

THE Devil's River NEWS

50¢

Since 1890

Volume 117 • Issue 1

SONORA, TEXAS

Thursday, January 6, 2005

President Bush asks U.S. to assist tsunami victims

Joined by his father, former President George Bush, Sr. and former President Bill Clinton, President George W. Bush expressed sympathy for the victims of the dreadful tsunami which left an arc of destruction from Thailand to the Horn of Africa.

"Across the United States this week, our flags will fly at half-staff to honor the victims of this disaster. We mourn especially the tens of thousands of children who are lost. We think of the tens of thousands more who will grow up without their parents or their brothers or their sisters. We hold in our prayers all the people whose fate is still unknown," said President Bush in a speech early this week. President Bush named his father and Mr. Clinton to head the private relief effort and the pair of former presidents planned a busy schedule of public appearances to push the cause.

"More than 150,000 lives are estimated to be lost, including 90,000 in Indonesia, alone. As many as 5 million people are thought to be homeless, or without food or shelter; thousands more are missing, and millions are vulnerable to disease," claimed the President.

People across Southeast Asia, stricken by the tsunami disaster, need your help to recover and rebuild - many have been made to join millions of other generous Americans and support one or many of the important relief organizations listed here with a safe and easy contribution now. Your cash contributions are desperately needed and will provide assistance to those whose lives have been devastated by this terrible disaster.

Some reasons why cash donations to known organizations are more efficient and effective than donations of material goods are:

- Cash donations provide flexibility to help victims of disasters in situations that may be changing rapidly.

- Cash donations minimize problems involved in transportation, delivery and storage. This is especially important for areas where bridges, roads, warehouses and other infrastructure have been destroyed.

- Cash donations keep relief workers focused on their work with survivors, instead of diverting their efforts to sorting, storing, tracking and distributing goods.

- People in foreign nations may have cultures that are very different from ours, so it is important for relief workers to have cash to purchase food, clothing and other materials that are culturally acceptable.

The following aid organizations are accepting contributions for assistance that they or their affiliates are providing to those affected by the earthquake and tsunamis.

The organizations are members of InterAction, a coalition of more than 160 U.S.-based private relief, international development and refugee assistance organizations.

InterAction members have agreed to abide by a set of standards to ensure accountability to donors, professional competence and quality of service.

An updated list of agencies responding, as well as detailed information on their activities, is available at www.interaction.org/sasia/index.html. InterAction can be reached at 202-667-8227.

Action Against Hunger
247 West 37th St.
New York, NY 10018
212-967-7800
www.actionagainsthunger.org

ADRA International
Asia Quake Fund
12501 Old Columbia Pike

See Agencies page 8

100 years and never looked better, Old Rock School back in business



The construction managers, architects, Sonora ISD Board of Trustees, and school personnel proudly look on as Mrs. Wanda Neville cuts the red ribbon for the Old Rock Schoolhouse grand opening.

by Storie Sharp

It's been a long wait, but well worth it. The Old Rock School Building, as it is fondly referred to, officially opened its doors again on Monday, January 3, 2005.

After two years of renovations and construction, the 100-year-old monument will soon house Pre-K and 3rd grade classes. Teachers began moving their classrooms supplies in late ribbon cutting and official "bell ringing" celebration. Mrs. Wanda Neville, who attended 1st grade in "The Rock" many years ago, cut the ribbon, celebrating the opening of the doors and welcoming visitors in to tour the three story building. Mrs. Neville also got the honor of ringing the school bell for the

first time to officially mark the opening, having purchased the honor at the 2003 Sonora Lions Club Auction for \$150.

"Thousands of changes have been made," said Dr. Myers at the grand opening celebration, "but we are proud to say we think this may be one of the nicest, prettiest school building in the State of Texas."

The idea was to keep the 1904 feel, with 2004 functional-floors have been renovated to look like the original, but the classrooms have been constructed with the latest technology capabilities and comfort. All the plumbing, fixtures, and cabinetry have been replaced, and central air and heat were added for the first time ever. The building was basically gutted and

reconstructed, taking more time than first predicted because of many unforeseen complications along the way. An A.D.A. elevator has been added to the building to make all classes accessible for everyone.

This is not the first time the old rock building was renovated, it was condemned around 1950 so that the new school, which is now the elementary building could be built. It was again prior to the latest renovations. "Historians" from town tell how the school once housed the cafeteria in the basement in the mid '40's and there was an auditorium with a stage on the second floor. First through eighth grade went to class in the rock building in those early days. And every "past" teacher



Sonora Superintendent, Dr. Brant Myers assists Mrs. Neville in pulling the bell for the first time, officially marking the opening of the renovated Rock School building.

taught in there at one time or another. If you haven't had a chance to visit the Old Rock School Building don't miss out on this historic event. Listen for the ringing of the bell every morning and afternoon, marking the beginning and end of school, just like a hundred years ago.



Foggy conditions leave roads slick

by Storie Sharp

A foggy New Year's Eve morning had drivers sliding through stop signs on both sides of I-10. The first call was to the west bound access road near the I-10 entrance ramp. A FloCo rig (above) slid off the roadway when leaving the overpass over I-10, just missing the JMC Trucking entrance gate. The truck and trailer were wedged between trees, but the driver was not injured.

A second call came shortly after, with the report of a one car accident in the draw beside I-10 Exxon. Rescue workers arrived to find a small passenger vehicle had driven down into the Dry Devil's River spillway behind Exxon. The driver reportedly was distracted while attempting to exit at the east bound 400 exit and did not see the stop sign until he was on it. Slamming on the brakes caused the vehicle to slide across two

lanes of traffic and into the draw. The passenger, the driver's mother, was taken by ambulance to Hudspeth for minor injuries. The driver was not injured.

Driving in heavy fog is like driving with a blindfold on. Statistically it's the most dangerous driving hazard in existence. No matter how important the trip is, it's not worth gambling your life. The best advice for drivers confronted with thick fog is to get off the road as soon as possible. If you can't or won't pull off the road remember to

- * Keep your minimum safety gap to three seconds in ideal conditions; with the decreased visibility fog causes, this interval should be increased substantially.

- * Slow down. Most fog-related traffic fatalities occur

See Fog page 5



Sutton County Junior Livestock Show planned for weekend

The annual Sutton County Junior Livestock Show will have the Sutton County 4-H Barn full, starting Thursday, January 6, 2005. Approximately 69 exhibitors from the Sutton County 4-H and Sonora FFA programs will compete with their livestock in the weekend's show. Students, parents, project leaders and volunteers have been working hard for months, conducting and attending clinics, and grooming, exercising and tending to their animals to get ready for the show.

Projects that place in the show will be awarded cash prizes and showmanship buckles. Top winners will qualify to sell their "position" at the Premium sale on Saturday.

New to this year's Junior Livestock Show is a special "Top Hand" award, sponsored

See Stock Show page 5



Everyone pitches in: The Pope family, Cadesman, Carol and Julia are busy washing the pigs they will exhibit at the Sutton County Junior Livestock Show. (Although not pictured, Dad, Cadesman, was busy nearby, getting the equipment ready for shearing.)

Sutton County Officials sworn for duty



Sutton County Judge Carla Garner administered the Oath of Office to Sutton County Officials on December 29, 2004. The sworn personnel are re-administered the oath every four years. Sworn in were: Sutton County Sheriff Joe Fincher, Deputy Oscar Chavez, Jailers Ty Fincher, Wayne Tyler, Lesa Galindo, Deputy Bob Hartman, Jailers Matt Routh, Janice Cook, Lou Chavez, Deputy Jody Harriss and Rio Concho Drug Task Force Officer Duwayne Castro.

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 BAUTISTA
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. Beverly Parsons, 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. Tom Baden
417 E. 2nd St.
387-5366

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

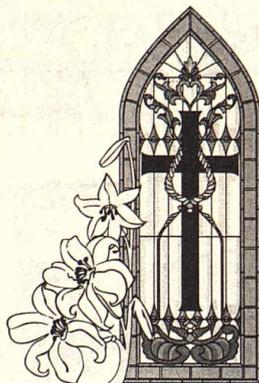
THE CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD PRESBYTERIAN
Lewis Allen, Pastor
319 E. Mulberry
387-2616

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

Cards of Thanks

Dear residents of Sonora,
We would like to thank you for the generous support you gave us with the dinner for Joe and I. What wonderful people each and every one of you are. Also, thank you, to our sister, Rose, and our brother, Willie, and each of their families and friends who worked so hard.

We wish each of you, good health and happiness. Again, we say "Thank You" and may God bless and keep you!

Joe and Deana Mungia

The Boy Scouts of Troop 19 would like to thank Dominion Exploration for their generous donation and the Sutton County Sheriff's Department for their assistance while the scouts participated in Dominion's Adopt-a-Highway program. The donation helped the scouts to attend winter camp at Camp Sol Mayer during the Christmas holidays. This camp offered the necessary requirements for the boys to advance to Eagle rank. Another "special" thanks goes to Patsy Samaniego for staying with the boys all week.

