

Don't get left behind - spring forward one hour this weekend
Daylight Savings begins Sunday, April 4, 2004

THE Devil's River NEWS

50¢

Since 1890

Volume 116 • Issue 14

SONORA, TEXAS

Thursday, April 1, 2004

Downtown Lions Club cleaning up Texas, one road at a time



Sonora Downtown Lions Jerry Jackson and Norm Rousselot stash some trash from Hwy 277.

During the week of March 29 - April 3, the Sonora Downtown Lions Club has been observing "The Great Texas Trash-Off", cleaning two miles of roadway on Hwy 277 North. Lions are sure that everyone is aware how important it is to keep our roadways clean for everyone to enjoy the beauty of our countryside. The Lions Club encourages all of you to keep our highways clean and make a commitment to keep our highways clean.

Trash-Off is rooted in the Adopt-a-Highway program. Originally called the Great Texas Trash-Off, the event began in 1986 as a call to action to refrain from littering on one designated day.

In 1987, the Trash-Off event was expanded to include litter pickup because research has shown that people are less likely to litter when the roadside is clean.

Expanding the event also served to heighten statewide visibility of the campaign by encouraging all Adopt-a-Highway groups to pick up roadside litter on the day of the Trash-Off.

From these humble origins, the event has evolved and continues to enjoy increasing success.

Organizations and groups in our community can volunteer to adopt a portion of roadways in Sutton County by contacting TxDOT.

Making a haul

Since 1994, Trash-Off volunteers have picked up more than 14 million tons of trash. This equals 1,417 pounds for every man, woman and child in Texas. Some of the more "unusual" items collected in 2003 included winning lottery tickets, a microwave and an envelope containing quite a bit of cash.

Trash-Off history

The Don't Mess with Texas

April 15 filing deadline

April 15 is deadline for filing Business Personal Property Rendition of Taxable Property without penalty

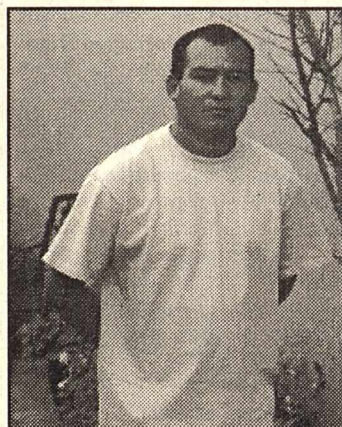
State law requires anyone who owns or manages income-producing personal property on January 1, to render their property with their local appraisal district by April 15. Businesses annually report their inventories, furniture and fixtures, machinery and equipment, and other tangible assets. If you fail to timely file a rendition required by Texas law, the chief appraiser must impose a penalty in an amount equal to 10 percent of the total taxes due on the property for the current year.

To render is to list the taxable property that businesses owned or managed as of January 1. Rendering allows property owners to record their opinions of their property's value. This ensures that the appraisal district sends them a notice before placing a higher value on their property.

"Property owners who render are in a better position to exercise their rights as taxpayers," noted chief appraiser Rex Ann Friess. "They ensure that the appraisal district has their correct mailing address so they

See Property Taxes page 8

Faz announces candidacy for School Board of Trustees



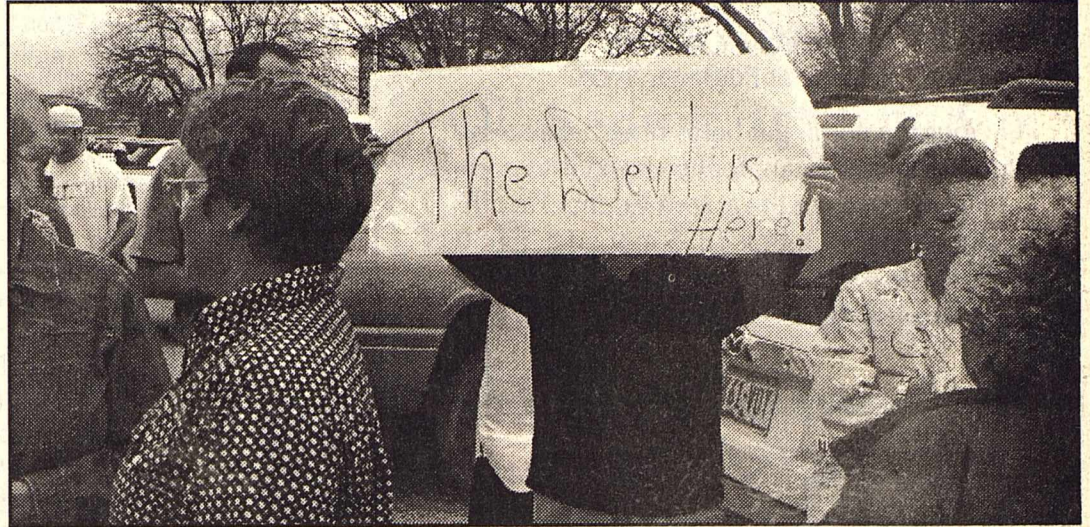
Santiago Faz has announced his candidacy for the Precinct 4 seat on the Sonora I.S.D. Board of Trustees.

Faz is a 1987 graduate of Sonora, who has lived here all his life. He is active with many youth oriented groups in our community and wants to be a voice for our kids.

"I grew up here and have an interest in our children and local school district. I want to help make a difference.

Santiago and his wife, Marissa, have two children and he is employed by Dominion Exploration.

Early voting begins April 28, 2004.



Rosa Bosmans, 75, expresses her fears at an Eldorado press conference.

New neighbors raise concerns

by Storie Sharp

Concerned citizens of Schleicher and surrounding counties were joined by news reporters from all over the State of Texas on Thursday, March 25, 2004 on the lawn of the Eldorado Law Enforcement building. A sign being held by local council woman, Rosa Bosmans, illustrated the fears and concerns about a large compound being built four miles north of town and its alleged ties to the Fundamentalist Church of Latter Day Saints (FLDS), a polygamous group from the Utah-Arizona border.

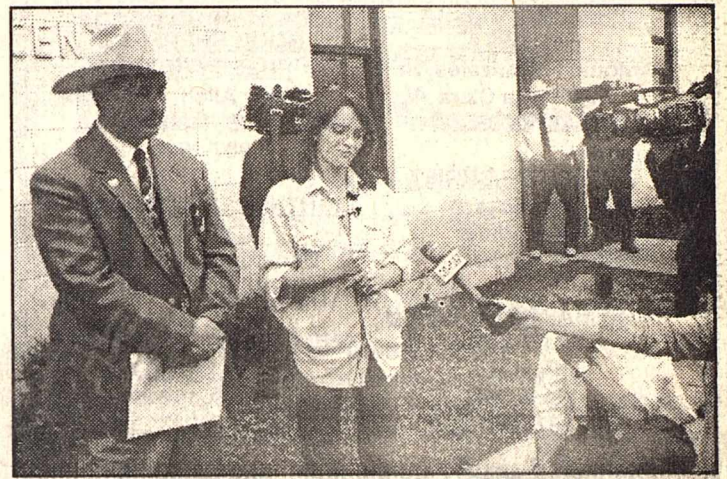
"The Devil is Here!" read the sign. When asked what that meant, Bosmans answered that they believe that may be what has moved to town.

"Do you remember David Koresh?" she asked, "well, that is what we are afraid of might be coming to our town. We are scared for our children."

The residents standing around said that the first they heard of this group was when the news broke last week in the *Eldorado Success*. The paper's front page asked the question, "Corporate retreat or prophet's refuge?"

This is what Flora Mae Jessop, a children's rights activist from Arizona, and Schleicher Co. Sheriff, David Doran were hoping to explain as they addressed the large crowd. Jessop began the interview by explaining that she was born and raised inside an FLDS compound, where she has 28 brothers and sisters. She escaped from the group when she was 18 years, running across country for years before settling down with a family and children of her own. Her younger sister also tried to escape from the FLDS and was tricked into returning. She has not been seen unattended since her return.

Jessop informed listeners that she understands their concerns and agrees that they are not unfounded. However, she said it isn't so much for those on the outside that there should be



Camera crews and reporters move in on Sheriff Doran and Flora Jessop.

concern, but for those on the inside. She explained that the FLDS church has been investigated in Arizona and Utah for underage marriages, welfare fraud, tax evasion and child sexual abuse, and this doesn't begin to explain the atrocities that go on against women and children inside. She told the crowd that the FLDS members consider outsiders "evil" and they wouldn't be coming after our children. But she didn't convince too many that were listening.

"They may be looking for a place where they are not known," said Jessop, explaining why they may have chosen Eldorado, Texas. They may also be interested in the close proximity to Mexico. She stressed the importance of local residents educating themselves on the FLDS and how they work. She also stressed that the town listen and work with the authorities and be sure to vote at all elections in order to keep these people out of their local government.

Sheriff Doran explained that at this time they have not "proven" that this is not indeed a hunting retreat, as claimed by the YFZ corporation that purchased the land. He did assure that local authorities are investigating all the information they have received and will continue to stay on top of the situation. However, Sheriff Doran reminded the crowd that it is important to remember that these people

have rights.

The YFZ, believed to stand for "Yearning For Zion", is run by David S. Allred, who is related by marriage to Warren Jeffs, the "Prophet" of the FLDS. The purchase of the 1,300 acres is reported to have been bought for a corporate hunting retreat for clients in Allred's construction business. This kept curiosity at bay until local pilots started talking about the large construction on the property. Three 3-story buildings, several mobile homes, storage buildings, and large garden plots are already on the location and more construction is going on. No local construction companies have been hired for the jobs, all the workers are reported to be from Utah, the home to one of the other FLDS compounds.

"These people are not hunters," Flora simply stated.

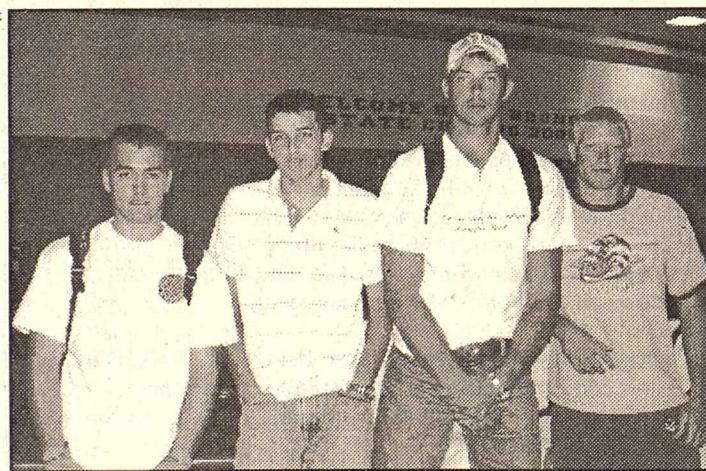
Misrepresentation is not illegal. Sheriff Doran explained, so other than a game violation that was handled by the game warden, no laws have been broken at this time.

Jessop sees things differently.

"Raping children is not right no matter what," she said. Forced marriage at the young ages of 13 and 14 and polygamist marriages are a regular part of the FLDS beliefs. Speaking out against the FLDS has brought Jessop threats upon her-

See FLDS page 10

Basketball All-District

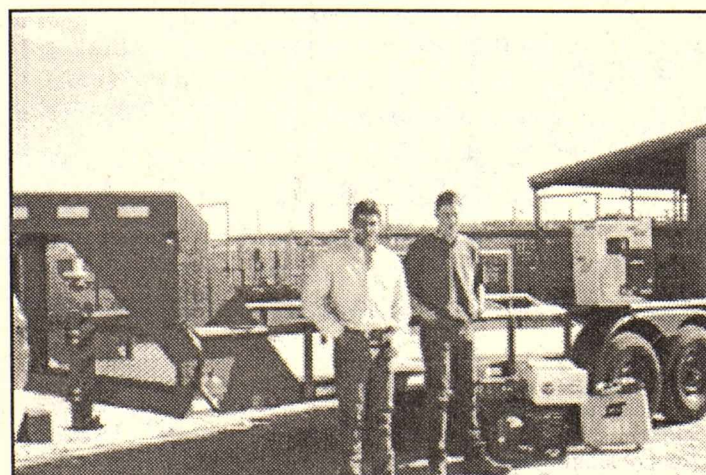


Chris Martin, Clint Cearley, Trapper Valliant and Brett McDaniel

The District 2-2A All-District Selections have been announced for the 2004 Basketball season and four Broncos made the cut. Brett McDaniel, a 6'3" Sophomore, was named First Team All-District Newcomer of the Year.

Chris Martin, a 5'10" Senior and Trapper Valliant, a 6'7" Senior, were both chosen for the First Team All-District and Clint Cearley, a 6'2" Junior was named to the Second Team All-District. Congratulations to all of these young men.

Ag Mechanics team build big wins at Texas livestock shows



David Cook and Jason Chadwick won many prizes with their 20' Lowboy trailer.

submitted

The Sonora FFA Ag Mechanics Team finished another successful season with the completion of the Houston Livestock Show.

