texas.

CAUSE NO. TAX06095; SUTTON COUNTY APPRAISAL DISTRICT V. SON-TEX RATHOLE SERVICE, INC.

### **TRACT 1: R100129**

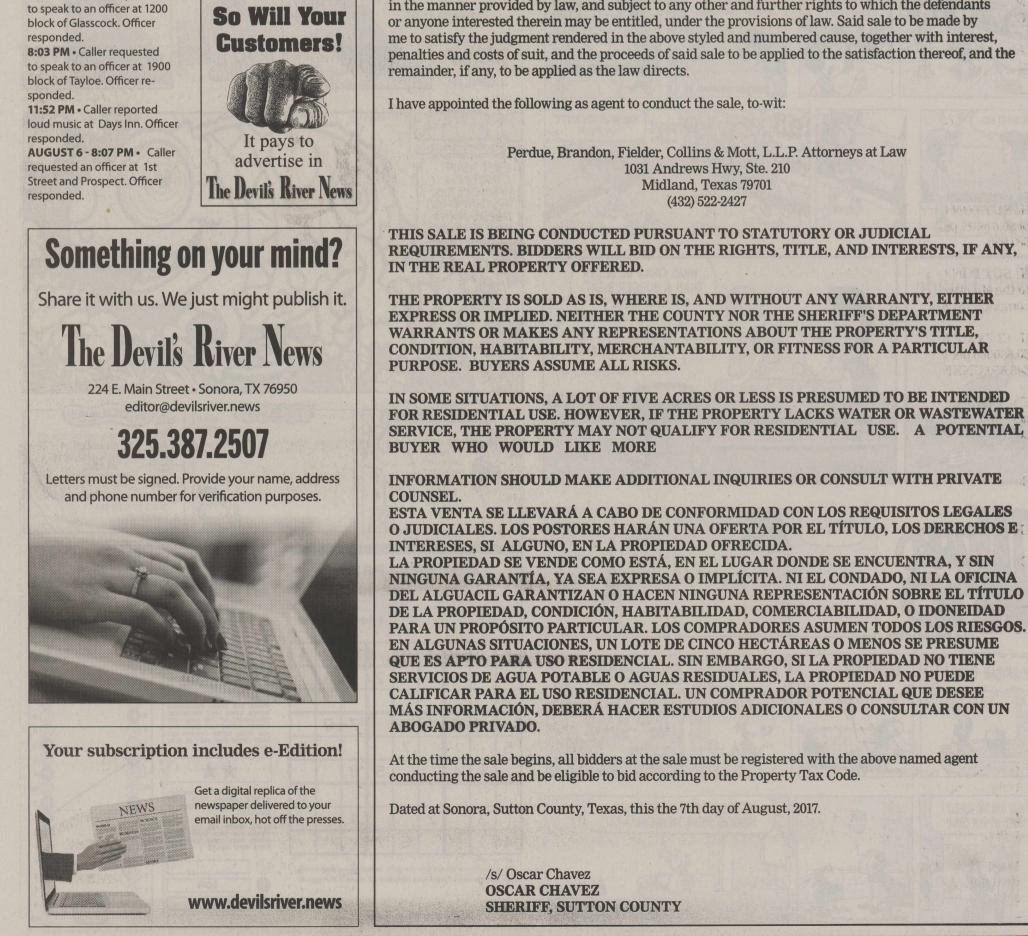
Being 2.676 acres of land out of and a part of HE&WT RR Co. Survey No. 86, Block B, Abstract No. 846, Sutton County, Texas; being that property more particularly described in a Warranty Deed recorded in Volume 268, Page 421 in the Deed Records of Sutton County, Texas.