With appreciation,
Boy Scout
Troop 19

Which Fire

I saw the New Year arrive in a most unusual way.

I was on a special trip to deliver some clothes and food to needy people in a foreign country. The needs are so great: a large amount of poverty, little housing and bad water.

New years is a big event in their country and almost everyone celebrates. The traditional way is to go outdoors and stand around a wood fire.

That night I was invited to a church service with some Christian friends and, as we drove on the bumpy roads, I saw many people standing around wood fires getting drunk. Some were already staggering down the streets. Most of the men in that large city would celebrate the New Year that way.

The church service was wonderful with lots of music and a time of sharing of testimonies. Several people accepted Christ as their Lord and Savior, (John 1:12), others asked for prayer, (Psalm 120:1). It was really a rededication and praise service.

After the service we stood around a wood fire and ate the food that the ladies brought. It made me realize that in life there only two places, we are either with God, (Psalm 119:30-32, 119:173, Matthew 12:30, Philippians 3:20) or against God (Isaiah 65:12, Philippians 3:18,19). It just depends on which fire we are standing around. It's our choice, (Revelation 3:20). See you in church next Sunday.
Brother J

School Lunch Menu • January 10 -14, 2005

Breakfast

Mon. - Peanut butter toast, assorted juice.
Tues. - Blueberry muffin, apple juice.
Wed. - Cinnamon toast, assorted juice.
Thurs. - Scrambled eggs, buttered toast, orange, pineapple juice.
Fri. - Potatoes & cheese burrito, assorted juice.

Milk and cereal offered with all breakfasts.

Lunch

Mon. - Corn dog, mustard, kernel corn, vegetable salad, sugar cookie.
Tues. - Sloppy Joe on bun, baked beans, mixed fruit, iced brownie.
Wed. - Beef & bean burrito, Spanish rice, carrot sticks, dressing, yellow cake with icing.
Thurs. - Oven baked chicken, mashed potatoes, gravy, steamed broccoli, pudding, biscuits.
Fri. - Cheeseburger, lettuce, tomatoes, pickles, potato wedges, fresh fruit.

Senior Center News

Jan. 10 - Bingo!
Jan. 12 - Exercise with video after lunch.
Jan. 13 - Crafts anyone?
Jan. 14 - Work on "new" intakes.

Senior Center Menu

Jan. 10 - Spanish meatballs with rice, green beans, sliced tomato, rolls, pineapple rings, milk.
Jan. 11 - Chicken supreme, herb new potatoes, broccoli, green salad, rolls, milk, cherry cobbler.
Jan. 12 - Meatloaf with tomato sauce, blackeyed peas, okra, cornbread, banana pudding, milk.
Jan. 13 - Oven broiled pork chops with gravy, noodles, carrots, tossed salad, bread, milk, applesauce.
Jan. 14 - Beef burrito, pinto beans, spinach, coleslaw, Jell-O with pears, milk.

NEW HOURS: Mon. - Fri 7:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.
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.

Obituaries

Alicia A. Noriega

Alicia A. Noriega, 78, went to be with the Lord on Wednesday, December 29, 2004. Services were at 3:00 p.m. Saturday, January 1, 2005, at St. Ann's Catholic Church with burial in Sonora Cemetery. Arrangements were by Kerbow Funeral Home.

Alicia was born on June 18, 1926, in Rocksprings, Texas, to Librado and Luisa Arredondo. She married Jesus "Quate" Noriega, Jr. April 21, 1945.

Survivors include husband, Jesus "Quate" Noriega, Jr.; sons, Samuel Noriega and wife,

Janie, of Austin, Armando and wife, Rosa Noriega, of Sonora, Eddie and wife, Amelia Noriega, of San Antonio and David Noriega of Sonora; daughters, Aneida Castillo of Sonora, Sandra and husband, Eugenio Zapata of San Angelo; brother, Marcario Arrendondo of Hereford; and sisters, Santos Amaya of Rifle, Colorado, and Gloria Gaytan of Hereford; twelve grandchildren; eleven great-grandchildren.

She will be dearly missed by all her family and friends.

Pauline Skains

Pauline Skains, 80, of Sonora passed away peacefully on Sunday, January 2, 2005, in San Angelo Community Hospital. Graveside services were at 2:30 p.m. Tuesday, January 4, 2005, in Sonora Cemetery.

Mrs. Skains was born February 10, 1924, in Camp Wood, Texas, to Ben and Joe Moeglin.

She retired from the Sonora School District.

Mrs. Skains was a lifelong member of the Sonora Church of Christ, and her faith and strength was an inspiration to her family and all who knew

her. Mrs. Skains was preceded in death by her husband, Lewin Earnest Skains.

She is survived by three sons, Vle Earnest "Pete" Skains and his wife, Earlene, of Carlsbad, Texas, Jack Skains and his wife, Mary, of Camp Wood, Texas, and Buck Skains of Sonora, Texas; 10 grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren; brother, James Wall of Addison, Texas; and sister, Louise Jones of Sonora, Texas.

Mrs. Skains was preceded in death by two sisters, Mary Miller and Dortha Fauver.

Thank you
for reading
The Devil's River News

TEXAS TALES TOLD BY TUMBLEWEED SMITH

The Story of the Buffalo



Tumbleweed Smith

Jack and Elizabeth Longbotham of Abilene own a small herd of buffalo on their ranch in Brown County. They sometimes load one of the bison onto a trailer and take it to western gatherings or schools to help explain the buffalo's history.

Jack is a retired educator who served as dean of the Education Department at Hardin Simmons University. Elizabeth is a member of the pioneer Prude family in Fort Davis and taught education at McMurry University.

"A buffalo is unpredictable," says Elizabeth. "They're very very smart." Jack says they are strong and unbelievably quick. "Quickness is the most outstanding characteristic about buffalo. They can outrun a horse two to one."

Based on their interest in the buffalo, the Longbothams have collaborated on a series of children's books about the buffalo. Jack did the illustrations for the books. "Some of our buffalo are actual characters in the books," says Elizabeth. "They have names like Buffalo Bill and Cody. The books tell about their life on the plains."

In some of their presentations about the buffalo, they tell how the buffalo nearly became extinct. "It was the buffalo hunters who were greedy and wanted the hides to send up to New York for the wealthy ladies to have coats made out of them," says Elizabeth.

"It was not the Indian who destroyed them."

Jack says at one time the buffalo numbered over sixty million head. "Gradually as the were hunted they became fewer in number and were almost wiped out. In 1900 there were less than 800 buffalo in the United States. Now there are more than 220,000. Most of them are in private herds and state and national parks in Wyoming, Montana and North Dakota."

In Texas, the buffalo roamed from Colorado City to Fort Davis and all through the panhandle. The herds were big. "Sometimes the herds would be 50 miles long and 15 miles wide," says Jack. "That's lots of animals."

The Indians used everything on the buffalo: meat, horns, hide and hoofs. They depended on the buffalo for shelter, blankets, sewing needles, cookware, clothing and nearly everything else.

"The buffalo was the Indian's commissary," says Jack. "Indians killed them by running herds off cliffs." Buffalo hunting took place between 1965 and 1890. The hunters used a Sharp's rifle, which could fire 50-caliber bullet several hundred yards.

Buffalo bones littered the countryside and were sold to make fertilizer. "The bones were sold by the pound," says Jack. "Hunters brought them into wagon areas close to the train yards and loaded up boxcar after boxcar with bones. Later a trainload or two were put together and exported to

Community Calendar

Jan. 7 & 8
Sutton County Junior Livestock Show
Jan. 10
Commissioners Court
9:00 a.m. • Annex Bldg.

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

The Community Calendar



Member FDIC

Jan. 13
Chamber of Commerce Meeting
Noon • Chamber Office
Jan. 18
City Council Meeting
2:00 p.m. • City Hall
Jan. 24
Commissioners Court
9:00 a.m. • Annex Bldg.

is made possible by:



Member FDIC

229 Hwy 277 N • 387-2593

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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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Historical Society

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

Q. Who were the county officers in 1947?

A. The Devil's River News, January 3, 1947-In a ceremony conducted at 10 o'clock New Year's Morning, recently elected county officials were administered their oaths of office.

H.C. Kirby, county clerk, was given the oath by L.W. Elliott, and Kirby then swore the other officers in: B.W. Hutcherson, back in the sheriff's office after four years, Clayton Bray, county attorney, Mrs. Thelma Briscoe, treasurer, G.A. Wynn, county judge, New Potteet, constable, George Barrow, justice of the peace, and commissioners, Dantes Reiley, Dan Cauthorn, Dave Locklin and C.W. Adams. Sheriff Hutcherson announced that C.D. Crumley would be his outside deputy and jailer, and that Mrs. L.E. Johnson would be office deputy. City Marshall Wesley C. Young will continue with the City of Sonora until January 15.

