

The Devil's River News

75¢

Serving Sutton County Since 1890

Volume 119 • Issue 49

SONORA, TEXAS

Thursday, December 6, 2007

Christmas Break Reduced for Sonora Students

Three days of Christmas break have been rescheduled by the Sonora Independent School District. Sonora schools will dismiss classes for the Christmas holiday at 1:00 p.m. on Friday, December 21st. School will resume for both students and faculty after Christmas on Thursday, January 3rd, 2008.

The district's school calendar has been amended to resolve a scheduling problem involving the number of days of classes scheduled by the SISD for the 2007-08 school year.



During his down time from the Devil's River News advertising department, Ben Taylor plays solo gigs in and around the Sonora area, performing, for the most part, his original music.

Christmas Holds Joy, Reflection, and Anticipation for Local Musician

by Ben D. Taylor

Strangely enough, my favorite Christmas memory is more of a feeling than a specific memory. It is a feeling of excitement and anticipated change. Christmas in this part of Texas brings the first real change in the weather, the attitudes of people change (for the better) and, for me, there is anticipation for a better year on the horizon.

Three hundred and sixty-five days can pass like a ship into the fog. Looking back over the year, it feels that I am seeing it through someone else's eyes. It has been (most of all) a fast year for me. It's strange to me that time appears to pass faster or more slowly even though its over the same time period.

Crossing over into a new year usually brings me into a depression, and for some reason I feel a sense of loss associated with the passage. I have always felt this, it's almost as if I mourn the previous year gone. As with most years, 2007 was one full of events that served to change me. I moved over 300 miles, and noticed a few more grey hairs (interspersed across the bald spots) and, while on my journey, I found out that what I wanted out of life was not what I was actually doing. It was then that I finally found my way back home.

I also realized that I am a hopeless romantic and, most of the time, see the world as it should be, overlooking how it actually is (I believe this is a good thing in me). I have been healthy and sick, happy and sad, but most of all I will remember 2007 as a year of transition.

This year ended in heartbreak for some of those I care most about, but with the end of this year brings the promise of a better one. Music was a big part of this year for me, and I realize that life itself is a kind of song: Each year a verse, some more interesting than others, making you pay attention to the next string of rhyme. Some of the most beautiful songs ever written have a touch of sadness to them...to those of you whose year end was a sad one, be patient, the next verse is just now being written.

Words are important to me. Even though I do not dig deep into superstition, I think that sometimes a word or phrase keeps re-appearing in our lives through His design to serve as a sign. One word kept re-appearing in my life this past year. It's an old Hebrew word, Selah (pronounced Say La) meaning to pause and reflect. Through the transitions in my life this year, I think that God was telling me to pause and reflect over those changes, to see how they changed me, and to determine if I am using those changes in a positive way. Ask yourselves what lessons God wanted you to learn this year, I think you will be surprised.

I am optimistic for 2008, I think it will be a good one for our world. As a whole, I think our world needs some time to heal, we all need to Selah in a time of great transition.

I hope this message finds whoever stumbles across it well. Have a safe and Merry Christmas and a happy new year. Remember to pay attention to the words of the song.

"Mr. Christmas" Shares Gift of Song, Celebrates Season Online

by Becky McAngus

He's known affectionately as "Mr. Christmas" by those who receive his e-mail greetings between November 1st and the "big day". Ryon West sends his favorite Christmas tunes, via e-mail, to a list of 15 to 20 lucky listeners each work day. Burl Ives' chuckling rendition of "Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer" has come through our computer speakers. So has Bing Crosby crooning "White Christmas," and Peggy Lee "Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree." We've also been serenaded by Johnny Mathis, Elvis Presley and George Strait.

Ryon admits that Christmas music - all Christmas music - is his favorite. Traditional carols, including "O Holy Night" have been sent with his greetings, and so has "Grandma Got Run over by A Reindeer". Be it country or rock and roll, religious or just fun - if the song is about Christmas, there's a chance that he's heard it, and he's passing it along.

Ryon's coffee-cup greetings are perfect for those who might require a little extra motivation in the morning. For "Mr. Christmas", it's part of the 60-day celebration of his favorite time of the year. "Some of the best memories of my life center around Christmas," he acknowl-

edged. "My family always had huge Christmases with our extended family and a couple of extra friends or so at the ranch down in Camp Wood. We'd have a 10 to 12-foot Christmas tree and 50 to 60 people there on Christmas morning. I'm 33 and I can remember only two white Christmases in my lifetime - both of them at the ranch in Camp Wood."

Ryon puts an enormous effort into creating memories for his children. "We live 28 miles out in the country and we still put up lights on the outside of the house," he said. "My dad asked me why I would go through all that trouble when nobody else is going to see it. My response was: This way, Santa won't miss us."

The day after Thanksgiving, Ryon, his wife Jesse, and their children visited her family's ranch in Carta Valley and cut down a tree to decorate at their home on the Ft. McKavett Highway. "Jesse really shares the Christmas spirit with me," he said. The young family shared their first Christmas last year in their new home. "We're creating Christmas traditions and memories with our kids now," Ryon said. "It was wonderful to wake up in our home on Christmas morning."



Even as a youngster, "Mr. Christmas" was a big fan of the jolly guy in the red suit. As a parent, he enjoys seeing the same joy in the eyes of his children.

"I don't think I knew what Christmas really was about until I had kids," Ryon said. Childhood memories aside, his own children's joy and anticipation are what Christmas is all about for him now. That, and the music.

