

The Devil's River News

75¢

Serving Sutton County Since 1890

Volume 119 • Issue 1

SONORA, TEXAS

Thursday, January 4, 2007

City Council Votes to Abolish Mosquito Spraying Fees

On December 19, 2006, the Sonora City Council met in Regular Session at City Hall. Those in attendance were: Mayor Gloria Lopez, Councilmembers Virgil Polocek, Smith Neal, Thomas Adkins and Jana Dover, City Manager James J. Polonis, City Attorney Beth Wallace and City Secretary Patti Prather. Others attending were: Doyle Morgan, Clyde Dukes, Randy Verner, Max Howorth, Charles McDonald, Randy Ricker, Sue Moore, Edward M. House, Russell Adkins, Julia Hines, Ebbie Sutton and Diane Terrell.

Mayor Lopez opened the meeting at 4:00 p.m. followed by acceptance of the minutes from the November City Council Special Meeting, as well as the minutes from the Regular November meeting. Monthly tax collection reports from the Sutton County Appraisal District and the 2005/2006 audit were presented and approved.

In the public hearing portion of the meeting, discussion was held regarding an SIDC project to financially assist with paving improvements of the cart paths at Sonora Golf Club. An expenditure of \$41,450.00 would be utilized to re-pave approximately 7800 yards of existing paths.

In regular session, a number of issues were brought before the Council. Among those were:

* To authorize the expendi-

ture by the SIDC for a Special Grant Assistance Program consisting of: (1) The Paint Grant Program, (2) Landscape Grant Program, (3) Signage Update Program and (4) Grease Trap Replacement Program. The authorization passed.

* Approval of the motion to accept Carl Teaff as Fire Marshal, Edward M. House as Asst. Fire Marshal and Rick Cearley as Fire Chief.

* The City Council approves the motion by a 3 to 1 margin, the measure to abolish the mosquito spraying fee. City Ordinance No. 575 deems mosquito spraying no longer feasible and therefore abolishes the fee.

* The Council voted to approve the expenditure of \$14,449.26 to repair high priority fire hydrants, as well as the annual maintenance on 50 hydrants.

* Also on the agenda were reviews of three price quotes on the lease of digital postage machines. Accurate Business Machines of San Angelo was awarded the lease at a cost of \$272.26 per month for 48 months.

* Compensation for City Council members will remain the same for 2007.

* Approval to allow the Sutton County Senior Center to pursue lease on a new copier.

* Approval of the proposal from Midwestern Vacuum

Truck Co. for the disposal of the tar tanks and cleanup of the contaminated area of the old landfill.

* No action was taken to review the current permit fee schedule and comparisons to other area cities.

* Approval of the current city investment policy.

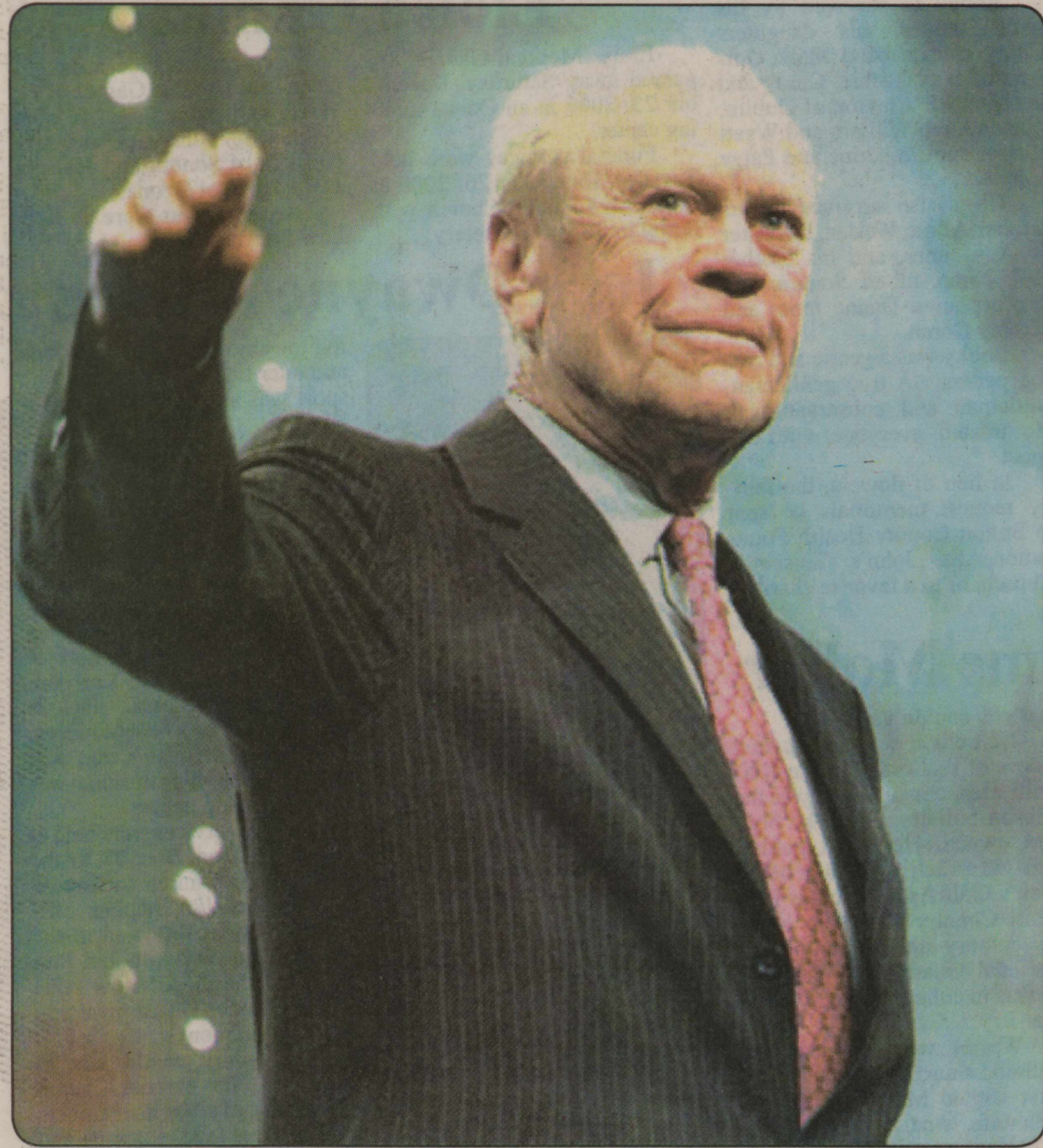
* No action was taken regarding the salary schedule of City employees. A Board review will prepare recommendations for submittal at a later date for approval.

* Approval of a measure to contract with the City Attorney for legal services for \$125.00 per hour.

During the public comment portion of the meeting, Charles McDonald reported that the grease trap at the Senior Center, and a total of four traps installed since the last meeting, with over 24 tons of grease being pumped since that date.

In Executive Session, discussion was held concerning the possible sale of properties to Russell Adkins. The properties consists of a 30' X 50' area of the closed portion of Orient St. and Lot 7 of Block 52A. After discussion, the Council reconvened in open session for vote on the matter. The motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:37 p.m. by Mayor Lopez.



President Gerald R. Ford

When Gerald R. Ford took the oath of office on August 9, 1974, he declared, "I assume the Presidency under extraordinary circumstances.... This is an hour of history that troubles our minds and hurts our hearts."

It was indeed an unprecedented time. He had been the first Vice President chosen under the terms of the Twenty-fifth Amendment and, in the aftermath of the Watergate scandal, was succeeding the first President ever to resign. Ford was confronted with almost insuperable tasks. There were the challenges of mastering inflation, reviving a depressed economy, solving chronic energy shortages, and trying to ensure world peace. The President acted to curb the trend toward Government intervention and spending as a means of solving the problems of American society and the economy. In the long run, he believed, this shift would bring a better life for all Americans.

Ford's reputation for integrity and openness had made him popular during his 25 years in Congress. From 1965 to 1973, he was House Minority Leader. Born in Omaha, Nebraska, in 1913, he grew up in Grand Rapids, Michigan. He starred on the University of Michigan football team, then went to Yale, where he served as assistant coach while earning his law degree.

During World War II he attained the rank of lieutenant-commander in the Navy. After the war he returned to Grand Rapids, where he began the practice of law, and entered Republican politics. A few weeks before his election to Congress in 1948, he married Elizabeth Bloomer. They have four children: Michael, John, Steven, and Susan.

As President, Ford tried to calm earlier controversies by granting former President Nixon a full pardon. His nominee for Vice President, former Governor Nelson Rockefeller of New York, was the second person to fill that office by appointment. Gradually, Ford selected a cabinet of his own. Ford established his policies during his first year in office, despite opposition from a heavily Democratic Congress. His first goal was to curb inflation. Then, when recession became the Nation's most serious domestic problem, he shifted to measures aimed at stimulating the economy. But, still fearing inflation, Ford vetoed a number of non-military appropriations bills that would have further increased the already heavy budgetary deficit. During his first 14 months as President he vetoed 39 measures. His vetoes were usually sustained. Ford continued as he had in his Congressional days to view himself as "a moderate in domestic af-

airs, a conservative in fiscal affairs, and a dyed-in-the-wool internationalist in foreign affairs." A major goal was to help business operate more freely by reducing taxes upon it and easing the controls exercised by regulatory agencies. "We...declared our independence 200 years ago, and we are not about to lose it now to paper shufflers and computers," he said.

In foreign affairs Ford acted vigorously to maintain U. S. power and prestige after the collapse of Cambodia and South Viet Nam. Preventing a new war in the Middle East remained a major objective; by providing aid to both Israel and Egypt, the Ford Administration helped persuade the two countries to accept an interim truce agreement. Detente with the Soviet Union continued. President Ford and Soviet leader Leonid I. Brezhnev set new limitations upon nuclear weapons.

President Ford won the Republican nomination for the Presidency in 1976, but lost the election to his Democratic opponent, former Governor Jimmy Carter of Georgia. On Inauguration Day, President Carter began his speech: "For myself and for our Nation, I want to thank my predecessor for all he has done to heal our land." A grateful people concurred.

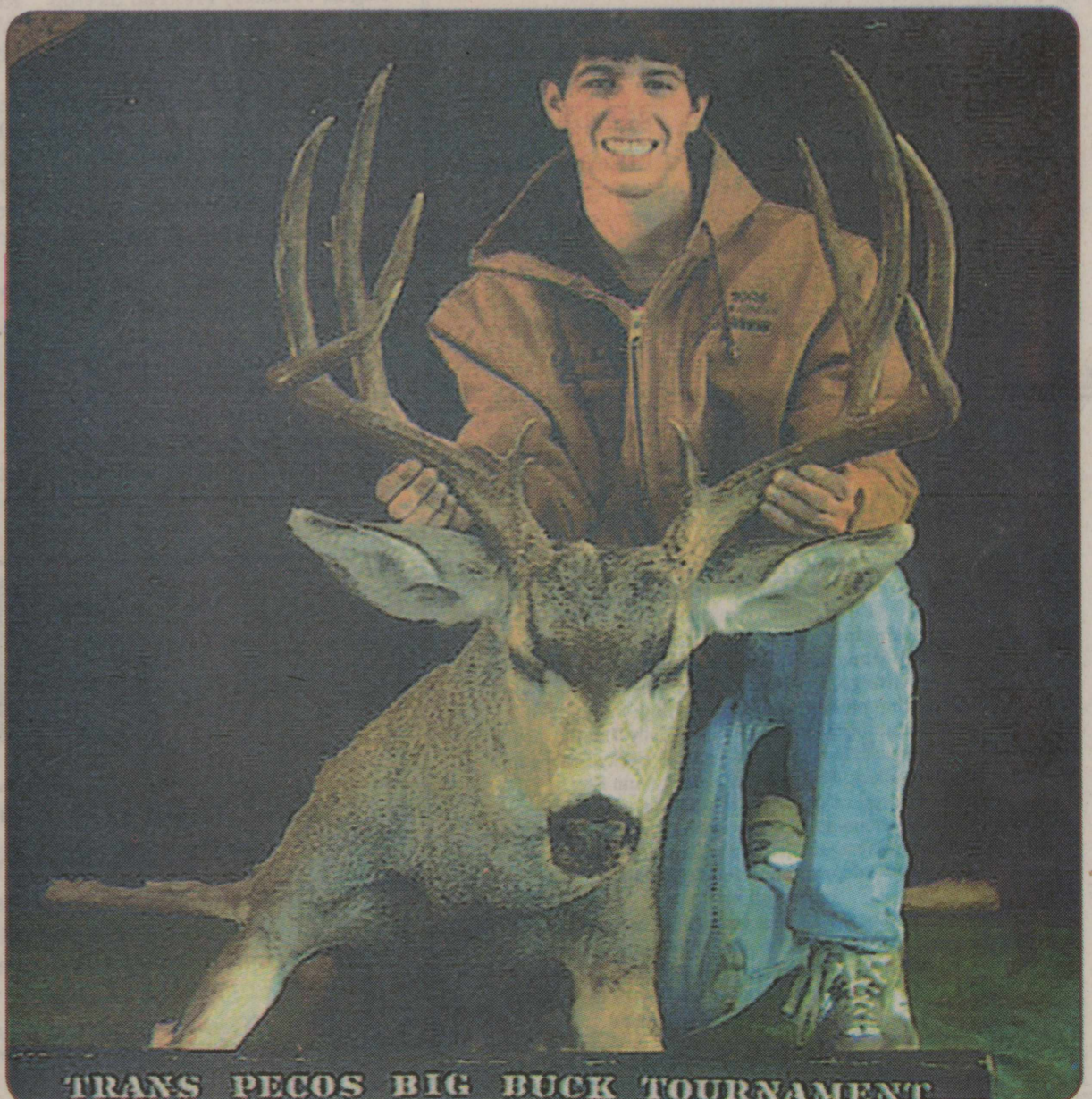
ORDINANCE NO. 575
AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF SONORA, TEXAS, ABOLISHING THE MOSQUITO SPRAYING FEE; PUBLICATION; CONFLICT; VALIDITY; AND BECOMING EFFECTIVE TEN DAYS AFTER FIRST PUBLICATION.