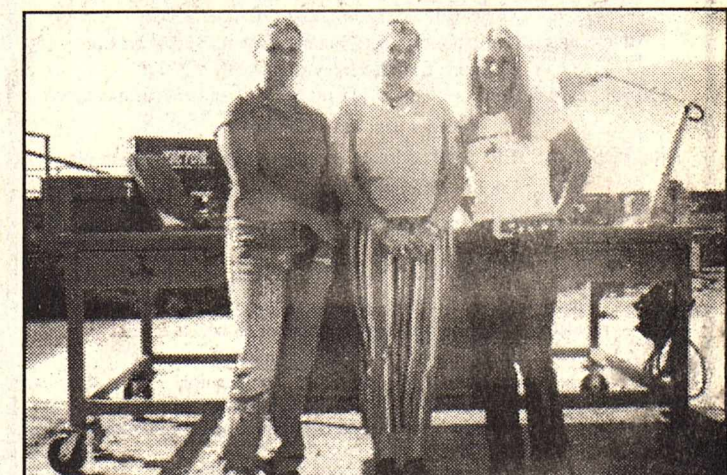
This year the team built a shop table for Grider Trucking and a 20' Lowboy trailer for Sonora ISD. The shop table was constructed by Courtney Caruthers, Hanna Allison, and Amanda Word. They were assisted by Tom Valliant. The table placed second at San Antonio, second at San Angelo and fourth at Houston. It also earned a blue ribbon rating at all three shows and received a pur-

ple ribbon (exemplary) at Houston.

The trailer was constructed by David Cook and Jason Chadwick. It placed first at San Antonio and third at San Angelo. The trailer also earned blue ribbon ratings at both shows.

These projects are built completely by the students from planning to painting. In all, the team brought home approximately \$1,000 in prizes. The Ag Mechanics team is coached by Michael Kissire.

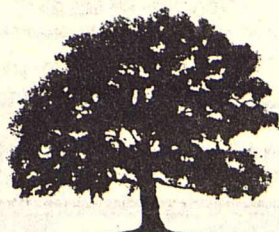
Congratulations to the Ag Mechanics team on another successful season.



Amanda Word, Hanna Allison, and Courtney Caruthers proudly show off their hot pink welding table.

Lighthouse Community Church

*A Love Relationship
that is real, personal and practical*
Sunday Services
Bible Study 10:00 a.m.
Worship • 11:00 a.m. • 6:00 p.m.
1705 N. Crockett



SUTTON COUNTY
HEALTH FOUNDATION

Your memorial gift helps preserve access to quality healthcare for generations to come. Please consider the Sutton County Health Foundation, P.O. Box 18, Sonora, TX 76950.

All contributions 100% tax deductible.



Sonora Church Directory

PRIMERA IGLESIA BAPTISTA
Antonio F. Gonzales, Sr.
504 Santa Clara
387-2035

CHURCH OF CHRIST
Jerry Jackson
304 N. Water
387-3190

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
T. Wayne Price
Pastor
111 E Oak
387-2951

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Rev. Milton Black
404 E. Poplar
387-2955

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Rev. Conrad Archer, Pastor
201 N. Water
387-2466

TEMPLO JERUSALEM ASAMBLEA DE DIOS
Enoc Elias Nunez
306 W. 4th St.
387-5713
387-3092

HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH
Rev. Charles Huffman
417 E. 2nd St.
387-5366

LA IGLESIA HISPANA UNIDA DEL NOMBRE DE JESUS, INC.
Pastor Felipe Martinez
807 Orient

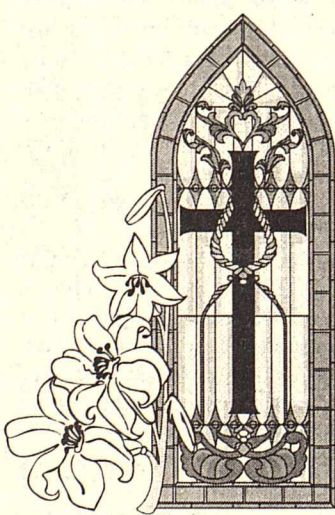
THE CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD PRESBYTERIAN
Lewis Allen, Pastor
319 E. Mulberry
387-2616

LIGHTHOUSE COMMUNITY CHURCH
Don Longoria, Pastor
1705 N. Crockett

PENTECOSTAL CALVARY TEMPLE UNITED
509 Amistad

ST. ANN'S CATHOLIC CHURCH
Father William DuBuisson, O.M.I.
229 W. Plum
387-2278

JEHOVAH'S WITNESS
310 St. Ann's Street
387-5658 or 387-5518



Brought to you by:

Kerbow Funeral Home
387-2266

Obituary

Myra Mae Finney Rudasill

Myra Mae Finney Rudasill died at home in Rocksprings on March 23 at the age of 80 years. She was born August 29, 1923, in Medina, the only child of Thomas Keese and Mary Alice Miller Finney. She attended school in Medina and Rocksprings graduating in 1941.

Myra Mae and James were married on October 15, 1941, at the Methodist parsonage in Rocksprings. They were involved in ranching in which Myra Mae was very active. She was active in the day-to-day ranching activities in whatever capacity she was needed: round-up, working in the pens, "pickin' bitterweed" or just riding the 4-wheeler to make inspections. She attended the First United Methodist Church in Rocksprings. In 1994 at the annual Fourth of July celebration, she was selected Edwards County Old Settlers Queen.

Myra Mae was preceded in death by her husband of 50 years, James Rudasill, who died

in 1992. She is survived by her son Jimmy and wife Dawn of Rocksprings and daughter Susie and husband Noah of Sonora; 2 granddaughters; Callie Allison Moore of Austin and Rayna Shea Rudasill of Rocksprings; a very special sister-in-law and traveling partner, Sibyl Epperson of Rocksprings; 2 nephews and their families, Epp Epperson of Rocksprings and Wiley Payne Rudasill of Georgetown.

Services were held on Thursday, March 25 at the First United Methodist Church of Rocksprings with Pastor Nancy A. Littlefield officiating and burial at the Rocksprings Cemetery. Pallbearers were: Eddie Rudasill, Don Rudasill, Sam Shanklin, Teddy McKnight, Eddie Sweeten, Fidel Moreno, Jerry Haerber and Butch Wardlaw. Honorary pallbearers were: Harold D. Rudasill, Allan Dunbar, Tooter Shanklin, Carl Hyde, L.D. Moore, Bill Moore, and Billy Ralph Robertson.

Cards of Thanks

On behalf of the Chávez Family, we would like to express our sincere gratitude for the prayers, phone calls, gifts and time taken from your busy schedule to visit our father, Victoriano Chávez, during his recent visit to Sonora. We are very blessed to have such a wonderful community to call home. Special thanks to Freddie & Imelda Chávez and Raul De La Rosa (Ozona) for their timeless help and generosity. May God bless each and every one of you.

Sincerely,
Victoriano, Rosalba Chávez and Family

The family of Kylie Hanna Donaldson would like to thank everyone for thinking of us during our recent loss. We want to thank everyone for the food, cards, prayers and visits to the hospital. May God bless everyone for your thoughts and prayers.

Jason and Beth Donaldson,
Kyle and Elaine Donaldson,
Traci and Jeff Hart and Kendall,
Jim and Becky Covington,
Duane and Kim Jones,
Kaitlyn and Kera

The family of Armando V. Avila, Jr. would like to thank everyone for thinking of us during the loss of our beloved son, brother, father and uncle.

We want to thank everyone for the food, prayers, cards and beautiful flowers and your calls and visits. May the Lord bless every one of you for your thoughts.

Armando and Socorro Avila,
Brenda, Crysta, Alyssa, Armando and Brandon Avila
Corie V. Avila, Henry V. Avila,
Danny & Cynthia Nicar and Family,
Frank and Yolanda Avila,
Mario and Toni Avila and Family,
Grandmother Carmen P. Avila

Come Celebrate Holy Week and Easter at St. Ann's Catholic Church

Saturday, April 3rd

5:30 - 6:30 p.m. Confessions
7:00 p.m. Mass • Blessing of the Palms
Daylight Savings Time Begins - Set Clocks AHEAD One Hour



Palm Sunday, April 4th

8:00 a.m. Mass • Blessing of the Palms
11:00 a.m. Mass • Blessing of the Palms



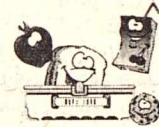
Holy Thursday • April 8th

5:00 - 6:00 p.m. • Confessions
7:00 p.m. • Mass of the Lord's Supper
After Mass • Adoration until Midnight

School Lunch Menu • Apr. 5 - Apr. 9, 2004

Breakfast

Mon. - Pancake on stick, syrup, orange juice.
Tues. - Toast with jelly, assorted juice.
Wed. - Breakfast pizza, orange juice.
Thurs. - Cinnamon roll, assorted juice.
Fri. - Easter Break. No School.



Milk and cereal offered with all breakfasts.

Lunch

Mon. - Beef & macaroni, vegetable salad, dressing, orange wedges, cornbread.
Tues. - Pepperoni pizza, kernel corn, fruit, vanilla pudding.
Wed. - Soft beef taco, cheese, salad, pinto beans, fruit salad.
Thurs. - Baked chicken, egg noodles, green beans, Jell-O with fruit, biscuits.
Fri. - Easter Break. No School.

Senior Center News

Apr. 5 - Bingo!
Apr. 6 - Blood pressure checks with Maria Carrasco.
11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Apr. 9 - Good Friday. Center will closed!

Senior Center Menu

Apr. 5 - Country fried steak with gravy, baked potato, spinach, green beans, wheat roll, juice, milk, lime rice swirl.
Apr. 6 - Pork chops with gravy, diced potatoes, carrots, tossed salad, wheat roll, peach cobbler, milk.
Apr. 7 - Catfish, corn, tomato casserole, spinach, bread, Jell-O with fruit, milk.
Apr. 8 - Beef, cheese enchiladas, pinto beans, tossed salad, crackers, fruit salad, milk.
Apr. 9 - Center will be closed for Good Friday!
Call 387-3888 for emergency.

Lunch is served Monday thru Friday at 12:00 Noon.
\$1.50 donation is suggested for those 60+ and \$4.00 for others.

Menu is subject to change.



American Cancer Society

Relay for Life

May 21-22, 2004

"Old McDonald Found a Cure"

Join us for some 'fun on the farm' as we work together as a community to raise money for cancer research and patient services!

Texas Tales Told By Tumbleweed Smith

One word is worth a thousand pictures



Tumbleweed Smith

Rick

Vanderpool has taken a thousand pictures of the word Texas. He focused his camera on the word found on everything from belt buckles to theater signs and everything in between.

Rick lives in Commerce and finds creative ways to make a living with his camera. He and his wife Judy own Prairie Rose studios located in downtown Commerce. Rick takes pictures in black and white, enlarges them and Judy colors them. Their work is found in hospitals and office buildings all over the country.

But that's only a part of what they do. Rick bought a used pickup a few years ago. It had some 25 thousand miles on it then. He has proceeded to put nearly a quarter million miles on it. It is a small pickup, no back seat, a short bed. Rick loves that thing. He has figured out a way to curl his 6 feet two inches frame into a sleeping position in the cab of the pickup. He stashes all his belongings on the floor and lies down.

What does he do with all those images of the word Texas? Plenty. He has put some of them on a poster and is working on creating a second one. He makes postcards, note cards, jigsaw puzzles and is working on developing fabric with the word Texas all over it. He's planning on coming out with a line of shirts and caps. He photographed the word Texas in every county in the state. All 254 of them. He found the word on buildings, manhole covers, vehicles, high-

way signs and just about every conceivable place.

Rick seems to be in constant motion. He and Judy are regulars at Canton's First Monday Trade Days. Their large booth is in a prime location and people stop by to look at the colorful merchandise.

Rick started his photographic odyssey in 1992 when he traveled all over the US taking pictures of cities named Columbus. He put together an exhibit of photographs to commemorate the 500th anniversary of Columbus' discovery of America in 1492. He didn't have any financial backing. He did it because he wanted to. So he sometimes sleeps in his pickup. Now he's really got a tiger by the tail.

Based on the popularity of his Texas poster, he is creating one for every state. He's already done about 30 states. For some, he travels to the states and does the photography. For others, he hires photographers to take pictures of their state name.

Rick has done other posters. He did one on Texas wildflowers. Another one has images of stars. He was surprised to discover how popular the star symbol is in Texas. He found it on government seals, in building rotundas, on sides of barns, just everywhere.

His latest poster is a montage of signs found on barbecue joints. He has become somewhat of an expert on barbecue. One day he and his grandson sampled bar-be-que in seven different places. He is keeping count of the ways BBQ is spelled. So far he's found eleven.

Community Calendar

April 3

City of Sonora

Relay for Life • Garage Sale Fundraiser • Sr. Center

April 9

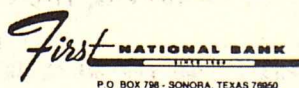
T & C Village Market

Relay for Life • Bake Sale Fundraiser

Al-Anon Family Meetings

Every Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. • Hospital Dining Room
Call 387-2521 ext. 170

The Community Calendar



P.O. BOX 756 • SONORA, TEXAS 76950

(915) 387-3881

Member FDIC

April 10

Community Easter Egg Hunt
Courthouse Lawn • 10:00 a.m.

April 21

Piano Recital • 6:00 p.m.
St. John's Episcopal Church

April 22

Chamber Banquet
4-H Civic Center • 6:00 p.m.

is made possible by:



Member FDIC

207 N Hwy 277 N • 387-2593

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Monday, 5:00 p.m.

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The views expressed in submitted articles are not necessarily the views of the staff.



Member 2004

TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

Letters To The Editor Policy

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Ask the Historical Society

by Jo-Ann E. Palmer, Secretary
Sutton County Historical
Society

Q. How long have stoves been around?

A. By the 1840's iron stoves had become the center of most kitchens. They replaced cooking directly over the fireplace. They were compact, much easier to reach and quite efficient. Some burned wood and some burned coal. The first gas stove came on the scene in 1850 and was patented in 1866. It would take over 30 years before people really came to use it because of their fear of explosions from the "gas monsters."