Readers Encouraged to Submit Stories and Share Christmas Memories

Most of us have heard our parents or other adults tell about the Christmases of their childhood, and those yarns usually begin with, "When I was your age, for Christmas I got..."

Some of the old Christmas traditions survive, (yes, even out here in West Texas) but most of today's children don't know what Christmas was like before computers and cell phones, and before trips to the mall. (How many of us decorated cedar trees before we knew they weren't really "Christmas trees"? How old were you when you realized the significance of the Posadas? How many boys got their first real gun for their 12th Christmas? Did you eat turkey or tamales?)

For that reason, we are extending an invitation to our readers to share your memories of Christmases past; a special gift received or a special relative who, in your eyes, personifies the spirit of Christmas.

These don't have to be long stories - and we're not going to require that they be about Christmas 50 years ago. We just ask that you think about something that sticks out in your memory about a past Christmas, and jot it down. If you have a photograph to accompany your Christmas tale; digital or otherwise, please send that, too.

We're looking for brief stories, about 500 words, which will help all of us recall the true spirit of Christmas; the joy, generosity, tradition, and gathering of family.

Submissions may be mailed to The Devil's River News, 228 E. Main Street, Sonora, Texas 76950 or e-mailed to editor@sonoratx.net. Please provide us with your name (so we can give you credit for your story) your address, (so we can return photos, if necessary) and your telephone number, (so we can call if we have questions).



Photo by Becky McAngus

James Freeman took time Monday evening to discuss his wish list with Santa. Jolly old St. Nick and Mrs. Claus were in town to help with the grand re-opening of the Historic Mercantile Building. Additional photographs of the grand celebration are inside this edition of the Devil's River News.

Safe Place
Narcotics Anonymous
Lighthouse Community Church
Tuesday 7:30 - 8:30 P.M.

Lighthouse Community Church
 CAN A LOVE RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD
Be Real, Personal & Practical?
 THE ANSWER IS YES!
1705 N. Crockett

Senior Center Activities

Fri. Dec. 7 - Holiday Recognition, Senior Companions, San Angelo w/Lisa. Pearl Harbor Day.
 Mon. Dec. 10 - BINGO!!
 Tue. Dec. 11 - CEAP-energy asst. program 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Christmas Party for Seniors @ 5:00 p.m. Everyone Welcome.
 Wed. Dec. 12 - Volunteer to deliver meals. Call or come BY Center 387-5657.
 Thurs. Dec. 13 - Crafts anyone?

Senior Center Menu

Fri. Dec 7 - Cheese Enchiladas, Spanish Rice, Pinto Beans, Tossed Salad, Cake, and Milk.
 Mon. Dec. 10 - Steak. Fingers w/gravy, Potatoes, Roll, Mixed Veggies, Fresh Orange, and Milk.
 Tues. Dec. 11 - Ground Beef w/Vermicelli, Pinto Beans, Flour Tortilla, Salad, Mixed Fruit, and Milk.
 Wed. Dec. 12 - Baked Chicken, Au gratin Potatoes, Italian Veggies, Chocolate Cake, Rolls, and Milk.
 Thurs. Dec. 13 - Baked Ham, Carrots and Peas, Sweet Potatoes, Roll, Peanut Butter Cookie, and Milk.
 Participants in the senior nutrition program must be 60 or older. Meals are served Monday - Friday at 12:00 p.m. Donations are accepted (suggested donation for Seniors is \$1.50; \$4.00 for under 60 and all other meals-to-go).

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 11E. Oak 387-3190
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

The Devil's River News
 Established 1890
 228 E. Main Street, Sonora, Texas 76950
 Phone: (325)387-2507 • Fax (325)387-5691
 Published every Thursday
 USPS (155-920)
 Publishing Owner: Cam Campbell
 Editor: Becky McAngus
 Office Manager/Billing: Juanita Gomez
 Advertising/Classifieds: Ben Taylor
 Internet Technician: Sam Taylor
 Reporting/photography/Typesetting: Staff
 Guest Columnists: Jo-Ann Palmer, Kelly Thorp, Delyse Jaeger, Pascual Hernandez, Susan Hall, Becky Covington, Mary Ann Kay
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 Accounting: billing@sonoratx.net; Advertising: sales@sonoratx.net
 publisher@sonoratx.net; sports@sonoratx.net
 Copy and Ad Deadline: Monday 5:00 p.m.
 Subscriptions
 \$25 per year in county • \$32 per year out of Sutton County
 \$22 per year Senior Citizens (in and out of Sutton County)
 Second class postage paid at Sonora, Texas
 Attn. Postmaster: Send address change to the Devil's River News,
 228 East Main Street, Sonora, TX 76950
 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.

TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION
 MEMBER 2007

Obituaries

Margaret C. "Molly" Elliott

Margaret C. (Molly) Elliott, a long time resident of Sonora, passed away Sunday, December 2, 2007. Molly was born July 9, 1923 in Robertson County, Texas to Robert and Elizabeth Taylor Cole. Molly was preceded in death by her parents and five older brothers, Taylor, Thomas, Estes, Fred, and Luther Cole.

Molly graduated from Louisiana State University. She married William Marion Elliott in 1945. He preceded her in death in 1985.