Passed and approved this the 19th day of December, 2006.

Approved:
Gloria G. Lopez
Mayor

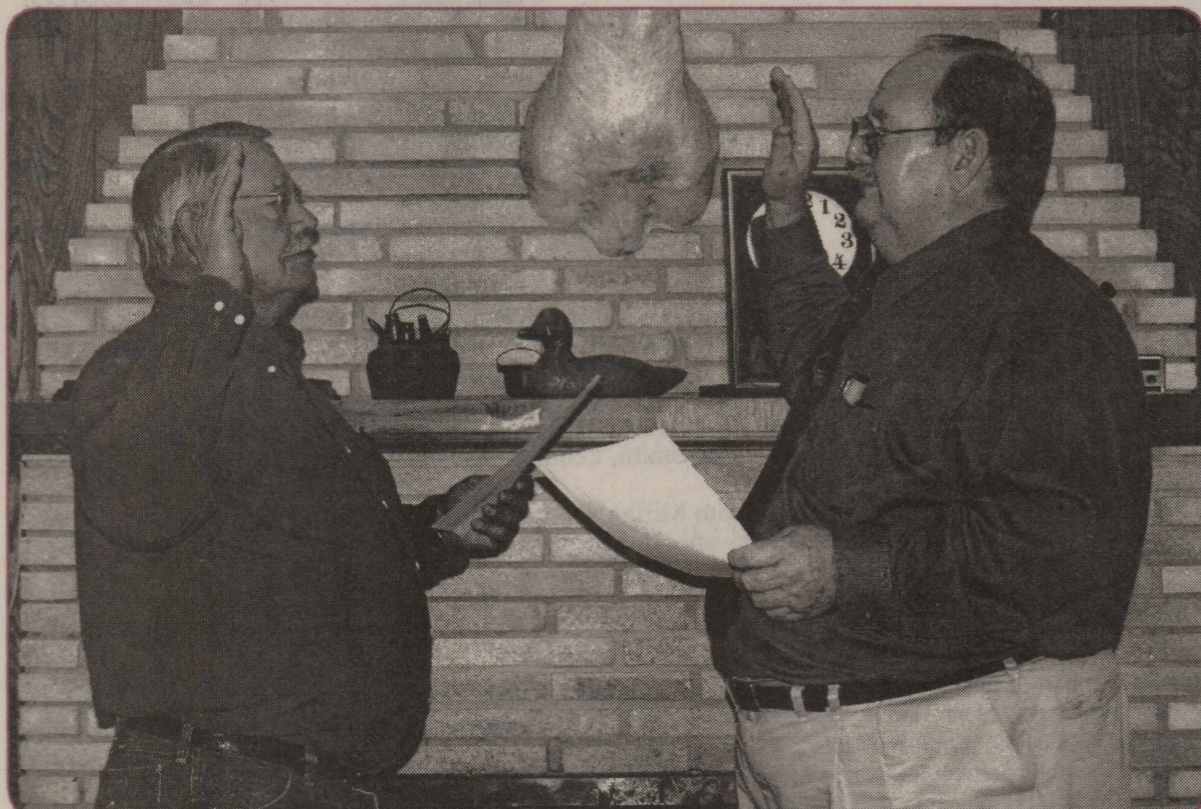
Attest:
Patti Prather
City Secretary

Large Trans-Pecos Muley Wins Tournament



James McCurdy Cardwell Jr., the grandson of Jodie and Lawrence Finklea of Sonora, is the winner of both the "Typical" and "Best Overall Buck" divisions in the Trans Pecos Big Buck Tournament.

Cardwell's mule deer grossed 183 points and received a net score of 175 7/8 on the Boone and Crockett scale. It came the closest to the B&C award record book minimum of 180 out of all the contest entrants.



Sutton County Justice of the Peace, John K Wilson was sworn in by long time friend and Taylor County Justice of the Peace, A.L. Deatherage on Monday, January 1, 2007.

St. Ann Catholic Church

Father Miguel Dinio, Pastor

311 W. Plum
P.O. Box 1397
Monday - Wednesday & Friday 1-4
Thursday - 10:30 - 12:30, 1:30 - 5:30
Phone: 325-387-2278
Fax: 325-387-2278
E-mail: stannsec@verizon.net
Confessions: Sat. 4:30 - 5:30 p.m.

NEW MASS SCHEDULE!

Sunday - 8:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.
Monday - NO MASS
Tuesday - 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday - 7:00 a.m.
Thursday - 7:00 a.m.
Friday - 7:00 a.m.
Saturday - 6:00 p.m.

Lighthouse Community Church

A place for returning Prodigals and recovering Pharisees

Sunday Services

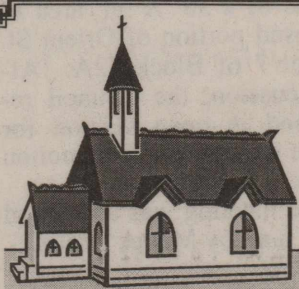
Bible Study 10:00 a.m.
Worship 11:00 a.m. • 6:00 p.m.
1705 N. Crockett

Senior Center Activities

- Fri. Jan. 5 - Happy Birthday Eulojia Samaniego
- Mon. Jan. 8 - Today is Elvis Presleys Birthday! Bingo!
- Tue. Jan 9 - Exercise with video... Senior Support Group Meeting @ 5:00 p.m. at Center
- Wed. Jan. 10 - The more you stretch the truth, the easier it is to see through it.
- Thur. Jan. 11- Happy Birthday Barbra Urbanski

Senior Center Menu

- Fri. Jan. 5 - Oven fried chicken, potato salad, butter carrots, salad, roll, lemon cake and milk.
- Mon. Jan. 8 - Beef stew wit vegetables, green beans, pear halves with cottage cheese, milk and cornbread.
- Tue. Jan. 9 - Oven baked chicken, lima beans, broccoli, bread, milk, and chunky fruit mix.
- Wed. Jan. 10 - Salmon Croquettes, macaroni & cheese, roll, turnip greens, coleslaw, milk and peach halves.
- Thur. Jan. 11 - Baked ham, candied yams, green beans, carrot, raisin salad, roll, Jell-O with fruit and milk.



Sonora Church Directory

Primera Iglesia Bautista 504 Santa Clara 387-2035	Church of Christ 304 N. Water 387-3190
The Church of the Good Shepherd Presbyterian 319 E. Mulberry 387-2616	First Baptist Church 111 E. Oak 387-2951
Lighthouse Community Church 1705 N. Crockett 387-9100	St. John's Episcopal Church 404 E Poplar 387-2955
Pentecostal Calvary Temple United 509 Amistad 387-5266	First United Methodist Church 201 N. Water 387-2466
St. Ann's Catholic Church 229 W. Plum 387-2278	Templo Jerusalem Asamblea De Dios 306 W. 4th St. 387-5713
Jehovah's Witness 310 St. Ann's St. 387-5658/387-5518	Hope Lutheran Church 417 E. 2nd St. 387-5366

Brought to you by:
Kerbow Funeral Home
387-2266

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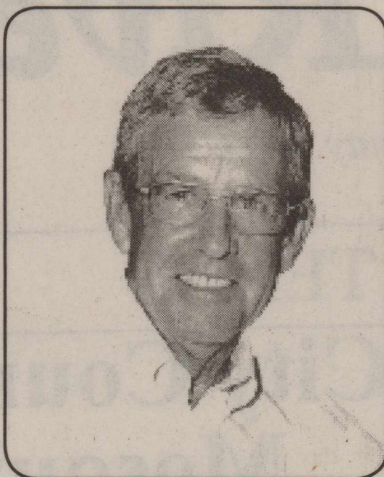
Any erroneous reflection upon the character, standing or reputation of any person, firm, or corporation which appears in the columns of this paper will be corrected upon due notice given to the Editor of this publication. The views expressed in submitted articles are not necessarily the views of The Devil's River Newspaper.



MEMBER 2006

Obituaries

Robert Weston Doran



Robert Weston Doran died Sunday, December 31, 2006 after a courageous battle with cancer. He was born February 19, 1945 in Menard, Texas to Gratton and Aline New Doran.

A memorial service was held Wednesday, January 3, 2007 at 2:00 p.m. at St. John's Episcopal Church in Sonora, Texas.

Bobby spent his early years in Kerrville, Texas and graduated from Tivy High School in 1963. He attended Sul Ross University and Uvalde Junior College. In 1972 he moved to Sonora and opened ADCO Water Well Company.

In 1988, Bobby married

Randee Fawcett of Sonora and together they owned and operated Encino Ranch Company. He received Conservation Rancher of the Year for the 1999/2000 year. Bobby was a member of the Texas and Southwest Cattle Raisers Assn., Texas Sheep and Goat Raisers and a faithful member of St. John's Episcopal Church.

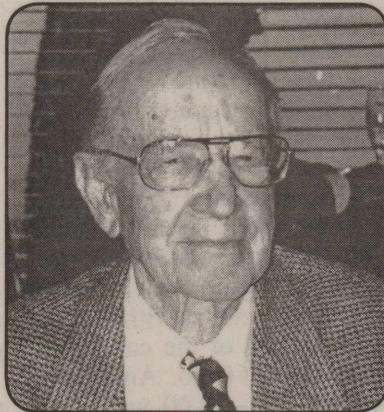
Bobby is survived by his wife Randee, his daughters Cathy and husband Mark Gorman of Waxahachie, Cindy and husband J.P. Clayton of Dublin; grandchildren William and Wyatt Rosser and Catherine and Paige Clayton.

He is also survived by his mother Aline Wester, his sister Jo Ann Jones, and his brother Bill Doran, all of Sonora, and two nephews, Duane Jones and Jeremy Doran.

Bobby was a gentle and caring person. A true gentleman, cattleman and conservationist. He treated everyone with respect.

In lieu of flowers, the family request memorials be sent to Sutton County Health Foundation, St. John's Episcopal Church, or to a favorite charity.

Bynum Weems Moller



Bynum Weems Moller, 96 of Kerrville, passed away on Tuesday, December 26, 2006. He was born on April 8, 1910 in Galveston County, near the town of Hitchcock to Arthur L. Moller and Ophelia Turner Moller. He is preceded in death by Emily Paterson Moller, wife of 42 years and mother of his three children; his parents; and two brothers, Turner and Arthur; grandson, Stewart Wayne Lambert and granddaughter, Victoria Dianne Lambert.