The electric stove was first exhibited in London in 1891. About 1913 electric stoves began to appear on the market.

The ice box had appeared in the 1830's, and in the early 1900's the gas refrigerators appeared on the scene. The first electric refrigerator was sold in 1916. It cost about \$900, more than a new car in those days.

Q. When was peanut butter sold in stores?

A. Peanut butter was invented by a doctor and lauded as a health food in St. Louis in 1890. It was easily digested and a high protein food that tasted good. Grocery stores kept it in big tubs and would stir it up for customers before ladling it out.

Q. I am trying to find an old recipe called Mrs. Frank Sinatra's Spaghetti and Meat Balls; can you help me?

A. The recipe you are looking for came out in Syracuse, New York in 1945 in a booklet published by WFBL radio called "The Cook Book of the Stars." Frank Sinatra's mother came from Genoa and his father from Sicily so it should be a pretty good Italian spaghetti recipe.

Meat Balls - 1/2 pound ground beef; 1/2 pound ground pork; 1 clove garlic, finely chopped; 1/2 cup grated Parmesan cheese; 2 eggs; 1 cup bread crumbs; 1 teaspoon finely chopped parsley; 1/2 teaspoon

salt and ground black pepper and olive oil for cooking.

1. Mix all ingredients except the olive oil. Form into balls. (The size of the meat balls is your choice. Mrs. Sinatra preferred them about the size of a golf ball.)

2. Brown the meat balls in olive oil. Remove the meat balls, leaving the oil in the pan, and set them aside to add to the sauce.

Tomato Sauce - 1 small onion, chopped; 1 clove garlic, finely chopped; 1 teaspoon minced parsley; 1 teaspoon thyme; salt and freshly ground pepper; 1 teaspoon sugar; 1 large can (1 lb 12 oz) Italian style tomatoes, crushed; 1 large can (15 oz) tomato puree.

1. In the oil remaining from cooking the meatballs, saute the onion and garlic until the onion is soft and translucent. Add the parsley, thyme, salt and pepper, and sugar, and stir.

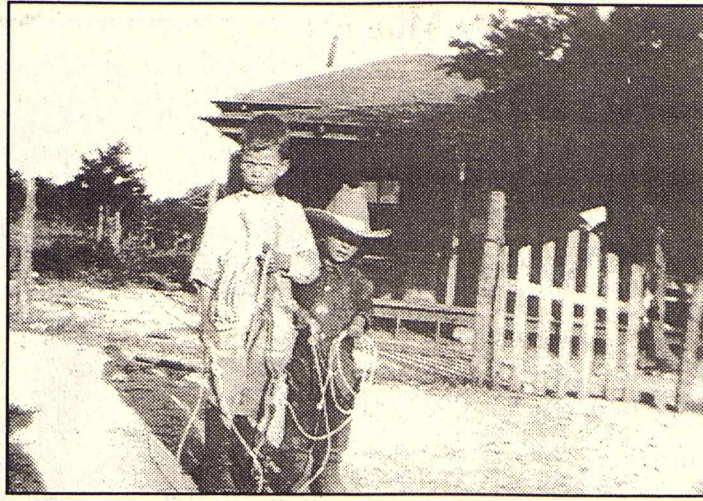
2. Add the tomatoes and tomato puree, and stir. Gently add the meatballs to the sauce. Cook over low heat for one hour, stirring occasionally.

Spaghetti - 1 pound of spaghetti - cook according to package directions and drain.

To Serve: On a large serving platter, place a generous layer of sauce. Add the well-drained spaghetti. Over that goes a generous sprinkling of Parmesan cheese. Cover with more sauce, meat balls, another layer of cheese and a final layer of sauce. Serve immediately. 6-8 servings.

Q. What is Coltsfoot Tea?
A. Coltsfoot, also called cough wort, baccy plant and, in Latin, Tussilago Farfara is a perennial. It is a common weed and grows on poor or heavy soil in temperate climates. It has yellow flowers that appear in early spring and are later followed by broad, hoof-shaped leaves that have undersides covered in a heavy down. The plant grows to about 12 inches in height.

The generic name, Tussilago, means 'cough dispeller', and for over 2,000 years it has been used to treat coughs,



Nelson and Glen Chadwick

catarrh and asthma. Leaves from the plant are still used in an herbal tobacco for bronchitis. A tea can be made from the leaves and taken a cupful at a time. One must be very careful to strain out all the little hairs from the back of the leaves. Some used juice from the fresh leaves as an antiseptic wash for wounds and skin blemishes or wrapped crushed leaves in linen and applied them as a poultice to alleviate skin irritations.

Q. Who was the journalist Nellie Bly?
A. Her real name was Elizabeth Cochran. She was a writer for the Pittsburgh Dispatch and did exposes on the exploitation of women who worked in local factories. Circulation soared but the advertisers complained and Bly was relegated to the society pages. She quit and went to Mexico where she wrote about official corruption in the government until she was asked to leave the country. She went to New York and began writing for Joseph Pulitzer's World. She told of sweatshops, bribery in the state legislature, corruption in the city hospitals and mashes in Central Park. Even marriage brokers felt the sting of Bly's pen.

In 1899, riding steamships, trains, burros, sampans and rickshaws, she made a trip around the world in 72 days, 6 hours and 11 minutes to prove she could beat the imaginary Phileas Fogg's 80 day travel

time around the world. When she returned she was given her own byline in a column in *The World*.

She married a Brooklyn industrialist in 1895 but returned to writing in 1919 and wrote a column for the New York Evening Journal until her death in 1922. She was described in her obituary not as a woman reporter, but simply as "America's best reporter," proof her campaign for equality had been successful, at least among her fellow journalists.

If you have any questions concerning Sutton County history, send them to "Ask the Historical Society," P.O. Box 885, Sonora, TX 76950-0885 or e-mail them to schs@sonoratrax.net. You may call us at the office, located at 307 Oak Street, Monday 8-12, Friday 8-12 and Saturdays 8-4. The office is open and our archives made available to the public during those hours. Tours of the Miers Home Museum and John & Mildred Cauthorn Memorial Trust Building (Depot) are also available during those hours. If you have a large group wanting to tour the facilities, please call ahead and book an appointment. Building rentals are now being made through our 307 Oak Street office. Either stop in or call when we are open or give me a call at home to see if a date is available. All renters must pay a \$50 deposit to hold a date. The remainder of your rental fee is due when you pick up the key, no exceptions.

Application to activate trail system near completion

by Shannan Biggerstaff, Ozona Chamber of Commerce

Individuals representing a twenty-two county region met Friday, March 26th, at the Sonora Santa Fe Depot to finalize the Heritage Trails Program application to be submitted to the Texas Historical Commission (THC), in an effort to activate the Texas Pecos Trail Region.

What is Heritage Tourism? Heritage Tourism is travel directed toward experiencing an area's unique heritage and culture. Heritage Tourism educates residents and visitors about Texas history and traditions. It protects historic, cultural and natural resources. The THC Heritage Trails Program is designed to promote economic development in rural communities by preserving and promoting areas of historical and cultural significance. Heritage travelers spend \$29 more per day than other types of tourists. With those dollars heritage tourism creates jobs, increases

property values, increases retail sales and generates greater tax revenues.

There are eleven designated Texas Heritage Trail Regions. Five of those regions are active: Forts Trail, Lakes, Forest, Brazos and Independence. The counties located within the Texas Pecos Trail have an opportunity to submit an application for official designation. The deadline is May 2004. If selected, the region is awarded \$50,000 for a three to five year minimum. The local match for the region is \$10,000 per year. Awarded funding pays the salary of a Regional Coordinator who coordinates board activities, acts as an advocate for the region and promotes the region as a tourism destination. These funds along with financial commitments from each county also pay for operational expenses for the coordinator. The Regional Coordinator of the newly designated region has the advantage of working



Representatives from chambers of commerce in the Texas Pecos Trail Region met at the Cauthorn Memorial Building in Sonora.

with the staff of a state agency, the THC, who will guide the coordinator in developing brochures, marketing plans, and assist the region in partnering with other state agencies.

The Texas Pecos Trail Region covers the following counties: Andrews, Crane,

Crockett, Ector, Edwards, Glasscock, Kimble, Kinney, Loving, Martin, Maverick, Midland, Pecos, Reagan, Reeves, Sterling, Sutton, Terrell, Upton, Val Verde, Ward and Winkler.

Happy Birthday

April 2
Janalyn Jones, Bianca About, Daniel Galindo, Janell Sparks, Arrin Valadez

April 3
David Fisher, Fabian Guzman, Janie Mabry, Yvette Gamez, Jack David Johnson, Matt Glasscock, Mauro Santana, Sr., Jenny Espinosa, Sonia Castro

April 4
Isaiah Lira, Brooke Wood, Isidora Ramirez, Sam Mata, Will Dutton

April 5
Alfredo Hernandez, Lilia Flores, Victoria Robles, Kayla Shurley, Fred Hernandez, James Zertuche, Nelson Black

April 6
Garrett Bawcom, A. J. Hernandez, Richard Aguero

April 7
Tracy Klein, Matthew Perez, Carole Ann Hardee, Roy Luna, Andrew Heap, Lisa Galindo, Dawson Guthrie, Toby Jimenez

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Come & Go

April 15, 2004 • 3:00 – 5:00 p.m.

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Join us in showcasing the new addition and renovation to the clinic and welcome Diana Green, PA-C into the Pajestka practice.

Refreshments will be served.

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Michele Cramer bride elect of Dr. Travis Spillman
Rachel Raines bride elect of Clint Bowers
Kacci Lewellen bride elect of Tom Jacoby
Regina Rosell bride elect of Chris Neal
Kara Eaton bride elect of Terry Chaumont

15th Celebration
Teresa Castillo
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Bridal Registry
Buffie York bride elect of Kent McAnally
Kacci Lewellen bride elect of Tom Jacoby
Kristen Hardgrave bride elect of Sam Kaufman
Michele Cramer bride elect of Dr. Travis Spillman

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Madrina Josie

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Two Miracles instead of one...
Celie & Sadie Gentry

February 12, 2004
Shannon Medical Center

Clay and Tammy Gentry would like to announce the birth of their twin girls
Celie Bryn born at 2:19 p.m.
She weighed 4 lbs. 12 oz. and was 17 1/2" long.
Sadie Brooke born at 2:20 p.m.
She weighed 3 lbs. 10 1/2 oz. and was 16" long.

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Blue balloons "Raise Awareness" of child abuse

by Rev. Jerry Jackson

In 1989, in the spring of the year, when the grass and trees were springing into life, Bonnie Finney received the news that her beloved grandson had died from injuries received from his parents. She tied a blue ribbon on the antenna of her car, to be a constant reminder of the bruises the child suffered and of the importance of protecting children and to alert her community to the tragedy of child abuse. Thus the birth of the Blue Ribbon.

This year, Sutton County Child Welfare board teamed with the Texas Foster Family Association to launch blue balloons as a reminder that April is Child Abuse Prevention Month. It is called "Raising Awareness", and there were 700 blue balloons launched on Friday, March 26th, by the students of Sonora Elementary and Middle Schools. This event was held in conjunction with the efforts of Sgt. Bill Davis, who spoke to the children on these campuses and to the high school students that day about abuse.

The prevention of child abuse is important because



Sonora I.S.D. students and faculty release blue balloons to help raise awareness of child abuse and neglect.

4,000 children die each year in our nation from abuse!

It is estimated, perhaps conservatively, that three out of every 10 children suffer abuse in some form or another. It is also a source of children's feelings of inadequacy and poor self-esteem.

Statistics show that 93% of all convicted criminals say they grew up in abusive homes. In the State of Texas there were 47,409 confirmed cases of child abuse in 2002. Of that number,

58% were children under the age of 10.

The number of children removed from their homes due to neglect or abuse has doubled since 1987.

The Texas Foster Family Association wants to "Raise Awareness" to the need for foster parents. There are presently 560,000 children in foster care in our nation. There are only 142,000 foster homes. This translates into four children for

every foster home. In the State of Texas there are 16,000 children in care, but only 7,000 foster homes.

For further details you can visit the website for the Texas Foster Family Association, TFFA.org, or Children's Protective Services at 325-687-7377. To report child abuse you may call your local law enforcement or the Texas Hotline for child abuse which is 1-800-252-5400.

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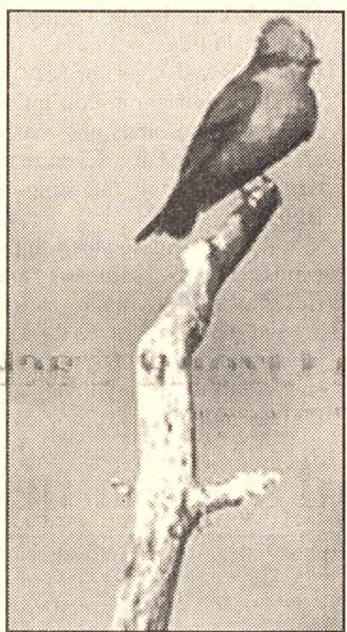
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Up on Eaton Hill... Vivid Hues of Flowers and Feathers



The vermilion flycatcher sports one of nature's most vivid colors.

by Delyse Jaeger

Oh the colors, the colors, de colores! The spectrum of springs' palette is the envy and delight of an artist. What a fantastic outpouring of budding vegetation surrounds us. The bright green freshly unfolding leaves against the sky's infinite blue background is breathtaking! One of the most extraordinary colors in the natural world is found on a little bird that makes it's home in West Texas: the vibrant vermilion flycatcher. Webster's defines "vermilion" as vivid red to reddish orange. For the vermilion flycatcher, I would add "electric" and "neon" to the description of the males' color. The bird's scientific name is *Pyrocephalus rubinus*. We don't need an official translation to decipher this one — Fire head red. Flycatchers feed on insects caught on the wing, and the vermilion can usually be found near open areas, perched on a fence post or tree limb. They are small birds and the female is a rather nondescript brownish gray with lighter under parts and some faint red at the sides. The male sports a fiery scarlet crown and breast with a rich dark brown mask, wings and back. Vermilion flycatchers exhibit interesting and somewhat comical nesting behaviors. The male chooses several nest sites in an area and then calls to the female, making crouching and nesting motions at each site. The female generally ignores the male and chooses her own preferred site near her mates' top choice. Both sexes then perform the nesting movements with the male joining the female as she begins to actually build the nest. Watch for these stunning birds as they swoop up their prey in the fields and open areas all around us.