In other news we found that Dr. and Mrs. Jay T. Shurley of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, were parents of a son born, December 15 in a Philadelphia hospital. He weighed 8 lbs and 11 oz and was named John Lawrence. The baby is grandson of Mr. Ira Shurley of Mercury and Mrs. Jewell Capansky of Larkspur and grand-nephew of Collier, Edgar and Merton Shurley of Sonora.

People in Sutton County had been hit by two northers for the holidays. One brought 9 inches of snow and sleet and the second brought temperatures down to 11 above zero. Traffic was brought to a standstill and the hotel and tourist courts were full every night. Many stranded travelers were even brought into private homes. Old timers said this was not the worst cold wave in the history of the town but one of the most severe. In the winter of 1929-30 the lowest temperature, ten below zero was recorded. During that blizzard, Junction was reported one of the coldest towns in the nation with a record temperature of 16 below. This recent snow is keeping ranchers hard pressed to keep enough feed out during the cold spell.

The traditional open house was held at the Savell home Christmas morning given by Mr. and Mrs. Theo Savell, Mr. and Mrs. Miers Savell and Mr. and Mrs. Bryan Hunt. Mrs. Theo Savell greeted the guests at the door and Mrs. Miers Savell and Mrs. Bryan Hunt served egg nog

and coffee from the dining table, which was covered with a lace cloth and had a centerpiece of red roses and red candles in silver holders. The mantle was decorated with holly, roses and white candles and the other rooms were decorated with poinsettias and red carnations. About one hundred and fifty called.

In the January 10 issue we found that Francisco Gonzales, about 79, was burned to death Saturday night or early Sunday morning when a small stove he had placed near his bed caught the bedding afire. He was found Sunday when a neighbor entered the tin shack where he lived alone to see how he was getting along. The building didn't catch fire because it was only tin and had a dirt floor and no furniture but the bed. Gonzales was buried Monday from St. Ann's Church. He had no kin.

It was reported that 1946 was a record hunting year with 476 licenses issued here. Only 6 were non-residents and all were sold to Oklahoma and New Mexico hunters.

In the January 17 issue it was stated that members of the Advisory Board of the Texas Sheep & Goat Raisers Association met in Sonora at the request of president Bryan Hunt. Matters discussed included a recent hoof and mouth disease outbreak in Mexico and the fact that approximately 125 Texas sheep and goat raisers will leave San Angelo via a special train, on Jan. 24, to attend the National Wool Growers Convention in San Francisco, California. The special Santa Fe Train will consist of Pullman cars, observation and diner cars and will leave San Angelo at 4:30 and arrive in San Francisco on Sunday. Following the close of the Convention on Jan. 31 the group will travel by Southern Pacific to Los Angeles. The entire party will stay until Feb 2 on a sightseeing trip in the Los Angeles area.

In the January 24 issue it was reported that Mrs. John A. Kring, 66, was buried Tuesday afternoon from the home of her daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. B.M. Halbert, Jr. Mrs. Kring died Sunday the 19th following a long illness. Internment was in the Sonora Cemetery. Mrs. Kring was born Ruthie Ann Pope, September 12, 1880, at Cleburne. She was married to John Augustus Kring at Cleburne on May 15, 1895, and the couple moved to Lometa. Mrs. Kring became a resident of Sonora in 1926.

Hillman Brown became the new owner of the Sonora



Roy Valliant, Clara Holland, Lossia, Archie - Can you identify everyone in this picture?

Appliance Store last week when he bought out the business formerly owned by George E. (Bud) Smith and Wiley Trainer. Brown said he would continue to carry a stock of electric appliances and that he would employ an electrician in the near future who would enable the store to supply repair and maintenance services.

An article appeared telling that since 1941 over 40 per cent of the teachers in Texas have quit their jobs due to low pay.

Henry Ford, II announced the reduction of between \$15 and \$50 in current models of Ford passenger cars and said the action was intended as "shock treatment" to halt "the insane spiral of mounting costs and rising prices."

Hamilton Grocery listed the following prices: peaches 30 cents a can, green beans with potatoes 17 cents a can, Franco American Spaghetti in a 15 3/4 oz. can 16 cents, Plantation Style Irish Stew 32 cents a can, a 15 oz can of corned beef hash 27 cents, grapefruits 7 cents each, lemons 26 cents a dozen, a head of lettuce 10 cents, potatoes 10 lbs for 39 cents and Summer Sausage 45 cents a pound.

Alta Purcell Owens died in the Santa Rosa Hospital in San Antonio on January 25. She was born on January 12, 1877. She was survived by 32 grandchildren, 6 great-grandchildren and 12 living children: Mrs. Ellen Ray, W. James Owens, Mrs. Irene Foster, Elzie P. Owens, Mrs. Violet Randle, Mrs. Edna Davidson, Mrs. Louise Allison, Wilson Owens, Mrs. Violet Needham, Mrs. Lillie Mangold, Albert N. Owens and Mrs. Pearl Smith.

Rick and I would like to thank everyone for allowing us a vacation with our daughter and her family over the holidays. They all thoroughly enjoyed their visit to Sonora and Victoria will never forget Miss

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Bill redials proposal to ban cell phones while driving

State Capital Highlights Texas Press Association

By Mike Cox
AUSTIN - An effort during the last regular session to ban behind-the-wheel cell phone use did not connect, but one pre-filed bill for the coming session is redialing the issue.

House Bill 237 by Rep. Jose Menendez (D-San Antonio) would prohibit use of traditional cell phones while driving, but allow hands-free usage with headsets or voice-activated speakers. Sen. Rodney Ellis (D-Houston) is carrying the Senate version of the bill.

The fine for violating the ban would range from \$25 to \$100, with the range increasing to \$125 to \$200 if the violation occurs in a school crossing zone.

The most-recent Department of Public Safety statistics are some three years old, but they show that from 2000 to 2001, traffic crashes related to driver inattention from cell phone use grew from 716 to 1,032 - a 44 percent increase.

Livestock IDs high-tech...
Texans have been nothing ears or burning brands on the hides of their livestock for years, but the Texas Animal Health Commission is looking at a new, high tech way of identifying cattle, swine and poultry.

In something of an animal version of "1984," the state agency is working with the federal government along with various other states and private livestock associations across the nation in developing a National Animal Identification System.

Under the NAIS, livestock

facilities such as ranches and feedlots will receive unique premises identification numbers. A pilot program of electronic ear tags for livestock also is about to begin, with 80,000 tags to be placed on animals in Texas and Oklahoma.

The idea behind the effort is to facilitate government's ability to track animals in the event of an animal disease outbreak (as in Mad Cow disease) or some other animal health emergency, including terrorism.

Interested owners can get a facility identification number by contacting TAHC at 800-550-8242. Later this month, ranchers and facility owners will be able to register through the agency's Web site at www.tahc.state.tx.us.

"SO"...what'd you get for Christmas?

State Rep. Norma Chavez (D-El Paso) has been given the first "State Official" license plate for a motorcycle.

The Texas Department of Transportation has been issuing elected state officials (SO) license plates since 1938. But no one ever asked for a SO plate for a motorcycle until avid motorcyclist Chavez requested one for her two-wheeler. TxDOT officials presented the plates to Chavez in El Paso last week.

You have to be an elected official to get a SO plate, but motorcyclists have been able to buy other specialty license plates since last May.

Specialty plates for cars have been offered since 1965.

For information on the more than 100 specialty plate choices and how to apply, check the agency's Web site at www.dot.state.tx.us.

Happy Birthday

January 6

Joe Buitron, Martha Perez, Glinda Gutierrez, Bill Savell, Jr, Lloyd Rennels

January 7

Beth Wallace, Bud McGinnis, Macie Zuniga, Rosa Gutierrez, Bethany Deel, Rosa Tamez

January 8

Lisa Karnes, Kathy Marshall, Will Allen, Bubba Crain, Michelle Lipham, Whiskey Hill, Barry Noriega, Kole Gann, Kelisha Alvarado

January 9

Anissa Reyes, Sheryl Bawcom, Bubba Crain, Mark Holman, Danny Ellison, Crispin Lira, Jr., Sue Smith, Mason Arispe, Peter Perez, Leandor Alvizo

January 10

Andrew Mata, Amy Davenport, Jacob Lopez, Myrna Murillo, Adam Mirike, Delma Chavez, Cerissa Hedgecock, Evangelina Martinez

January 11

Nolan Kinder, Debra Harris, Krystal Gibbens, Laura West, Michelle Lopez, Barbara Urbanski, Charles Pajestka, Mary Hernandez, Brenda Johnson

January 12

Marty Lipham, Felicia Farley, Stephanie Hulsey, Kaitlyn Lopez, Maria Zaragoza, Hector Mendez

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Chamber Chatter

Chamber seeks support for Texas Pecos Trail Region

by Ruthie Bounds,

Happy New Year to everyone! It is hard to believe that we are already starting a new year. It seems the older we get the faster the years go by. There are many things going on at your local Sonora Chamber of Commerce Office & Welcome Center these days. One of the items on the top of our list is our 2005 calendar. Please contact us by phone, e-mail, fax, or mail to give us dates that need to be included on the calendar. This calendar can be found on-line at www.sonoratx-chamber.com. We try to keep this up to date and will include any public event.

