



BUSINESS OF THE MONTH:
Chamber board
selects Sonic
Page 3



CONFERENCES NAMED:
Ozona's classification
stays the same
Page 6

The Ozona Stockman

OUT IN THE WEST, WHERE THE AIR IS PURE, THE CLIMATE AGREEABLE AND THE PEOPLE FRIENDLY—THE BEST PLACE ON EARTH TO CALL HOME



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WEDNESDAY, DEC. 4, 2013

OZONA, TEXAS

VOL. 101, NO. 46

\$1

Santa Letters due Dec. 13

Santa's making a list and checking it twice, so The Ozona Stockman wants to help him by publishing letters from the children of Ozona.

All letters are due by 5 p.m. Friday, Dec. 13, at the Stockman office located at 1000 Avenue E.

These letters will then be published in the Dec. 25 edition.

Anyone interested in advertising in our Santa Letters Special Section can reserve their space as well.

Deadline for advertising is also Friday, Dec. 13.

For more information, call Melissa Perner, editor and publisher, at 392-2551 or e-mail publisher@ozonastockman.com.

For more information on advertising, call Susan Calloway, advertising director, at 392-2551 or susan@ozonastockman.com.

Primary election filing ends Monday

Monday, Dec. 9, is the last day to file for candidates seeking office in the March 4 Primary Election.

More Election News, page 2

Local candidates that have filed so far include: Pedro "Pete" Gomez Jr., incumbent, for 112th Judicial District Judge; Fred Deaton, incumbent, for county judge; Burl J. Myers, incumbent, for county

PLEASE SEE ELECTIONS, PAGE 9

Super Saturday in Ozona

BY MELISSA PERNER
THE OZONA STOCKMAN

Super Saturday in Ozona will take place Saturday, Dec. 7, with three festive events.

The day begins with Ozona Woman's League presenting Breakfast with Santa from 10 a.m. to noon at the Civic Center.

Tickets are \$10 for children and \$5 adult. They are available from any league member, or at Ozona Mercantile.

The event includes breakfast with Santa, making an ornament for the Christmas tree and taking photos with Santa.

There will also be a collection box set up for Toys for Tots and an Angel Tree.

Proceeds will benefit the League scholarship fund and other community organizations.

At 2 p.m., the Crockett County Museum will host their annual Wool and Mohair Style Show featuring Dolores' Unique Designs. This year's show will be held at the Crockett County Senior Center.

A stylish wool and mohair jacket will be given away at the event. Tickets are \$1 each or \$10 for 12. They are available at the museum.

Lots of other prizes will be given away during the show.

In 1990, Dolores Vernor founded Dolores' Unique Designs in Camp Wood, Texas after discovering mohair.

She has designed jackets for former First Lady and former U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, former U.S. Senator Kay Bailey Hutchinson, R-Texas, and former Texas

PLEASE SEE SATURDAY, PAGE 9

Schedule of Events for Dec. 7:



- 10 a.m.-Noon at the Crockett County Civic Center. Tickets: \$10 for children; \$5 for adults. Tickets available from any league member or at Ozona Mercantile.



WOOL & MOHAIR STYLE SHOW

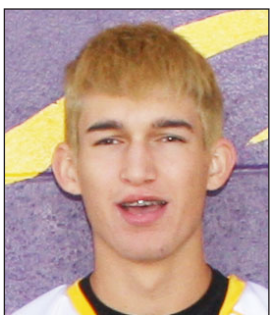
- 2 p.m. at the Crockett County Senior Center. Tickets are \$1 each or \$10 for 12 tickets to win the stylish wool and mohair jackets by Dolores of Dolores' Unique Designs. Tickets available the Crockett County Museum. Lots of other prizes to be given. All proceeds benefit the museum.



26TH ANNUAL DEERFEST

- 5:30 p.m. at the Fair Park Convention Center. Prize tickets are \$1 each and available at Wool Growers, Triple C Hardware & Lumber, The Ozona Stockman and Ozona Chamber of Commerce. High Roller Tickets are available. General Admission \$10 (includes meal), 10 percent of admission proceeds will benefit the West Texas Rehab of Ozona. More than 80 guns, \$10,000 in Cabela's gift cards, a 2013 Jeep Wrangler, free kid drawing for a 4-wheeler and BB guns and numerous other prizes including Yeti Coolers Sale. For more information, visit www.deerfest.org or follow them on Facebook.

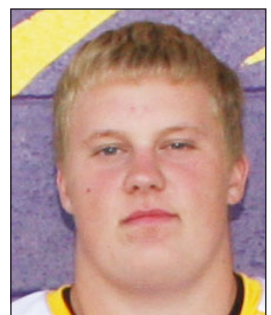
Sixteen Lions named All-District



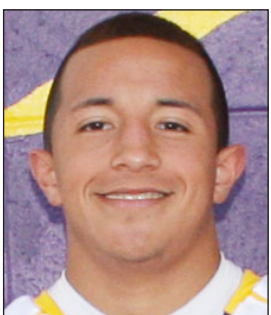
TYLER GALINDO
Co-Offensive MVP



HAZAE DAMIAN
First Team Offensive Line
Second Team Defensive Line



ZACK TAYLOR
First Team
Offensive Line



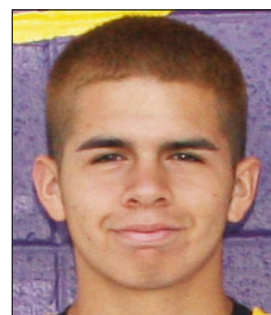
JAYTON RODRIQUEZ
First Team
Quarterback



RICKY PORRAS
First Team Running Back
Second Team Linebacker



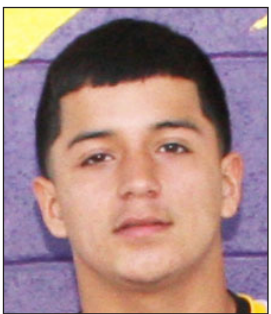
EVAN RAYMOND
First Team Defensive End
Second Team Tight End