Weems attended college at Texas University in Austin where he received a degree in Mechanical Engineering in 1932. He began his career in engineering with the Humble Oil and Refining Company (currently Exxon) in 1934 and quickly advanced to the position of District Petroleum Engineer. He worked for the Humble Oil Co. for 20 years. In 1954, he invented and began manufacturing the Skytop Rig in Victoria, TX. The Skytop Rig was the first open crown workover rig on the market. It increased the efficiency for pulling pipe from and running pipe into oil wells by more than 100% over conventional rigs. It allowed the work to be done in less than half the time required by other rigs built at that time. With this new process, Moller was required to design five new related tools to make the Skytop system work. In 1968, he sold his majority interest in the Skytop Rig Company, retired and moved to Kerrville where he lived until he passed away. He loved the hill country and marveled at being able to breathe air

that you couldn't see.

He bought and sold several pieces of real-estate in the Kerrville area, one of which was the Gibson building which he built and owned. He loved golfing and was an active member of the Men's Golf Association at Riverhill Country Club. He loved his country and served in the National Guard from the time he was in college through World War II.

Weems was raised in the Catholic church but attended the First United Methodist Church with wife, Nina.

He is survived by his wife, Nina Langford Moller (formerly of Sonora) who he married in 1988; daughters, Dianne Moller Lambert, and Sunny Moller Smith; son in law, Bruce Smith; son, Turner Moller; daughter in law, Carole Moller; grandchildren, Doug Lambert, Mary Louise Lambert, Teri Rich and husband, Danny, Larry Smith and wife, Tami, Dana Easley, Scott Moller and wife, Ruthie; great grandchildren, Victoria Lambert, Ashley Rich, Daniel Rich, Jenny Smith, Katie Smith, Monica Gomez and husband, Isaac, Luther Easley, Harrison Moller, and Emily Moller; Nina's daughter, Claire Parks and husband, Steve; son, Roger Langford and wife, Kaye, grandchildren, Clint Langford and wife, Crystal, Laci Langford, Braine Langford, Davis Parks, and Ellen Parks; and Rosie, the family cat, who was Weem's constant companion. They loved each other dearly.

A memorial service was held on Friday, December 29, 2006, at First United Methodist Church in Kerrville, officiated by Dr. Warren Hornung. Following the service, his ashes was scattered along the Guadalupe River at the river place in Ingram he loved for so many years.

The family invites you to send condolences at www.grimesfuneralchapels.com by selecting the "Send Condolences" link.

Funeral arrangements were entrusted to Grimes Funeral Chapels of Kerrville.

Romana Duran

Romana Duran, 86, died Saturday December 23, 2006 in Ft. Worth.

Funeral services were held Tuesday, December 26, 2006 at St. Ann's Catholic Church with burial in Sonora Cemetery.

Survivors include son Mike Duran of Fort Worth; daughters Odelia Martinez of Cole-

man, Amanda Garza of Sonora and Toni Duran of Fort Worth; brothers Ignacio Romero and Manuel Garcia, both of Sonora; and sisters Maria G. Galindo of Sonora, Maria Martinez of San Angelo, Rosa Locke of Houston and Luisa Cozart of Big Lake.

Arrangements were by Kerbow Funeral Home.

Eloisa Gamez

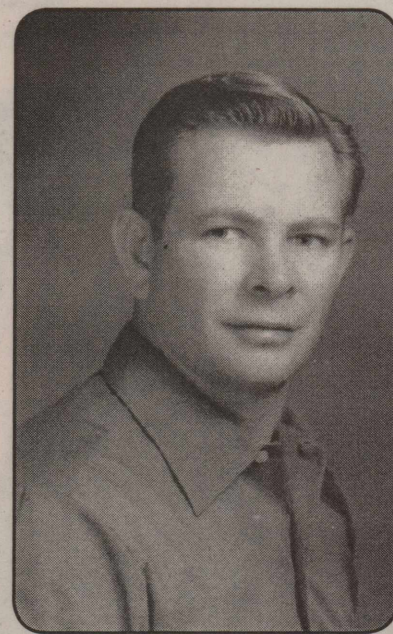
Eloisa Monreal Gamez, 88, passed away Saturday, December 23, 2006 in an Ozona nursing center.

Funeral services were held Tuesday, December 26, 2006 at St. Ann's Catholic Church with burial in Sonora Cemetery.

Survivors include a daughter-in-law, Cynthia Gamez of Ft. Worth and three sisters, Elodia Galino of Sonora, Candelaria Noriega of Sonora and Jesusita Dominguez of Ozona,

Arrangements were by Kerbow Funeral Home.

Jack Dwayne Adkins



ing the enjoyment on to his kids and later finding the love for the sport was shared by his son-in-law.

He is survive by is loving wife of 37 years, Nellie; along with his devoted son Blake both of Sonora; daughters Rebecca Davis, her husband Ron of Spring and Christie Adkins of San Angelo; granddaughter Kaitlyn Davis; two brothers Fred and Frank Adkins, both of Sonora; and one sister Lou Ann Ehrenburg of Odessa. Jack is also survived by a host of nieces, nephews, and cousins that will forever miss his mischievous grin and joking nature.

Funeral services were held at 11 a.m. on Wed. Dec. 27, at the First Baptist Church in Sonora with Brother Jim Stephen officiating. Burial followed in the Sonora Cemetery with Jim Stephen and the Goodfellow AFB Military Honor Guard presiding over the ceremony.

The family would like to thank the First Baptist Church of Sonora and all of its members for the care, love, support, and meals that they so graciously provided.

A special thanks to Laura Blaylock, Veronica Fierro, Rose Marie Hernandez, and Mike Andress, along with the entire staff at Hospice of San Angelo. You were a blessing to our family. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations be made to Hospice of San Angelo.

Jack Dwayne Adkins passed away peacefully at his home in Sonora at 9:40 a.m. on Sunday, Dec. 24, 2006.

Jack was born in San Angelo, Texas, to Sheeny and Lottie Adkins on Oct. 22, 1937.

He married Nellie Christian on Nov. 15, 1969. Jack worked for the Texas Highway Department for 19 years and later retired from Valero Energy Corp. in 1992 after 17 years of service.

Jack was an avid fisherman, always enjoying taking his kids, nieces, and nephews to Camp Allison on the Llano River or to Rough Canyon on Lake Amistad. He also took pleasure in an occasional round of golf, pass-

Thank You

We would like to sincerely thank each and every one of you for being very supportive in our times of need and comfort. Thank you for all the prayers, flowers, cards, food, phone calls and visits.

Words cannot express the gratitude felt by us in this time of our lives, but it means so much for us to know that so many people care about our loss.

May God bless you all

Sincerely,
The Castilleja Family

Quisieramos darle las mas sinceras gracias a todos por habernos acompañado en nuestra irreparable perdida de nuestra gran amada Amanda. No tenemos palabras para hacerles saber que tan agradecidos estamos con cada uno de ustedes por sus oraciones, acompañamiento, comida, arreglos florales, llamadas y todas sus muestras de cariño y amor. A un mas muchisimas gracias por todas sus atenciones.

Que Dios los bendiga
Las Familia Castilleja

Happy Birthday

January 4

Xzavier Castilleja, Delaney Ramsdell, Heather Smith, Wylie Wagoner, Lorie Powers, Jamer Alexander, Elyssa Prieto, Ebot Flores, Katelyn Lipham, Linda Neff, Cyndye Batchelor, Kallie Humphrey, Hope Mesa, Elizabeth Flores

January 5

Nicole Aguirre, Randy Garcia, Renee Smith, Demetrio Castro, Jr., Colton Hooper, Miranda Perez, Francisco Perez, Marlene Ortiz, Robert Hughes

January 6

Bill Savell, Jr., Loyd Rennels, Glinda Ann Gutierrez, Joe Buitron, Martha Perez, Emma Rose Perez

January 7

Beth Wallace, Bethany Deel, Rosa Tamez, Bud McGinnis, Maci Zuniga, Martha Gonzalez

January 8

Whiskey Hill, Lisa Karnes, Kathy Marshall, Will Allen, Michelle Lipham, Barry Noriega, Kole Gann, Riley W. Byrne

January 9

Mark Holman, Sheryl Bawcom, Peter Perez, Mason Arispe, Anissa Reyes, Danny Ellison, Crispin Lira, Jr., Sue Smith, Leandro Alvizo, Dorothy Jimenez

January 10

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

Letter to the Editor

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Historical Society



The Devil's Retreat at the corner of Main and Concho, home to the Devil's River News, post office and Steve and Mike Murphy

ASK THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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

Q. Do you have any information on Steve Murphy who died in 1934?

A. Steve Murphy was born January 22, 1860. The first issue of "The Devil's River News" was printed by Mike Murphy, his brother, on October 18, 1890 and we find that Steve started working at the paper in time for the November 5, issue to list him as an employee.

"The Devil's River News," July 20, 1934. The being that was Steve Murphy, "the Old Devil," is no more but the memories of

Sonora's best known citizen are destined to remain with Sonora and Sutton County people for many years to come.

Funeral services for Mr. Murphy, who died of apoplexy Thursday of last week (July 12, 1934) were conducted Friday morning at the home he shared with his sister-in-law, Mrs. Clara Murphy. Another service was conducted at Fairmount Cemetery in an Angelo where he was buried later in the morning. Services were conducted here by the Rev. Father M. Arconada and by the Rev. Father John Krukkert, Pastor of the Sacred Heart Church. (He is buried in the Hagerlund plot with Clara Lee Hagerlund Murphy, her first husband Mr. Hagerlund and her second husband Mike Murphy

who was Steve's brother.)

A feature story telling of his life appeared in the San Angelo Times the day of his death. It is reprinted, in part, here: "Unmarried he was a lover of children and children in the border town of Villa Acuna called him 'old man Nickeldy' for on many Sunday mornings he walked down the streets of town giving nickels to each child that he encountered. The trip was marked by laughs of the children and by a purring melody of sound and hand pattings of the donor. It grew to be a custom and his arrival there was expected."

"Mr. Murphy dressed usually in a black suit, but there was nothing somber in his moods, for his laughs came from the eyes as well as the lips. They

were not made at the expense of someone else for he was not a "kiddier" - he drew his material for happiness from something other than the misfortunes of others. His eyes alight, his right hand patting the black bowl of his pipe, he was often the center of a crowd."

"He imported Ireland to the Stockman's Paradise, and people here said time and time again, "that if Ireland were as contagiously witty and happy as old Steve, then it were indeed the bonnie isle."

"Seriously, he said to his friends when mention of death on day came up, 'I would not mind when I die to nourish a live oak tree, to shelter the animals of the range and feed them when they are hungry. I am not at all afraid of what is on the other side and I know good and well that all is well on that side.' There was poetry in that soul, too."

"Many Sonora people had worked for him some time or other on "The Devil's River News," which he had sold to Mr. Mark A. Wilson. Steve put out his last issue of the paper on March 26, 1927. The office was in a building near which Mr. Murphy spent a good many of his waking hours since selling out, the local bar. When in the newspaper business he was never in a hurry."

"Even on press day, when people came in to see him, he sat down for a chat that ended only when the other man left. Conversation oiled the wheels of living for Steve Murphy and there was no greater exponent of the art than he. He was the kind of man that people could travel

through the desert with and never become aware of the fact but that the man with him was a part of their own being."

"While in the paper business he was an intelligent and effective booster of Sutton County, a county he saw grow from the raucous days of the frontiersman to the solid prosperity, good homes, well improved ranches of 1934. It was not only the sweat of laborers, the brick, the mortar, the importation of fine livestock that made the county what it is today, but it was the well chosen publicity campaign that Steve Murphy gave the town and county that contributed to its development."

"One of the last comments he was heard to make was about the drought: 'We don't know whether the last rain is nearer to us than the next one, but we do know that in the middle of the next big rain somebody will be worrying about the next drought but that won't be me. I never did worry and never will, and I am 74."

"Life is to be enjoyed he would say. 'neither worry nor fret-I take it as it comes and like it."

Not that Steve and Mike didn't have problems during their years with the papers, they did but usually came up with solutions. When the people complained about their reporting on Mexican/American events in the paper, they cleverly hid the articles deeper in the paper in small 1 inch reports. At one time some of the early citizens had all threatened to cancel their subscriptions because of some large articles regarding Mexi-

can/American weddings. Steve and Mike found that running a newspaper someone was always angry with you because they had a different opinion or you forgot to run a story about their party. Being a newspaperman was not an easy profession in the fledgling town and a lot of the early advertising came out of San Angelo. One registered Democrat and the other Republican as their advertising from parties and publication of election returns as well as the US Post Office contract could be lost if you didn't belong to the party in power. About the only person we have ever found that the Murphy brothers just couldn't get along with was Mrs. MacDonald at the hotel. I guess they had a case of hate at first sight and never got over it all their lives. We owe a lot to Steve Murphy and his brother Mike for all the wonderful archived stories we have on early Sonora. May their Irish souls rest in peace after all their hard labor on this earth.