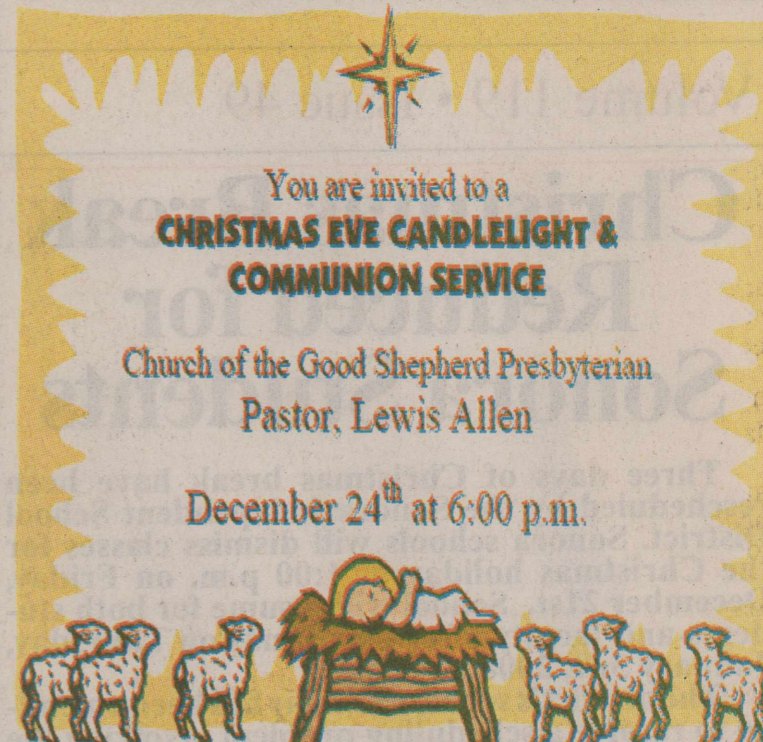
Molly is survived by her four children: Willam M. Jr., and wife, Jane, of Austin; Al and wife, Sandra, of Sonora; Jim of Sonora; and Martha and husband, Alan Stuber, of Austin. She is also survived by two grandchildren, James William Elliott and Elizabeth Elliott, who are both college students at Texas Tech University.

The family would like to thank Molly's special friend and caregiver, Juanita Duran. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to the Multiple Sclerosis Society.

A memorial service will be held Thursday, December 6th,

at 10:00 a.m. at the First United Methodist Church in Sonora.

You are invited to a
CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT & COMMUNION SERVICE
 Church of the Good Shepherd Presbyterian
 Pastor, Lewis Allen
 December 24th at 6:00 p.m.



Alice Taylor

Alice Taylor, of Midland, passed away Friday, November 30, 2007.

She was born in Sonora on November 8, 1938 to Eddie Ray Sosa and Elsie Lopez. Alice was reared and educated in Sonora where she graduated high school in 1959. Alice married the love of her life, Chief Warrant Officer Selvwyn Risher Taylor, on February 2, 1959. Alice received her Masters in Elementary Education and her PhD in Counseling from Sul Ross University. She taught in Midland, Alpine, Marfa, Rocksprings, Sonora, and San Antonio. She retired from the San Antonio School district.

She was preceded in death by her father and husband. Alice is survived by daughter, Vikki Harvey and husband Rick; daughter Lisa Williams and husband Les; son, Scott Taylor and wife Audrey; son Eddie Guzman and wife Stacy; daughter-in-law, Kathy Guzman; mother, Elsie Jamie and husband Luis; brothers, Eddie and Robert Sosa; dearest cousin, Ana Martinez and husband Francisco; niece, Judy Jimenez and daughter Julie Clepper; grandchildren, Travis Harvey, Blake Harvey, Chad Harvey, Tiana Guzman, Tessa Guzman, Kellie Taylor, Blaine Taylor, Garrett Taylor; great-granddaughter Marissa Guzman and numerous other nieces and nephews.

Memorial services were held Monday, December 3, 2007 at Ellis Funeral Home Chapel in Midland.

Flint and Ainsworth Plan February Wedding



Amanda Flint & Cody Ainsworth

The couple will be married on February 2, 2008 at St. Thomas More Catholic Church in Austin, TX.

Judi and Kevin Rouse of Volente, TX and Joseph and Claudia Flint of Liberty Hill, TX are happy to announce the engagement and upcoming marriage of their daughter Amanda Nicole Flint to Christopher Cody Ainsworth, son of John and Sandi Ainsworth of Sonora, TX.

Mandi is the granddaughter of William and Naoma Morgan of Hemphill, TX and the late John and Lucille Flint of Austin, TX. Cody is the grandson of Dr. Joseph T. Ainsworth and the late Kathryn Genie Ainsworth of Houston, TX and Charles and Georgie Reising of Columbus, TX.

Mandi is a 2001 graduate of Cedar Park High School and a 2005 graduate of Texas A&M University with a bachelor in History and a minor in business. Cody is a 2001 graduate of Sonora High School and a 2005 graduate of Texas A&M University from the college of Engineering with a degree in Industrial Distribution and a minor in business.