### CAUSE NO. TAX06104; SUTTON COUNTY APPRAISAL DISTRICT V. MARIA ELENA PORRAS, ET AL

### **TRACT 1: R101674**

Being the S/2 of a parcel of land described in deed of date October 24th, 1938 from Raul Castillo to Geronimo Basquez, which is of record in Volume 34, Page 117, of the Deed Records of Sutton County, Texas, said tract being in the shape of a parallelogram and being in size 116' wide from East to West and 160' in length from North to South. The Tract herein conveyed being in size 80x160' said land situated in the West Mexico Addition to the town of Sonora, Texas; being that property more particularly described in a deed Recorded in Volume 115, Page 484 of the Deed Records of Sutton County, Texas.

or upon the written request of said defendants or their attorney, a sufficient portion thereof to satisfy said judgment, interest, penalties, and costs; subject, however to the right of redemption by the defendants or any person having an interest therein, to redeem said property, or their interest therein, to redeem said property, or their interest therein,







"Equal Opportunity Employer: Minority/Female/Disability/Veteran"

### **EMPLOYMENT NOTICE**

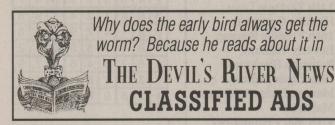
The City of Sonora is now accepting applications for the position of Part-Time Utility Clerk at City Hall.

Applicant must be able to work with utility billing programs, post payment received for services, make change, issue receipts to customers, input and print job orders as well as other duties within other departments. Being able to communicate with the public is essential.

Applications can be picked up at City Hall and should be returned to City Hall, 201 E. Main St., Sonora, Texas 76950. Open until position is filled.

Additional information is available upon request at City Hall or (325)387-2558. The City of Sonora is an equal opportunity employer.





### **TexSCAN Week of August 16, 2017** ACREAGE

West Texas, Trans Pecos area, near Lake Amistad, 40-65 acres. Mesquite, cedar, brush cover. Whitetail, javelina, blue quail, turkey, dove. 30-year owner financing, 5% down. 1-866-286-0199, www.ranchenterprisesltd.com.

#### AUCTIONS

Acre Auction - Rare, West Texas Recreational Property. Fishing, Deer & Duck Hunting in Haskell, Texas. Bidding ends: Sept. 7th 4 PM. Public Reserve Auction Online only. Call now for more information 1-214-945-4556. www.bidhuntfish.com or info@ united-scs.com.

Auction Bankruptcy Direct Sale. Income producing rental portfolio. Runaway Bay Residential Rentals less than ½ mile from Bridgeport Lake. Rental Revenue: \$285,800/ year. Bid Deadline: August 31st. Call 1-855-755-2300 for additional information or visit www.hilcorealestate.com.

#### AVIATION

Airline Mechanic Training - Get FAA certification. Approved for military benefits. Financial Aid if qualified. Job placement assistance. Call Aviation Institute of Maintenance 1-800-475-4102.

#### CDL TRAINING

**DRIVER - CDLA** TRAINING \$500- \$1000 Incentive Bonus. No Out Of Pocket Tuition Cost!. Get your CDL in 22 days. 6 day refresher courses available. Minimum 21 years. 1-855-755-5545.EOE. www. kllmdrivingacademy.com.

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# **Texas Rural Hospital Closure Crisis Heats Up**

(Austin, TX) - The Texas rural hospital closure epidemic continues with two more rural hospitals locking their doors in the last few weeks. The hospital in Trinity, Texas ceased operations on August 1 and the hospital in Crockett, Texas shut down on July 1. leaving those communities

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without immediate access to emergency and other hospital care.

Dave Pearson, CEO of the Texas Organization of Rural & Community Hospitals (TORCH), says the two recent rural hospital closures bring the total number that have closed since January 2013

Friday, Aug. 18th Sutton County Pavilion



to eighteen (18). According to Pearson "this closure crisis, which has left many rural communities without emergency and other care, has clearly reach epidemic proportions and unless the Texas Legislature and Congress take immediate steps, it will only worsen."

TORCH, which represents the 163 rural hospitals across Texas, notes that of the eighteen (18) closures in the last four and a half years, four (4) were temporary lasting only a few months and three (3) were replaced with a freestanding emergency or urgent care center. But the care in those towns is now very limited. Eleven (11) communities still have no emergency or hospital care.

Pearson adds "as many as a third of the remaining rural hospitals in Texas are operating on a shoestring and struggle every day to stay open and serve their

patients." He also says "the real tragedy is many of these closures could have been avoided and are primarily the result of Medicare cuts by Congress in recent years totaling more than \$50 million a year for Texas rural hospitals, coupled with underpayments in the Texas Medicaid program to rural hospitals approaching \$60 million a year."