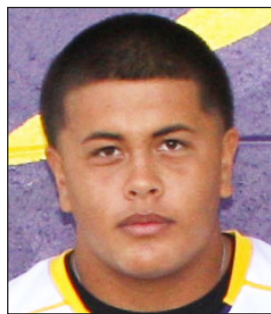
MICHAEL VARGAS
First Team
Defensive Line



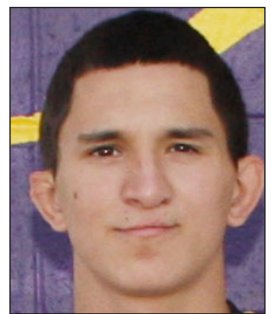
DANIEL LOMBRANA
First Team
Linebacker



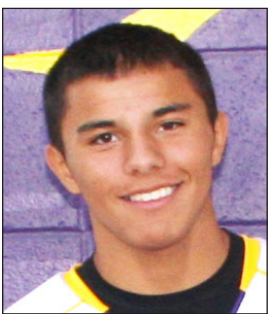
KALEN PEREZ
First Team
Linebacker



EMILIO MENDEZ
Second Team
Offensive Line



DANIEL GONZALEZ
Second Team
Running Back



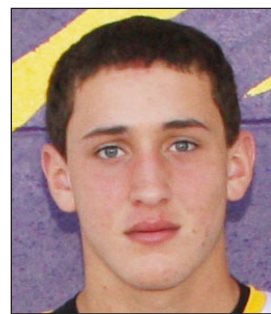
RYAN PORRAS
Second Team
Running Back



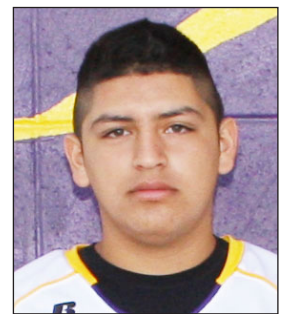
SAUL VARGAS
Second Team
Defensive Back



BRYCE GUTIERREZ
Second Team
Defensive Back
Academic All-District



BRYCE MARTIN
Academic
All-District



JOSE OJEDA
Newcomer
Academic All-District

Triple C
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OHS BASKETBALL TEAMS IN THE
OZONA TOURNAMENT THURSDAY-SATURDAY

Triple C
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LUMBER INC.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE NEWS

Sonic named Business of the Month

BY SHANON BIGGERSTAFF
OZONA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The Chamber of Commerce recognizes Sonic as our Business of the Month, and met with the new Manager Robert Crain who had the following to share with the community.

WHO IS ROBERT CRAIN?

I was born in Ruidoso, N.M. I grew up in Peaster, Texas just outside of Weatherford. My first official job was at a nearby Sonic Drive-in, in Hudson Oaks. Once I graduated, I took on a sales job and traveled much of the greater West Texas area for three years teaching about fire safety and selling fire safety products for a company called Advanced Detection. I was re-introduced to Sonic again, taking on the general manager job in Snyder and Big Spring, Texas, and met my current partner, Mike Abusaab and supervisor Keith Fontana.

My proudest moment was the birth of my son, Eli Crain, three years ago on Nov. 4. My life, much like everyone else's, has consisted of hardships and triumphs. I've learned the power of setting goals and working hard from so many of my mentors. I've attended motivational seminars, read countless books on the subject and if you look on my Facebook page, I post "Secrets to Success" like it is going out of style. Looking forward, I would love to embrace this community in the same way that it has embraced me. I keep thinking of all of the people that have been such a tremendous help in the three short months that I've been in town. I wouldn't have been able to accomplish anything at the restaurant if it had not been for this "unincorporated township," which I've never been a part of before, embracing me with open arms. I cannot think of how to repay everyone for the things that they have done for me. My hope is to make sure that I provide a safe environment with consistently good service and food for the purple and gold to enjoy. I think that's the only place that I have to start. From there, we'll just have to see where this town takes me.

WHAT CHANGES HAVE BEEN MADE TO THE STORE?

Oh, my gosh! What changes haven't been made? Just kidding, we have a long way to go. But off of the top of my head, I can say that an attitude adjustment has been made by not only the employees but also the local patrons. I don't mean this in a negative kind of way. We really have seen an attitude shift. No longer are we the black sheep of restaurants in town. Not to say that we are doing anything really great, but I believe the people of Ozona are looking at us in a different light and realizing that we are pushing, very hard to become better. To be that place where people like to come and hang out or meet up for a quick drink. That one simple turn from the town gives us, the crew, more confidence to keep pushing forward and become something the town can be proud of.



SONIC has been chosen as the Business of the Month by the Ozona Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors. Pictured is manager Robert Crain.

We know Ozona is a major pit stop for anyone traveling on I-10 going either direction. With the unreserved help of the staff at the museum, Emily in particular, we've added photos from the town in the 1920s era to the wall to give travelers a small peek in to our town and its history. In addition, the museum and Sonic share our brochures with one another in an effort to cross promote ourselves to the traveler that wants to take a break from the road.

This is the first Sonic Dine-In restaurant that I have ever operated. My whole way of thinking and operating a typical Sonic has been pushed and tested to the limits. After an overwhelming first week on the job, I had to take a breath, a step back and step on the other side of the counter and ask myself, "What would I want to experience if I walked in to a Sonic Dine-In?" So once I was able to do that, the ideas started and haven't stopped yet. I believe that we have such an amazing opportunity to become something great in this town. We have Douwe-Egberts coffee system in as our red-button roast coffee of choice. So I asked, why aren't we selling newspapers here for people to come and enjoy a morning break? So, we started selling The Ozona Stockman here with 100 percent of the profits from what we sell put aside to benefit local charities or athletic programs. Melissa Perner has proven to be a true professional and has one of the hardest working staff's that I've come across. It's a pleasure to be able to partner up and sell the Stockman here.