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@sonorax.net. You may call us on Tues., Thurs. and Fri. Morning at the office at 307 Oak St. 387-5084 or call me at home for emergencies at 387-2855.

STARGAZER

So Who Is the Stargazer?

Over the years I've answered countless questions about stars and stargazing via letters, emails, phone calls and at presentations, and I love it. And I get questions about me, people wanting to know, "Just who is the Stargazer?" And I don't mind answering that either.

I'm an amateur, not a professional astronomer. My degrees--BA, MSW and PhD from the University of Texas in Austin--are in sociology and social work. In 1998 I retired from my 35-year career as a social worker and college professor.

My interest in stargazing began as a teenager growing up on Galveston Bay near where NASA's Johnson Space Center is now located. The then-dark skies and an 81-year old stargazer, Margaret Willits, lit the initial fire. The flame burned long enough for my parents to get me a telescope, but then smoldered for 30 years, only to be rekindled by Halley's Comet in the mid-1980s. Since then it has burned with a vengeance.

Now virtually a full-time amateur astronomer, I spend my time writing, speaking and teaching, and, of course, stargazing when I can. This "career" began in 1990 when I began writing this every-other-week "Stargazer" column in the Waco Tribune-Herald. In 2002 it became more widely available, and now appears in some 40 papers.

My Stargazer Web site (www.stargazerpaul.com) was launched by a friend in 1998, then, once I got the hang of it, was taken over and expanded by me in 2002. My books, "A Beginner's Guide to Learning the Night Sky" and "Stargazer's Life List," came out in 2003 and 2004.

Each year I conduct some 50 presentations, classes and sky tours, most for free, for children and adults. If you'd like to schedule a program for your group or class, see my Web site for information or contact me. I even do some traveling.

Basic biographical data: I was born in Houston in 1940, raised in Bayview, TX, lived 10 years in Austin and the last 38 years in Waco; my wife, Jane, and I married in 1962, and have

two grown daughters and two grandchildren (who live next door).

And when I'm not stargazing? We are active in the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Waco, and I'm a folk musician who now plays for nursing homes rather than bars. And I love playing with my 6- and 9-year old neighbors!

Now that you know more about me, let me hear from you so I can get to know you better.

Sky Calendar.

* Jan. 3 Wed.: The January full Moon is called Moon After Yule and Old Moon; and Earth is at perihelion, nearest to the Sun in its annual elliptical orbit.

* 5 Fri.: The Moon and Saturn, up by 9 p.m., travel across the sky together all night.

* 6 Sat.: Tonight the Moon spends the night even closer to the star Regulus.

* 9 Tue. morning: Jupiter is to the left of Scorpius' brightest star Antares as they rise in the southeast just before dawn; and this is the morning of the year's latest sunrise for latitude 30 degrees north.

* 11 Thu. morning: The 3rd quarter Moon is to the right of

Virgo's bright star Spica high in the south before dawn.

* 15 Mon. morning: The crescent Moon passes less than two moonwidths to the right of Antares low in the southeast before dawn, with Jupiter to their upper left.

* 16 Tue. morning: Just before dawn, a thin crescent Moon is just above the southeastern horizon with Mars rising to its lower left and bright Jupiter higher above.

* 18 Thu.: The Moon is new.

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: Venus is emerging as the "evening star" low in southwest at dusk, and Saturn rises by 9:30 p.m. Morning: Saturn is high in the west with Jupiter, then Mars, rising before dawn.

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

The loveliest of faces are to be seen by moonlight, when one sees half with the eye and half with the fancy.

-Persian Proverb

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Eldorado Nursing Home Chit Chat

Happy New Year

By Annie Arispe

When a new year begins, it is sometimes difficult to switch gears for a few days. We find ourselves writing the wrong year on everything. We wonder, "Just where did the last year go, and what does this new year hold?"

We would like to invite the community to a Candlelight Memorial service for all of the residents passing away in 2006. The service will be held at 2:00 p.m. January 26, 2007 in the Nursing Home dining room.

The Nursing Home Wish Table was a great success, and we have a Tree of Thanks in the dining room for those donating gifts, money and time. Please stop by and view our Tree of Thanks.

One kind word can warm three winter months.

Cross Plains A Year Later

By Tumbleweed Smith



Last year on my way back from spending the holidays with my son and his family I stopped in Cross Plains. The city was heavily damaged by a fire that started apparently from a cigarette that some careless driver tossed out. The blaze was fanned by strong winds and destroyed about 25 percent of the homes in the city (population 1,068). Two people died. Others suffered respiratory problems.

I developed a strong feeling toward Cross Plains when I spoke at the chamber banquet there a few months prior to the fire. I was concerned about some friends there. When I spoke to them, their spirits were high. They personally had no damage and were busy helping others. As we drove around the town, the images of burned out houses and scorched vacant lots looked like a war scene. The smell of smoke was still in the air a week after the fire, which occurred two days after Christmas, 2005.

I interviewed half a dozen

victims of the fire that day, both children and adults. Instead of the expected tears and sadness, they were full of adrenalin, thinking about rebuilding and getting on with their lives. I wondered if they were still in shock. I had a profound experience that day and left with a sincere sense of admiration for the people of Cross Plains.

In January of 2006 my documentary class at The University of Texas of the Permian Basin in Odessa was just beginning. I gave the students a list of possible topics. One was the Cross Plains fire. They started asking questions about it and chose that as their semester project. In February we boarded a university van and went to Cross Plains to do some interviews. The students set up recorders in Sunday School classrooms at the First Baptist Church, which was headquarters for dealing with the fire's aftermath. The interviews revealed some dramatic stories: "Evil-looking clouds of black smoke approached the city from the west just after noon. Funnels of fire danced around town. It was an ocean of flames. The sky was brown, green, the sun was blood red. It was very eerie. You could hear

explosions every few seconds from gas tanks, paint cans and houses. The fire was coming faster than a horse could run. I saw about 30 deer running, 5 or 10 of them on fire. A squirrel was on fire and it ran along setting other fires. Our appliances melted. Things were just powder and ash."

116 homes were destroyed. 36 more were damaged. The cost to rebuild is estimated to be 10 million dollars. In the midst of the devastation, there was an outpouring of love. People from out of town donated \$640,000 to a disaster fund and brought in truckloads of food and clothing. Many of the lots were cleared within days. New homes are being built. My students learned a lot more than just how to produce a documentary. They learned a lot about the human spirit.

Exactly one year after the fire, the citizens of Cross Plains got together for a barbecue. Mostly it was a counting of blessings.

ON THE WATER

With Larry Nixon

New Year, New Gear

If you're anything like me, I'm sure that during the recent holiday season someone accused you of being a difficult person to buy presents for. Whether it's birthdays, Father's Days or holidays, no one seems to know what to get me. So, like many of you, I ring in the new year with a fist full of gift cards to my favorite sporting goods stores - each entitling me to my own little shopping spree. But these thoughtful gifts do more than give you the ability to roam aisle after aisle of your favorite retailer, they give you a chance to load up your tackle box for the upcoming year - arming you with the tools you need to make 2007 the year you catch the big ones.

So before you cash in your gift cards on tacky shirts and talking fish, here's some of the things you're sure to need in your boat this year.

A long, cold winter in the closet or the garage can be extremely damaging to fishing line. The normal wear and tear of scraping the line on rocks and stumps, the constant straining of the line as you wrench those big bucketmouths into the boat and sunlight all work together to weaken the structural integrity of the toughest, best-made fishing lines. Most pros re-spool their reels after every day of competition. Sure, it can be time consuming - especially when you're tired - but you don't want to miss the cut or a paycheck because a fish broke your line. At the store, look around and see which line best suits your needs. There are lines designed for every possible condition and technique. So start the year right -- fresh line makes a difference. There's a new Fireline for all you anglers that love this superline as much as I do. It's called Fireline Crystal, it's a white line that is just as good as the original line but with the lighter color it gives you more options with your presentation.

If you were really good this year, maybe you've got enough money on the gift card to get a new rod or reel. Abu Garcia released a new reel this year, truly the strongest, smoothest reel I have ever used. The Revo is a heavy-duty low-profile reel that is the best one Abu Garcia has ever put out. It's perfect for flipping jigs or retrieving crank baits and has all the features you need to land even the biggest fish. Pick one of these reels up and crank it one time - you'll feel the difference. You'll want a new rod to mount your new reel on, too, so check out the new Berkley Series One rods. They're high quality and very affordable, so even if you don't have enough money on the gift card you won't have to dig too deep into your pocket to take it home with you.

And finally, if you've got any money left over, this is a great time of year to pick up some really good deals on baits. Who knows where you'll be able to fish this year or what the fish will be biting when you get there. I like to keep some various sizes and colors on board. A trip to the sporting goods store is a great way to spend one of the cold winter days that stand in the way of you hitting the water. Take your kids or grandkids with you and pick them up something, too, that way you're sure to have someone to share the experience with this year. So don't let those gift cards go to waste, turn them into something that will help you catch the fish of a lifetime in 2006.

Larry Nixon is a former Bassmaster Classic champion with more than \$1.5 million in career earnings on the BASS Tour. Currently fishing the FLW Tour, Nixon lives in Bee Branch, Ark.

Two Sonora Football Players Make All-West Texas Team

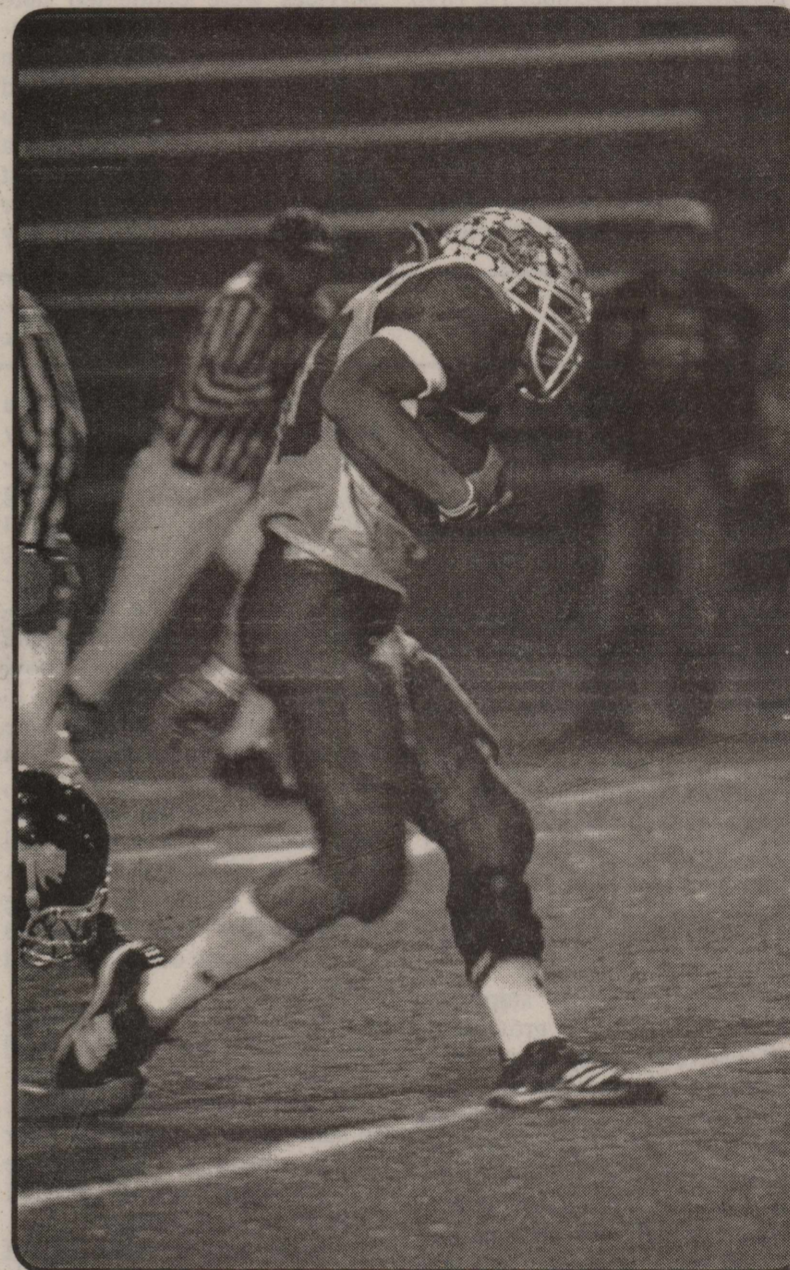
Senior running back Justin Northcott and senior wide receiver Evan Gulley have made the All-West Texas football team.

of Northcott and Gulley led the Broncos to a third place finish in district 8-2A behind Blanco and Comfort and a first round play-off game against Ozona.