Boy Scout Roundup Set

Pack 19 of Sonora will be having a Fall Roundup at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, the 10th of December, at the Pizza Hut in Sonora. Anyone interested in joining is welcome to come and sign-up to join in on all the fun we will be having in the near future. Bring a friend and double your fun. For More Information: Roberta Tanguma 325-277-7189 or rtanguma@bsamail.org

Happy Birthday

December 6
 Logan Luttrell, Kajia Valkonen

December 7
 Preston Love, Micah Liggett, Johnny Acuff, Maria Favila,

December 8
 Mike Fay, Mari Butron, Willie Gutierrez

December 9
 Chris Flores, Yolisma Cardona

December 10
 Melanie Smith, Pappy McGuffin

December 11
 Genaro Perez III, Jansen Morris, Sam Taylor, Amelia Gamez

December 12
 Kenzie Perez, Claysen Powers, Dylan Taylor

**Welcome Home...
 To First Baptist Church**

Share Worship with us in December

Dec. 2 Advent Begins

(Advent celebration each service through Christmas Eve.)

**Special "Call" from Florence, Italy
 (Matt & Melanie Phillips, missionaries
 Campus Crusade for Christ)**

"Hanging of the Greens" 6:00 p.m.

Dec. 9 Missionaries Robert & Kellie Hooker

Dec. 16 Missions Offering Ingathering

Dec. 24 Christmas Eve Service, 6:00 p.m.

Regular Weekly Church Schedule

Sundays: 9:45 a.m. Bible Study 10:45 a.m. Worship

Wednesdays: 5:15 p.m. Family Night Meal

6:00 p.m. AWANA Club (3 yrs. - 5th grade)

6:30 p.m. Students Time (Student Center)

Adults - Prayer/Devotional Time

111 E. Oak St. / 387-2951 / twp@sonoratx.net

website: www.fbcsonora.org

T. Wayne Price - Pastor

Historical Society

ASK THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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

A Memorial Donation was received from Kathleen Moore in memory of Olin Smith.

A child's jacket used in an early (circa 1900) school play was donated by John and Del Tedford.

A glass jewelry case (circa 1920's) was donated by Rose Mary Whitehead Jones.

Tommy Whitehead donated some old papers, calendars, photographs, letters, clothing and beauty supplies.

A donation was received from Margaret Galbraith.

Q. Was the Miers Home the first house built in Sonora?

A. No! Photos show there are over 15 buildings in Sonora and the Miers family is living in a large tent with a stack of wood piled up in the front yard. They moved into town in October 1889 so their children could attend the new school in Sonora, but lived in the tent until the house could be built. You have to remember that, in order to build a house in 1889/90, you had to haul all the wood to town from San Angelo. Many wagon trips back and forth were necessary to get all the wood needed to build a two room house with a loft and all the shingles. These were damp years. Muddy roads, (really nothing but wagon tracks cutting across the prairie from here to San Angelo, mostly made by stages running through Winkler Ranch down into Del Rio), hindered the hauling of supplies, and it took quite a while longer to build up the town than anyone had expected.

Even Mike Murphy lived in a tent at the corner of Main and Concho, and wrote many of his first columns by lantern light listening to the "roar of the Devil's River." There were no trains to Sonora until the 1930's. You rode horseback or by wagon to San Angelo to buy what you couldn't get here. One photo shows many tents scattered along the draw, which had water in it. Along with the tents, you could see a few buildings scattered on Main Street, Water Street and Concho Ave.

Q. Were there any other hotels in Sonora besides the McDonald in 1890?

A. It wasn't the McDonald Hotel in 1890, it was owned by Mr. Wyatt and called first the Wyatt Hotel then the Commercial Hotel. There was the Hoffman House, the Star Hotel, and several people let rooms in their homes. One of these was the J. Q. Adams family. Housing was at a pre-

mium in the first couple of years. Building was slow, as I stated earlier, due to the wet years and the lack of local building material.

You have to remember that people had hand saws, not chain saws, in those days. Cutting a mesquite tree, with wood hard as nails, took a long time; and cutting it into boards ate up saw blades. Even the live oak trees are very hard wood and difficult to cut by hand. Many early houses were made from long canes of cedar plastered over with mud walls on each side. They had a roof made of thatch. Some people used natural caves for the rear of their homes and used homemade bricks or rocks to form walls and plastered them with mud. Their doors were made of thatched cedar canes with newspaper glued onto the inside to keep out the wind and bugs.

Early homes in this area were not fancy, they were made quickly to give people a place to sleep and to keep out varmints. Usually, the outhouse was at the rear or side of the home and the well was located out front on an uphill slope, away from the outhouse, to keep it from getting contaminated by drainage. There was usually an area around the home fenced with cedar canes, or whatever bushes or trees were close to hand. This was to keep chickens and children in the yard and cows and pigs out of the garden area of the home.

As the years went by, many people made improvements to their homes or built new ones and tore the old ones down and used the lumber for chicken coops, goat shelters, or barns. Everything was recycled and nothing went to waste on a ranch. Cans were used as containers, their covers saved and used to patch holes in shingle roofs. Clothing was passed down, and then cut up into rags. These were sometimes used to make quilts and rag rugs for the houses. Paper from packages at the store was carefully smoothed and used for writing letters, or for the children to practice and do homework. String was taken off the packages and rolled to be used to tie up roasts or crochet pulls for the window shades. Nothing was wasted, every item was carefully saved. After meals, the food that couldn't be re-heated was given to the dogs and the hogs. Peels were fed to the chickens. Water used to wash dishes was dumped on the garden; it was much too precious a commodity to waste.

Until wall paper could be bought, newspapers were recycled into wallpaper to cut the wind blowing through the cracks in the board-and-batten walls. The papers were also used in the outhouse.