I've realized that we can host events, feed dance teams, track teams, football and basketball teams and every hunter that comes our way. We had a great night when Lyle from First Baptist set up his scavenger hunt to end at our restaurant on Halloween eve.

We must have had 40 kids in here, and we all ate corn dogs! That was a real crowning achievement to be able to fill the place up with local kids who were excited to be there. Maybe not just to be at Sonic, but hey, I'll take what I can get!

After a very early meeting with Mr. Raul Chavarria, when he allowed me to go over some of my ideas to incorporate Sonic into the school through helping with fund-raising, hosting events

or sponsorships, he patiently sat there through my nervous speech and offered not only support but some great advice on business and life.

I rent a house from, and would like to thank Bob Childress for being so helpful with my trying to set up residence in town. When I'm not busy working at the store fixing broken equipment, changing light bulbs or coming up with a school spirit drink called the Lionade, you can find me hanging out with Eligio Martinez and Pastor JC Cantu at the station or in the radio booth at Lion Stadium. If I'm not there, it's because I'm going to visit my son in Big Spring for the weekend.

Oh, how could I forget? We painted. As you know, we sponsor the player of the game during football season (shout out to Jayton, Mr. De-Hoyos, Hazael). Hats off to all of the hard work and commitment the team and coaches have put forth this season. Well, the first time I walked in to the gymnasium, I realized first of all that this gym is a great place to be loud.

I have also come to realize that in this town of Ozona, Texas, we have the most loyal, dedicated and flat out die-hard fans and supporters that I have ever been a part of. Well, after seeing that I knew I wanted to paint the store's dining area. Painting is one of the surest ways to set a mode of change. So we set out to find the perfect sonic color shades of blue and reds and a couple of colors that we may have wasted time on. With the help of the crew at Triple C, we found something we could use, and after many afternoons of painting little by little, we changed the look and hopefully the feel of the store. We want you to know that we didn't use primer though, because underneath the blue and the red... will always be Purple and Gold.

Sonic is open Monday through Thursday, 6 a.m. - 11 p.m., Friday and Saturday from 6 a.m.-midnight, and Sunday from 8 a.m. - 11 p.m. For more information, call Robert at (432) 816-8237 or Sonic at (325) 392-9501. Also check them out on www.facebook.com/ozonasonic

The Chamber of Commerce would like to recognize Sonic for their efforts to provide quality service in addition to being an added asset to the local business community.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Dec. 4 - Jackie Rose Sanchez, Joe Sanchez, Samuel Maskill, Kayla Scott, Levi Bishop, Natalie Hernandez, Casey Mendoza and Rocky Munoz

Dec. 5 - Susan Williams, Amber Lewis, Roman Tambunga, Melissa Glosson and Megan McDaniel Higgins

Dec. 6 - Eddie Moore, Kyle Dean, Matt McGuire, Candace Gandar, Miguel Hernandez, Connie Arredondo, Vince Castro Jackie Sanchez, Joe Sanchez and Andrea Borrego

Dec. 7 - Danny Monzingo, Michael Little, Ricky Ortega, Kaleta Shepperson, Martin Childress, Laney Galindo, Lupe Cervantez, Rachel Mendoza, Ken Sessom, Jose Aguilar, Mike Little, Mikey Burleson and Erik Carrizales

Dec. 8 - Lissa Galindo Benson, Deyanira Hernandez, Fernando Garza, Ella Clegg, Joe Brandon Ortiz, Amanda Ramirez, Alma Longoria and Jimmy Tambunga

Dec. 9 - Mary Helen Albers, Artemio Hernandez Sr., Jeremiah Armando Ramirez, Sierra Stokes, Terry Adams, Cade Clark, Margaret Coates, Jeremiah Sanchez and Ida Perez

Dec. 10 - John Strother, Elizabeth Clark, Angel Garcia and Laura Stapper

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Wednesday, Dec. 4

- OHS English II Writing EOC test.
- Exercise Classes, 9 a.m. at the Senior Center.
- Mexican Train, 1:30 p.m. at the Senior Center.

Thursday, Dec. 5

- OHS English II Reading EOC test.
- OHS Basketball Teams in the Ozona Tournament at the OHS Davidson Gym.
- Quilting, 9:30 a.m. at the Senior Center.
- Balance Exercise, 2 p.m. at the Senior Center.
- Crockett County Care Center, Health and Emergency Services Board of Directors meeting, 7 p.m. at the EMS Building.

Friday, Dec. 6

- OHS Basketball Teams in the Ozona Tournament at the OHS Davidson Gym.
- Exercise Classes, 9 a.m. at the Senior Center.
- Women of Faith Christmas event, 6 p.m. at the Ozona United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall.

Saturday, Dec. 7

- OHS Basketball Teams in the Ozona Tournament at the OHS Davidson Gym.
- Breakfast With Santa, 10 a.m. - noon at the Crockett County Civic Center.
- Wool and Mohair Style Show, 2 p.m. at the Senior Center.
- Crockett County DeerFest, 5:30 p.m. at the Fair Park Convention Center.

Monday, Dec. 9

- OHS All Region Band tryouts in Monahans.
- Exercise Classes, 9 a.m. at the Senior Center.
- Crockett County Commissioners' Court meeting, 9 a.m. at the courthouse annex.
- Advent lunch, noon at the Ozona United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall.
- Bridge, 1:30 p.m. at the Senior Center.
- OMS Lady Lions and Lions Basketball vs. TLC Academy, 5 p.m. at San Angelo.