The offensive productivity



Evan Gulley
All West Texas
Bronco



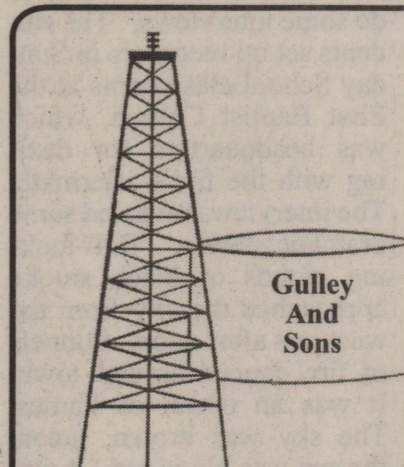
Justin Northcott
All West Texas
Bronco

Sonora Broncos Basketball Schedule

Date	Opponent	Site	JV	Var
Jan 5	Reagan County	Home	6:00	7:30
Jan 9	TBA			
Jan 12	TBA			
Jan 16	Mason*	Away	5:00	8:00
Jan 19	Brady*	Home	5:00	8:00
Jan 23	Blanco*	Home	5:00	8:00
Jan 26	Comfort*	Away	5:00	8:00
Jan 30	Junction*	Away	5:00	8:00
Feb 2	Mason*	Home	5:00	8:00
Feb 6	Brady*	Away	5:00	8:00
Feb 9	Blanco*	Away	5:00	8:00
Feb 13	Comfort*	Home	5:00	8:00
Feb 16	Junction*	Home	5:00	8:00

Sonora Bronco Basketball Schedule

Sponsored by
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Gulley



Sonora Colts Basketball Schedule

Date	Opponent	Girls	Boys
01/04	Junction	Home	Away
01/11	Comfort	Home	Away
01/11,12,13	Wall Tournament		
01/18	Mason	Away	Home
01/20	Llano Tournament		
01/25	Brady	Home	Away
02/01	Blanco	Home	Away
02/08	Comfort		Home

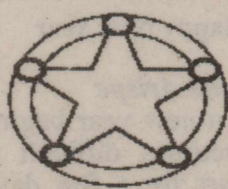
Sudoku

8		2			1	3	4	5
	5	3		2				8
			8	3	5	6		2
		1	6	8	7			5
7	4	5	9		2	8		
6		9			4	1	2	
	7	6		4		2		8
2			5	7				3

Answers on page 8.

Lady Broncos Basketball Schedule

Date	Opponent	Site	JVG	VG
Jan 5	Blanco*	Away	5:00	6:30
Jan 6	Comfort*	Home	5:00	6:30
Jan 12	Junction*	Home	5:00	6:30
Jan 16	Mason*	Away	5:00	6:30
Jan 19	Brady*	Home	5:00	6:30
Jan 23	Blanco*	Home	5:00	6:30
Jan 26	Comfort*	Away	5:00	6:30
Jan 30	Junction*	Away	5:00	6:30
Feb 2	Mason*	Home	5:00	6:30
Feb 6	Brady*	Away	5:00	6:30



Lady Bronco Schedule
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City Police Dispatcher Report

Arrest(s):

December 20, 2006

• 3:20 PM: John Anthony White, 37, from San Angelo, Texas was arrested for an out of jurisdiction warrant from Kimble County for Felony Theft.

December 22, 2006

• 12:50 AM: Jorge Rolando Gaytan, 40, from Sonora, Texas was arrested for Assault Causing Bodily Injury.

Incidents:

December 18, 2006

• 6:10 AM: Caller reported a female and male arguing. Officer responded.
 • 2:37 PM: Caller reported a dog that was not being fed by owner. Animal Control Officer responded.
 • 6:50 PM: Caller reported loud music. Officer responded.
 • 7:30 PM: Caller reported a family disturbance. Officer responded.
 • 9:50 PM: Caller reported loud music. Officer responded.

December 19, 2006

• 10:43 AM: Caller reported a suspicious person. Deputy responded.
 • 11:46 AM: Caller reported a disturbance. Officer responded.
 • 1:47 PM: Caller requested to speak to animal control. Animal Control Officer notified.
 • 2:53 PM: Caller requested assistance with unlocking a vehicle. Officer responded.
 • 3:08 PM: Caller requested an officer at residence. Officer responded.
 • 3:27 PM: Caller requested assistance with unlocking a vehicle. Officer responded.
 • 8:00 PM: Caller requested assistance with unlocking a vehicle. Officer responded.
 • 9:50 PM: Caller reported a theft. Officer responded.
 • 11:00 PM: Caller requested welfare assistance. Officer responded.

December 20, 2006

• 9:22 AM: Caller reported a theft. Officer responded.

• 11:17 AM: Caller requested assistance with unlocking a vehicle. Officer responded.
 • 11:37 AM: Caller reported a loose dog. Animal Control Officer responded.
 • 10:15 PM: Caller reported suspicious vehicle. Officer responded.

December 21, 2006

• 8:20 AM: Caller reported a loose dog on roadway. Animal Control Officer responded.
 • 9:20 PM: Report of disturbance. Officer responded.
 • 9:55 PM: Caller requested assistance with unlocking a vehicle. Officer responded.

December 22, 2006

• 12:50 AM: Caller reported a family disturbance. Officer responded.
 • 9:41 AM: Caller reported a vehicle with loud exhaust. Officer notified.
 • 10:20 AM: Caller requested an officer at residence. Officer responded.
 • 5:35 PM: Caller requested an officer at business. Officer responded.
 • 7:20 PM: Caller requested assistance with unlocking a vehicle. Officer responded.

December 23, 2006

• 12:35 AM: Burglary alarm. Officer responded.
 • 9:00 AM: Burglary alarm. Officer responded.
 • 11:50 AM: Caller reported a car in driveway. Officer responded.
 • 2:05 PM: Caller reported a possible break-in at a business. Officer responded.
 • 3:10 PM: Caller reported a minor accident at the Family Dollar. Officer responded.
 • 5:45 PM: Caller requested assistance with unlocking a vehicle. Officer responded.
 • 6:30 PM: Caller requested assistance with unlocking a vehicle. Officer responded.
 • 8:45 PM: Caller reported gunshots. Officer responded.
 • 9:10 PM: Caller requested assistance with unlocking a vehicle. Officer responded.

December 24, 2006

• N/A



Joseph Delgado, age 8 on his first deer hunt killed this fine doe with a .223 cal. rifle. He was hunting with his uncle Frank on the Bill Title Ranch Dec. 18, 2006.

Flylady & The Dinner Diva

Putting out Fires

by The FlyLady, Marla Cilley

Why do we have to wait till the Christmas and New Year's holidays to be nice to one another? Are we just too busy to help each other out at other times of the year or is it just not in our vision? When we are too busy we don't see the needs. We are walking in that fog that we call our lives. Our attention is focused only on what we see within that immediate vicinity. This is when we are having to race to put out fires that are taking over our homes and our schedules. No wonder we can't see the needs of others; those raging infernos are about to devour everything around you.

Several years ago I was just like you! My whole day consisted of going from one fire to the next and sometimes jumping right out the frying pan into the fire. It is so hard to get out of this chaotic mess. We don't know how to put out all the fires at once. This is what we think we have to do. But it is not what works.

We have been surviving on a steady flow of adrenalin pumping through our bodies. This adrenalin has been our drug of choice. We don't know how to function unless we are racing to put out yet another fire. If somehow we did manage to extinguish all the fires at once we would not know what to do with ourselves.

This is why I preach taking BabySteps! BabySteps work! One little habit will help you to eliminate a potential fire starter. As you build your simple little habits into a routine; you are going to be so surprised that your stress level has decreased and you don't seem to be in that tizzy all the time anymore. It doesn't happen all at once. Our bodies would rebel if we quit our adrenalin junkie habit cold turkey. Establishing one habit at a time slowly decreases our

dependency on that drug of choice.

I never dreamed that I could function without being stressed out. I took great pride in working better under pressure. Boy was I wrong. As I look back now I can see that most of what I did was thrown together and not done with any planning. You could say I was flying by the seat of my pants. I don't have to live this way any longer.

My routines keep me sane. I am not walking in a fog and I can see clearly what needs to be done. I can also see someone else's needs. It is such a joy to be able to Pay It Forward at a moment's notice. It brings a smile to my face and puts a song of love in my heart for my fellow man.

At this time of year being nice is brought to our attention. We watch the holiday movies on television and hear about random acts of kindness. Last week in Indiana at a Starbucks drive thru window 140 people paid for the person behind them in line. This went on for three hours. Just yesterday my friend, Eric Dodge told me about a song he was working on as a gift for the troops. His lead guitarist, Jim Sevy wrote a song to lift the spirits of our troops and their families. Eric recorded it and put it as a free download on his website, www.EricDodge.com. The song is called "I Pledge". All they wanted to do was brighten the day of one soldier. Today Eric got an email from a soldier thanking him for the song. It made his day.

What have you done today to brighten someone's day? How have you used your talents to bless the world? If you say, "I don't have time!" Then look at the fires that you are constantly fighting. These fires are keeping you locked in chaos. Simple routines will open up your schedule for the good things of life!

What to do about Darfur?

By U.S. Sen. John Cornyn

Sudan is Africa's largest country. The Nile River starts its northern flow to the Mediterranean at the confluence of the White Nile and Blue Nile rivers, near the Sudanese capital of Khartoum.

But the life-giving majesty of the world's longest river contrasts with the horror and tragedy that have plagued Sudan since it gained independence from Egypt and Great Britain in 1956.

Conflict based on ethnic, racial and religious differences has wracked the country from its inception. War, famine and disease have led to an estimated two million deaths, and created some four million homeless refugees over two decades.

Today, the deadly civil war in Darfur, a western region in Sudan roughly the size of Texas, has become the world's most dire human rights and humanitarian crisis.

Since 2003, at least 300,000 men, women and children have been killed, and some 2.2 million people—approximately one-third of Darfur's population—have been terrorized and driven from their homes.

We are all too aware of casualties in Iraq and Afghanistan, but many Americans are largely oblivious to this genocide in an African region less than 1,500 miles from Baghdad.

Even while we have attempted to coax African countries and the United Nations into more effective intervention, President George W. Bush has led an aggressive U.S. response to the Darfur atrocities.

In the past three years, the United States has provided more than \$1.4 billion in humanitarian assistance to Darfur victims. We have provided more than 85 percent of the food distributed this year, and contributed \$300 million to support 34 base camps for peacekeeping forces, along with maintenance, communications, training and airlift support.

Diplomatically, we are pushing the UN, Europe, African Union and others to devise an effective solution for peace. In December, after meeting with the President's newly appointed Special Envoy to Sudan, Andrew Natsios, I co-sponsored a Senate Resolution demanding that the Sudanese government either comply with mandates from the international community, to include allowing a fortified UN peacekeeping force in the region, or face serious consequences.

"There is a strong Texas contingent that has really been outspoken on Sudan issues," said Sam Bell of the non-profit Genocide Intervention Network. He said his group's "hall of fame" includes the religious community of Midland, where several churches have established sister congregations in southern Sudan.

At home and in Darfur, the group has staged fundraisers for Sudanese schools, led a vigorous letter-writing campaign here and in Sudan, and hosted Sudanese exiles in Midland.

In Dallas, the congregation of Temple Emanu-El helps spearhead "Operation Dolls for Darfur," which raises awareness about the crisis through the sales of Guatemalan "worry doll" lapel pins, and other grassroots efforts.

Today, most Americans are only vaguely aware of the genocide in Darfur. The horror is occurring in a remote country, and the central government has effectively excluded international news media from covering the crisis.

But any effective campaign to alleviate suffering in Darfur must start with public awareness—both to educate the public and pressure the Sudanese government for a resolution. The individual efforts of our fellow Texans to achieve these goals provide an inspiring example for us all.