Eaton Hill is gushing forth with flowers, birds, butterflies and buds. Hit the trails and soak up some of the vitality of this exceptionally spectacular season!

Easter eggs and hidden treasures waiting to be found

by Ann Kay, FHSMS Manager

The Friends of Historic Main Street Program would like all Easter egg hunters (children) to register at the bottom of the steps of the Sutton County Courthouse on Water Street, starting at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, April 10.

All children and adults are asked to register for the door prizes which will be given out at the end of the event.

Third graders and older will be hunting eggs on Eaton Hill. The little ones, babies to 2nd grade, will be hunting on the Sutton County Courthouse Lawn. The Bank & Trust of Sutton County and The First National Bank of Sonora have given \$150 in gold and silver dollars, which will be inside Easter eggs hidden on the hill and the courthouse lawn. The Dairy Queen of Sonora has donated free sundaes and ice cream coins which will be hidden on the lawn and hill. The door prizes will be stuffed toy rabbits, money, free meals, and skateboards. More prizes will be announced next week.

The Annual Easter Egg Hunt & Eaton Hill Wildlife Treasure Hunt will begin at 10:00 a.m. Eaton Hill treasure hunters will be using the Eaton Hill Wildlife Trails entrance behind Lewis Allen's house on City Hill Road.

We would like to thank our sponsors: First National Bank of Sonora, The Bank & Trust of



Children hunt for Easter treasures on Eaton Hill.

Sutton County, Dairy Queen, Alco, Sonora Office Supply, The Devil's River News, KHOS Radio, Corner Drug Store, Gifts Galore and More, Team Graphics, image-apparel, Caverns of Sonora, Ol' Sonora Trading Co., Tedford Jewelry, Radio Shack, Town & Country Food Stores, Sutton County Steakhouse, La Mexicana Restaurant, supporters of the Friends of Historic Sonora Main Street Program, Sutton County, City of Sonora, Sonora Economic Development Corporation, Lewis Allen, Delyse Jaeger and Sonic Drive-In.

Homemade goodies by the Hudspeth Hospital Auxiliary will be for sale at the Sutton County Courthouse during the Easter egg hunt and treasure hunt.

If you need more information, call the Friends of Historic Main Street office at 325-387-2248.

Annual Chamber Banquet date changed due to conflict

SONORA
Chamber of Commerce

by Ruthie Bounds, Chamber of Commerce Executive Director

The Sonora Chamber of Commerce Banquet date has been changed to Thursday, April 22nd. Due to conflict with Maundy Thursday and the Easter Holidays, we have decided to change the date for the Sonora Chamber of Commerce Annual Banquet. We hope this will not be an inconvenience for anyone and will look forward to seeing you at the Sutton County Civic Center for "Casino Nights" on April 22nd. The table decorating contest will be held again and everyone is encouraged to start thinking about your table ideas now. Tickets are on sale now at the Sonora Chamber of Commerce and Welcome Center or The

Devil's River News.

We are also gearing up for the Cinco de Mayo Celebration to be held at the Sutton County Park on May 1st & 2nd. If you would like to set up an arts & craft booth or a food booth please contact us at the Sonora Chamber of Commerce Office and Welcome Center.

On a personal note, I would very much like to thank all of you for the kindnesses shown to myself and my family during the last few weeks. Sonora is such a special place and the people of Sonora are what make it so special. People have helped out in so many ways and have been so understanding and considerate of my absence at the office. Thanks to you all!!!

Sonora Chamber of Commerce
Phone: 325/387-2880
E-Mail: soncoc@sonoratx.net
www.sonoratx-chamber.com

Bronco Golf Team wins in Reagan County

The Sonora varsity boys golf team were the big winners in Reagan County on Wednesday, March 24, 2004. The boys placed first with a score of 296. Wall was second with a score of 331.

Stetson Perez was the first place medalist, shooting a 72, followed by A.J. Hernandez shooting 73 for second and Trent Reiner shooting 75 for 3rd. Cullen Parker shot a 76 and Embre Smith shot an 80.

Bronco Baseball team hitting hard

by Maray Cearley

In the last four games the Broncos have proven they are a team to reckon with. Decisive wins against McCamey and Ft. Stockton gave the Broncos momentum going into District play.

On Tuesday, March 23, 2004, Sonora faced their first district nemesis, the Reagan County Owls.

Clint Cearley was on the mound, and, along with the Bronco defense, they kept the Owls from ever crossing the plate.

Cearley had eight strikeouts, one walk, one hit and gave up no runs.

In the first inning, the Broncos scored 2, with singles from Chris Perez, Scottie Moore, and Cearley. In the third, they scored two more, with singles by Anthony Longoria and Moore.

Chris Martin hit a shot to deep right center field, and, with his speed, he easily scored an in-the-park homerun.

In the fourth and fifth innings, several Broncos reached base adding four more to the score. Moore, Martin, and Cearley all had doubles, while Austin Wagoner singled on a bunt.

Needing only one run to win by the 10-run rule, the Broncos did just that. Moore reached on a triple and Garrett Watkins got the winning RBI on a fielder's choice. Final score was Sonora 10, Reagan Co. 0.

On Friday, March 26, 2004, with a home crowd advantage, the Broncos faced the Wall Hawks. If you weren't able to see the game you probably missed one of the best games played this season.

In the first inning, Wall had two hits, leaving runners at second and third bases. Longoria got the first out on a pop-up to second base. He then caught a foul ball down the first base line. With the runner tagging up at third, he was able to fire a shot to Cearley at home for the



Scottie Moore aims for third base.

third out.

Still in the first, Sonora scored two on singles by Moore, Martin and Cearley.

In the second, Dustin Creek reached base on a single, but was unable to advance.

In the fourth, Peter Duran, Cearley and Creek all reached base, but were left stranded.

Wall hit the scoreboard in left field in the sixth inning, taking the lead by one.

Diego Cardona got his first hit of the night in the seventh inning, but was thrown out stealing second.

After seven innings or regulation play the score was tied at three. Neither team was able to score in the eighth, but in the bottom of the ninth, with no outs and two strikes, Cearley sent one into deep left center field, clearing the fence for his first home run of the year, and the go-ahead run. Sonora won 4 to 3.

Moore was on the mound for the entire nine innings, finishing with 12 strikeouts, one walk, eight hits and three runs.

The Broncos play Eldorado and Ozona next.

Stats

March 19
Sonora 3, Ft. Stockton 2
C. Perez - 3 AB, 1 R, 1 H; A. Longoria - 2 AB, 1 H; S. Moore - 3 AB, 1 R, 2 H, 1 RBI; C. Cearley - 3 AB; C. Martin - 3 AB, 1 H, 1 RBI; R. Solis - 2 AB, D. Creek - 1 R; P. Duran - 3 AB, 1 H; B. Payton - 2 AB; D. Cardona 1 AB
Home Run - Hernandez

March 23
Sonora 10, Reagan Co. 0
Perez - 4 AB, 1 R, 1 H, 1 RBI; Longoria 4 AB, 1 R; Moore - 4 AB, 3 R, 4 H, 2 RBI; Martin - 4 AB, 2 R, 2 H, 2 RBI; Cearley - 3 AB, 1 R, 2 H, 2 RBI; G. Watkins - 1 AB, 1 RBI; Duran - 1 AB; S. Duhan - 2 AB, 1 R, 1 H; D. Creek - 2 AB, 1 R; A. Wagoner 2 AB, 1 H
Home Run - Martin

March 26
Sonora 4, Wall 3
Perez - 4 AB; Longoria 4 AB; Moore - 4 AB, 2 H; Hernandez 2 R; Martin - 4 AB, 1 R; Cearley - 4 AB, 1 R, 3 H, 2 RBI; Duran - 3 AB 2 H 1 RBI; D. Creek - 3 AB, 1 R; Cardona 3 AB, 1 H; A. Wagoner 3 AB
Home run - Cearley

Lady Bronco Softball suffers first loss, bounces back with stong win

by Tryon Fields

Last week the Lady Bronco softball team suffered their first loss of the season as well as picking up their sixth win. The loss came at the hands of the Monohans Junior Varsity and the victory came at the expense of the Lady Bulldogs from Miles.

Early in the week, the Lady Broncos entertained the Monohans J.V. team. A pitching duel between Sonora's Meghan Krieg and Schuler from Monohans set the tone for this game. Both pitchers went the distance with Schuler getting the edge in the end. Krieg gave up 1 run off of 4 hits, 4 walks, and struck out 11. Schuler of Monohans limited the ladies dressed in red to only 3 hits and struck out 9 in the 1 to 0 victory.

Meghan Krieg, Jamie Duran, and Tamika Marshall were the only Lady Broncos who were able to reach base safely. On defense the Lady Broncos were led by catcher Debra Martinez who threw out a Lady Lobo attempting to steal second and another unsuspecting lady in green at third base. Third baseman, Brandy Neff, short-stop, Kayla Fields, and second baseman, Jamie Duran, rounded out the excellent defensive play of the Lady Broncos. Though Sonora lost this game, it was an excellent learning opportunity in preparation for the upcoming District 2-2A competition.

On Friday, the Lady Broncos traveled to Miles to play the Lady Bulldogs.

The pitching duo of Meghan Krieg and Jamie Duran limited the Miles team to 2 runs off of 7 hits and 4 walks. Krieg and Duran struck out a total of 12 Lady Bulldogs in the seven innings of play. At the plate, Brandy Neff led the ladies in red with 5 RBI's off of a single and a double. Debra Martinez went 2 for 3 with a single, a triple, and a walk, as well as a stolen base and an RBI.

Tamika Marshall added a single, a walk, and an RBI along with a stolen base. Jamie Duran went 2 for 4 with a single and a double to round out the Lady Bronco offensive onslaught. Defensively, the Lady Broncos were led by senior Brea Hughes who anchored first base with 5 put outs, two of these unassisted.

Debra Martinez, once again with a stellar performance at catcher, had two throw outs, and Brandy Neff, playing very solid at third, had an assist. The Lady Broncos cruised to a 11 to 2 victory over Miles to push their record to 6 wins and 1 loss.

The Lady Broncos start District play this week with Eldorado at home on Tuesday and will travel to Wall on Friday.

GOOD LUCK!!!!
THINK DISTRICT CHAMPIONSHIP!

Lady Colts take second on Ozona track



Emily Earwood runs in the Ozona track meet.

submitted

The Sonora 8th grade Lady Colts traveled to Ozona on Thursday, March 25, 2004. The girls did well, placing 2nd overall, with 134 pts. Reagan County was first with 152. Results were as follows:

100m dash: K. Turney 3rd., S. Gomez 4th.; 200m. Dash: K. Garcia 1st., K. Watkins 5th.; 400m. Dash: J. Chavez 3rd.; 800m. Run: E. Earwood 4th.; 1600 m. run: P. Zaragosa 3rd.; 4x100 relay 3rd. Perez, Watkins, Chavez, Gomez; 4x200: 1st. Turney, Earwood, Garcia, Watkins; 4x400 relay: 3rd. Gomez, Garcia, Chavez, Perez; 300m. Hurdles: K. Turney 3rd.