Another top priority is the support of the Texas Pecos Trail Region. We will be sending letters out to many of our members and other interested parties, requesting a letter of support from each of you. The grant application to be considered for the Texas Historical Commission's Texas Heritage Trails Program will be submitted in the next couple of months, and a large part of the point grading system will be the letters of support from the region. Watch your mail or go ahead and send us a letter either by mail, fax or e-mail to show your support for this tourism initiative. Your financial support would be appreciated, also. Our mailing address is Sonora Chamber of Commerce, Texas Pecos Trail Region, P.O. Box

1172, Sonora, TX 76950. Our fax # is 325/387-5357, and our e-mail address is soncoc@sonoratx.net.

To recap, so that you will remember what the Texas Pecos Trail Region is all about, the Texas Historical Commission is sponsoring a program of the Texas Heritage Trail Regions as a tourism initiative. The Texas Pecos Trail Region consists of 22 West Texas 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. The Texas Pecos Trail Region would form a tourism partnership among these counties to help promote cultural tourism to the region. This wide and diverse area has not been widely promoted as a tourism destination. Texas Pecos Trail Region program should be a boost to our economy as well as an opportunity to educate people from urban areas about the area's rich culture of agriculture, natural gas and oil production, Hispanic settlers, wildlife, the Wild West, and panoramic beauty. Join the Sonora Chamber of Commerce, Sutton County Commissioners, City of Sonora, Friends of Historic Sonora Main Street Program and local businesses in supporting the Texas Pecos Trail Region Program.

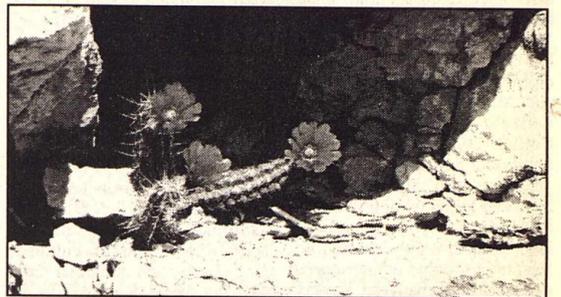
Dinner held in honor of Father Bill DuBuisson



On Monday evening, December 27, 2004, Father Bill DuBuisson was honored with a dinner celebrating his 75th birthday and wishing him farewell as he leaves Sonora. The dinner, held at the Sutton County Civic Center, was attended by approximately 100 members of the parish and the community. After serving the parish of St. Ann Catholic Church as pastor for over 13 years, Father Bill will enter semi-retirement in San Angelo on January 3rd. He will serve the diocese of San Angelo as Judicial Vicar (Chief Judge of the Tribunal).

Up on Eaton Hill

Reading the rocks



Limestone bluffs - a treasure trove of beauty and history

by Delyse Jaeger

The surface of the earth is embedded with stories of the ancient past. Coaxing forth the drama recorded among the limestone bluffs is a scientific undertaking well beyond the scope of my limited understanding, but I will attempt to transcribe what I've gleaned from the experts.

The question was posed as to how certain rocks on Eaton Hill were formed. The rocks in question are the nodule shaped stones which have the color and texture of sandpaper, often concealing a flint interior. Some are embedded in the limestone rocks while others are strewn about.

After researching for several hours and speaking to a couple of Phd's, the answer is ...I have no idea.

Well, not exactly.

Exploring "Rock Formation 101," we find that there are basically three classes of rocks. Igneous rock is formed from hot, molten material such as solidified lava. Sedimentary rocks are made up of sediments deposited and compacted over time forming the solid mass. Metamorphic rock forms when either an igneous or sedimentary rock undergoes a change by process, such as heat or pressure. Sedimentary rock comprises the majority of the earth's surface.

Limestone is the sedimentary rock which makes up the majority of our local formation. Most limestone rocks are organic which means they are comprised of the remains of organisms. This is clearly evident in the fossil rich stones that surround us. Road cuts offer excellent opportunities to examine the geological history of this area. The whole of Texas was once covered in a shallow sea and the fossilized remains preserved in our native rock are marine creatures.

In understanding the formation of various sedimentary rocks it is important not to think of limestone as impenetrable. As for the origins of the rust colored sandy rocks, they most likely began as silica secreted by underwater sponges. The dissolved silica migrated through the sediment and became concentrated in an area, eventually forming the hardened chert or flint. As to why the flint is encased in a different type of material, I'll be emailing the rock doctors some photographs and will get back to you.

If you are up on Eaton Hill, take some time to try out a little rock reading, the stories are endless.

Eaton Hill Wildlife Sanctuary is a project of the Sonora Industrial Development Corporation.

Pipeline Group Public Education Contractor Awareness Program

The Pipeline Group's annual "Public Education - Contractor Awareness Program" will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, January 25, 2005, at the San Angelo Convention Center, 500 Rio Concho Drive, in San Angelo, Texas. The program will be sponsored by a group of companies with a common goal of preventing accidents and damages to underground pipelines and utilities. A free dinner will be catered by McGowen's Catering for all persons involved in excavation related activities in Coke, Concho, Crockett, Irion, Menard, Reagan, Runnels, Schleicher, Sutton, and Tom Green counties. Following the dinner, a brief safety program will be presented which stresses the importance of accident prevention by identifying pipeline and utility rights of way, use of one-call systems, and the importance of working with pipeline and utility companies to safely excavate in the vicinity of underground facilities. The Texas law requiring notification to a one-call system before excavating will be discussed. Sponsors will provide promotional materials: including notification information for their

companies, safety related brochures and other safety reminders.

Each year many lives are injured or lost, plus millions of dollars in repairs and lost products are incurred due to "third party" incidents - someone digging into a pipeline. Thousands of communications, some life-threatening, may be disrupted when expensive fiber-optic cables are damaged or severed. These types of excavation can be financially devastating to the responsible party. This safety program is an attempt to help those who do excavation work to avoid such situations.

Sponsors for the program include: Alon USA LP - Atmos Energy-Mid-Tex Division - Crosstex Energy Services - DIG TESS - Duke Energy Field Services LP - Duke Energy Field Services - Quanah Pipeline - El Paso Natural Gas Co - Enbridge Pipelines (Texas Intrastate)LP - Energy Transfer Co (ETC) - Enterprise Products Operating LP - Kinder Morgan CO₂ Co LP - Oasis Pipeline Co of Texas LP - Petro Source Carbon Co - Phillips Pipe Line Co - Pride Refining Inc - Seminole Pipeline Co - Sid Richardson Pipeline Co - Sunoco Pipeline LP - Western Gas Resources Inc - WTG Gas

Sutton ACS and Texas Cooperative Extension raises its voice in the fight against cervical cancer

January is Cervical Health Awareness Month, with the goal of educating and empowering women across America to visit their clinician for their Pap test. Vigilance on the part of women about early detection through cervical cancer screening is crucial because cervical cancer, caught early, is nearly 100 percent curable.

The American Cancer Society (ACS) reports that between 60 and 80 percent of American women with newly diagnosed invasive cervical cancer have not had a Pap smear in the past five years and may have never had one. The unscreened population groups

include older women, and the uninsured, ethnic minorities (especially Latina women, African Americans and Asian Americans), and poor women, particularly those in rural areas.

Cervical cancer is one of the most common causes of cancer worldwide, and one of the most preventable and treatable. The American Cancer Society (ACS) estimates that about 10,000 cases of invasive cervical cancer will be diagnosed in the United States in 2005 and more than 4,000 women will die from the disease.

Recent advances approved by the Food and Drug

Administration (FDA) have been developed to enhance the sensitivity of the Pap test, and many new guidelines have been developed about the frequency of cervical cancer screening. Be sure to consult your clinician about when you should have this all important test.

To help educate women in Sonora, the local chapter of the American Cancer Society and Texas Cooperative Extension have materials and resources available for educational purposes.

For more information contact Noemi Samaniego at 387-3029, Kelly Thorp at 387-3101 or any Sutton County ACS Board member.

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Little Dribblers reminded to sign up this week

Sonora City League would like to announce the beginning of its Little Dribblers program for 2005. The program will have two divisions: 3rd & 4th grade girls and boys; 5th & 6th grade girls and boys. Any students interested in playing can pick up an enrollment form from the school or at the Devon Energy office in the Mercantile building on Main St. The cost will be \$20.00 per player.

The first group practice will be held on Saturday, Jan 8th for both divisions. Third and fourth grade group practice will be held at the little practice gym next to the Jr. High gym with the girls beginning at 8:45 a.m. and boys beginning at 10:30 a.m. Fifth and sixth grade group practice will be held at the Jr. High gym with the girls beginning at 8:45 a.m. and the boys starting at 10:30 a.m.

Enrollment forms may be turned in at the group practice on that date. If you haven't picked up a form by the 8th, please bring your child to the gym and pick up an enrollment form. We need a good turn out to have a successful program.