Store bought, fancy toilet paper was hard to come by in the west. People made do with what they had. Children made dolls from scraps of material in the scrap bag, some used the old newspaper to make paper-mache heads, painting them with white-wash and drawing on ink faces. Yarn or corn silk was used to make the dolls hair. Some dolls were made with corn cobs and shucks. Old wooden spools from thread were used to make toys; either strung together for babies or tied into dolls for older children. Rims from old worn wagon wheels were turned into a toy for boys. They rolled them along with sticks, trying to see who could keep their rims standing the longest and make them go the straightest.

Children were required to do chores. Everyone had to pitch in and help around the house. The girls helped their mother clean. Boys collected wood for the fires and all the children helped weed and hoe the garden and haul water to it. They milked cows, collected eggs from the chickens, mucked out stalls and helped with all kinds of work around the home - even cleaning and sanitizing the outhouse! This meant hauling cold ashes from the home and spreading them through the seats onto the offal below to cut down odor. No one liked that chore on a hot summer day. Lessons had to be done every night. There was no television or radio. Entertainment was reading from books out loud, (every home had a Bible), or the father reading the newspaper to the family. Children made up games, played outside when the weather permitted, and went to school.

They didn't ride a bus, most walked a mile or so to school. Some, from further out, rode horses to school every day and others boarded with families in town and went home on weekends. People all sat down and ate together, and there was a lot more communication between families in the old days.

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 stop by our offices at 307 Oak Street to look things up in the archives any Tuesday, Thursday or Saturday morning or give us a call at 325-387-5084. Rentals of the "Old Depot" John & Mildred Cauthorn Memorial Building should be made by calling the same number when the office is open. Emergency rentals may be made by calling me at home at 387-2855. We already have 3 rentals for December, so call early if you want to use the Depot this month.



A view of the Fourth of July celebration on Sonora's Main Street, taken July 4, 1916.

Our Many Thanks



To Our Local Heros

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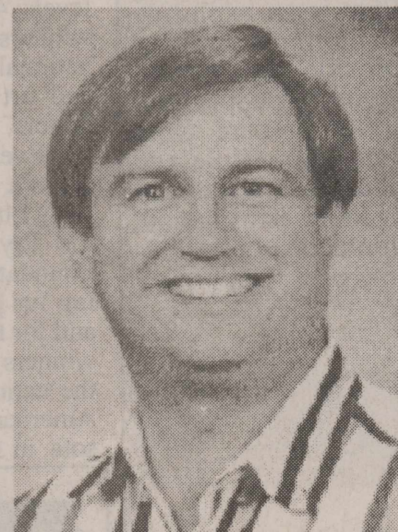
Three physicians to serve Sonora Medical Clinic

Reflecting its commitment to provide a continuity of quality medical care to Sonora and Sutton County, the Sonora Medical Clinic is pleased to announce it has secured the services of three physicians.

Bradly Bundrant, M.D. began practice at the Sonora Medical Clinic in November. Dr. Bundrant earned his medical degree at Texas Tech Health Sciences Center in Lubbock and served his family practice residency at the Texas Tech Health Sciences Center in El Paso.

Dr. Bundrant will staff the Sonora Medical Clinic through May, 2008, when the clinic will welcome Doctors Mark and Kristy Edwards. Both physicians earned their medical degrees at the Texas Tech Health Sciences Center in Lubbock and did their family practice residencies at the Valley Baptist Medical Center in Harlingen, Texas.

In addition to family medicine, Dr. Mark Edwards will offer colonoscopies and Dr. Kristy Edwards will provide wound care and a variety of women's services.



Dr. Bradly Bundrant
301 Hudspeth, Suite B
(325) 387-7911

SONORA MEDICAL CLINIC

Open Monday-Friday
8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Walk-ins welcome
Nosotros hablamos espanol.

CHAMBER CHATTER

by Becky Covington, Executive Director
Sonora Chamber of Commerce

Hunting Widows – track bargains, pamper yourself and have fun.

Well, ladies, once again, it's that time of year – its hunting season. Some of us will join the ranks of our better halves and spend days in the woods in the cold and damp, stalking game and hoping to bag the big one so that we also have bragging rights and some of us will be left behind to fend for ourselves. It's not just us gals that are married to hunters that go through the season of widowhood. There are football season widows, baseball season widows and golf widows and various other seasons that captivates our husband's attention and leaves us temporary widows.

But if you are one of those spouses who refuse to wear camo, and are left feeling a little left behind, and at a loss for how to spend the hours, cheer up, get

out your attire and present your bravest face to the world. Explore some ideas that might just help you pass the time.

- Take the kids to an outdoor fall activity like a hike at Eaton Hill Wildlife Sanctuary; explore the Caverns of Sonora or a walk in the historic downtown area that's rich in pioneer heritage.

- Spend guilt-free time decorating your house, sewing, making crafts, or reading that good book you have been putting off.

- Spend a day at one of the beauty shops, getting a manicure or pedicure, or relax with a massage and be pampered to your heart's content.

- Go shopping, what a great time to buy Christmas gifts! A favorite past-time of mine is to spend a few hours in a furniture store and Sonora has a great one. The displays are beautiful and full of great accessories and decorating ideas to spruce up your current abode. Other gift shops and department stores offer an array of shopping with old-time atmosphere, unique gifts, great discounts, and free gift wrap-

ping.

- Fix a meal that pleases you, without consideration of your "significant other." You know, something you love, but your "SO" hates, so you don't get to have it too often.