Tuesday, Dec. 10

- Balance Exercise, 2 p.m. at the Senior Center.
- OHS Basketball Teams vs. Irion County, 5 p.m. at the OHS Davidson Gym.

Wednesday, Dec. 11

- Angel Tree gifts are due.
- Exercise Classes, 9 a.m. at the Senior Center.
- Mexican Train, 1:30 p.m. at the Senior Center.

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Art and Crafts Fair Dec. 12

The eighth annual Holiday Hands Arts & Crafts Fair will be from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Dec. 12 at the Crockett County Civic Center.

Arts and crafts and food booths will be set up. Booth rentals are \$25 for a 10-by-10 indoor or outdoor space.

Proceeds will go to the Helping Hands of Ozona Meals on Wheels program.

For more information call 325-226-4777.

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Come see us at 1010 Ave. E on **Thursday, Dec. 12** from 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
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Saturday • 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
RESALE & VINTAGE ITEMS

GRANDMA'S GARDEN By Marvine B. Potts

We would drive over a hundred miles before we reach grandma house. She and grandpa lived right down the road from the football stadium. Where we were told, not to climb the stands, but we did. That was our playground, when we were at grandma house.

When we were at grandma house we played with the dog, name Elvis or a goat, Billie Joe.

Also they had a sheep name Santa, he was mean, if you did not watch him he would butt you off of your feet. We always watch out for him. The bad thing was she had a outhouse, in the cow pen. I hated to go out there at night. The old cow wanted to be petted, so if you went in the pen, you have to hurry, getting in before she saw you or she would meet you at the door. You could not get in or maybe not get out. She would rub against the side of the outhouse, sometime making the latch close, locking you in. No fun at all for the one inside. Night was the worse,

Oh I get the goose bump just thinking about it.

But she had a good, big garden with all kind of good thing to eat in it. You name it and it was there, I would think. What I like was the tomatoes, humm humm good. When we got there after getting all the hugs I could, and they begin to talk I would go outside. To the garden, over to the tomatoes row, I would pick me some to eat em right there, but I didn't stop at one. I sat eating my fill of then. The best part was when grandpa came out there. He would come looking for me, knowing where I was. He had the salt shaker in hand, what fun we had setting there eating tomatoes. But then we had to quit and take some in the house for supper.

Then we, my brother and sister and I, would play with the goat or climb the pecan trees by the back porch. My brother would get on the back porch roof, I never got that brave. He could hear what was said in the house,

so he was gone when they came looking for us.

Each of us kid, had a pet we liked the best. Buddy's was the dog, my sister was in the house with her dolls. Mine was the goat, I just love the feel of her wool.

Close to dinner or supper time I would wait until Grandma was making biscuits. I would get right beside her and every once in a while I got a piece of dough. When she thought I had enough

I was told to run play, swiping one more piece, off I went. Her biscuits were so good, I miss them.

We always had a crowd when we were there, with 9 kids, in mother family. So all mother brothers and sisters would be there, what a crowd it was for the meals. Sometime just finding a place to sit was the biggest problem.

Oh the good old days. I would go back if I could, just for a day. Ha

MARVINE B. POTTS is a writer of short stories and pens her tales at the Crockett County Care Center.



Just in!
Santa is coming to Ozona!
Ozona Woman's League Presents....

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

Santa's coming and he's bringing his wonderful elves!
 Come have breakfast with Santa, see his Workshop, help the elves make an ornament for your tree, take a picture with Santa and send your Wish List straight to the North Pole! He promises to answer every one!

December 7, 2013 10 a.m. to noon
at Santa's Workshop
(Civic Center across from Lion Stadium)

Tickets: \$10/child & \$5/adult
(Tickets are available from any League member, at The Ozona Stockman or Ozona Mercantile and at the Door)

Every child must be accompanied by an adult.



Crockett County Museum
 Invites you to attend the Annual
Wool and Mohair Style Show
 By Dolores' Unique Designs
Saturday, Dec. 7
 2:00 p.m.
 Crockett County Senior Center
Lots of door prizes to be given.

Tickets are available at the Museum and from any board member!
\$1 for one or \$10 for 12 tickets

YOU NEED NOT BE PRESENT TO WIN.
All proceeds will benefit the Crockett County Museum.

Raffle drawing for this beautiful coat, designed by Dolores Vernor of Dolores' Unique Designs.



BRING A FRIEND!



As we prepare for this holiday season, let us not forget those who sacrifice daily to keep our great nation secure.

Let us also keep in our hearts and minds those who anxiously await their return home.



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KELLY SEWELL DRIVES THE BALL DOWN THE COURT in the JV Lady Lions Nov. 26 game against Sonora.



ASHLEY TANDY LEANS DOWN TO RETRIEVE A LOOSE BALL in the Varsity Lady Lions Nov. 26 game against Sonora.



JV LADY LION RACHEL MENDOZA ZIPS PAST A SONORA PLAYER in the Ladies Nov. 26. game in Davidson Gymnasium.



VARSITY LADY LION BRIE SANCHEZ PASSES THE BALL as #24 Elva Gallardo and #12 Daisy Guerra wait to be checked into the game against Sonora.

Lady Lions fall to Sonora

The OHS Lady Lions lost to Sonora 73-25 on Nov. 26. Score by quarters: Sonora 23 20 12 20 - 73; Ozona 4 7 8 3 - 25. Scoring: Madison Childress 8, Lexi Poindexter 2, Daisy Guerra 1, Brie Sanchez 1, Elva Gallardo 2, Amy Quiroz 2, Vivian Medina 6. The JV Lady Lions lost 32-16.

UIL releases conference cutoff numbers

For the next two school years, CCCCD will remain in the same classification, just with a different name.

The University Interscholastic League released its conference cutoff numbers on Monday, something it has never done in the past, in order to give schools a glimpse of where they might be placed for the 2014-2016 realignment.