Anyone interested in volunteering or if you have any questions, contact Mr. Lynn Hinsley at 650-2223 or at home at 387-5276. You may also contact Mrs. Nelda Tobias at 206-0290 or at home at 387-5390.

Fog from page 1

because someone was driving too fast and couldn't stop in time to avoid a collision.

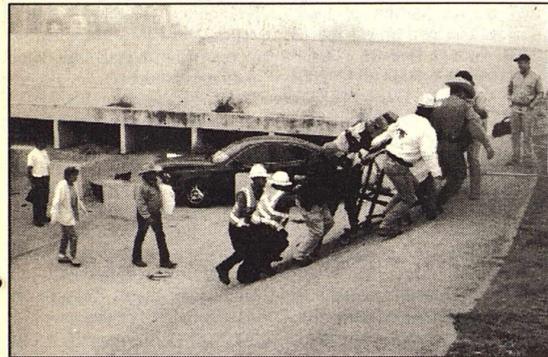
* Make sure that you can be seen. Turn on your fog lights, and use low beams. High beams direct light up into the fog making it difficult for you to see. Low beams direct light down onto the road and help other drivers see you.

* If you leave the road, be sure to pull off completely. Turn off your driving lights and turn on your flashers so others know you're there but won't think you are driving on the road.

* Always use your defroster and windshield wipers in foggy conditions to keep the windows clear.

* Keep an eye on your speedometer and maintain a slow, constant speed.

* Remember that other drivers have a limited sight distance and that fog can leave roadways slick. Signal early, and when you use your brakes, don't stomp on them.



Rescue workers and bystanders help move an injured passenger up the cement embankment. The vehicle was riding in crashed due to fog on New Year's Eve.

Comet Machholz Greets the New Year

Happy New Year! The Stargazer hopes 2005 proves to be your best year yet. Astronomically, Mother Nature is doing her part by offering a New Year's treat--Comet Machholz.

Discovered last Aug. 27 by amateur astronomer Don Machholz, the comet, officially named Comet Machholz, C/2004 Q2, became visible in our skies in December and will be at its best in January.

Although it is not especially bright and lacking the prominent tail for which comets are known, Machholz is still interesting. It is visible to naked eyes under dark skies, and can be seen in binoculars from urban areas. But what it lacks in brightness it makes up for in size. Passing relatively near Earth (nearly as close as Venus gets to us), it appears larger than most comets--about the size of a full Moon.

Conveniently, it is visible in the evening as the skies darken, and remains in view well past midnight. The first few evenings in January it passes just over 10 degrees to the upper right of the bright reddish star, Aldebaran, the "eye of the bull." (The width of your fist held at arm's length is 10 degrees.) At 8 p.m., Aldebaran is 5-6 fists above the eastern horizon, above the familiar Orion.

The evenings of Jan. 6, 7 & 8, with the comet at its brightest, it passes less than 3 degrees (about five moonwidths) to the right of the Pleiades star cluster. If it has a visible tail by then, the tail will be pointed toward the Pleiades, producing a beautiful binocular sight with both in the same field of view.

The evening of Jan. 16, Machholz is in Perseus and passes less than 2 degrees below the star, Algol, then Jan. 21 only 3 degrees above the brighter star, Alpha Persei. By February the comet will have dimmed notably as it swings past Cassiopeia. Mar. 8 it passes near Polaris, the North Star, and then through the Big Dipper in late April and early May, by

which time it will be quite faint.

For more detailed information see skyandtelescope.com.

Sky Calendar.

* 3 Mon.: The Moon is at 3rd quarter.

* 6-11 Thu.-Tue. mornings: Reddish Mars passes to the upper left of the slightly brighter reddish star Antares, showing how Antares, which means "rival of Mars," got its name.

* 7 Fri. morning, the crescent Moon, Mars and Antares form a triangle low in the southeast.

* 8 Sat. morning: Near the southeastern horizon 45 minutes before sunrise, Mercury is just above brilliant Venus with a crescent Moon to their upper right and the Mars-Antares pair 12 degrees above the Moon.

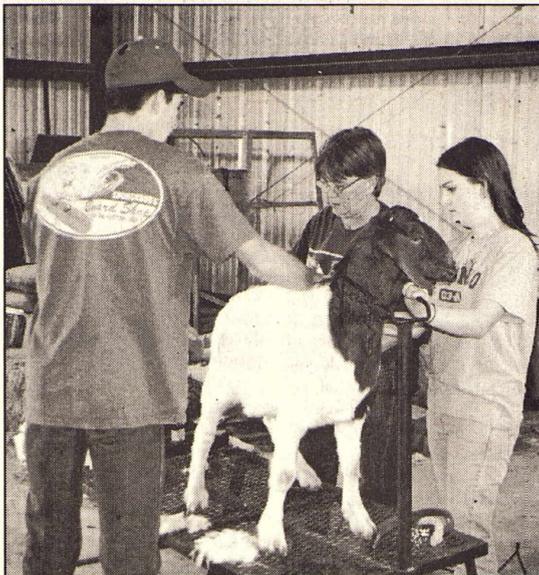
* 10 Mon.: The Moon is new.

* 13 Thu. morning: Venus and Mercury pass less than a moonwidth from each other.

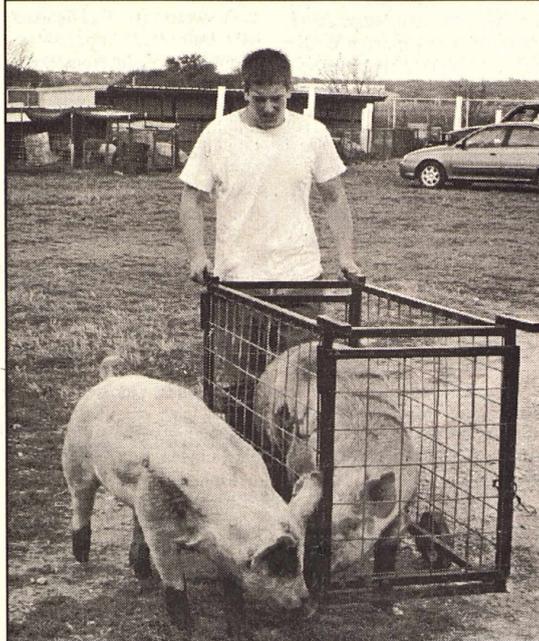
* 17 Mon.: The Moon is at 1st quarter.

Naked-eye Planets. (The Sun, Moon and planets rise in the east and set in the west due to Earth's west-to-east rotation.) Evening: Saturn, rising at sunset, is in the sky all night. Morning: Mercury and Venus, the "evening star," are near the southeastern horizon just before dawn, with Mars a bit further up and much brighter Jupiter high above them.

Stargazer appears every other week. Paul Derrick is an amateur astronomer who lives in Waco. Contact him at 918 N. 30th, Waco, 76707, (254) 753-6920 or pjderick@aol.com. See the Stargazer Web site at stargazerpaul.com.



Ty Love, Danine Brister and Mackenzie Watkins shear a goat for this weekend's Junior Livestock Show



Aaron Nitsch uses a hauler to push his pig to the shearing area.

Stock Show from page 1

by Alderman Cave Feeds. A special trophy buckle and a \$50 savings bond will be awarded to the "Top Hand" exhibitor who exceeds all others in the care of his/her project, helping others, etc.

This annual show allows Sutton County 4-Hers and FFA members to prepare for larger shows that will start this month and continue for several months, including Kerrville, San Angelo, San Antonio, Houston, Ft. Worth, etc. Show your support of our youth and their efforts by sponsoring the event, attending the show and participating in the Premium Sale. For more information on any of these areas contact the Sutton County Extension Office at 325-387-3101.

Sutton County Junior Livestock Show Schedule of Activities

Thursday, January 6, 2005
7:00 p.m. Arrival and Weigh-in deadline for Meat and Angora goats, Market Lambs and Swine

Friday, January 7
8:30 a.m. Angora Goat Show

12:30 p.m. Market Lamb Show

Meat Goat Show will begin 30 minutes after the end of the Market Lambs

Saturday, January 8

8:30 a.m. Futurity Ewe Lamb judging and interview

Swine Show immediately after Futurity Ewe Lamb Show

Barrow and Beef Cattle exhibitions will follow

Swine Show

6:00 p.m. Buyer Appreciation Supper

6:45 p.m. Premium Sale

8:00 p.m. Awards Presentations

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Oil & Agribusiness**Youth Career Awareness Tours**

submitted by Pascual Hernandez, Sutton County

This past spring, a survey called the "Texas Community Futures Forum" was conducted in Texas. Its purpose was to identify the most critical issues faced by each county in the state. In Sutton County, youth development was identified as one of several significant issues. Proposed means of addressing this issue involved providing youth with avenues for broadening educational horizons, facilitating identification of career interests, increasing leadership opportunities, developing interpersonal skills, and providing recreational events.

To that effect, the Texas Cooperative Extension Office in Sutton County has proposed to offer youth career tours in the spring of 2005. The intention would be to provide high school youth with learning experiences in various career areas by transporting program participants on day field trips.