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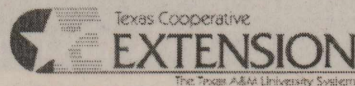
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<p style="text-align: center;">Circle "S" Automotive</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 0.8em;">501 S. Crockett Sonora, Texas 76950 325-387-5167</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Mary Kay</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 0.8em;">For all your beauty needs contact Victoria Richardson 100 Edgemont 325-387-5280 victorch45@hotmail.com</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Charles Howard Construction, Inc.</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 0.8em;">Oilfield Contractor Asphalt & Concrete Construction</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 0.7em;">email: chowardconst@sonoratx.net phone: (325) 387-3093 fax: (325) 387-5543 mobile: (325) 206-0497</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Memories By McBride</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 0.8em;">Juanita McBride 325-387-5959 325-226-3491</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 0.7em;">Sports Photography • Weddings Quinceanera • Senior Pictures Christmas Photos</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Service Directory Rates</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 0.7em;">1-1½ inch box \$3.50/wk 1½ - 2½ inch box \$6.50/wk logo or graphic in box extra \$3.00/wk</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Rafter W Feed</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 0.8em;">201 Cedar 387-3042</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 0.7em;">Your local Acco, Purina and Sure Fed Feed Dealer</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Put Your Business Here 387-2507</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Team Graphics</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 0.7em;">CUSTOM SCREEN PRINTING EMBROIDERY T-Shirts • Caps Marla Percifull 325-387-5017 Sonora, TX</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Todd's Hot Shot Service</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 0.8em;">1012 Tayloe 387-3731 206-1150 (Todd Munn) 206-0051 (Pam Munn) Fast, Dependable, Reliable!</p>	

Oil & Agribusiness

Don't Forget Your Pets During Winter



By Pascual Hernandez

Though our winters are generally mild, we try to remind our pet owners not to forget their pets during winter. It has been cold lately and more cold weather is surely in store for us. These cold spells during winter can pose special risks to pets. As such, remember to keep outdoor pets in a warm dry area.

If your dog is an outdoor dog, however, it must be protected by a dry, draft-free doghouse that is large enough to allow the dog to sit and lie down comfortably, but small enough to hold in its body heat. You might even need to elevate your pet's bed off the floor and cover with cedar shavings or

straw. The house should be turned to face away from the wind, and the doorway can be covered with waterproof burlap or heavy plastic.

Staying warm means that the body will use extra calories so adjust your pet's diet accordingly when the temperatures drop. It becomes more important if you have an active or working dog. Increase its food supply, particularly protein. Also, your dog may be more sensitive to cold due to age, illness, or breed type. Short-haired breeds are obviously more affected by cold.

Cats often nap on warm car engines, so knock on the hood or tap the horn and then wait a few minutes before starting the car. Pets like the smell and taste of anti-freeze but even a small amount can kill them so watch for leaks. If the weather

becomes severe it might be a good idea to bring your pet inside.

Also remember that many plants - including Christmas rose, holly, mistletoe, philodendron and dieffenbachia - are toxic to pets. Keep them out of your pet's reach.

Our pets provide us with companionship and affection, so don't forget to keep them as comfortable as possible this winter.



How about a comfy pet bed for your loved ones!

Cattlemen's Capitol Concerns

NCBA Petitions for Review of Coarse PM Rule: NCBA filed a petition December 18 in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit seeking review of the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) air quality standards that regulate agricultural dust. The EPA released the rule revising the Clean Air Act National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for Particulate Matter (dust) on October 17. NCBA maintains that there is no scientific evidence warranting the regulation of dust on farms and ranches.

"On livestock operations, dust is produced by tilling soil, planting and harvesting crops, driving on dirt roads, spreading nutrients on fields, mixing feed, and by cattle simply moving around in feedlots. These are examples of the dust that that would be regulated under a coarse PM NAAQS," says Tamara Thies, NCBA's director of environmental issues. "Many farms and ranches are simply unable to control dust to the level EPA requires, even after using available best management practices. The EPA has put agriculture in an impossible situation, with no scientific justification."

NCBA submitted extensive comments on the issue, including technical evidence demonstrating that fugitive dust from agriculture operations presents no public health concerns. "Ranchers are experienced in managing air quality and utilizing dust control practices on their ranches," says Thies. "Dust is - at most - a nuisance issue and should be regulated accordingly. It is not a health issue that warrants regulation at the level that EPA's rule requires."

Koreans Pay World's Highest Prices for Beef: The U.S. Meat Export Federation (USMEF) now calculates that South Korea has the highest average beef prices in the world. "It's a dubious honor," says Phil Seng, USMEF president and CEO. "South Korean consumers are now paying the highest prices for average quality beef, in part because of overly strict import policies on U.S. beef." In large supermarket chains, USMEF calculated that Seoul consumers are paying an average of US

\$31 per pound for sliced chuck roll while Japanese shoppers can buy equivalent product for \$21 per pound.

Japan's Restaurants Want Our Beef: This week, the Japan Food Service Association (JFSA) and three other restaurant groups urged their government to break down remaining trade barriers to U.S. beef. The groups say that restrictions on U.S. beef exports to Japan have left supplies low and driven up prices.

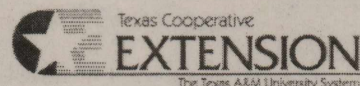
JFSA Official Kunio Chiba told reporters: "Wherever U.S. beef is served, it has been very popular. But restaurants are struggling to secure a constant supply. Tender U.S. beef has long been loved by Japanese. The current import restrictions are hurting beef restaurants all over Japan."

NCBA will continue to urge Japan to fully reopen its market to U.S. beef, as they currently allow only beef from cattle aged 20 months or younger, which has no basis in science nor is it in line with international standards set by the World Organization for Animal Health.

Canadian Import Permitting:

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) is proposing regulatory amendments to its import system for bovine animals and products from the U.S. Under the proposal, U.S. beef and cattle would be imported with CFIA permits. Canada says this system would allow CFIA to more effectively respond to evolving international standards and effectively track animals in the case of a foreign animal disease outbreak. "The new system would also provide Canada greater flexibility to more quickly implement revisions to import policies, such as previously announced changes to bluetongue-related import requirements for U.S. cattle," says the CFIA. "Similarly, the Agency could introduce any changes deemed necessary to Canada's anaplasmosis and small ruminant import policies, both of which are currently under review. These proposed amendments are published in the Canada Gazette www.canadagazette.gc.ca.

Boost Livestock With Nutrient Supplements in Winter



By Pascual Hernandez

Livestock graze pastures all year long, but the nutrient composition changes with the seasons, and fall and winter diets are generally low in protein, minerals and vitamins, and thus usually inadequate for grazing animals. Once grass has stopped growing and loses its green lush appearance, it becomes coarse and fibrous. Crude protein content of grass falls, and the forage becomes harder to digest.

Animals consuming diets low in protein lose their appetite, develop a rough appearance, become weak and possess lowered resistance to disease. Additionally, their overall growth and reproduction may be reduced. Some people think animals can simply consume more to make up the needed

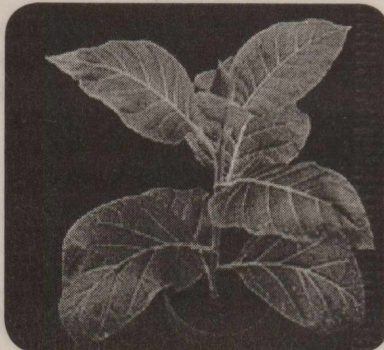
nutrients. But, since the grass is slowly digested, consumption is lowered and the animal receives even less nutrients. If protein is added to this type of diet, digestion will increase, and eventually the animal will eat more.

Protein supplements are available in many types and forms, such as cubes, cakes, and liquids. Each will vary in nutrient composition and concentration, and the producer should be aware of the protein amount. Since protein is required for growth and milk production, protein requirements for developing and lactating females are higher than for dry, pregnant ones.

Also, the amount of dry matter (energy), minerals, vitamins and protein should all be considered when a deficiency occurs. In years when energy is low, some grain should be fed as an energy supplement along with protein to make up

the difference.

For additional or related information, visit the Sutton County Extension website at <http://sutton-co.tamu.edu>.



Tobacco Leaf

Sutton County ranchers in the 1930s used tobacco to control stomach worms in sheep.

In 2006, scientists found tobacco extract killed stomach worms in the petrie dish. It seems that our ancestors already knew that it also killed the worms in their sheep!

RRC Production Statistics and Allowables for January 2007

AUSTIN -- The Texas average rig count as of Dec. 15, 2006, was 767, representing about 48 percent of all active land rigs in the United States. In the last 12 months, total Texas reported production was 343 million barrels of oil and 6 trillion cubic feet of natural gas. Texas natural gas production represents approximately 29 percent of total U.S. natural gas demand.

The Commission's estimated final production for October 2006 is 29,473,592 barrels of crude oil and 463,931,846 Mcf (thousand cubic feet) of gas well gas.

The Commission derives final production numbers by multiplying the preliminary October 2006 production totals of 27,982,144 barrels of crude oil and 411,688,567 Mcf of gas well gas by a production adjustment factor of 1.0533 for crude oil and 1.1269 for gas well gas. (These production totals do not include casinghead gas or condensate.)

Texas natural gas storage reported by the Commission for November 2006 is 444,342,701 Mcf compared to 333,748,334 Mcf in November 2005. The December 2006 gas storage estimate is 422,941,644 Mcf.

The Texas Railroad Commission's Oil and Gas Division set initial January 2007 natural gas production allowables for prated fields in the state to meet market demand of 21,980,998 Mcf (thousand cubic feet). In setting the initial January 2007 allowables, the Commission used historical production figures from previous months, producers' demand forecasts for the coming month, and adjusted the figures based on well capability. These initial allowables will be adjusted after actual production for January 2007 is reported.

Total well completions for 2006 year to date are 12,308 up from 10,058 recorded during the same period in 2005.

November Permits To Drill

The Commission issued a total of 1,258 original drilling permits in November 2006 compared to 1,552 in November 2005. The November total included 1,090 permits to drill new oil and gas wells, 54 to re-enter existing well bores, and 114 for re-completions. Permits issued in November 2006 included 263 oil, 290 gas, 666 oil and gas, 33 injection, three service and three other permits.

November Oil And Gas Completions

In November 2006, operators reported 423 oil, 846 gas, 20 injection and one other completion compared to 293 oil, 631 gas, 31 injection and six other completions during November 2005.

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January 2, 2007

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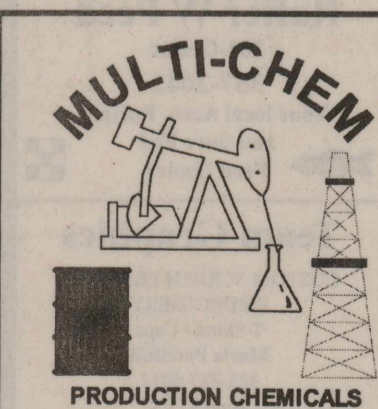
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Rig Report as of 12/29/06

Sutton

1 Dominion Ok Tx E&p 9975' Thorp -30- #1 Dw Patterson Drilling/a 39 01/02/07 Assigned
2 Dominion Ok Tx E&p 9450' Duke Wilson -21- #12 Dw Patterson Drilling/a 704 12/27/06 3 Drlg Ahead
3 Dominion Ok Tx E&p 9325' Joe Friend Estate #5-27 Dw Patterson Drilling/a 120 12/13/06 17 Drlg Ahead
4 Dominion Ok Tx E&p 9275' Hudspeth -1017- #2 Dw Patterson Drilling/a 108 12/27/06 3 Drlg Ahead
5 Dominion Ok Tx E&p 8950' H E Glasscock Et Al #29-9 Dw Patterson Drilling/a 742 01/02/07 Assigned
6 Dominion Ok Tx E&p 8350' Minnie H Mayer -a- #1-2 Dw Patterson Drilling/a 122 12/26/06 4 Drlg Ahead
7 Dominion Ok Tx E&p 8250' Brown Whitehead -2- #53 Dw Patterson Drilling/a 39 12/10/06 20 Drlg Ahead
8 Dominion Ok Tx E&p 7800' J W Ward -118- #12 Dw Patterson Drilling/a 115 12/22/06 8 Drlg Ahead
9 Dominion Ok Tx E&p 7150' J W Ward -118- #21 Dw Patterson Drilling/a 105 12/29/06 1 Drlg Ahead
10 Dominion Ok Tx E&p 7150' J W Ward -118- #16 Dw Patterson Drilling/a 115 01/02/07 Assigned
11 Dominion Ok Tx E&p 7100' Canyon Ranch #1066x Dw Patterson Drilling/a 161 12/14/06 16 Drlg Ahead
12 Dominion Ok Tx E&p 6950' Shurley -98- #21 Dw Patterson Drilling/a 107 12/27/06 3 Drlg Ahead
13 Dominion Ok Tx E&p 6800' Kelly -102- #18 Dw Patterson Drilling/a 40 12/26/06 4 Drlg Ahead
14 Dominion Ok Tx E&p 6800' A D Holman #26-3 Dw Patterson Drilling/a 161 01/02/07 Assigned