The UIL also created a Class 6A conference and renamed six-man Class 1A, meaning most schools will advance in classification just on name alone even though their enrollment may not have drastically changed, including Ozona.

Conference alignment is based on enrollment numbers submitted on one day in October. Only the conference cutoff numbers were announced.

Districts will be announced during the normal realignment announcement in early February.

The new conference cutoff numbers are as follows:

- 6A: 2,100 and above
- 5A: 1,060 to 2,099
- 4A: 465 to 1,059 (Division I, 686-1,059; Division II, 465-685)
- 3A: 220 to 464 (Division I, 315-464; Division II,

220-314)

• 2A: 105-219 (Division I, 158-219; Division II, 105-157)

• 1A (formerly six-man): 104.9 and below (Division I, 55-104.9; Division II, 54 and below)

OHS turned in an enrollment of 215 students meaning it will be in Conference 2A Division I.

Other schools that will compete in Ozona's conference and division are: Canadian 211; Abernathy 212; Wellington 160; Anthony 209; Forsan 196; Christoval 167; McCamey 163; Harper 205; Mason 205; San Saba 200; Junction 204; Center Point 165; Flatonía 178 and Brackett 212.

"It is important to note that we do not know which district we will be in next year, just the conference," said Superintendent Raul Chavarria.

Other area teams: Conference 3A Division I: Denver City 430; Kermit 353; Wall 330; Brady 361 and Comfort 320.

Conference 3A Division II: Sonora 285; Crane 290; Coahoma 247; Post 222; Stanton 222; Grape Creek 294; Alpine 278; Reagan County 254; Ballinger 302.

For more information, visit the UIL website at www.uil.texas.org or www.texas-football.com



THE OHS ROBOTICS TEAMS competed at the Angelo State University TCEA Robotics contest on Nov. 4 in San Angelo.

OHS Robotics Teams compete in San Angelo

The OHS Robotics teams had a great day of competition at the Angelo State University TCEA Robotics contest on Monday, Nov. 4.

OHS fielded five teams of three and four students each. The highest placing team of Jaeden Focha, Devan Gamez, and Alexis Rodriguez brought home a second place trophy.

The team of Dalton Gunnels, Richard Gomez, Evan Raymond and Erick Rodriguez tied for fourth place.

There were 32 teams that

competed in the challenge designed by the Texas Computer Educators Association of Texas.

This year's challenge for the competition revolved around a chemical spill clean-up.

Each group has to program a robot of their own design to move game pieces that represent contaminated rubble, needed food and medical supplies as well as structural support in a factory that has had major damage.

The teams all developed their robots from LEGO NXT parts and attacked the problem from many directions.

Judges from around the San Angelo area also worked with all the teams to help them find other ways to try to solve the problems.

Also competing for OHS were Narda Aguilar, Katherine Bricken, Megan Bullard, Michelle Delgado, Meagan Espinosa, Jeremy Hernandez, Bryce Martin, Abby Newton, Jose Ojeda, Joshua Porras, and Weston Seahorn.

Youth Center Calendar of Events

BOARD MEETINGS:
 Teen 5 p.m.;
 Adult 5:30 p.m.
 Today (Dec. 4)

7TH & 8TH GRADE:
 Tuesday: 7-10 p.m.;
 Wednesday: 2-7 p.m.;
 Saturday: 7-10 p.m.

HIGH SCHOOL:
 Monday: 7-10 p.m.;
 Tuesday: 2-7 p.m.;
 Wednesday: 7-10 p.m.;
 Thursday: 2-10 p.m.;
 Friday: 2 p.m.-midnight
 and Saturday: 2-7 p.m.

CLOSED SUNDAYS

OHS MEAL NIGHT:
 Mondays - 7-10 p.m.

7TH AND 8TH MEAL NIGHTS:
 Every other Tuesday 7-10 p.m.

2013 Ozona Varsity Basketball Tourney

Thursday, December 5

2:00 p.m. Rocksprings vs. Veribest (girls)
 3:30 p.m. Rocksprings vs. Veribest (boys)
 5:00 p.m. Ozona vs. Comstock (girls)
 6:30 p.m. Ozona vs. Comstock (boys)

Friday, December 6

2:00 p.m. Comstock vs. Veribest (girls)
 3:30 p.m. Comstock vs. Veribest (boys)
 5:00 p.m. Ozona vs. Rocksprings (girls)
 6:30 p.m. Ozona vs. Rocksprings (boys)

Saturday, December 7

11:00 a.m. Rocksprings vs. Comstock (girls)
 12:30 p.m. Rocksprings vs. Comstock (boys)
 2:00 p.m. Veribest vs. Ozona (girls)
 3:30 p.m. Veribest vs. Ozona (boys)

1st Team listed will be home and wear white

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Devils River could feel impact of hunt for water

BY NEENA SATIJA
TEXAS TRIBUNE

DOLAN FALLS PRESERVE — Along U.S. Highway 277 headed north from Del Rio, not far from the Mexican border, canyons flecked with green tower over the desert landscape.

The rugged country is

some of the most breathtaking, and untouched, in all of Texas. Those who have studied the area say that hundreds of generations of indigenous tribespeople lived on this land, drawn to the caves that provided shelter from storms and enemies, the abundant plants and wildlife, the flint deposits in the

rock that could be used for tools and weapons, and the sparkling Devils River, which snakes through the terrain.

But the peace and quiet here shouldn't fool any thrill-seeker looking to navigate the waters of the river, whose headwaters begin in Sutton County. The navigable section begins in Val Verde

County and flow 60 miles south to Lake Amistad, where it joins the Rio Grande.

"It has no mercy for anybody or anything once the water flows down these canyons," said Doug Meyer, a former high school teacher who moved to the area about a year ago to serve as the Devils River project manager

for the Nature Conservancy.