- If you haven't eaten in Sonora recently, you're in for a monumental surprise. New dining rooms are popping up, and many established restaurants are working harder than ever to meet a growing demand. Go out on the town with your girlfriends and enjoy a meal out. It'll be fun.

- Reacquaint yourself with the channel changer. You know, it's that contraption that can actually change the TV from the station airing football to one airing something more to your liking. There are tons of interesting things to watch, like the cooking shows, decorating shows, home improvement shows, soap operas, discovery channel, etc. Enjoy a few hours of not having to share.

- Start a new exercise program and join the Heath and

Wellness Center. Get on that stationary bicycle or treadmill that is collecting dust in the basement, or just go for a walk around the neighborhood.

At the end of the day, remember, your husband

and you have achieved the same results, you both had a fun filled day doing something you both enjoy.



Lillian M. Hudspeth Memorial Hospital and The Health & Wellness Center has been selected for business "Landscape of the Month" by the Sonora Chamber of Commerce. Keith Butler, Hospital Administrator, informed us that all the flower beds have been reworked, putting in a variety of colorful flowers, trimming the shrubs and oak trees and installing a new sprinkler system, making the grounds more beautiful and serene. The memory rocks, contributed by individuals in the community at the time of the initial landscape, also add a pleasing, interesting design to the grounds. Congratulations and thank you for taking part to keep Sonora beautiful and improve the community environment.

F.Y.I.

The Sonora Independent School District Board of Trustees will meet at 5:30 p.m. December 10th at the Vocational Building. The public is invited to attend.

The Sutton County Commissioners Court has enacted a **Burn Ban**, prohibiting all outdoor burning until further notice.

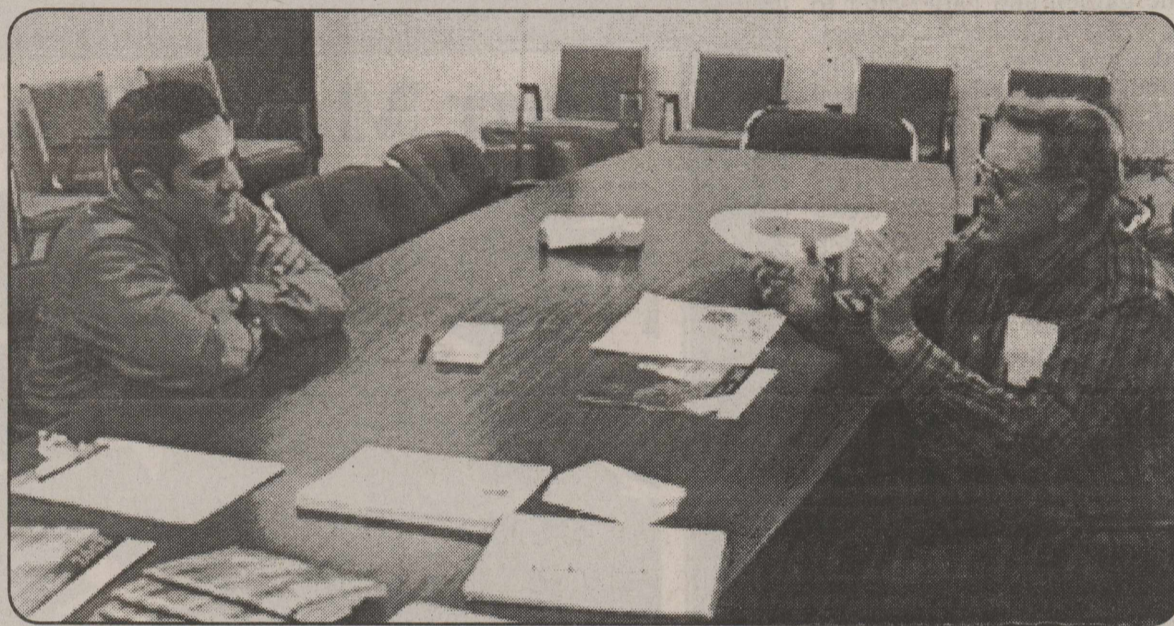
The Sonora Ministerial Alliance, assisted by the Sonora High School Student Council, will be delivering Christmas food baskets to residents of Sonora on December 15th.

Sutton County 4-H & First National Bank of Sonora are hosting a coat drive. Please bring new/used coats to the bank for kids and adults. For more information please contact Shanna Petty, at 387-3861, or Kelly Thorp at 387-3604.

The Sonora Elementary School Library Bookfair will be December 10th – 14th. 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. with the open house on December 11th from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

The Board of Directors of the Sutton County Underground Water Conservation District will meet for their regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, December 11, 2007 at 9:00 a.m. at 301 S. Crockett Avenue.

Interested in Emergency Medical Medicine? Sutton County EMS and BSA are looking for youths between 14 and 20 years of age to participate in a local Emergency Medical Exploring Post. What is an exploring post? Exploring's purpose is to provide experiences to help young people mature and to prepare them to become responsible and caring adults in a certain career. For more information, please contact: Roberta Taniguma 325-277-7189



Cesar J. Blanco, Deputy District Director and Grants Coordinator for U.S. Representative Ciro D. Rodriguez, was in Sonora last Thursday to discuss matters of interest with local residents. Above, Blanco discusses health care issues with Joe David Ross during his visit at the Sutton County Annex.