Four experiences may help youth acquire an indication of career interests as they would

expose participants to the following career areas: business, management, media/journalism, special interest groups, commodity trading, science & technology, research professions and marketing. Additionally, youth can attain a level of awareness of issues such as trade, the impact of government, free enterprise, environmental stewardship, and rural issues.

The project has been approved by Sonora ISD. There would be no cost to participants other than their meal that day. As Extension agents hold adjunct faculty status, each event would count as a field trip with school faculty. All tours are day trips (return same day). There is an application available through the high school. If enough interest exists, touring would begin this spring.

You can view highlights of past tours at <http://sutton-co.tamu.edu/publications/YouthTours.pdf>. We believe this is a worthwhile opportunity. If you would be interested in your child taking part, please contact County Extension Agent, Pascual Hernandez, Sonora High School principal, Raul Chavarria or Counselor, Kay Friess.

Mohair Council to conduct Annual Membership Meeting

The Mohair Council of America will conduct its 2005 Annual Membership Meeting on Wednesday, January 12, 2005 at the Holiday Inn Convention Center in San Angelo. The membership meeting is part of a two-day event that includes winter meetings of the Mohair Producers Board, the Mohair Council Executive Committee, and the Mohair Council Board of Directors.

On Tuesday, January 11, 2005, the Mohair Producers Board will convene at 1:30 p.m. The Board will swear in newly elected directors Allen Stieler of Rockspings, Mark Langford of Lampasas, Jimmy Holman of Sonora, and Tommy Head of Goldthwaite. The Producers Board will also review a proposed budget for the 2005-2006 fiscal year.

Following the Producers Board meeting, the Mohair Council Executive Committee will conduct its winter meeting. The Committee will take an in-depth look at 2004 activities and will make plans for 2005. MCA President Denny Ray Speck and his wife, Beppo, will host a reception for all attendees at their home Tuesday evening.

The 2004 Board of Directors meeting will begin at 8:45 a.m. on January 12. This is expected to be a brief meeting, and will be immediately followed by the 2005 Membership Meeting. The membership will hear a report of council activities and they will break up into district caucuses to elect directors for 2005. Officer elections will also be conducted.

All Angora goat raisers, and anyone with an interest in the mohair industry are invited to participate. For more information, or to RSVP, please call the Council office at 325-655-3161.

Rig Locations as of December 31, 2004

Sutton
 Dominion; 9500' Hill-May M Ray - B - #2, Patterson Drilling.
 Dominion; 8975' Hudspeth - 1017 - #1 Patterson Drilling.
 Dominion; 8900' Randee Hill-Fawcett Trust - D, Patterson Drilling.
 Dominion; 8300' Edwin S Mayer Jr - D - #15, Patterson Drilling.
 Dominion; 8200' Simmons Ranch #87, Patterson Drilling.
 Dominion; 7500' Ben Mittel #6, Patterson Drilling.
 New KCS Resources; 6500' Carta - 103 - #11, Patterson Drilling.
 New Dominion; 4700' Canyon Ranch #202S, Patterson Drilling.
 New Dominion; 9450' WH karnes - C - #7X, Patterson Drilling.
 New Dominion; 7750' Canyon Ranch #2081S, Key Energy
Crockett
 Endeavor Energy; 10500' Dudley - 26 - #2H, Big Dog Drilling.
 FIML Natural Res; 5010' Adams #18A, Key Energy.
 New Approach Operating; 9000' Bailey #312, Key Energy.
 New Approach Operating; 9000' JR Bailey - A - #509, Nabors Drilling.
 New Approach Operating; 9000' JR Bailey - A - #305, Nabors Drilling.
 New Anadarko E&P; 9000' Davidson #3507, Patterson Drilling.
 New J Cleo Thompson; 7500' Todd Pooled Unit #1, Patterson Drilling.
 New EOG Resources; 5900' Shannon Hospital #2, Nabors Drilling.
 New Devon Energy; 7000' Helbing - 18 - #5, Patterson Drilling.
Terrell
 Riata Energy Inc; 19000' Mitchell #1201, Lariat Drilling.
 Riata Energy Inc; 12000' Mitchell #6301, Lariat Drilling.
 New Newfield; 15000' Poulter #3802, Patterson Drilling.
 ConocoPhillips; 12600' University - 4 - #7, Patterson UTI/LV.
Edwards
 New Newfield; 10000' Davis #7701, Patterson Drilling.
Val Verde
 New Pure Resources; 4500' Mills Trust -133 - #1, Nabors Drilling.
 New Willo Oil & Gas; 4000' Mills - 15 - #2, Patterson Drilling.
 New Chesapeake; 7000' Burger - 30 - #7, Patterson Drilling.
Schleicher
 New TXP; 7100' Meador - A - #6, Heart Land Drilling.
 Dominion; 8700' Doris Mayer Rousselot - B - #3, Patterson Drilling.
 Pogo Producing Co; 6900' Lloyd-Moran West #2, Heart Land Drilling.

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



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Attention Sheep Producers, USDA announces deadline for the Ewe Lamb Program

The deadline to submit applications under the Ewe Lamb Replacement and Retention Payment Program is January 13, 2005. To be considered eligible for ELRRPP benefits, all applications (FSA-384's) that are requested in person, by mail, fax, or downloaded from the internet, must be completed correctly, signed, and returned to the applicable county office by close of business January 13, 2005. Signup for ELRRPP began on October 25, 2004, and there are NO provisions for late-filed applications so any applications received or requested after the signup deadline will not be approved. Please call our office at your soonest convenience to make an appointment.

Schleicher Co FSA Office: (325) 853-3535 ext. 2

USDA issues final procedures, sets date for Lamb Referendum

WASHINGTON, Dec. 23, 2004 — The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Marketing Service today announced the final procedures for a continuance referendum under the Lamb Promotion, Research and Information order, more commonly known as the Lamb Checkoff Program, and also announced that the referendum will be conducted Jan. 31, 2005, through Feb. 28, 2005.

The referendum will be conducted at USDA's County Farm Service Agency (FSA) offices. To be eligible to participate, persons must certify and provide documentation, such as a sales receipt or remittance form, that shows they have been engaged in the production, feeding or slaughtering of lambs during the period of Jan. 1, 2004, through Dec. 31, 2004.

Beginning Jan. 31, 2005, and continuing through Feb. 28, 2005, persons may obtain form LS-86 to vote in the referendum from county FSA offices either in person, by mail or facsimile. Forms may also be obtained via the Internet at <http://www.ams.usda.gov/lsg/mpb/rp-lamb.htm>.

Persons will vote in the referendum at the county FSA office where their administrative farm records are maintained. For the person not participating in FSA programs, the opportunity to vote will be provided at the county FSA office where the person owns or rents land. Form LS-86 and supporting documentation may be returned in person, by mail or facsimile to the appropriate county FSA office. Form LS-86, and accompanying documentation returned in person or by facsimile, must be received in

the appropriate county office prior to the close of business of Feb. 28, 2005. Form LS-86 and accompanying documentation returned by mail must be post-marked no later than midnight of Feb. 28, 2005, and received in the county FSA office by March 7, 2005.

For the program to continue, it must be approved by a majority of voters who also represent a majority of the volume represented in the referendum.

The Lamb Checkoff Program is authorized by the Commodity Promotion, Research and Information Act of 1996. This program provides for assessments on the sale of lamb and lamb products and for an industry board to carry out promotion, research and information programs designed to increase the demand for lamb and lamb products.

The referendum is mandated by the act and requires that the secretary of agriculture conduct a referendum either prior to its going into effect or within three years after assessments first begin under an order. The order provides that the referendum be held within three years after assessments first begin. Assessments began July 1, 2002. AMS oversees the activities of the program.

The procedures and notice for the referendum were published in the Dec. 27, 2004, Federal Register. For more information contact Kenneth R. Payne, Chief, Marketing Programs Branch, AMS Livestock and Seed Program, USDA Stop 0251, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20250-0251 or telephone number (202) 720-1115.

DSHS ready to resume winter rabies bait drop program

It may not be a typical dinner bell, but the purring sound of an airplane engine signals to hungry coyotes and gray foxes that food is arriving. And as the wild animals in South and West-Central Texas chow down this winter, health officials hope to continue tracking fewer incidences of canine and gray fox rabies.

The Oral Rabies Vaccination Program (ORVP) at the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) enters its second decade with a stack of statistics showing dramatic drops in these types of rabies.

"Surveillance indicates that the program continues to show measurable results year after year," said DSHS veterinarian Tom Diswa, ORVP director. "No human cases of rabies in either area have occurred since the vaccine airdrop began. And there have been no animal cases of canine or gray fox rabies outside the original containment zones since the program's beginning."

In early January, about 2.7 million baits will drop from five specially-equipped airplanes flying across 44 Texas counties. The first flight takes off Jan 7, weather permitting, from the Zapata county Airport in South Texas. The second portion of the drop begins about Jan. 15 from the Pecos County Airport in Fort Stockton, and the last leg gets under way about Jan. 22 from Junction's Kimble County Airport.