In part because of work done by organizations like Meyer's, which have purchased tens of thousands of acres along the river to keep developers away, and the sheer remoteness of the region, the Devils River is seen by many as one of the state's last pristine rivers. Yet even this river may now be threatened, as faraway urban parts of Texas seek new water supplies amid drought and population explosion.

"What's happening with water is really causing us to rethink whether there's been a big victory out there," Laura Huffman, the Nature Conservancy's director of Texas programs, said of the nonprofit's efforts to preserve the land, which also include selling some of the purchased land with strict contract requirements for conservation.

More than 20 years ago, when some of those preservation efforts began in earnest, the goal was to protect the river's renowned water quality, in large part by protecting the surrounding landscape.

That has been a resounding success. The area's wildlife, including white-tailed deer, a variety of songbirds, mountain lions and the only known population of Mexican White Oaks in the U.S., is thriving. Even black bears are making a comeback.

It's water quantity that is now the concern. A project in the works by the Beeville-based Val Verde Water Company seeks to pump water from the Edwards-Trinity Aquifer in Val Verde County, where Del Rio and much of the Devils River is located. The company's president, John Littlejohn, has shopped a proposal to pipe billions of gallons of the water each year to various cities across the state, saying that the aquifer has plenty of resources and that his plan would not drain nearby water supplies.

But critics of the pro-

posal say the Devils River is a perfect example of how groundwater and surface water are interconnected and that pumping underground could affect the river's levels.

"Groundwater and surface water are essentially the same water," Huffman said. "You've got springs coming up to feed the inflows into these streams, and then they dip underground."

Littlejohn's project could take close to 50 billion gallons of water from the river's basin alone, opponents of the plan say, and there may not be enough rainfall to replace it. And unlike much of Texas, there's no entity in Val Verde County that regulates groundwater pumping, so many fear the project could be devastating for water resources in the area.

"The quantities being proposed far exceed what is available, and the result of such transport would cause severe damage to the Devils River and the underlying aquifer," David Honeycutt, founder of the Devils River Conservancy, wrote in a letter to San Antonio Water System, which is considering the project as an option to shore up the city's water supply in the coming decades.

A large group recently traveled to San Antonio to address the proposal, and the mayor of Del Rio vowed to fight the company with all the town's resources. San Antonio expects to make a decision early next year — but even if the city does not take up the offer, there are potential customers elsewhere. San Angelo is also eyeing the project.

Huffman sees the fight as a microcosm of what is happening across Texas. Cities and industries are finding themselves so strapped that they are looking to some of the most remote parts of the state for new water supplies — something no one in this country had ever dreamed of.

"I can tell you, there is a high level of concern about this issue," said Dell Dickinson, who raises sheep on a 7,000-acre ranch along the banks of the Devils River that his family has owned since 1942.

For Dickinson, it's not just the river that is at stake. "It's the country itself," he said. "To me, it's still wild country, not that different than the way it was 100, 150 years ago."

"I think everybody is entitled to water. We all need that to live," Dickinson said. "But I think a lot more study needs to be done."

"Why drain us to feed somebody else?"

This story has been clarified to reflect that the Devils River headwaters begin in Sutton County.

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RAUL ALVARADO de la Cd. de Panamá, Rep. de Panamá. Dicho evento Espiritual se llevara a cabo los días 16, 17 y 18 de Diciembre 2013 a las 7:00 p.m.

Además tendremos una clase especial para la familia expuesta por nuestro hermano:

JULIO MEZA, de la Cd. de Monterrey N.L. de 5:00- 6:30 p.m.

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Game Warden Field Notes

The following items are compiled from recent Texas Parks and Wildlife Department law enforcement reports.

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

A warden received a call from Bell County dispatch from a witness who saw someone in a vehicle shoot a deer in a new subdivision in Temple, load it up and leave the scene.

As soon as the operator said the street names, the warden recognized the location as his neighborhood. In fact, he jogs there at night. When he responded, the warden met with the person who made the complaint and was given a license plate number for a vehicle registered in Williamson County.

The plates also matched with a hunting license held by someone living around the corner from where the deer was shot. The warden went to the house, located the subject and found a doe in a shed in his yard. The man confessed that he and his uncle had shot the deer.

During the interview, the man said, "Yeah, I hope we didn't get you out of bed! I knew you lived around the corner and me and my uncle had the conversation before we left that it might not be a good idea because the game warden lives right around the corner!" Several deer and weapons seized, and multiple citations issued.

YOU CAN RUN, BUT YOU CAN'T HIDE

A Gillespie County game warden received a call from a landowner who had a photo of two unknown hunters standing over a dead deer under his game feeder.

The warden found drag marks and blood evidence leading through two other properties. After spending the day knocking on doors and meeting with other landowners, the warden found the subject's residence, or former residence.

The warden spoke to the suspect's mother and found out that the suspects had moved back to Alabama two days after the deer was shot.

The warden then contacted the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources for assistance. Alabama wardens interviewed the suspects and secured the evidence.

The meat will be donated to a needy family in Baldwin County, Ala. Cases pending.

RUGER'S NOSE, KNOWS

Two game wardens received a call in southern Travis County regarding possible hunting without landowner consent. When the wardens arrived, they found a truck pulled off the road near a construction site and decided to wait until the owner returned.

Hours later, the subject had someone drop him off at his vehicle. When confronted, he admitted digging for artifacts and fishing without landowner's consent. The

subject had numerous prior drug charges and seemed to be very nervous during the interview. One of the wardens ran police dog Ruger around the truck and he alerted outside the driver's door. Ruger then searched inside the vehicle and reacted to the sun-glass compartment where less than two ounces of marijuana was found. Numerous citations issued. Cases pending.