**TORCH Director of Government Relations Don** McBeath states "Congress and the Texas Legislature have apparently not fully realized the magnitude of the crisis despite our efforts to educate them about the situation. They need to take quick and strong action to put the brakes on the closure slide." He adds "we are leaving more and more rural communities without immediate and reasonable access to emergency care which has resulted in



### "Scrumptious Meatloaf"

When the library became county-owned, the Sonora Woman's Club was asked to help form rules and regulations. Over the years, members of the club served on the advisory board. Today, members continue to be active in helping support the Sutton County Library in a variety of ways. Among her many contributions to the community, including the library, Susan Hall, a current member, is also known for her "Scrumptious Meatloaf." This family favorite is sure to please everyone.

4 Tbsp. unsalted butter, melted 3/4 cup onions, diced 1/4 cup green onions, diced 2 tsp. garlic, minced 1 tsp. Tabasco sauce 1 Tbsp. Worcestershire sauce 1/2 cup milk 1/2 cup ketchup 2 lb. ground meat 2 large eggs 1 cup old (dried out) bread crumbs Seasoning Mix: 2 tbs. salt 1 tsp. cayenne pepper 1 tsp. ground pepper 1/2 tsp. cumin 1/2 tsp. nutmeg

documented deaths because the local hospital was suddenly gone."

Besides leaving holes in the state's safety-net of trauma and other care, the closures are having a devastating economic impact on Texas. David Byrom is the CEO of Coryell Hospital in Gatesville and is also the current chairman of the TORCH association board. He points out "these closures are bad for the Texas economy. Rural hospitals cover 85% of the state's geography and serve 15% of the population. They help keep healthy the workforce that supplies the state's and much of the nation's food, fuel, and fiber." Byrom goes on to say "each Texas rural hospital, on average, employs 173 people and has an annual payroll of \$23 million. Statewide, that is more than 22.000 good paving jobs and expenditures of \$3.7 billion year. The combined economic impact of the 163 Texas rural hospitals is more than \$18 billion vear."

**TORCH CEO Pearson** adds "these rural hospitals are an economic driver for rural Texas but the closures can also be a death blow to a rural community. Most of the employees and their families will move elsewhere in pursuit of a hospital job. Local businesses suffer and the rural schools suffer, losing money from the state because of declining students. And, the chances of future economic development are lessened without a local hospital. Most rural communities never recover from a hospital closure."

McBeath, in his role as the association's primary contact with state and

federal lawmakers, says the downward spiral of Texas rural hospitals can be stopped, but that it will take immediate action from elected lawmakers. "Congress must act very soon to renew some special rural hospital Medicare payment provisions that impact a number of our rural hospitals or their payments will decline even more, causing yet more closures. Plus they need to address the series of cuts they have already inflicted on the rural hospitals over the past five years" says McBeath. "And, the Texas Legislature and the state Medicaid program need to take immediate steps to address the massive underpayments to the hospitals." In the most recent regular session, the Texas Legislature did direct the **Texas Health and Human** Services Commission, who manages the Texas Medicaid program, to look into the situation, but, McBeath says "it could be too little, too late. With a two year study window, followed by who knows how much time to react to the findings. we could see dozens more of Texas' rural hospitals vanish."

Association board chairman Byrom says of the situation "the citizens of our rural communities fortunate enough to still have a rural hospital need to know this is happening around them and call their elected state and federal representatives and tell them to take action now to stem the tide of Texas' rural hospital closures. The two closures in the last month, bringing the total to eighteen (18) in the last four and a half years could be the tip if the iceberg"



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1/4 tsp. celery salt 1/4 cup ketchup

Preheat oven to 350. Combine seasoning mix with melted butter. Then add onions, garlic, Tabasco, Worcestershire and stir over low heat for about 6 minutes. Remove from heat and pour onto ground meat. Add 1/2 cup ketchup, eggs, milk, and bread crumbs and stir together. Form mixture in a loaf shape then drizzle 1/4 cup ketchup all over top. Bake uncovered for about one hour. May need to drain grease off about 30 minutes prior to cooking.

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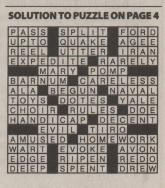
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The law exempts most clothing, footwear, school supplies and backpacks priced below \$100 from sales tax, saving shoppers about \$8 on every \$100 they spend during the weekend.







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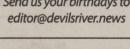
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