Crockett

1 Fiml Natural Res 13000' Kenley #3183 Dw Grey Wolf Drilling/m 627 12/06/06 24 Drlg Ahead
New 2 Henry Petroleum 10800' Univ13 -fern1- #13 Dw Patterson Uti/midlan 57 12/31/06 Moving On
New 3 Anadarko E & P Co Lp 9500' Wilkins -13- #10 Dw Patterson Drilling/a 109 12/26/06 4 Drlg Ahead
4 Dominion Ok Tx E&p 9450' Joe Friend Estate #10-28 Dw Patterson Drilling/a 120 01/02/07 Assigned
5 Pogo Producing Co 9000' Woodward State #1 Dw Capstar Drilling 9 11/28/06 32 Logging 8600'
New 6 Approach Operating 9000' J R Bailey -a- #606x Dw Patterson Drilling/a 710 12/27/06 3 Drlg Ahead
7 Anadarko E & P Co Lp 8500' Ira Carson -54- #13 Dw Patterson Drilling/a 38 12/22/06 8 Drlg Ahead
8 Chevron/midlan 6800' A R Kincaid Trust -d- #31 Dw Nabors Drilling (O) 353 11/30/06 30 Drlg Ahead
New 9 Fiml Natural Res 5500' Baggett Oz -f- #1125d Dw Patterson Drilling/a 721 12/26/06 4 Drlg Ahead

Schleicher

1 Dominion Ok Tx E&p 8250' University 54-25 #1 Dw Patterson Drilling/a 742 12/21/06 9 Drlg Ahead
New 2 Halliburton Op Co 6000' Holly Beth #1 Ft Ringo Drilling I Lp 1 12/29/06 1 Drlg Ahead

Edwards

1 Newfield 15500' Whitehead #8501 Dw Patterson Drilling/a 471 11/14/06 46 Drlg Ahead
New 2 Newfield 9000' Mayfield -206- #1 H Dw Patterson Drilling/a 118 12/25/06 5 Drlg Ahead

Val Verde

New 1 Willo Oil & Gas Exp 15100' Mills -16- #2 Dw Patterson Uti/midlan 79 12/31/06 Moving On

Terrell

1 Energico Production 13900' Slaughter -63- #1 Dw Nabors Drilling (O) 420 11/19/06 41 Drlg Ahead
New 2 Conocophillips/odes 12500' Culbertson -16- #5 Dw Patterson Uti/lv 481 12/29/06 1 Drlg Ahead
3 Bp America Prod/mid 12000' Banner Estate #44 H Dw Helmerich & Payne(A) 214 11/14/06 46 Drlg Ahead
4 Encore Operating Lp 6600' Bassett Goode #9 Dw Nabors Drilling (O) 709 01/02/07 Assigned
5 Encore Operating Lp 6600' Bassett Goode #10 Dw Nabors Drilling (O) 709 12/15/06 15 Drlg Ahead

Contact RigData at 800-627-9785 or sales@rigdata.com for further information and to order the report or dataset.

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Public Notice

Notice is hereby given to Rebecca Burge to appear in the Juvenile court of Anderson County TN January 22, 2007 at 1:30 p.m.

Public Notice

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS OF PROPOSED TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (TxDOT) CONTRACTS
Sealed proposals for contracts listed below will be received by TxDOT until the date(s) shown below, and then publicly read.
CONSTRUCTION/MAINTENANCE/BUILDING FACILITIES CONTRACT(S)

Dist/Div: El Paso
Contract 6157-27-001 for REST AREA TOTAL MAINTENANCE, OPERATION AND REPAIR in EL PASO County, etc will be opened on February 09, 2007 at 1:00 pm at the State Office for an estimate of \$4,608,000.00. All prospective bidders are encouraged to attend the pre-bid conference for Contract 6157-27-001 to be held on January 30, 2007 at 2:00 pm at the 150 EAST RIVERSIDE DR, 1ST FLOOR, VTR BOARD MEETING ROOM.

Plans and specifications are available for inspection, along with bidding proposals, and applications for the TxDOT Prequalified Contractor's list, at the applicable State and/or Dist/Div Offices listed below. If applicable, bidders must submit prequalification information to TxDOT at least 10 days prior to the bid date to be eligible to bid on a project. Prequalification materials may be requested from the State Office listed below. Plans for the above contract(s) are available from TxDOT's website at www.dot.state.tx.us and from reproduction companies at the expense of the contractor.
NPO: 22285
State Office

Constr./Maint. Division
200 E. Riverside Dr.
Austin, Texas 78704
Phone: 512-416-2540

Dist/Div Office(s)

El Paso District
District Engineer
13301 Gateway Blvd. West
El Paso, Texas 79928-5410
Phone: 915-790-4200
Minimum wage rates are set out in bidding documents and the rates will be part of the contract. TxDOT ensures that bidders will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, sex, or national origin.

Public Notice

ORDINANCE NO. 575
AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF SONORA, TEXAS, ABOLISHING THE MOSQUITO SPRAYING FEE; PUBLICATION; CONFLICT; VALIDITY; AND BECOMING EFFECTIVE TEN DAYS AFTER FIRST PUBLICATION.

Passed and approved this the 19th day of December, 2006.
Approved:
Gloria G. Lopez
Mayor
Attest:
Patti Prather
City Secretary

Public Notice

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR FLUID INJECTION WELL PERMIT
Dominion Oklahoma Texas E&P, Inc. is applying to the Railroad Commission of Texas for a permit to inject fluid into a formation which is not productive of oil or gas.

The applicant proposes to inject fluid into the Sawyer (Strawn N.) Kelley (Ellenburger) Fields 55, Well Number 5 SWD. The proposed injection well is located +/- 1 mile SE of Sonora TX in the Sawyer (Canyon) in Sutton County. Fluid will be injected into strata in the subsurface depth interval from 6607' to 7600' feet.
LEGAL AUTHORITY: Chapter 27 of the Texas Water Code, as amended, Title 3 of the Natural Resources Code, as amended, and the Statewide Rules of the Oil and Gas Division of the Railroad Commission of Texas.
Requests for a public hearing from persons who can show they are adversely affected, or requests for further information concerning any aspect of the application should be submitted in writing, with in fifteen days of publication, to the Underground Injection Control Section, Oil and Gas Division, RAILROAD COMMISSION OF TEXAS, Drawer 12967, Capitol Station, Austin, Texas 78711 (Telephone 512/463-6792).

Employment

EXPERIENCED DRIVERS NEEDED! Must have current Class A CDL and a good driving record. Experience driving transports, vacuum trucks, operation pump trucks & winch trucks. 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.

Employment Notice: Notice is hereby given that Sutton County is now accepting applications for (1) one full-time clerk in the Justice of Peace Office. Computer Experience Necessary. Applicants must have excellent clerical, phone communication and typing skills. Sutton County provides full-time employees with health/dental insurance, retirement benefits and paid vacation/sick leave. Applications may be obtained at the Justice of Peace Office at the Sutton County Courthouse, 102 N. Water, Sonora, TX 76950, Monday thru Friday, January 19, 2006, 5:00 p.m. Sutton County is an Equal Opportunity Employer

C.N.A.'s Needed! Crockett County Care Center in Ozona, TX is looking for goon C.N.A.'s that are willing to earn top dollar in long term care coupled with paid employee health insurance, personal time off and mileage allowance. CCCC is fresh off a deficiency free survey and is looking to repeat the same in 2007. Interested? Please call direct (no long distance), 392-2671 or drop by 103 N. Ave. H and ask for Vicki or Benny. C.C.C.C. is an E.O.E.

Help Wanted: Full time and part time. Apply at Mr. D's, 216 Hwy. 277 N. from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Mon. thru Fri.

Local company seeks workers: Will train. Must be 18 years or older, have a current TX drivers license and a clean driving record. Call 325-387-3154 for more information or stop by 307 E. Chestnut St. for application.

Employment

Lariat Services, Inc. is seeking an experienced Air Driller. Wage ranges between \$20.00 to \$24.00 a hour depending on experience. Will pay \$30.00 per diem and mileage reimbursement. Benefits include 401K Plan, Dental Plan and company paid Medical Insurance. Fax resume to 432-336-9339 or contact the Fort Stockton Office at 432-336-7821.

Caverns of Sonora hiring weekday and weekend guides. Please apply in person. 325-387-3105

Kinder Hearts Home Health, PLLC A solid and strong company that continues to grow rapidly is looking to fill the following positions in Sonora, TX: Attendant/Nursing Assistant to assist with private in-home care. Does not require a certification, Part-time and PRN positions available, please call or come by: 5122 Knickerbocker Rd, San Angelo, TX 76904, 325-949-2700/1-877-430-2700

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The Glover Company is seeking qualified and experienced CDL applicants. For Trans-VAC Drivers, Winch Truck Drivers, Swabbing Unit operators, and Swabbing Unit helpers. We Provide: Health Insurance, Life Insurance, Paid Vacation, Uniforms and Christmas Bonus. Please apply in person to 2973 I-10 or phone at (325) 392-2561.

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Lynn Meador, Broker 325-650-6324
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HOMES FOR SALE IN ELDORADO, TX

309 N. Cottonwood: Great Property! Very good condition, large 3 BR -2B Mft. doublewide. Native stone underpinning, all metal covered walkway and 2 car carport, large screen porch, large metal work shop, all on three city lots with pecan trees, etc.
\$55,000.00

508 North Street: Extra nice 4 BR-2B doublewide Mfg. home with large living area, fireplace, formal dining area, lots of storage, central heat/air, 2-car metal carport. Real nice.
\$65,000.00

607 Hall Street: Ready to move into. 3BR-2B doublewide Mfg home on two large corner lots. Kitchen/dining, fireplace, large master BR, all metal 2 car carport, metal privacy fence. Backyard with gazebo and storage bldg, covered front porch.
\$63,500.00

Please call for additional listings and information.
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For Sale

For Sale by Owner: 6 month old 4 bed/3 bath home, 2,674 sq. ft. smoke free with many amenities, including a built in entertainment center, fireplace, solid oak cabinetry throughout, lush upgrade carpet, office with built in desk and bookcases, formal dining room, oversized master/suite with parents retreat, outdoor storage and deck. Too many upgrades to list. Owners are moving, no renters, no owner financing available, call 325-226-4770 or 325-387-3634 for an appointment.

For Sale

House for sale in Eldorado, manufactured home, 2180 sq. ft. on 4 lots. 3/2, 3 car carport, garage, metal fence, large kitchen, fireplace, metal storage building, 2 luminaries, located at 608 Nance, 325-853-2438

House for Sale in Eldorado, 3Br/2 bath, built in 1982, 1800 sq. feet, formal dining room, 3 city lots, 25x35' utility barn, landscape sprinkler, fenced back yard, priced at \$55,900, for more information call 853-2191

Travel Trailer, 2001-27" TrailLite, fully equipped bumper pull, asking \$12,500. Call 853-2191

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May the love of Christ be with each of us as we celebrate the beginning of a New Year!

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CHAMBER CHATTER



Submitted by:
Becky Covington

The Sonora Chamber of Commerce, Keep Sonora Beautiful, are proud to announce First National Bank on Main Street as the recipient of the Landscaping Business Award for the month of December and recognized in Sonora as an official Partner in Beautification.

Elaine Donaldson and Gabriel Espinosa both have a "green thumb" and work diligently to keep the property landscaped and beautiful all year round. At Christmas, they put their special touch to the grounds and make it one of the most festive decorated properties in Sonora. Also, inside the bank Elaine has decorated the lobby with the most beautiful Christmas decorations selected from her many treasures.

Being recognized by Sonora Chamber of Commerce in this way validates our efforts and solidifies our partnership as we continue to work together to make the Sonora a place of pride and beauty. Awards are open to any business working to achieve the Keep Sonora Beautiful mission: to educate and engage Sonorans to take responsibility for improving their community environment. Take this special opportunity to show your support by nominating a business that you feel is making a difference in beautifying our community.