THERAPEUTIC RAMPAGE

Three Sabine County game wardens were dispatched to FM 330, where they met with U.S. Forest Service officers who had detained a man for various violations. The subject shot three white-tailed does, all untagged. The wardens seized the deer, and numerous charges are pending. The man said he was not happy with the way his archery season went and he took his frustrations out on anything he saw that morning.

SEE YOU LATER, ALLIGATOR

While patrolling Hidalgo County, two game wardens received information about an alligator that was being kept in a tub as a pet. The wardens went to the residence and the homeowners admitted to having the alligator in the backyard. The alligator was seized and later released. The homeowners were educated on the risk and criminal penalties of having an alligator as a pet.

ELECTIONS: from page 1

treasurer; Pleas Childress III, incumbent, for commissioner Precinct 2; Eligio Mendez Martinez, incumbent, for commissioner Precinct 4 and Ninfa Preddy and Lou Carson have both filed for county and district clerk.


All local candidates have filed in the Democratic Party Primary.

Those interested in filing can do so at the Crockett

County Clerk's Office in the courthouse annex and with local Democratic Party Chair Sandy Stokes.

For a complete list of filings, visit the Texas Secretary of State's website at www.sos.state.tx.us.

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CROCKETT COUNTY

Saturday, Dec. 7, 2013

5:30 p.m.

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Free Kid Drawing for 4 Wheeler & BB Guns
CHILD MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN

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Special Edition DeerFest Yeti Cooler Sale
STARTING AT 3:00 P.M.

Door Prize Tickets - \$1.00
General Admission - \$10.00 (Includes Meal)
10% of all admission proceeds go to West Texas Rehab of Ozona

www.deerfest.org

Like Us On Facebook

SATURDAY: from page 1

Governor Ann Richards.

"I cannot believe that this exists," was her reaction to the fiber she proclaims to be a hidden treasure.

She creates coats, dresses, scarves and socks, and feels a strong responsibility to educate people about the fabric created from the hair of an Angora goat.

As part of her educational effort, Vernor travels extensively for trunk shows.

"I never say 'no'," she said of invitations to display her garments at the show.

She said she feels that these shows are her opportunity to tell people about mohair.

After people discovered mohair, which 90 percent of them have never heard of, they realize what a unique fabric it is, Vernor said.

Her clothing has also been featured on the late Mary Kay Ash, as well as several beauty pageant winners.

A jacket she designed for Barbie was featured at the State Fair of Texas.

For more information on the show, call the museum at 392-2837.

For more information on Dolores' Unique Designs, call (830) 597-4152.

At 5:30 p.m., the doors will open at the Fair Park Convention Center for the 26th annual Crockett County DeerFest.

Prize tickets are \$1 each and can be found at Triple C Hardware & Lumber, Wool

Growers, The Ozona Stockman and the Ozona Chamber of Commerce Visitor Center. High Roller Tickets are also available.

General Admission is \$10, which includes the meal of chicken fried deer, turkey, axis deer and pork sausage, deer chili, deer tamales and brisket. Ten percent of the admission proceeds will go to the West Texas Rehab.

This year's DeerFest will give away more than 80 guns, \$10,000 in Cabela's gift cards, a 2013 Jeep Wrangler, a \$5,000 American Express Gift Card donated by Steve Anderson and numerous other prizes including the Yeti Cooler Sale.

The DeerFest came to life in 1988 as a fund-raiser to keep the Ozona Chamber of Commerce's doors open. Art Roane and the Double T Ranch provided all of the deer for the event. Without their generosity, feeding hundreds of people in attendance would not have been possible. Twelve guns and several other local prizes were given away the first year.

A few years later, the DeerFest had made enough


money to keep the Chamber of Commerce open and then begin donating to other local projects.

The Crockett County EMS building and the Fair Park Convention Center were built with funds raised at the Crockett County DeerFest.

As a result, DeerFest is now able to provide financial assistance to many local organizations including the Crockett County 4-H, Knights of Columbus, OLPH Youth Group, Ozona Chamber of Commerce, The Ozona Ministerial Alliance, Ozona Volunteer Fire Department, Crockett County EMS, Boy Scouts, Crockett County Youth Center, Ozona Community Center, American Cancer Society, Toys for Tots, Helping Hands, Ozona Little League, Project Graduation, Crockett County Public Library, and YMCA Youth Football.

The DeerFest also contributes annually to the West Texas Rehab Center, and they award academic scholarships to students from Ozona High School.

For more information, visit www.deerfest.org or follow them on Facebook.



Dr. William Edmiston


of the

Eldorado Animal Clinic

will be in **OZONA** on
Thursday, Dec. 5
from 10:00 a.m. - to 6:00 p.m.
at 1205 Sheffield Road

During office hours on Thursdays call 392-2508

To make an appointment or for more information call
Janet Pullen at 325-392-2826 or the Eldorado Clinic at 325-853-2572





SHOP LOCALLY

An Evening On The Town

Hosted by the Ozona Chamber of Commerce

Thursday, Dec. 12

6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

The following Chamber member businesses would like to extend an invitation to the residents of Ozona to stop by each business to learn about the products and services they provide, do all your holiday shopping, enjoy refreshments at select locations or just stop in to show your support on

- OHS Lion Cross Country Team State Champ Ring Fund-Raiser (On the Square Selling Hot Cider, Hot Chocolate & Raffle Tickets)
- Collett's Gun Shop & Machine Shop
- Crockett County Museum
- Crockett County Public Library
- Rusty Gold on the Square
- Southridge RV Park (at Kerrie's Creations)
- The General Store
- The Ozona Stockman
- Village Drug
- West Central Wireless
- Close to our Hearts
- El Chato's
- Gypsy Chix Boutique
- Hitchin Post
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- Ozona Mercantile
- Parties To Go
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While stopping at each location, pick up a ticket for a chance to win one of MANY DOOR PRIZES!!!