DSHS initiated the program in 1995 to create zones of vaccinated coyotes and gray foxes to stop the spread of the

rabies virus and then eliminate canine and gray fox rabies in the area. Canine rabies in coyotes and domestic dogs had reached epidemic proportions in South Texas and threatened San Antonio and other major population areas. The next year, an airdrop began in West-Central Texas where an epidemic of gray fox rabies had been occurring since 1988.

The number of canine rabies cases in South Texas had declined from a high of 142 cases when the program began in 1995 to none in 2002 and 2003 and 1 reported in 2004 through November. Gray fox cases are down as well from an all-time high of 265 cases in 1994 to 22 in 2004 through November.

The specialized baits offer a dinner of fish meal to coyotes and dog food containing molasses and vanilla flavoring to gray foxes. But the important ingredient is the two milliliters of oral rabies vaccine encased in each bait.

"The vaccine inside the bait cannot cause rabies in people or animals," Sidwa said.

Because baits contain a biological agent and are less likely to be eaten by wildlife if people touch them, they should not be handled. Each brown bait, which measures 1 1/4 by 1 1/4 by 3/4 inches, is marked with a DSHS toll free number, 1-877-722-6725, that people may call for information.

"People still need to get their pets vaccinated against rabies by a veterinarian as required by law," Sidwa said. A domestic animal's rabies vaccination can be safely given even if the animal recently ate an oral rabies vaccine bait, he said.

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All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing Act which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, or an intention, to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination." Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18. This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination call HUD toll-free 1-800-669-9777. The toll-free telephone number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

Employment

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.

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

I-10 Exxon is looking for reliable candidates to join our team. The following positions are available: Part-Time cashier 4:00 - 12:00 shift. Come by the corner of I-10 and Hwy. 277 N. EOE.

Location Builders now hiring **full-time mechanic**. Prefer you have your own tools. Apply in person 203 W. 3rd. For more information 387-3881.

Operators Needed. Maintainer, Dozer and Loader Operators. CDL required. Call Mittel Dozing 277-6883.

Best Western Sonora Inn 270 Hwy. 277 N. Sonora, Texas 76950

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Competitive starting salary, No phone calls please.
Come by to pick up an application. To schedule your interview speak with Starla Williams.

Experienced Air Driller with crew needed. CDL (or attainable). Drug test required: 405-820-6129 or 405-705-1032. Leave message.

Dairy Queen of Sonora is now hiring for the following positions: **Assistant Manager**, Starting salary \$6.50 per hour, **Full and Part-time employees**, days and evening positions available. Starting salary \$6.00 per hour. Please apply in person at 134 N. Hwy. 277. Ask for Kenny.

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Excellent Opportunity: Independent Oil and Gas Operator looking for **experienced swabbing unit operator**. Please contact Nick at 325-206-0270 or 325-387-3386.

Help Wanted: Full-time employees. Part-time for weekends and holidays. Apply in person at **The Caverns of Sonora** or call 387-3105 for more information.

Laborers and carpenters helpers needed. Must be able to pass drug test. Contact Keith 325-387-3900.

Looking for a Nanny to take care of my child. Beginning at 6:00 a.m., make breakfast, take to school and possible pick up from school, occasional nights. For more information please call 325-226-3113.

Taco Grill is now accepting applications for **dish washers and wait staff**. Please apply in person at 232 Hwy. 277 N.

Schleicher County Medical Center Hospital. Equal Opportunity Employer. **R.N.**

Full-time position. 32-40 hours a week. Flexible schedule. **ACLS, PALS and/or TNCC** Certifications Preferred. Benefits available: Paid Time Off, Paid Holidays, Health options, Childcare, Retirement Options.
Contact: Vicki Farmer, BS, DON. Resumes may be faxed to 325-853-3523 to the attention of Vicki.

Employment Opportunity Schleicher County Medical Center. Equal Opportunity Employer. **Licensed Vocational Nurse Part-Time Position**
24-hour employee day care, state-of-the-art equipment, numerous education opportunities, flexible schedule, competitive salary, work with highly skilled team. **Current Texas License Required.** If interested please contact: Vicki Farmer BS, RN, Director of Nursing. (325) 853-2507 x129.

Cheetah Wireless
387-6099

Public Notices

Dunes Mini Storages located on Hwy. 277, in Sonora, Texas; Sutton County will be holding a public sale **February 5, 2005 at 10:00 a.m.** to satisfy a landlord's lien, **weather permitting.** This is the tenant's official notice of "Intent To Sale" concerning their property. Seller reserves the right to withdraw property from sale at any time. The following tenants as of December 13, 2004 will be: **Abel Mcgee, Tammy Sheldon, Manuel Arrenondo, Stacy Campbell, Fran Pennington, Donald Bean, Benny Frazier, Casey Fitzgerald, Diane Virgen.** If you feel there might be an error regarding this notice contact Jana Dover @ 325-387-2104 or @ Landmark Apartments (office A-4). To assist in making payments or payment arrangements, you may contact me during regular business hours.

Minerals/Oil/Gas

Want to purchase minerals and other oil/gas interests.
Send details to:
P.O. Box 13557,
Denver, CO 80201.

Pets

PET CARE SERVICE: Keep your pet at your home for \$5.00 a day for 1 pet & \$1.00 extra for additional. Can take pets to vet \$6.00 a trip to town only. Call 387-5649 for info. References available.

FREE Dalmation to a good home with land to roam his final years, family moved to town. 12 years old, neutered, shots up to date, gets along well with others. Leave message 800-326-5758.

Misc.

Mary Kay Cosmetics
Call Storie Sharp 387-2507

Vinyl Sports Decals

Call Erica 387-2507

Automobile

For Sale: **1985 Chevy 1/2 Ton Pickup** \$1,000.00. **1995 Oldsmobile Van** \$2,500.00 Call 387-7094.

For Sale: **2003 Grand Am GT** with sunroof, leather seats, XM radio. Less than 20,000 miles. Asking \$14,000.00 call 387-3948 after 6:00 p.m.

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Thank you for reading The Devil's River News

Bobbie A. Smith Real Estate
(325)387-2728
218 Sawyer Dr. - \$87,500.00. 3 BR, 2 BA, brick home, CH-AC, kitchen appliances, incl. dbl. car garage, privacy fenced, near school and hospital. Sellers moving.
1403 Glasscock - \$35,000.00, near 218 Sawyer Dr. 1 BA mobile home with large dorm room, large tree-shaded lot with grass and shrubs. Carport and storage room.
2.07 Acres corner of Savell & Cornell Sts. Former church bldg. parking lot, basketball court and baseball field. Property includes 4 BR, 2 BA double-wide which can be sold separately.
1.208 acres, 612 Water Street near Hwy. 277. IH-10. Ideal commercial location, adjoins historic nature trail. Property includes historic bldg. containing large den/living/dining room, kitchen, 2 BR/Office space with attached apt. Large workshop/garage and pool area.

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Dollar General is Opening a New Store in Sonora! It's a Hiring Event!
Store staff and set-up crew needed now!
Opportunities for full-time and part-time and temporary set-up staff. If you are dependable, flexible, hardworking, honest, a team player and enjoy working with the public, apply now!
Seeking applications for: Assistant Managers - retail experience with mgmt. experience preferred.
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Pick up an application at: Dollar General - Sonora
Apply In Person Jan. 10 at: Dollar General-Sonora or mail application to:
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F.Y.I.

Beginner Clogging Lessons:
Thursday, January 20, from
5:45 to 6:30 p.m. at The
Studio. First lesson is free.
FMI call Carolyn McMeans
387-9315.

**Sutton County Critter Gitter
Calling Contest - January 8-9,
February 12-13, and March
12-13.** Each contest will have
registration on Saturday at 2:00
p.m. at Stagecoach Barbeque
(next to Rafter W). Turn in will
be Sundays at 10:00 a.m. at
same location. All team mem-
bers must be present for check-in
on Sunday - Each member must
have a valid Trapping license;
Sutton and surrounding coun-
ties can be hunted - each contest
will pay back 90% of entry total
and will be split between 1st
(50%), 2nd (35%), and 3rd
(15%); optional jackpots; \$100
per team of one to four people,
cash only; FMI call Paul
Martinez at (325)650-0221 or
(325)206-1722.

**Lighthouse Community
Church will be starting a new
Women's Bible Study on
Wednesday, January 19, 2005
from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**
The study is "A Woman's Heart
God's Dwelling Place" by Beth
Moore. Discover what it means
to be a woman today through
this in-depth study of the Old
Testament Tabernacle. For
more information call Jane
Rushing at 387-3625 or the
church at 387-9100.

**The Lillian M. Hudspeth
Memorial Hospital Auxiliary
is selling tickets for a six
month individual member-
ship to the Health and
Wellness Center** scheduled to
open in April 2005 (a \$180
value). The new facility will
offer aquatic therapy, water and
ground aerobics as well as a
fully equipped exercise facility
for both strength and cardiovas-
cular conditioning. The draw-
ing will be held at the March
Auxiliary Luncheon. Tickets
are \$1 each and available at the
hospital, Sutton County
Extension Office and the
Sonora Chamber of Commerce
Office.