Sutton County EMS Offers Classes

Submitted

Sutton County EMS will hold an EMT class beginning January 7th and concluding April 16th, 2008. Classes will be held on Mondays and Wednesdays at the EMS training facility. The cost for the class will be \$125 and includes the textbook. The fee for the class will be reimbursed upon successfully joining the ambulance service. The class will teach valuable skills needed to assist with traumatic and medical emergencies and

provide students with basic life saving skills including CPR certification. Sutton County EMS is an organization dedicated to medical emergencies within Sutton County as well as providing mutual aid to surrounding counties. Pre-registration is required

in order to have adequate supplies and textbooks. Deadline for pre-registration is December 28, 2007. For more information contact the Sutton County EMS office at 387-5132 or stop by 211 E. 3rd Street, Sonora.

State Fish Art Contest Nears

Texas students in grades 4 through 12 are invited to enter the tenth annual Wildlife Forever State-Fish Art Contest. Deadline for entries is March 31, 2008.

Contestants must create an illustration of an officially recognized state fish and write a one-page composition about its behavior, habitat and conservation. One Texas winner will be selected from each of three grade levels: 4-6, 7-9 and 10-12. Those winners will then compete at the national level for best of show and art of conservation stamp honors.

Every Texas entrant will receive a fishing lure from Strike King Lure Company. In addition, the Toyota Texas Bass Classic Foundation will provide funding for prizes for Texas winners and for travel expenses for Texas winners and their chaperones to the national expo at the Mall of America in Minneapolis, Minnesota, in July 2008.

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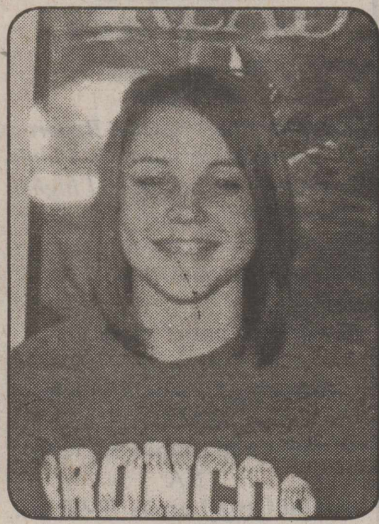
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The Sutton County 4-H Club recently held a cooking class for young chefs. Pictured are the participants including (bottom row left to right) Cip Tobias, Cassandra Amaro, Darby Ramsdale, Bethany Aguero, Dalton Morriss, Delaney Ramsdale, and Hazel Kent; (back row) Kelisha Alvarado, Katelyn Lipham, Tate Shannon, Kaitlyn Lopez, Juan Gomez, Lillian Kent, and Jeremy Doran.

Campbell and Ramos are Students of the Week



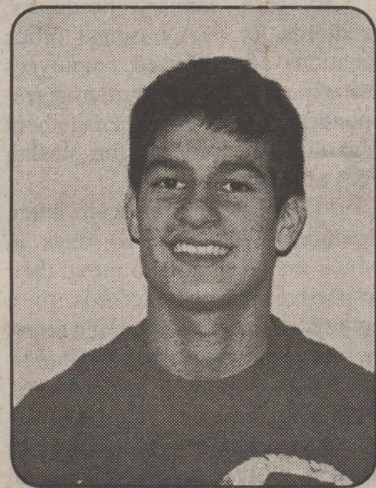
Chelsey Lou Campbell

By Christian Lujan

This week the students of the week are Chelsey Lou Campbell and Uvaldo Ramos.

Chelsey Lou Campbell is currently a freshman at Sonora High School. She is the daughter of Curry and Bonnie Lou Campbell. Chelsey Lou dislikes black olives but likes that she has many friends. She is involved in Student Council, basketball, and track. She enjoys student council because they help raise money for the school. Campbell believes that track and basketball are both

team efforts and require cooperation from the entire team to accomplish their goals. After graduation Campbell plans on attending Texas A&M University, and becoming a veterinarian because she enjoys working with animals.



Uvaldo Ramos

Uvaldo Ramos is a sophomore here at Sonora High School; he is the son of Uvaldo and Cecilia Ramos. Ramos likes to play basketball, because it is a team effort. He is involved in Basketball and Baseball. Ramos's favorite thing about Sonora High is the sports program. After he graduates, Ramos would like to become a sports commentator.

SHS "A" Honor Roll

Freshmen

Serena Lee Allison
Chelsey Lou Campbell
Alexis Galindo
Jesus Garcia
Rose Karnes
Bailey Joe Pennington
Christina Rodriguez
Austin Slauch

Sophomores

Meredith Earwood
Irving Fuentes
Cassie Krieg
Sterling Love
Alicia Lowe
Mario Oliden
Monica Sanchez
Michael Stephens

Juniors

John Duke Hudson
Savannah Leonard
Steven Pacheco
Eneida Silva
Azeneth Villanueva

Seniors

J T Downing
Emily Earwood
Kari Nicholas
Marcus Perez

Colts Basketball Going Strong

The 8th grade traveled to Junction for their first game of the year and lost a very close game 30-23. Pope chipped in 2, Leonard swished in 8, and Hudson hit the boards with 11 points.

The 7th grade also traveled, and came up with the win - 13-9. Lopez pushed in 5, Powers 6 and J. Lopez hit 2. Mason came to town last Monday, and both 7th and 8th grade played great basketball. Both teams took a victory, and both teams played solid basketball. We are trying to teach the guys some fundamentals; things that will benefit them when they get older. It's been an interesting year so far, and we still have a good deal of basketball left.