Field Events : Long Jump: K. Turney 3rd.; Shot Put: C. Martinez 1st., D.Rodriguez 6th.; Discus: C. Martinez 3rd., E. Samaniego 5th., D. Rodriguez 6th. Triple Jump: Turney 2nd., Earwood 3rd. High Jump: Earwood 3rd.

submitted

7th Grade Girls Track Results Ozona Relays March 25th

100m dash: Vickie Torres - 6th, 14.39; 200m dash: Jessica Snyder - 1st, 29.85; 400m dash: Jessica Snyder - 3rd, 71.21; 800m Run: Stephani Morriss - 2nd, 2:55:05; 1600m Run: Senida Martinez - 6th, 7:58:00; 2400m Run: Senida Martinez - 5th, 12:09:00; Maria Gaytan - 6th, 14:28:01; 300m Hurdles: Kaitlyn Henderson - 1st, 58.25, Savannah Leonard - 2nd, 62.30; 4x100 Relay: 3rd, 57.69. Samantha Tidwell, Vickie Torres, Monica Traylor, Jessica Snyder; 4x200 Relay: 1st, 2:04.08 - Stephani Morriss, Monica Traylor, Savannah Leonard, Kaitlyn Henderson; 4x400 Relay: 2nd, 4:56.33 Stephani Morriss, Monica Traylor, Kaitlyn Henderson, Savannah Leonard; Long Jump: Jessica Snyder - 5th, 13'3.5"; Shot Put: Karley Frasier - 6th, 21'8.5"; High Jump: Savannah Leonard - 4th, 4'2"; Steely Ingham 5th, 3'6"; Triple Jump: Savannah Leonard 5th 25'11"; Pole Vault: Kaitlyn Henderson - 1st, 6'0"

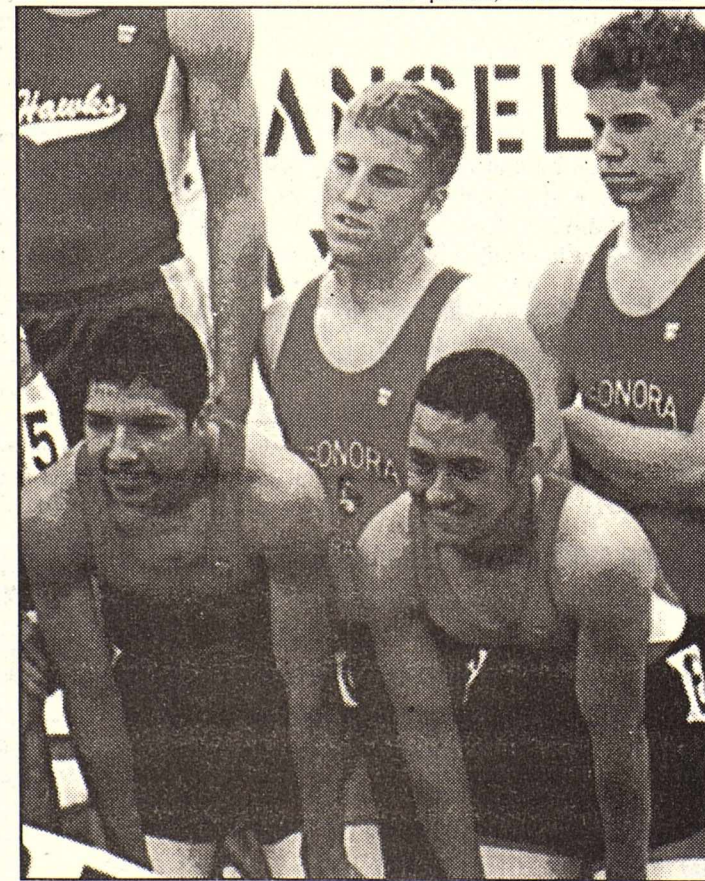
The Lady Colts 7th grade team placed 2nd overall with 117 points, behind Junction.

Broncos run in San Angelo Relays

submitted

The 2004 San Angelo Relays were held on Saturday, March 27, 2004. The Bronco Varsity boys finished seventh out of 17 teams, with 44 points. Results were as follows:

Long Jump: 1. Anthony Longoria 21-07
Triple Jump: 5. Anthony Longoria 39-10 3/4
Pole Vault: 5. Justin Northcott 11-06
Shot Put: 5. Valliant 47-03 3/4
Discus: 4. Valliant 155-10
100m: 3. Hilton Bloodworth 11.41
200m: 5. Brett McDaniel 23.80
400m relay: 2. Stevie Hernandez, Wilson Wallace, Anthony Longoria and Hilton Bloodworth 44.72



The 400m Relay team, Stevie Hernandez, Anthony Longoria Hilton Bloodworth and Wilson Wallace finished 2nd in Angelo.

Correction: Last week I mistakenly reported that the Cactus Relays were in San Angelo. I apologize for the mistake, they were in Iraan.

Colt Tennis team competes in Ozona

submitted

The Sonora Middle School tennis team went to Ozona on Saturday, March 27, 2004. Three Colts placed as follows: Steely Ingham placed 2nd in 7th grade Girls Singles. Jessica Snyder and Katlyn Henderson were 4th in 7th grade Girls Doubles.

Due to bad weather, the competition was played on a single elimination. The tennis team will travel to Big Lake for district on Saturday, April 3, 2004.

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Sonora Golf Club is currently having a New Membership Drive March 1 - April 31, 2004
The normal \$100.00 initiation fee will be waived during this period. Regular dues are \$40.00 per month plus \$10.00 per month with cart shed rental. This is a great time to join us at Sonora Golf Club
For more details call 387-3680 or come by the Clubhouse at 108 Golf Course Rd.

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2004 SPORTS SCHEDULE
Bronco Baseball
Apr. 2 Ozona * Here • 5:00 p.m.
Apr. 6 Grape Creek * There • 4:00 p.m.
Apr. 8 Reagan County* There • 5:00 p.m.
JV Baseball
Apr. 2 Ozona * • Here After Varsity
Apr. 5 Grape Creek * There • 4:00 p.m.
Apr. 8 Reagan County * There • After Varsity
Lady Bronco Softball
Apr. 2 Wall * There • 4:30 p.m.
Apr. 6 Grape Creek* Here • 4:30 p.m.
Apr. 8 Eldorado * There • 4:30 p.m.
Track Schedule
Apr. 3 Crane • VB, VG, JVB TBA
Apr. 8 Ozona • VB, VG, JVB TBA
Junior High
Apr. 1 • Sonora*
High School Golf
Varsity Boys
Apr. 7 2nd District Round Reagan County
Varsity Girls
APR. 7 2nd District Round Reagan Co.
JV
APR. 7 2nd District Round Reagan Co.
Tennis Schedule
Apr. 1, 2 & 3 • Mason
Apr. 5-6 • District (San Angelo)
Apr. 3 • Jr. High • District (Reagan Co.)
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Monday, April 5th

Sonora schools install new automated system in cafeterias

by Dora Gonzales, Food Service Director,

The cafeteria will no longer be using meal tickets for the purchase of meals at Sonora schools. The Sonora I.S.D. has installed an automated system in the cafeteria. Instead of purchasing a meal ticket, parents may now deposit money into your children's accounts, choosing the amount of meals to be purchased.

Memos will be sent home with the children once a week to inform if his/her balance is below \$3.00 at the elementary school or \$3.50 at the middle school, or if he/she has a negative balance. No memo will be sent home if there is a positive balance. Parents may call the cafeteria any time between meals to check on their children's balance. To avoid interrupting the student's meal time, it is asked that payments are made before or after the meal times. You may call Dora Gonzales, Food Service Director, at 387-5760 with any questions regarding the new system.

It is asked the everyone be patient with the cafeteria staff while they are learning the automated system and transferring balances from pre-paid tickets into the accounts.

Parents, please encourage your child to learn his or her ID number or Library number, which is the same four digits, as they will be entering this number into the key pad when going through the cafeteria line. This applies to students in 3rd grade and up. This new automated system is to help make the cafeteria line move faster and keep better records in the cafeteria.

Second Nature Tourism Business Development Seminar to be held in Mason

"How to start your Nature Tourism business"

The second of a three-part series of nature tourism business development seminars will be held in Mason on Thursday, April 22. The goal of the seminar series is to help area landowners find ways to diversify their agricultural operation and provide potential new revenue sources. The second seminar will focus on starting your nature tourism business. The April seminar will offer helpful topics such as liability issues for land owners, developing a tourism business, writing a business plan, business financing options, and presentations by real tourism business owners. The seminar will be held at the community building at the Ft. Mason Park, south of Mason on Hwy. 87. The seminar will run from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. with registration beginning at 8:30.

Anyone who is interested in starting a nature tourism business is encouraged to attend and, attendance at the first seminar is not a prerequisite for attending other seminar(s). The first seminar on March 10 was very successful and attended by about 50 interested individuals. It included nature tourism overviews, discussions by tourism experts and nature tourism success stories.

The seminar series will focus primarily on topics for attendees from counties in the northwestern part of the Hill Country. Individuals in Mason, Llano, Kimble, Gillespie, Menard, McCullough, San Saba, Schleicher, Sutton and Concho counties are invited to attend.

The April 22 seminar is the second of a series of three Business Development Seminars to be held in Mason throughout the first half of 2004. The second presentation will focus on the nuts and bolts of starting a nature tourism business and the third on marketing your business. The 3-part series will allow individuals who are interested in starting their own business as well as those looking to improve and grow their enterprise the opportunity to hear from industry experts and success stories from other areas of Texas.

Interested parties may attend any or all of the seminars as each of the three days will focus on separate topics. Each of the one-day classes will take place in Mason and will be set to run on a monthly basis until complete. A \$35 fee will cover the cost of one seminar, all hand-outs and a lunch. The second seminar will be held on April 22 and the third seminar on May 19. Each seminar may be paid for separately, and individuals may attend one, two or all of the seminars.

To register for the April 22nd seminar or for more information on these seminars, please contact: The Texas Leadership Institute at: 1-800-776-5272, ext. 3399.

This seminar is co-sponsored by: The Texas Leadership Institute, LCRA, Hill Country Resource Conservation and Development Area, Mason County, the City of Mason, and Chambers of Commerce from towns in Gillespie, Kimble, Llano, Mason, McCullough, Menard, and San Saba counties.



S.M.S. scores Superior at Foreign Language Festival

Sonora Middle School 8th grade students participated in the Foreign Language Festival at Angelo State University on March 26, 2004. The students participated in prose, poetry, sight reading in Spanish and took a written test in Spanish. They worked hard to prepare for the festival and scored superior and excellent in their events. The students who participated (pictured above) are Fidel Acevedo, Adriana Botello, Nicky Escalante, Eduardo Garcia, Kayla Garcia, Maritza Garcia, Aaron Gaytan, Sierra Gomez, Danielle Rodriguez, Felicia Rodriguez.

Los Compadres to fry fish

Los Compadres Club will be having their 3rd Annual Fish Fry on Friday, April 2, 2004. Tickets are \$6.00 per plate, which consists of fried fish, French fries, cole slaw and beans.

Tickets can be bought from club members. For more information contact current directors, Armando and Terri Dominguez at 387-2056, or David and Mari Sanchez at 387-5095. The plates will be ready between 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. on Friday, April 2, 2004, at 708 Tayloe Ave., Sam David and Betty Hernandez's residence.

Access to quality health care a challenge for rural communities

As a rancher in Brewster County in far West Texas, I know what attracts so many of our citizens to live in rural Texas: wide open spaces, fresh air, wonderful safe communities and good old Texas values.

Our rural communities face real challenges however, and topping the list is access to quality health care. Having a doctor, specialist or emergency room at the ready is taken for granted in Texas cities and suburbs, but not in rural Texas where a three hour drive to your favorite department store is not unusual.

Health care is a vital to rural economic development. It's hard to convince businesses to relocate or expand in rural Texas, if quality healthcare is hard to come by.

Fortunately, President Bush and Members of Congress of both parties recently passed the Prescription Drug and Medicare Modernization Act.

The new law provides much-needed boost to the health care infrastructure in rural Texas by dedicating \$25 billion in aid to rural community hospitals and health care workers, and improving prescription drug coverage for nearly 2.4 million Medicare beneficiaries in the Lone Star State.

For lower-income Medicare recipients will ultimately be able to purchase name-brand prescriptions for just \$5 and generic prescription drug for less.

Medicare soon will take the first step in the prescription drug benefit, a new drug discount card to save all Medicare beneficiaries, regardless of income, an estimated 10-25%. In May, low income Texas Medicare beneficiaries will be able to apply for up to \$600 in immediate prescription drug assistance in 2004 and 2005.

When the Medicare modernization plan is fully implemented, by 2006, average

Medicare beneficiaries will save an estimated 50% on drug costs, and nearly 600,000 additional Texans will have access to Medicare prescription drug coverage for the first time.

These new benefits means better health care for millions of Texans, including our most vulnerable - low-income seniors and the disabled. They provide a much needed, and long overdue, infusion of resources to rural hospitals and health providers.

For Texas seniors happy with their current Medicare coverage, this new prescription drug benefit is strictly voluntary. For retirees who receive prescription drug benefits through a former employer, Medicare will now pay 28% of prescription drug costs up to \$5,000 per employee, helping reduce employer costs and encourage prescription drug coverage for more Americans.

When fully implemented the new Medicare benefits will include catastrophic coverage in case of sudden illness. It includes a routine physical examination and easy to understand information about the new Medicare plan's features so no one gets stuck with a mass of unintelligible paperwork.

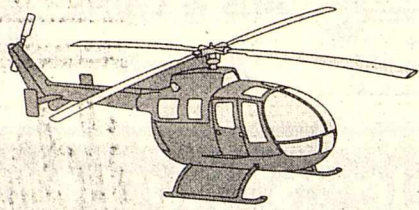
But for new Medicare law to benefit Texas, Texans must learn how to qualify and enroll. Enrollment for the new Medicare prescription drug benefit begins in May. For more information, call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227) or log onto www.medicare.gov/MedicareReform.

Better benefits, expanded prescription drug coverage and \$25 billion in aid to rural hospitals, doctors and health providers not only ensure better, more accessible health care for older Texans, they encourage doctors and hospitals to remain and expand in rural Texas.

Greater access to doctors and hospitals means a healthier workforce, better emergency service and a higher quality of life. Better rural health care is good for our families and good for economic development and job creation in rural Texas.

The new Prescription Drug and Medicare Modernization Act is just what the Texas country doctor ordered.