**POLAR BEAR DATE
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6th Annual Polar Bear
Classic, sponsored by the
Sonora High School Golf
Team, Saturday, January 22,
2005, at the Sonora Golf
Course, 12:30 p.m. (please sign
up early); \$10 per person (any
extra donations will be gladly
accepted); 18 holes of par 3 golf
(scramble), ties broken with
putt off; sign up at the pro shop
- 387-3680. The Sonora Golf
Club has waived green fees for
non members. If bad weather,
will postpone until the next
Saturday.

Transformation is a youth-
focused event that is bringing
the youth of Sonora, Eldorado
and Ozona together as one body
with one vision. Join together
on the 2nd Sunday of each
month at Lighthouse
Community Church - Meal at
6:00 p.m. Praise and Worship at
7:00 p.m. FMI please contact
Silas Polite FBC Eldorado
853-2662 or Lighthouse
Community Church 387-9100.

**The Sonora Woman's Club is
working on compiling
addresses for the Sonora
Woman's Club Address Book.**
These books come in very
handy for holidays, weddings,
invitations of all sorts, etc. If
your address has changed in the
last five (5) years and you
would like to be added to the
publication that will be avail-
able for purchase, please con-
tact Storie Sharp at 325-387-
2507.

Air Serv International
6583 Merchant Place.
Suite 100
Warrenton, VA 20187
www.airserv.org

**American Friends Service
Committee**
1501 Cherry Street
Philadelphia, PA 19102
www.afsc.org

**American Jewish Joint
Distribution Committee, Inc.**
DC-South Asia Tsunami
Relief
P.O. Box 321
New York, New York 10017
www.jdc.org

**American Jewish World
Service**
45 W. 36th St., 10th Fl.
New York, NY 10018
212-736-2597
www.ajws.org

**American Red Cross
International Response
Fund**
2025 E St. NW
Washington, DC 20006
800-HELP-NOW
www.redcross.org

**American Refugee
Committee Tsunami Relief**
430 Oak Grove Street,
Suite 204
Minneapolis, MN 55403
www.archq.org

AmeriCares
88 Hamilton Ave.
Stamford, CT 06902
www.americares.org

**Ananda Marga Universal
Relief Team (AMURT)
Tsunami Fund**
6810 Tilden Lane
Rockville, MD 20852
www.amurt.net

**Baptist World Aid
Asia Tidal Waves**
405 North Washington St.
Falls Church, VA 22046
www.bwanet.org/bwaid

**B'nai B'rith International
B'nai B'rith Disaster Relief
Fund**
2020 K. St. NW
7th Floor
Washington, DC 20006
www.bnaibrith.org

**Brother's Brother
Foundation**
1200 Galveston Ave.
Pittsburgh, PA 15233
www.brothersbrother.org

CARE
151 Ellis St. NE
Atlanta, GA 30303
www.care.org

Catholic Relief Services, Inc.
209 West Fayette St
Baltimore, MD 21201
http://www.catholicrelief.org

**Christian Children's Fund
Child Alert Fund**
PO Box 26484
Richmond, Virginia
23261-6484
www.ChristianChildrensFund.
org

**Christian Reformed World
Relief Committee (CRWRC)
South Asia Earthquake**
2850 Kalamazoo Ave. SE
Grand Rapids, MI, 49560
www.crwrc.org

Church World Service
PO Box 968
Elkhart, IN 46515
www.churchworldservice.org

Concern Worldwide, US
104 East 40th Street, Suite 903
New York, NY 10016
www.concernusa.org

Direct Relief International
27 South La Patera Lane
Santa Barbara, CA 93117
www.directrelief.org

**Doctors Without Borders/
Medecins Sans Frontieres**
www.doctorswithoutborders.org

**Episcopal Relief and
Development
South Asia Relief Fund**
PO Box 12043
Newark, NJ 07101-5043
www.er-d.org

**Food for the Hungry, Inc.
Food for the Hungry Asia
Quake Relief**
1224 E. Washington St.
Phoenix, AZ 85034
800-2-HUNGERS
www.fh.org

**Habitat for Humanity
International
Asia Tsunami Response
Fund**
121 Habitat St
Americus, GA 31709
www.habitat.org

Heart to Heart International
401 S. Clairborne
Suite 302
Olathe, KS 66062
888-800-4327
www.hearttoheart.org

International Aid
17011 W. Hickory
Spring Lake, MI 49456
www.internationalaid.org

**International Medical Corps
Tsunami Emergency
Response**
1919 Santa Monica Blvd.,
Suite 300
Santa Monica, CA
www.imcworldwide.org

**International Orthodox
Christian Charities (IOCC)
Asia Disaster Response**
P.O. Box 630225
Baltimore, MD 21263-0225
www.iocc.org

**International Relief and
Development, Inc.**
1621 N Kent Street, Suite 400
Arlington, VA 22209
www.ird-dc.org

**International Relief Teams
Asia Earthquake/Floods**
3547 Camino Del Rio South,
Suite C
San Diego, CA 92108
www.IRTeams.org

**International Rescue
Committee**
PO Box 5058
Hagerstown, MD 21741-9874
877-REFUGEE
www.theIRC.org

**Latter-Day Saint Charities
Welfare Services Emergency
Response**
50 East North Temple Street,
Room 701
Salt Lake City, Utah,
84150-6800
www.ldscharities.org

**Lutheran World Relief
South Asia Tsunami**
700 Light St.
Baltimore, MD 21230
www.lwr.org

MAP International
P.O. Box 215000
Brunswick, GA 31521
www.map.org

**Mercy Corps
Southeast Asia Earthquake**
Dept. W
PO Box 2669
Portland, OR 97208-2669
www.mercycorps.org

**Mercy-USA for Aid and
Development**
Tsunami Disaster Relief
44450 Pinetree Drive,
Suite 201
Plymouth, MI 48170-3869
www.mercyusa.org

**Northwest Medical Teams
SE Asia Disaster Relief Fund**
PO Box 10
Portland, OR 97207
www.nwmedicalteams.org

Operation USA
8320 Melrose Ave., 200
Los Angeles, CA 90069
800-678-7255
www.opusa.org

**Oxfam America
Asian Earthquake Fund**
PO Box 1211
Albert Lea, MN 56007-1211
800-77-OXFAM
www.oxfamamerica.org

**Plan USA
Asia Disaster**
155 Plan Way
Warwick, RI 02886
800-556-7918
www.planusa.org

**Presbyterian Disaster
Assistance**
100 Witherspoon Street
Louisville, KY 40202-1396
888-728-7228 ext 5839
www.pcmsa.org/pda

**Project Concern
International
Asia Tsunami Press List**
5151 Murphy Canyon Road
Suite 320
San Diego, CA 92123
858-279-9690
www.projectconcern.org

**Project HOPE
Asia Tsunami Response**
255 Carter Hall Lane
Millwood, VA 22646
800-544-4673
www.projecthope.org

Relief International
1575 Westwood Blvd.,
Suite 201
Los Angeles, CA 90024
www.ri.org

**SAWSO (Salvation Army
World Service Office)
South Asia Relief Fund**
615 Slaters Lane
Alexandria, VA, 22313
800-SAL-ARMY

Save the Children USA
54 Wilton Road
Westport, CT 06880
1-800-728-3843
www.savethechildren.org

**Stop Hunger Now
SE Asia crisis**
2501 Clark Ave. Suite 200
Raleigh, NC 27607
888-501-8440
www.stophungernow.org

**UMCOR
Advance #274305, South
Asia Emergency**
475 Riverside Drive
Room 330
New York, NY 10115
www.umcor.org

**United Way International
United Way South Asia
Response Fund**
701 N Fairfax St
Alexandria, VA 22314
www.unitedway.org/tsunami
sponse

**US Fund for UNICEF
General Emergency Fund**
333 E. 38th St.
New York, NY 10016
800-4-UNICEF
www.unicefusa.org

**World Concern
Asia Earthquake and
Tsunami**
19303 Fremont Avenue North
Seattle, WA 98133
www.worldconcern.org

World Emergency Relief
2270-D Camino Vida Roble
Carlsbad, CA 92009
www.worldemergencyrelief.
org

**World Hope International
Asia Relief**
P.O. Box 96338
Washington DC 20090
www.worldhope.org

**World Relief SE Asia
Earthquake/Tsunamis**
7 E Baltimore St
Baltimore MD 21202
www.worldrelief.org

World Vision
P.O. Box 70288
Tacoma, WA 98481-0288
www.worldvision.org

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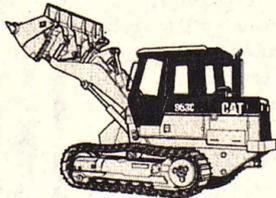
Elpidio Torres Jr.
Construction Foreman

Rick Bounds
Construction Foreman

Alfredo Hernandez
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CLOSER (R)
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