Talking about beautification, why would anyone be so destructive to trash our entrance to Sonora. During the Christmas Holidays, some senseless person placed an old couch and sign on top of it. Littering is against the law and you can be fined up to \$500 (as you may have seen on those blue Don't Mess with Texas signs). Repeat the offense, and you could face a fine up to \$2,000 and 180 days in jail. If you see someone littering, jot down the offender's license plate number, a description of the vehicle, the item littered, as well as the date, time, and location of the occurrence.

New Member: We are proud to welcome Smith Ranches owned by Olie and Carla Smith as our newest member to join the Sonora Chamber of Commerce. Now is a perfect time to join the Sonora Chamber of Commerce for our 2007 membership term. To become part of and have your business benefit from new developments, please apply on line or by visiting the Chamber Office and completing a membership application.

Senior Center News

Another year has come and gone. We at the Senior Center are grateful for all those making a difference in helping with the seniors and the Senior Center, especially the volunteers delivering meals in the rain, cold weather or sunshine.

Also to the nursing class with Ada Castilleja. They have been great. Home health programs included blood pressure and blood sugar checks every month. Thanks to Intrepid, Chart Well, Concho Valley Health, Maria Carrasco and Noremi Samaniego with Lillian M. Hudspeth Memorial Hospital, Kelly Thorp with nutritional education and diabetes classes, Senior Center Support Group, Nelda Yorba and her family, the Area Agency on Aging of San Angelo, Kathy Hardigree, Maggie Mesa for sweets and birthday cakes.

Thank you to Joanne and Rick Palmer for bring us Pancho Clause. Everyone has really enjoyed him, as well as other items donated for Bingo prizes. Beth Wallace and her Sunday School class for goodie bags for our homebound seniors, Mrs. Mary Perez and her school students for the very nice Christmas carols. Also to those helping with the Knights of Columbus Thanksgiving meals delivered to our homebound seniors.

I'd like to tell you about a couple. Billie and Jack Moore not only deliver meals on Tuesdays, but has also cooked and deliver Thanksgiving meals to

12-15 seniors, in order for them to enjoy a hot turkey meal. Her helpers for this year were: Donna Bloodworth, Debra Brewer, Alex Brewer and Matthew Maskill. Thanks guys.

Our Christmas party was great. Oscar Galindo and Charlotte Wilson shared Christmas carols, which were enjoyed and greatly appreciated. Everyone enjoyed Christmas cake and fruit bags. Door prize winners were: Sheila Castro, David Flores, Mary Gilley, Dorothy Fetteroff, Angelita Trevino, Jesus Hernandez, Maria Carrasco, Arturo Trevino, Charlotte Wilson, Tina Gallegos, Rebecca Perez, Phillip Cooper, Jean Redman, Aurora Cardenas and Roselia Chavez. Thanks to the staff and Senior Support Group, also Olivia Longoria for the table decorations.

Christmas is now behind us until next year. Our hope is that everyone had a joyous Christmas season.

May the new year bring health, wealth, love and joy for you and your family. We are really grateful for everything, and look forward to do better in the new year.

Don't forget to make your resolutions. Making them is always the easy part, but keeping them is another task altogether.

Come see us at the Senior Center. We have something for everyone. Come out and see what you are missing.

Happy New Year to all
Juanita Mesa - Director

Thank You

Wishes of gratitude and humble blessings to all who visited, prayed for, phoned and sent tokens of thoughtfulness to our father, Julio Sr.

His recovery is outstanding and he is doing well.

We are a fortunate family to live in such a caring community like Sonora.

We also would like to take this moment to gratefully ac-

knowledge all the medical staff at Lillian M. Hudspeth Memorial Hospital and Shannon Medical Center for their outstanding care.

It is true that God blesses us with caring and wonderful people who are His angels here on earth.

God bless everyone,
Julio Samaniego Sr. and Family

To the Moon, Mars, and Beyond

By Senator
Kay Bailey Hutchinson

Since Alan Shepard became the first American to travel into space in 1968, our nation has sent men to walk on the Moon, robots to chart the surface of Mars, and spacecraft to explore the far reaches of the universe. Driven by a spirit of exploration and discovery, the developments of the past few weeks remind us of the breadth and scope of our space program.

Today we are on the verge of an exciting new phase of exploration. The recent return of Space Shuttle Discovery to Earth capped a period of accomplishment for NASA. In early December, NASA announced its intentions to establish a permanent settlement at the south pole of the moon. A few days later, NASA scientists announced that a spacecraft orbiting Mars had discovered compelling evidence of water on Mars within the past seven years. And on December 9, Space Shuttle Discovery launched into the night sky on the latest mission to the International Space Station (ISS).

During NASA's 117th space shuttle flight, Discovery's seven-person crew rewired the ISS to establish a permanent electrical system. This new, more re-

liable power source will protect the groundbreaking scientific experiments being conducted in this unique national laboratory.

Planning is underway to send astronauts back to the moon for the first time since 1972, and the proposed lunar settlement will serve as a ground station of sorts for future space travelers. NASA's goal to establish a permanent base on the moon is part of the long-range Vision for Exploration announced by President Bush in January 2004.

NASA intends to build habitat and research facilities on the moon. The location currently under consideration is near the moon's south pole at the rim of the Shackleton Crater, aptly named for the legendary Antarctic explorer Sir Ernest Shackleton. As we develop self-sustaining habitats on the moon, we will use it as a base for observing both the Earth and the heavens beyond, and as a staging base for eventual human exploration of Mars.

We have long been interested in Mars, and this lunar station may very well lead to more extensive understanding of the red planet. We hope to one day send human crews to the surface of Mars, and until that is possible, we will continue to

study the planet through orbiting reconnaissance spacecraft and the Mars rovers, Spirit and Opportunity. Images provided by these hardy rovers allow for a far better understanding of the Martian environment.

New before-and-after images taken from orbit suggest the potential flow of liquid water on the Martian surface. This could be an enormous discovery that would increase the possibility of finding existing, primitive forms of single-cell life at or near the surface of Mars.

We are entering an exciting time for our space program. The enactment of the NASA Authorization Act of 2005, which I drafted, allows for the initial testing of the launch systems to replace the space shuttle as the principal means of sending humans and cargo into space. Over the next three years, we will see the completion of the ISS and its transition to a fully functional national laboratory. We will also see the development of a host of privately-financed commercial ventures to explore and utilize the region of space closest to the earth, including some intended to help support the use of the ISS. By the middle of the next decade, we will witness the early landings of probes and

sampling missions as we finalize our preparations to return humans to the moon's surface by 2020.

The drive to explore and discover has resulted in constant human progress. Our space exploration has yielded enormous, specific benefits to us on Earth. We have seen important, life-saving medical breakthroughs in diagnostic tools and treatments for disease. Through the unique weightless environment of the shuttle and the ISS, we are acquiring a new understanding of the structure of cells and proteins that will be key to developing new drugs and cures for diseases. The development of new technologies and manufacturing techniques has created entire new industries on Earth.

By expanding human civilization into the solar system, we may discover new sources for fuel and energy. Our work in space is truly an investment in mankind's future and in the improvement of the quality of life on Earth. The achievements of the next half-century promise to be even more astounding than the revolutionary advances we have witnessed since NASA's creation in 1958.

State Capital Highlights

Texas Press Association

North Texas lawmaker campaigns to unseat current speaker

By Ed Sterling

AUSTIN - When the Texas Legislature convenes Jan. 9, the 150 members of the Texas House of Representatives must choose who among them will preside as speaker.

Incumbent Speaker Tom Craddick, R-Midland, will need 76 votes - 50 percent of 150, plus one - to retain his office.

But Craddick will have competition this time from fellow Republican state Rep. Brian McCall of Plano.

McCall says he and other state representatives are ready for a change in leadership and he believes he has the votes to unseat Craddick. The House's composition is 81 Republicans and 69 Democrats. Without a large-scale switch of allegiance among Republicans to his camp, McCall will have to convince many Democrats to back him. Craddick, 63, was elected speaker in January 2003 after serving 34 years as a House member. He was re-elected speaker in 2005. McCall, 48, has served in the House since 1991.

President Ford honored in death

Gov. Rick Perry on Dec. 27 ordered all flags to be flown at half-staff in memory and in honor of the life and public service of former President Gerald R. Ford. Ford, 93, died Dec. 26.

"President Ford was a calming, dignified voice of leadership during a turbulent time in the history of our country," Perry said. "His tenure as president was extraordinary and his lifetime of public service to our country in the United States Navy and in Congress was admirable and worthy of the respect of all Americans."

The governor's directive applies to all U.S. and state flags under the control of the state. Flags will be at half-staff on the state

Capitol Building and on flag displays in the Capitol Complex, and upon all public buildings, grounds, and facilities throughout the state for 30 days.

Perry encouraged all Texans to fly flags at half-staff for the same length of time as a sign of respect.

Perry also ordered Texas flags to half-staff on Dec. 29 in honor of Scottie Stevenson, daughter-in-law of Gov. Coke Stevenson. She served as Texas' first lady after Gov. Stevenson's wife died and when her husband, Gov. Stevenson's son, was deployed to the Pacific during World War II.

TEA clears schools after audit

The Texas Education Agency closed investigations into possible TAKS testing irregularities at 592 Texas schools when no evidence of wrongdoing was found.

The agency said an analysis by Caveon Test Security earlier this year flagged 700 schools as having "data anomalies" during the 2005 testing period.

A school was flagged by Caveon if the firm's review found an aberrant or unusual response pattern, a large score gain, a statistically unusual number of erasures or very similar test responses, such as correctly answering hard questions while missing easy questions. The Commissioner's Task Force on Test Integrity concluded that security audits and on-site investigations found no evidence of action that violated the state's extensive test security system at 592 schools.

Three of the 700 schools flagged for their 2005 test results have since closed. Cases are still open for 105 schools.

Sierra Club joins coal lawsuit

Power companies are moving quickly on plans to build coal-fired plants in Texas to meet growing demand for power and to reduce the state's reliance on expensive natural gas to produce electricity. According to a Reuters news agency report, the Sierra Club has intervened in a lawsuit to slow the permitting

process for as many as 18 coal-fired power plants in Texas.

The suit, aimed mainly at plans by Dallas-based TXU Corp. to invest \$10 billion to build 11 pulverized coal-burning units in the next few years, seeks to overturn an executive order issued last year by Gov. Perry that accelerates the process to obtain an air permit in Texas. The State Office of Administrative Hearings has scheduled a Feb. 21 hearing to consider six air permits for identical coal units to be built at TXU sites in north Texas.

Former AG now out of prison

Dan Morales, who served two terms as Texas attorney general, has been released from federal prison in Texarkana.

Morales began serving a sentence in 2003 after he was convicted of fraud related to payment of attorney fees in the state's \$17 billion lawsuit against cigarette makers.

Morales has transferred to a halfway house in the San Antonio area.

Answers to this week's

Sudoku puzzle from

page 5.

8	6	2	7	9	1	3	4	5
1	5	3	4	2	6	7	8	9
4	9	7	8	3	5	6	1	2
3	2	1	6	8	7	9	5	4
7	4	5	9	1	2	8	6	3
6	8	9	3	5	4	1	2	7
5	7	6	1	4	3	2	9	8
2	1	8	5	7	9	4	3	6
9	3	4	2	6	8	5	7	1

The mind
requires exercise, too.

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DIRT CONSTRUCTION,
ROUSTABOUT AND
CONSERVATION WORK

F.Y.I.

Al-Anon Meetings - 7:00 p.m.
Tuesdays - L.M. Hudspeth
(old part) cafeteria.

Do Well, Be Well with Diabetes is an educational program for people with type 2 diabetes sponsored by Texas Cooperative Extension and the Sutton County Senior Center. Classes began October 19 and will be held on Thursdays at the Senior Center from 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. To register call Kelly Thorp at 387-3604 or Juanita Mesa at 387-5657. Transportation is available for senior citizens who qualify. The cost of the class is free.

The Sutton County EMS will sponsor an Emergency Medical Technician - Basic Program and an Emergency Medical Technician - Completer Program beginning January 8th.

The program will be held on Monday's and Wednesday's from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. and will include one Saturday session each month until April 18th. Cost of the program is \$125.00 which includes tuition and books.

For more information or registration, please contact the Sutton County EMS at 387-5132.

Spring classes for ESL and GED begin Thursday, January 4, 2007. These classes are offered free of charge on Tuesday and Thursday nights from 6-9 p.m. at the Vocational Building. For more information on ESL, call Delia Samaniego at 387-3029. For more information on GED, call Kathleen Freeman at 387-3736.

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