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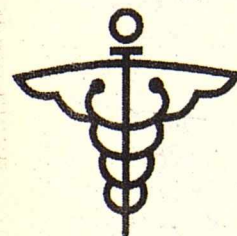
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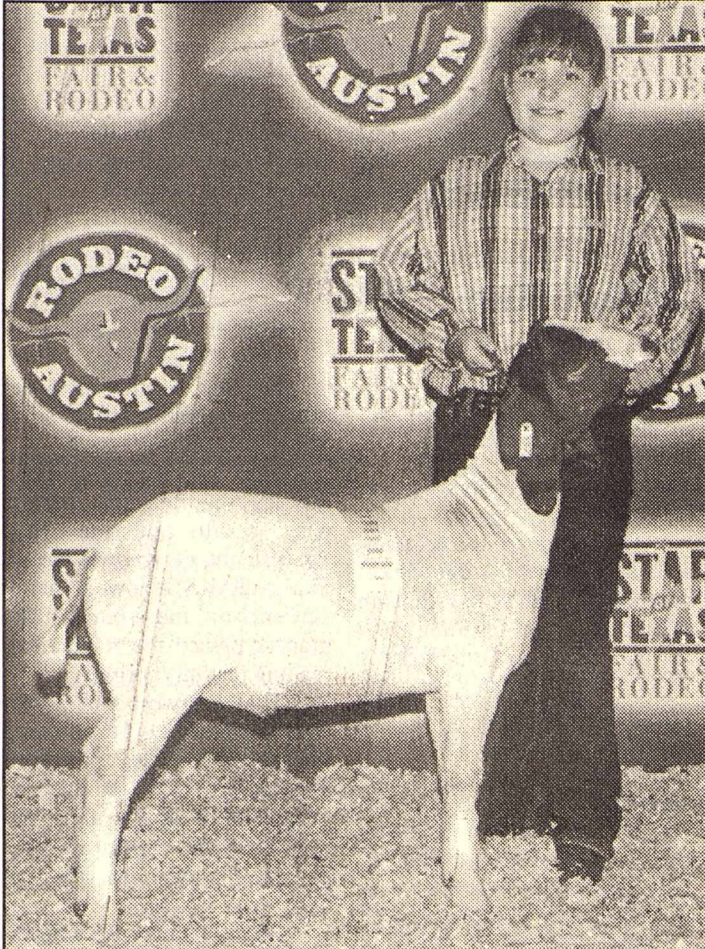
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The Eldorado-Divide Soil & Water Conservation District will be having a Spring Sidewalk Sale featuring an assortment of trees on April 8, 2004 beginning at 8:00 a.m.
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Oil & Agribusiness

Stella Ingham places in Austin



Stella Ingham proudly shows her meat goat that placed third at the Star of Texas livestock show in Austin last week. The third place finish captured a slot in the show's premium auction which was held on Saturday.

Ports to Plains Corridor public meetings gather information from communities



Interested residents, ranchers and business people of Sonora and Sutton County met at the Sutton County Civic Center on Wednesday, March 24, 2004 to attend the first of three rounds of open houses to engage the public in discussion regarding the creation of a development and management plan for the Ports to Plains Corridor.

The study is a joint effort by four state Departments of Transportation, including Colorado, Texas, Oklahoma and New Mexico.

USDA rural development tackles rural issues

Bryan Daniel, State Director for the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development recently returned to Texas from Washington, D.C., where he participated in a series of high level rural economic and community development meetings with key White House, Congressional, and USDA officials. The meetings focused on ways to support rural job creation, homeownership, business development, and public utility and community infrastructure needs in rural Texas.

Daniel said "USDA Rural Development will concentrate on providing staff resources and financial assistance in key areas to continue economic growth, job creation and provide support for rural families in Texas." To accomplish this, USDA Rural Development will: 1) utilize USDA Rural Development funds and partnership financing to increase the level of rural homeownership; 2) promote, through business and industry loan guarantees, value-added agricultural grants, and other programs, expansion of local business ventures and job creation; and 3) expand community access to information technology for business development and advanced health and educational services by building technology infrastructure.

USDA Rural Development seeks to support local efforts by providing financing to create housing, business development, and essential community facilities. In FY 2003, more than \$280 million were invested into rural Texas.

"USDA Rural Development programs deliver the tools needed to help develop vibrant, sustainable communities for you and your children. We have helped to provide improved water service for more than 61,000 rural households, better healthcare facilities and public safety equipment provided to more than 46 different communities; more than 1,400 jobs

The discussion gathered concerns, advice and information on how the corridor will impact our community. Surveys and questionnaires were distributed to guests to be filled out and returned. It is important that everyone has to be on the same page for this task to be successful. The tasks by the Corridor team consists of Corridor assessments, Corridor costs and benefits, a finance plan, risk assessment and a marketing plan. For more information on the project visit www.portstoplainscorridor.com

were created and saved; alternate energy sources were created, and affordable housing brought to more than 1,800 rural families in Texas in 2003," said Daniel.

Daniel urges communities to take advantage of USDA Rural Development programs. "If you feel one of our programs can help you or your community, I urge you to contact one of our offices. Our staff is ready to help you," said Daniel.

Contact the USDA Rural Development State Office at (254) 742-9710 or your local USDA Rural Development Office generally listed in the blue pages of phone directories.

USDA Rural Development is an Equal Opportunity Lender, Provider and Employer. Complaints of discrimination should be sent to USDA, Director, OCR, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410.

Rig Locations as of March 26, 2003

RigDATA
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Sutton
New Dominion; 9300' Brown-Whitehead - 2 - #28, Key Energy.
New Dominion; 9100' Brown-Whitehead - 2 - #29, Patterson Drilling.
Dominion; 8950' Mayer #50, Patterson Drilling.
New Dominion; 8850' Mayfield - 32 - #12, Key Energy.
Dominion; 8850' Duke Wilson - 171 - #15, Patterson Drilling.
New Dominion; 8800' Duke Wilson #1373, Patterson Drilling.
Dominion; 8700' Hudspeth - 1 - #7, Patterson Drilling.
New Dominion; 8700' Hudspeth - 51 - #4, Patterson Drilling.
Dominion; 8550' Shurley - 165 - #9, Patterson Drilling.
Dominion; 8500' Simmons Ranch #64, Patterson Drilling.
Dominion; 8430' Simmons Ranch #62, Patterson Drilling.
New Dominion; 8250' Mayer #51, Patterson Drilling.
Dominion; 8250' Simmons Ranch #75, Patterson Drilling.
New Dominion; 7800' JW Ward - 118 - #14, Patterson Drilling.
Dominion; 6950' Shurley - 142 - #22, Patterson Drilling.
New Dominion; 6650' Kelly - 124 - #18, Patterson Drilling.
New Dominion; 6300' Davis - E - #15, Patterson Drilling.
Dominion; 6300' Galbreath - 65 - #11, Patterson Drilling.
New Dominion; 6250' Vanderstucken - 69 - #5A, Patterson Drilling.

Crockett
Endeavor Energy Res; 10500' Dudley - A - #1 H, Big Dog Drilling.
New Chevron/Midland; 9500' CE Davidson Jr NCT-1 #13, Nabors Drilling.
New Approach Operating; 9000' Approach Bailey #501, Nabors Drilling.
EOG Resources; 7200' Todd - 44WX - #1, Patterson UTI/TMBR.
Encore Operating; 8300' Jones Ranch - A - #1927, Adobe Drilling.
New Devon Energy; 7000' Helbing - 17 - #5, Patterson Drilling.
New Bluegrass Energy; 6000' Simpson Canyon #3079, Rod Ric Corporation.

Terrell
Riata Energy Inc.; 19000' Mitchell #1201, Lariat Drilling.
Nuevo Texas Inc.; 19000' Mitchell - 7 - #6, Nabors Drilling.
Newfield; 15000' Hicks #3501, Patterson Drilling.
Exxonmobil Dev. Co; 13200' Banner Estate #41 H, Patterson UTI.
Nuevo Texas Inc.; 13000' Mitchell - 8 - #8, Patterson Drilling.
Conoco Phillips; 12600' Creek Ranch 12 - #6, Grey Wolf Drilling.
EOG Resources; 10000' Noelke - 2 - #1403 H, Patterson Drilling.
Chesapeake; 8000' Creek Ranch State - 2 - #3, Lariat Drilling.
New Fasken Oil & Ranch; 7500' Monroe NE - 180 - #16, Patterson Drilling.
New Riata Energy; 6200' Sapp-Weaver #4403, Lariat Drilling.
Val Verde
Chesapeake; 6500' Bunger - 30 - #4, Key Energy.

For more rig locations call 1-800-627-9785 or go online to www.rigdata.com.



Hill Country Deer Management day planned

by Steve Byrns,
DOSS - This picturesque spot in the Texas Hill Country near historic Fredericksburg will play host to the "Hill Country Deer Management Day" April 13. Registration starts at 9 a.m. The program begins at 9:30 a.m. in the Doss Community Center.

Doss is located 14 miles north of Harper on Ranch Road 783.

The program is sponsored by Texas Cooperative Extension offices in Mason, Gillespie and Kimble counties. Three Texas Department of Agriculture continuing education units (one-Integrated Pest Management, one-Laws and Regulations and one-General) will be available for each participant.

"Without a doubt, the agricultural cash-cow in the Texas Hill Country these days is a deer," said Brent Drennan, Texas Cooperative Extension agent in Mason County and a program coordinator.

"This program's aim is to bring landowners up-to-date on the latest happenings concerning white-tailed deer in our area. Recreational use, especially deer hunting, is driving not only agricultural returns here, but also our land values. Higher land prices mean smaller land parcels, resulting in deer herds that need to be better managed for maximum herd health. We've designed this program to

address the changing needs for our specific area of the state."

Program speakers and their topics include: "Pros and Cons of High Fencing," Byron Wright, Extension wildlife specialist, Uvalde; "Habitat and Population Management for Whitetails," Jim Cathey, wildlife researcher, Uvalde; "Landowner Liability," Judon Fambrough, senior lecturer, Real Estate Center, College Station and "Brush Sculpting For Wildlife," Dr. Allan McGinty, Extension range specialist, San Angelo.

"Supplemental Feeding," and "Marketing White-Tailed Deer Enterprises," are also set to be addressed during the day. Mitch Lockwood, of Ingram, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's new white-tailed deer program coordinator, is scheduled to speak immediately after lunch on the department's current deer management direction.

Individual pre-registration by April 7 is \$10; after that date it is \$20. Fees include the noon meal.

For more information contact the Extension office in Mason, Kimble or Gillespie counties.

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Electric Scooter Ordinance takes effect in Sutton County

Many people have requested that we re-print the scooter ordinance that was recently put into effect by the City of Sonora. A "motor assisted scooter" means a self-propelled device with:

1. at least two wheels in contact with the ground during operation;
2. a braking system capable of stopping the device under typical operating conditions;
3. a gas or electric motor not exceeding 40 cubic centimeters
4. a deck designed to allow a person to stand or sit while operating the device; and
5. the ability to be propelled by human power alone.

Requirements for Operation will be considered as follows:

1. A motor assisted scooter may be operated only on a street, highway or alley for which the speed limit is 30 miles per hour or less. The vehicle may cross a road or street at an intersection where the road or street has a posted speed limit of more than 30 miles per hour only if the operator walks the vehicle across the street while observing all applicable pedestrian laws.
2. A person shall not operate a motor assisted scooter on a street or highway during the hours the street or highway is a designated school zone.

3. A motor assisted scooter may only be operated on a street, highway or alley from sunrise until sunset as defined by State law.

4. A person operating or riding on a motor assisted scooter on a street, highway, or alley must wear protective headgear at all times.

5. A person operating a motor assisted scooter on a street, highway or alley must do so following all State provisions applicable to the operation of a bicycle.

6. A person operating a motor assisted scooter on a street, highway or alley must do so in the manner in which it is designed to be operated, i.e. one rider only on one-person motor assisted scooter, sitting or standing only in the designated areas of the motor assisted scooter.

Adult supervision will also be a requirement as follows:

1. A motor assisted scooter may not be operated on a street, highway or alley by a person younger than ten years of age.
2. A person shall not recklessly allow a child in their care, who is under the age of ten years old, to operate a motor assisted scooter on a street, highway, or alley.

Any violation of these rules will be a Class C misdemeanor punishable by a fine.

Attorney General Greg Abbott urges United States Supreme Court to uphold 'under God' in Pledge of Allegiance

AUSTIN — Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott today called on the U.S. Supreme Court to uphold as constitutional the practice of reciting the Pledge of Allegiance in public schools. The Court heard oral arguments today in the case, Elk Grove Unified School District v. Michael A. Newdow. Attorney General Abbott filed an amicus curiae ("friend of the court") brief with the Supreme Court in the case, on behalf of all 50 states.

"From the time of her founding, our nation has recognized her religious heritage in historical documents, speeches and even her architecture," Attorney General Abbott said. "The phrase 'under God' in the Pledge of Allegiance is one such acknowledgment, and I urge the Supreme Court to protect its continued presence in our public schools."

In the brief, Attorney General Abbott noted that virtually every reference to the Pledge of Allegiance by the Court has agreed the Pledge is entirely consistent with the First Amendment. Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, for example, said in 1985's Wallace v. Jaffree that the reference to God in the Pledge of Allegiance "serve[s] as an acknowledgment of religion with 'the legitimate secular

purposes of solemnizing public occasions, [and] expressing confidence in the future.'"

Attorney General Abbott added, "The Supreme Court has consistently acknowledged a key distinction between government-sponsored religious ceremony—or display, and simple historical and patriotic recognition of religion by government institutions. We urge the Court to continue that tradition."