Businesses will notify winners and prize winners will be posted at www.ozona.com the following day.

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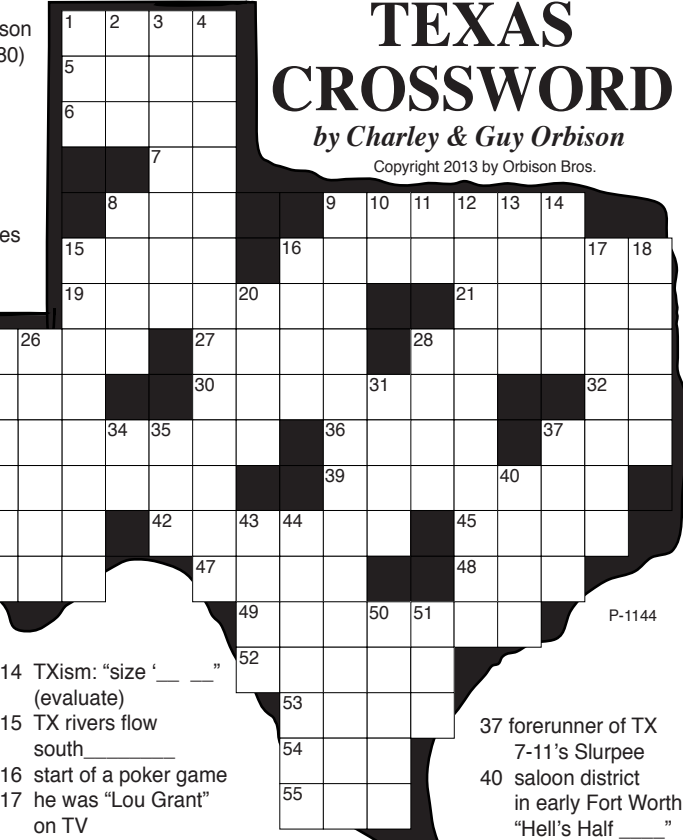
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ACROSS

- Monte ____, TX
- actress Cameron of film "Any Given Sunday" with TX Dennis Quaid
- a recorded song not for release
- TXism: "bend __ elbow" (drink)
- pie __ mode
- TXism: "let a sleeping __"
- TX George Strait's "All My Live in Texas" (var.)
- TXism: "busier than __ fry cook in a truck stop"
- Van ____, TX
- type of focus for a reflecting telescope
- hate or detest
- what Rangers & Astros want while on defense
- someone you write to regularly (2 wds.)
- level up?
- TXism: "was plucked __ than a Thanksgiving turkey"
- __ Jo, TX (abbr.)
- in Colorado Co. on hwy. 90A
- TX Willie is a __ fide Texan
- TXism: " __ heartbeats" (fast)
- TX Gary Morris '91 tune: "Miles Across the __"
- in Henderson Co. on hwy. 175

TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison
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DOWN

- "it don't __ up"
- TXism: "a boldface __"
- Tex-Mex entrees
- newspaper in the seat of Crockett Co.
- TXism: "sounds like a dry __"
- (bad singer)
- TXism: " __ in the woods? (yes)"
- TX Buddy Holly song: "Rave __!"
- Rice won 1966 __ College Bowl"
- knife wound
- TX football play area: grid __
- TXism: "size ' __' (evaluate)"
- TX rivers flow south __
- start of a poker game
- he was "Lou Grant" on TV
- TX Tanya Tucker '72 hit: " __ Dawn"
- Christmas celebration: "Boar's Head & __ Log Festival"
- notable Cowboy TE: Billy Joe __ Pre
- dir. from Comanche to Hico
- attack with a knife
- "stool __" (decoy)
- 37 forerunner of TX 7-11's Slurpee
- saloon district in early Fort Worth: "Hell's Half __"
- 43 poker statement: "read 'em and __"
- 44 "Semper Fidelis" is the motto for these soldiers
- 50 bearlike Australian marsupial
- 51 this technical institute has 10 outlets in TX (abbr.)

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Robert "Bob" Rodriguez
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PUBLIC NOTICES
NOTICE TO BIDDERS
 ISSUE DATE: November 18, 2013 OFFICIAL PUBLIC NOTICE
 CROCKETT COUNTY, TEXAS

Notice is hereby given that sealed bids for Animal Control Facility located in Ozona, Crockett, Texas, will be received by Janie Chandler, Crockett County Auditor, at the Crockett County Courthouse Annex, 909 Avenue D, Ozona, Texas 76943 until 3:00 PM, CST, December 19, 2013, then publicly opened and read aloud. A copy of the Plans and Project Manual may be obtained by visiting County Judge's Office. A refundable deposit of \$25.00 in the form of a cashier's check, money order, or company check payable to "Crockett County" will be required for each set of bid documents that is obtained directly from the County Judge's Office. The deposit will be refunded if the drawings and specifications are returned in good condition within 21 calendar days of the bid opening. Copies of plans and specifications may be viewed free of charge in the Crockett County Judge's Office. AN OPTIONAL PRE-BID CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD AT 2:30 PM, CST, December 9, 2013, AT THE COUNTY COURTHOUSE ANNEX. A bid security in the amount of five percent (5) of the total bid amount will be required. Payments will be made for completed work in progressive payments with the County retaining five percent (5) of each payment until final acceptance of the project. Payments will be made by check. A Payment Bond is required in the amount of one-hundred percent (100) of the contract amount, if the contract amount exceeds \$25,000. A Performance Bond is required in the amount of one-hundred percent (100) of the contract amount, if the contract amount exceeds \$100,000. Bidder should use lump sum pricing. The successful bidder must commence work upon issuance by County of a written Notice to Proceed. The County reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any informality in the bids received. Bids may not be withdrawn for ninety (90) calendar days after the date on which they are opened.

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