The case, which originated in California, was initiated by a man who contends that having public school children recite the Pledge of Allegiance violates the U.S. Constitution because the Pledge contains the words "under God." The Court's decision in the case will directly impact the laws of at least 43 states, including a Texas statute that requires school districts to have students recite the Pledge of Allegiance once during each school day. The law was passed to help fulfill the Texas Education Code's mandate that students be taught to be "thoughtful, active citizens who understand the importance of patriotism." The law also contains an opt-out provision for parents opposed to their children reciting the Pledge in class.

After an early form first appeared in a youth publication in 1892, the Pledge of Allegiance grew in notoriety and changed form until Congress officially adopted it in 1942. Congress added the phrase "under God" in 1954. A decision in the case is expected by the end of June.

Troops rally support for Texas military bases

State Capital Highlights Texas Press Association

By Mike Cox

AUSTIN - School finance and the ongoing Travis County grand jury investigation into campaign funding issues figure in most state political news stories these days, but troop movements are continuing in preparation for the coming "war" to preserve military spending in Texas.

The stakes are the economic well-being of some Texas communities, and the campaign is proceeding on schedule, with the balloon set to go up in May 2005. That's when, with the presidential elections over, the list of military installations targeted for closure will be announced.

The beginning of the big battle still more than a year off, here are some recent "troop movements" affecting Texas:

• Last week, Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld certified to Congress that the military believes it has nearly a quarter more base capacity than it needs. Specifically, he said, the Army has 29 percent excess capacity, the Air Force 24 percent and the Navy and Marines 21 percent.

The nation could save billions of dollars by 2011 in reducing those percentages, he said.

• U.S. Sen. John Cornyn suggested that Texas could be just the place to station the thousands of troops expected to be moved back to the U.S. from abroad.

"Texas has the space, the facilities, the weather and the quality of life our troops deserve and need to most effectively defend our nation," the senator said after making his proposal to Rumsfeld and other military officials.

• U.S. Rep. Solomon Ortiz worried about the three naval bases in the Corpus Christi area - introduced a bill that would postpone any base closures until 2007, but observers did not give the measure much chance of passage.

• A delegation from El Paso, which has had an Army

garrison since 1848, went to Washington to make its case for the continuation of Fort Bliss.

Since 1988, the military has closed 97 installations across the nation.

Texas currently has 17 military bases contributing a total of \$49 billion to the state's economy.

Report cards out...
Most Texas school children got their report cards last week, and in a figurative sense, so did Texas' educational system.

The Texas Education Agency reported that preliminary results of the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS) showed that 91 percent of the state's third-graders passed the standardized reading test this spring.

That's a two-point increase over last year's test, even though the test this year was more challenging. Last year, pupils had to get 20 out of 36 questions right. This year, the standard was 23 out of 36 questions, the TEA said.

Slightly more than a third of the students achieved the "commended performance" level by missing no more than two questions. Last year the percentage was 26.

The 9 percent of students who did not pass the test will get two more chances and will receive additional help in learning to be better readers. Last year, by the third try, 96 percent of the state's third-graders had passed the test.

Coastal grants announced...

Land Commissioner Jerry Patterson has announced \$7.4 million in grants to be used in combating coastal erosion.

The General Land Office said Texas has 229 miles of significantly eroding beach. Shrinking beaches, the GLO said, significantly impact infrastructure, wildlife and even public health.

Money made available through the grants will be used to add sand to the dry portions of beaches, widening them by up to 300 feet. Sand also will be added underwater.

The Legislature approved funding for the program in 1999.

ASU opens doors for prospective students during 'College Days' April 3

Angelo State University is inviting prospective students to participate in "College Days" April 3 for a close look at various aspects of university life, ranging from academic programs to social and cultural opportunities.

In addition to sampling the various academic and extracurricular programs available at the university, students and their families will also be treated to lunch, compliments of the university and offered complimentary tickets to a Rambelle softball doubleheader against Texas Woman's University.

Activities will begin at 9:30 a.m. with check-in at the C.J. "Red" Davidson Conference Center in the Houston Harte University Center at 1910 Rosemont. The program will begin at 10 a.m. in the Davidson Center with a welcome by ASU president James

Hindman. Tours of the campus will then be conducted, including a stop at the Food Service Center for the complimentary lunch.

After lunch students and their families will return to the Davidson Conference Center for the ASU Expo, where information will be available on academic programs, student organizations, extracurricular activities, financial aid, Carr Academic Scholarships, residence halls and other areas of interest to prospective students and their parents.

Special information sessions will also be presented for students interested in a variety of ASU programs, including education, nursing, physical therapy, pre-law and pre-health professions.

Throughout the event ASU faculty, staff and students will be available to welcome guests to campus and to answer their questions about all aspects of student life at ASU.

College Days coordinator Bonnie Stennet said the event is a great opportunity for prospective students to get acquainted with ASU, its faculty and the educational experience it offers.

For more information on College Days, contact the ASU Office of Admissions at (325)942-2058.

TEPPCO

Truck Drivers

LSi a company of Teppco has immediate openings for truck drivers in Sonora, TX. The successful candidate must have a high school diploma or equivalent. You must possess a current Class A CDL with Hazmat and two or more years oilfield hauling experience is a plus.

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If you meet the above requirements, please send resume or call 325-387-2654.

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Texas Department of Transportation

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Job Title: Summer Maintenance Tech I
Location: Sonora Maintenance Tech. I
708 US 277 North, Sonora, TX 76950
1 Position

Job Number: 00-5741
Closing Date: 04/09/04 at 5:00 p.m.
Salary: \$6.91 - \$9.12 per Hour

Minimum Requirements: Must be at least 18 years of age, a student in high school or other educational institution or have been accepted for enrollment in an educating institution.
(The above is not a complete list of requirements or qualifications.) A Completed Application is Required. For additional information call Human Resources at 325-944-1501 or visit our web site at <http://www.dot.state.tx.us/>. An applicant needing an accommodation in order to apply for the above job may call Human Resources. An Equal Employment Opportunity Affirmative Action Employer.

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Must have current Class A CDL and a good driving record. Experience driving transports, vacuum trucks, operating pump trucks & winch truck. Monthly performance & safety bonuses. Health insurance, annual profit sharing, driver's days off schedule. Please apply in person at Niblett's Oilfield Service, Inc. Hwy. 277 South, Eldorado. No phone calls please.

Lariat Services, Inc. is seeking an experienced Air Driller. Wage ranges between \$20.00 to \$24.00 an hour depending on experience. Will pay \$30.00 per diem and mileage reimbursement. Benefits include 401K Plan and Dental Plan and company paid Medical Insurance. Fax resume to 325-336-9339 or contact the Fort Stockton Office at 325-336-7821.

I-10 Exxon is looking for reliable candidates to join our team. The following positions are available: Full and Part-Time cashiers. Retirees welcome. Come by the corner of I-10 and Hwy. 277 N. EOE.

Immediate opening for **Sales Counter Help**. Experience helpful, must be willing to learn. Stable work history, good work ethics. Pay depending on experience. Salary plus commission. Email resume vic-autoparts@aol.com or fax resume to 325-387-2598. Pick up resume at 246 Hwy. 277 N.

Experienced Tanker Drivers needed for Sonora, Ozona and Sheffield areas. Call B & K Trucking at 432-836-4342.

CDL Drivers Needed
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Experience Helpful
Call 432-367-7066

NOW HIRING: Cooks, dishwashers and waitresses. Some experience required. Apply in person at Los Cerritos Restaurant, 605 S. Crockett.

Help Wanted: Must be reliable, self-motivated and willing to work. Monday through Saturday 7:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m., CDL and Bilingual a PLUS! Job includes heavy lifting, working outdoors. Please apply at Rafter W Feed, 201 Cedar St. or call 387-3042.

Garage Sale

Garage Sale: Four Families. Lots of clothes, knick-knacks, furniture, etc. 1002 Glasscock on April 3, 2004. 8:00 a.m. - Noon.

Mahogany dining table, 5 chairs \$499, twin hospital mattress only, 2 double dressers, gray/peach flexsteel loveseat and sofa, white antique rocker, red print loveseat, dishwasher, 2 bar stools, twin mattress set, lamps, oil paintings, corner computer unit, color tv's, etc. **No more clothing until 4/7 (we're full). Consignors must call ahead & all must be in good condition.** Second hand Rose, Eldorado 853-3736.

For Rent

For Rent: Office Space available in the Historic Mercantile Building on Main Street in Sonora. For more information contact Main Street Realty at 325-387-6115.

Convenience Store for Lease in Eldorado. Hwy. 190 East. Call Philip Meyer for details. 325-450-4620.

Pizza Wagon

Texas Pizza Wagon will be here every Monday from 4:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. with fresh, hot, hand tossed pizza baked to your order. We are located at The Video Store, 809 N. Crockett Ave. Order ahead 325-456-8106.

Automobile

For Sale: 1995 Suburban, fully loaded, 4 x 4, new leather interior. 325-450-4620. Eldorado.

For Sale: 2002 Ford Excursion, 46 K miles, white with grill guard, cloth interior, good condition. Call 325-206-0735.

Lower Pecos Program Coordinator

The Nature Conservancy, a leading international non-profit conservation organization, has a part-time (17.5 hours/week) Program Coordinator position for the Lower Pecos Project office, located on the Oasis Ranch. Candidate will coordinate a variety of administrative, research and project management tasks and serve as a public liaison on the phone, in person and in correspondence. Qualifications: B.S. in Natural Resources or two years related work experience, administration skills, excellent communication and computer proficiency (Microsoft Office Suite) skills. Benefits: Business Travel Accident Insurance, Sick Leave, Vacation, Admin Leave, 401 (k) and federal holidays. For a complete job description visit our web site www.nature.org/careers. Please send cover letter and resume by April 16 to: The Nature Conservancy, West Texas Program Office, Attn: Crawford Marginot, P.O. Box 2078, Fort Davis, TX 79734 or e-mail cmarginot@tnc.org. EOE. The Nature Conservancy.

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Now Hiring full-time and part-time **Tour Guides** at the Caverns of Sonora. Call or come by the Caverns Office. 387-3105 to apply.

Wanted: Need experienced person to operate equipment (backhoe, ditch witch, & winch truck), some fencing and welding required. Oilfield experience helpful. Must be reliable and able to pass drug and alcohol test. Call Walsh Automatic Gates. 325-387-2357 M-F 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. for information. Pay depends on experience.

Real Estate

For Sale by Owner: 117 Deerwood Dr., 4 bedroom, 2 bath, central heat and air, fireplace, 2 car garage. Call 325-387-5474.

ELDORADO. Make Happiness Your Own. 298 CR 414. Burrow into the comforts of this country home. Hill country rock design, beautifully sited on 8 acres, quiet street, 3 bedrooms, farm-style kitchen, cellar, trees, well. **PRICE REDUCED \$100,000.** Call Julie McWilliams 325-944-9559.

HOUSE FOR SALE
4 bedroom, 2 bath, 2 living rooms, dining room, laundry room, approx. 2500 sq. ft. Double carport with big shop. Office building out front, landscaped yard, asphalt drive. Corner of 3rd and Concho. For more information call 277-0041 or 387-3086.

Mobile Homes

For Sale: 1403 Glasscock. Mobile Home with 1 and 1/2 lots. House has an add-on family room, carport, storage building, large pecan trees. Must see to appreciate. Call after 7:00 p.m. Ask for Gloria 325-392-3430.

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Thank you for reading The Devil's River News

NOTICE OF REQUEST FOR GAS RATE INCREASE

West Texas Gas, Inc. ("WTG" or "Company"), in accordance with the Gas Utility Regulatory Act as set forth in the Texas Utilities Code, hereby gives notice of its intent to implement a new schedule of rates for natural gas service to be charged to all of the customers served by the Company in the incorporated City of Sonora, Texas and unincorporated Environs. The proposed revisions to the respective rate schedules will impact all classes of service and all fees and charges presently being assessed by WTG on the Sonora distribution system. As of the filing date of WTG's Statement of Intent to change rates, the proposed rates are expected to approximately produce a \$192,567.04 or a 37.90 percent increase in the Company's annual revenues from customers on the system. The proposed change will affect approximately 826 residential, 141 commercial, and 21 public authority customers. The proposed change constitutes a "major" change as that term is defined by Section 104.101 of the Texas Utilities Code. The proposed changes will have differing impacts on individual customers, depending on consumption and current applicable rate schedules. The proposed changes in rates will not become effective for environs customers until similar changes have become effective within the nearest incorporated City of Sonora. A domestic customer receiving a bill for 6 Mcf will see a bill of approximately \$68.15, which would constitute an increase of approximately \$20.47 per month. A non-domestic customer receiving a bill for 30 Mcf will see a bill of approximately \$256.26, which would constitute an increase of approximately \$51.56 per month. These monthly bills are based on a gas cost of \$5.50 per Mcf. A complete copy of the Statement of Intent, with supporting documents, filed with the Railroad Commission of Texas and the City of Sonora on March 29, 2004, is available for inspection in the WTG district office located at 519 College, Sonora, Texas 76849. Persons with specific questions or who want information about this filing may contact WTG at (432) 682-4349. Any affected persons located inside of the city limits of a municipality served by WTG may file written comments or protest concerning the proposed change in rates with Docket Services Section of the Legal Division, Railroad Commission of Texas, P.O. Box 12967, Austin, Texas 78711-2967, but have a limited time to do so. Pursuant to the Rules of the Railroad Commission of Texas, Title 16 of the Texas Administrative Code Section 7.230, any affected persons may file written comments or a protest concerning the proposed change in the environs rates with the Docket Services Section of the Railroad Commission of Texas, at any time within 30 days following the date on which the change would or has become effective. The Company is proposing to make new rates effective on May 6, 2004.

House Cleaning

Do you need your house cleaned? Call 387-5255

RAILROAD COMMISSION OF TEXAS

OIL AND GAS DIVISION DISTRICT 7C
DATE OF ISSUANCE:
February 27, 2004

Rule 37/38 Case No. 0237943
NOTICE OF APPLICATION
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the DOMINION OKLAHOMA TEXAS E & P, INC., 14000 QUAIL SPRINGS PARKWAY 600, OKLAHOMA CITY, OK 73134 has made application for a spacing and density exception permit under the provisions of the Railroad Commission Statewide Rule 37 and 38 (16 Tex. admin. Code section 3.37 and 3.38). Applicant seeks exception to the distance between well and density of the subject field(s) requirement for the drill permit for Well No. 18, Shurley 141 Lease, 581.64 Acres, Sec. 141, Bk. C, HE&WT RR CO Survey A-450, Sawyer (Canyon) Field(s), Sutton County, being 9 miles from southerly southwest of Sonora, Texas. The location of this well is as follows:
500' from the east line and 1100' from the north line of lease.
500' from the east line and 1100' from the north line of survey.

As apart of this application, applicant seeks permit authority in the Fawcett (Wolfcamp) field. No Rule 37/38 is necessary pursuant field rules for this field.
Field rules for the Sawyer (Canyon) field(s) are 500/1000, 320/40 acres.
Field rules for the Fawcett (Wolfcamp) field(s) are 467/1200, 40 acres.
This well is to be drilled to an approximate depth of 6,850 feet.
PURSUANT TO THE TERMS of Rule 37 (h) (2) (A), and 38, this application may be granted without a hearing if no protest to the application is received. An affected person is entitled to protest this application. Affected persons include owners of record and the operator of lessees of record of adjacent tracts and tracts nearer to the proposed well than the minimum lease line spacing distance. If a hearing is called, the applicant has the burden to prove the need for an exception. A Protestant should be prepared to establish standing as an affected person, and to appear at the hearing either in person or by qualified representative and protest the application with cross examination or presentation of a direct case. The rules of evidence are applicable in the hearing. If you have questions regarding this application, please contact the Applicant's representative, Steve Towns, Consultant, at 405-748-2767. If you have any questions regarding the hearing procedure, please contact the Commission at (512) 463-6899.

IF YOU WISH TO REQUEST A HEARING ON THIS APPLICATION, AN INTENT TO APPEAR IN PROTEST MUST BE RECEIVED IN THE RAILROAD COMMISSION'S AUSTIN OFFICE BY April 08, 2004 at 5:00 p.m. IF NO PROTEST IS RECEIVED WITHIN SUCH TIME, THE REQUESTED PERMIT MAY BE GRANTED ADMINISTRATIVELY.

PUBLIC NOTICE
Sutton County is requesting proposals for metal bleachers for the County Park, engineered to seat approximately 650 people, including handicapped accessible seating and ramping. Please contact Carla Garner, Sutton County Judge, for specifications at 387-2711. Proposals should be received no later than 9:00 a.m. on April 12, 2004, at which time proposals will be opened and accepted or rejected in Commissioners Court meeting at the Sutton County Courthouse Annex, Sonora, Texas.

Mary Kay Cosmetics

Mary Kay Cosmetics available. Please contact Storie Sharp at 387-2507.

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Gun Show Admission - \$3.00 ADULTS (includes chancein drawing to win rifle) UNDER 12 FREE WITH PARENT. FLEA MARKET IS FREE.
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For more information call:
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112 Deerwood

This 1674 sq. ft., 3 bedroom, 2 bath, brick home is located in the Live Oak Valley Addition. It's interior features include a fireplace, large vaulted ceiling in the living room, a separate dining room, large utility room and a split floor plan. Exterior amenities include a metal roof, a large covered patio, an above-ground pool and a fabulous 576 sq. ft. metal shop.
Offered for \$105,000.
Recent Residential Inspections!

(325)387-2728

Bobbie A. Smith Real Estate

612 N. Water

2 bedroom, 2 bath stucco home on 1.208 acres, with adjoining 1 bedroom, 1 bath, kitchenette apt. Property has FP, ceiling fans, large trees, patio & swimming pool, work shop, located on hillside adjoining Wildlife Sanctuary, facing Hwy. 277 near IH-10. Offers commercial opportunities.

For Sale: 205 East 1st Street

Sharon Holman 325-387-7046

2 BR/2 Bath, wood floors, tile bathrooms, central heat/cool, fireplace, wood blinds, sprinkler system. Vinyl fencing around backyard. Garage storage and basement. All appliances included.

Public Notice

INVITATION FOR BIDS
Notice is hereby given that the City of Sonora is calling for bids for a 2004 Brush Fighter Truck. Specifications may be obtained from the City Secretary's Office, 201 E. Main, Sonora, Texas 76950. All bids must be sealed and addressed to the City Secretary. The bid envelope must be clearly marked "BID - Fire Department Truck" and returned to the City Secretary's office prior to Monday, April 19, 2004, at 2:00 p.m., at which time the bids will be publicly opened and read. The City of Sonora reserves the right to reject any and all bids. For further information contact Rick Cearley, Fire Chief, at (325) 277-5744 or (325) 387-2558.

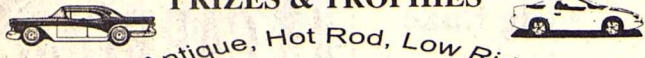
PUBLIC NOTICE
To: All property owners in Sutton County. From: The Authorized Agent Program for on-site wastewater systems (septic systems) for Sutton County, TX.
1. By Sutton County Order, all septic systems being installed in Sutton County must be permitted regardless of acreage as of 01-01-04.
2. By state law, all septic systems must be installed by a licensed Installer/Site Evaluator.
3. Applications for septic systems may be picked up at the County Judge's office.

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FLDS from page 1

self and her family, but she refuses to keep quiet. She says that she will continue to fight against the injustices done to these children and women inside the FLDS communities.

"I'm not trying to get rid of them, I'm just trying to stop the abuses," she said.

Many of the people at the interview expressed a different view, wanting to get rid of them from their backyards.

As for now, the townspeople of Eldorado, and their friends and neighbors from surrounding communities still have many unanswered questions and understandable fears. It is important that everyone heed Sheriff Doran's words and let the authorities do their job in protecting the community.

Jessop said that she had hoped to forestall panic in our communities and is more than willing to answer any questions that people may have to better



Major construction is taking place four miles out of Eldorado, raising questions about who is moving in. Photo courtesy of Eldorado Success.

calm our fears. She reminded everyone again to stay abreast of local government situations and be sure to vote, in order to keep FLDS members out of leadership positions.

Early Rumble of the Coming Storm

Along with many other people from the Edward's Plateau area, I was very shocked and surprised to learn of the existence of a Fundamentalist Latter Day Saint compound just north of Eldorado, TX. I am alarmed by the presence of this polygamous group, but what worries me even more are their capabilities.

According to the 2000 Census, Schleicher County has a population of 2,935. According to multiple internet sites that I have found, the Fundamentalist Latter Day Saint Church claims a membership of 10,000 followers. Of this number, how many people are bound for the Schleicher County compound? None of us know for sure. However, one fact is certain. If, for instance, 300-500 adults were to move into this compound, then these 300-500 adults would be eligible to vote in Schleicher County. While the population of Schleicher County is 2935, the number of registered voters in the county is much less. This means that 300-500 polygamist voters could have a huge impact on county elections.

I fear that the following scenario could happen... Soon, strange men wearing dark suits will start walking into the Schleicher County Courthouse. These men will be followed by

dozens of women, all wearing long blue dresses that cover the wrists and fall below the ankles. All of these new men and women will register to vote and there will be hundreds of them.

At the next election, FLDS candidates will appear on the ballot of every elected position from sheriff, to county judge, to commissioner's court, to school board. Each of these candidates will receive 300-500 votes. This group will try very hard to elect their own into positions of power in Schleicher County. If allowed to gain power, they will be able to raise property taxes, make decisions concerning the schools, and enforce the laws.

What can be done to stop this horrible future from actually happening? This I do not know, and that is what really scares me. I know that the future will be a very trying time for both the people of Schleicher County, and those neighboring Schleicher County. We must do all that we can to keep this polygamist group from overwhelming us. We must support one another, we must stick together, and most importantly, we must all be prepared to vote against these strangers who may soon threaten our very way of life.

William Allen
Sonora, TX

F.Y.I.

Piano Recital, April 21, 2004, 6:00 p.m. St. John's Episcopal Church Parish Hall, FMI call Tammy Favila 387-3661.

Sutton County 4-H Wildlife Project will meet on Tuesday, April 6, 2004 at 7:00 p.m. in the Langford Barn Robert Mayer will present a program on exotic wildlife production.

The Texas Department of Health "Public Health Day", April 5, 2004 at the Texas Department of Health, 1005 Eaton Street, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. There will be several program staff providers visiting with us for Public Health Day. If you are interested in knowing more about these programs or would like to sign up to see if you qualify please visit the Texas Department of Health on Monday. Programs include Texas Healthy Steps, Food Stamps, Medicaid, Primary Health, Immunizations, Family Planning, TB, STD's WIC, ECI, Cardiac & Respiratory Rehab, Mental Health and Mental Retardation.

Help your Fellow man! ABCD Golf Scramble, \$25 per person, bring your team or walk on, Saturday, April 19, 2004, 10:00 a.m. Sponsored by the First Baptist Church of Sonora. All proceed to Ministerial Alliance Benevolence Fund. Prizes for 1st - 3rd teams and hole prizes. Hamburger meal and fellowship afterwards. Contact Jed Davenport 387-2579 or DeVoe Smith 277-2009.

Chamber of Commerce "Casino Night" Awards Banquet, HAS BEEN Rescheduled to April 22, 2004 at 6:00 p.m. at the Sutton County Civic Center. Tickets on sale now at Sonora Chamber of Commerce, 387-2880 or The Devil's River News 387-2507.

The 2004 Sutton County Library Association is having a drawing, sponsored by the Sonora's Woman's Club, on May 6, 2004. 1st prize is a \$500 Handmade Quilt. 2nd prize is a \$250 Gourmet Dinner for 8, 3rd prize is a \$250 27" TV, 4th prize is a \$200 "Discovery Challenge Adventure Tour" for two at the Caverns of Sonora, and 5th prize is a \$75 "Snow Village" Christmas miniature. Tickets are available from and Sonora Woman's Club member.

Parenting Classes Begin, Dealing with Stress in the Family, sponsored by Sonora ISD, April 1, 2004 - 6:00 - 7:30 - St. Ann's Catholic Church Childcare and snacks will be provided. For more information, please contact Amy Davenport at 387-5669 or Noemi Samaniego at 387-3029.

City of Sonora Relay for Life Team "Garage Sale" fund raiser, April 3, 2004, Sutton County Senior Center. Donations accepted for sale. For more information call Belia at 387-2558.

T&C Village Market Relay for Life Bake Sale - April 9, 2004 (Good Friday). They will also be selling cases of coke for \$15. For more information contact Lesa Galindo at 387-5616.

H&R Block Relay for Life "Farmer's Market" team Yard Sale and Bake Sale, May 1, 2004 in front of H&R Block on Concho St.

Have a loved one serving in the military? Looking for a way to honor that loved one and show your support? Make a donation in his or her name to the Old Glory Fund. Names will be printed monthly in The Devil's River News. Contributions can be made at The First National Bank of Sonora.

The Ozona Country Club 1st Annual Vacation Raffle - April 1, 2004 - July 16, 2004. The vacation will include two round-trip airfare tickets on Southwest Airlines out of Midland/Odessa to Las Vegas, and 3 nights at the Bellagio Hotel, booked through MGM/Mirage Vacations. Tickets cost \$20 each, and the drawing will take place on July 17, 2004 at 7:00 p.m. at the Ozona Country Club. This vacation is a \$1200 value, and the winner does not have to be present to win. Winner must be at least 21 years of age to win. Winner chooses vacation dates redeemable within 6 months of the drawing. Ozona Country Club will personally book the vacation. For more information or to purchase tickets, please contact Ozona Country Club at 325-392-2520.

Grider wins turkey hunt



Melissa Teaff, Rodney Knight, Randee Fawcett, Little Miss Sutton County Holly Sparks, Ben Pool and Keith Butler wait to hear the winner of the Hospital Foundation drawing winner.

Don Grider (not pictured) was the lucky winner of the guided turkey hunt, led by Rodney Knight, at the Encino Ranch, on April 3, 2004. Only 250 tickets were sold for \$5 each and the hunt was raffled to benefit the Sutton County Health foundation.

Dining Out Directory

- Angel Cafe
1005 Crockett
387-3748
- B & H Catering
207 W. Chestnut
387-2528 or 206-1268
- Dairy Queen
134 Hwy. 277 N.
387-2118
- Los Cerritos Resturant
605 S. Crockett
387-2838
- La Mexicana
240 N. Hwy 277
387-3401
- Pizza Hut
401 Hwy. 277 N.
387-3540
- Sutton County Steakhouse
1306 N. Service Rd
387-3833
- Taco Grill
232 Hwy. 277 N.
387-9127

Location-Builders

DIRT CONSTRUCTION, ROUSTABOUT AND CONSERVATION WORK
325-387-3881

Robert Sanchez
Roustabout Foreman

John Lopez Jr.
Superintendent

Alfredo Hernandez
Construction Foreman

Elpidio Torres Jr.
Construction Foreman

P.O. Box 1225 • Sonora, Texas 76950