Sonora Elementary Menu

December 10-14

Breakfast

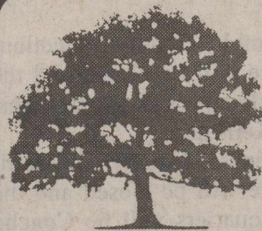
Cereal and assorted juice offered with every breakfast

Mon.- Toast with Jelly
Tues.- Cinnamon Roll
Wed.- Eggs and Bacon
Thur.- Breakfast Pocket
Fri.- Pancake

Lunch

Milk offered with every lunch

Mon.- Beef & Bean Burrito, Beans, Cornbread, and Mixed Fruit
Tues.- Hamburger, Fries, Salad, Pickle, and Apple Slices
Wed.- Fish Nuggets, Pork 'n Beans, Peas, and Pineapple
Thurs.- Spaghetti w/Meat Sauce, Breadsticks, Salad, and Applesauce
Fri.- Cheese Enchiladas, Rice, Beans and Orange Half



SUTTON COUNTY HEALTH FOUNDATION

Your memorial gift helps preserve access to quality health care for generations to come. Please consider the Sutton County Health Foundation, PO Box 18, Sonora, TX 76950. All contributions 100% tax deductible.

Team Graphics

Open Wednesday Night
For The Downtown Festivities
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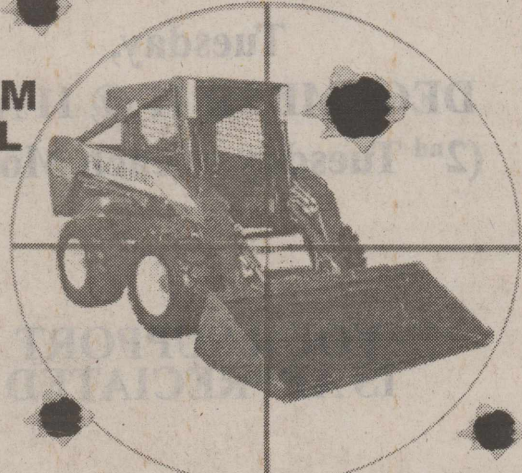
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Colts Scoring Recap

Submitted by Coach Lamar Evans

Mason score 8th 20-15
Leonard 2, Badeaux 5, Hudson 5, Hernandez 6, Young 2
Mason Score 7th 25-15
Esparza 2, J. Lopez 6, Onofre 2, Powers 8, Sanchez 4, Villanueva 2, Dominquez 2,

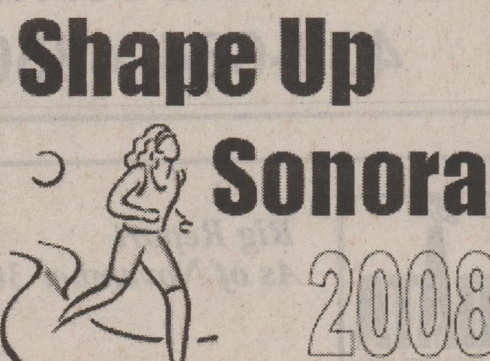
The boys traveled to Brady over the weekend to play in their tournament. The 8th grade lost their first game to San Saba 25-28. Scoring goes as followed, Leonard 2, Badeaux 2, Pope 6, Hudson 11, Hernandez 2, Young 2.

The 2nd game was played and the boys won this game 24-21 taking the 3rd place trophy. Scoring goes Leonard 2, Daniels 1, Badeaux 7, Pope 2, Hudson 10, and Young 2.

7th grade lost the first game to San Saba 28-31. Scoring was as follows D.Lopez 5, Vasquez 2, Evans 2, Esparza 2, Lopez 1, Onofre 5, Powers 6, Villanueva 2.

The 7th grade also played a great game against Brady but could not make the last basket to win the game. D Lopez 2, J. Vasquez 2, J. Lopez 7, P. Onofre, 4, Powers 8. Final score, Colts 24 Brady 27.

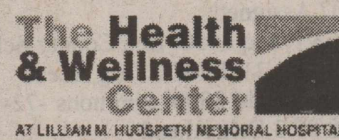
The Colts 7-8th grades will be traveling back to Brady to take on the Bulldogs once more Thursday night. The 7th grade boys white team will start at 5:00 and the Red will start around 5:40 with the 8th grade starting at 6:45.



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◆THE GOLDEN COMPASS (PG-13)	1:20pm 2:00pm 4:20pm 5:00pm 7:20pm
1:00pm 1:30pm 4:00pm 4:30pm	8:00pm 10:10pm 10:50pm
7:00pm 7:30pm 9:50pm 10:20pm	◆FRED CLAUZ (PG)
8:05pm	1:35pm 4:35pm 7:35pm 10:25pm
AMERICAN GANGSTER (R)	HITMAN (R)
1:40pm 4:40pm 7:40pm 10:30pm	1:10pm 4:10pm 7:10pm 10:00pm
◆AUGUST RUSH (PG)	◆MR. MAGORIUM'S WONDER EMPORIUM (G)
1:15pm 4:15pm 7:15pm 10:05pm	2:05pm 5:05pm
◆AWAKE (R)	◆NO COUNTRY FOR OLD MEN (R)
1:55pm 4:55pm 7:55pm 10:45pm	1:45pm 4:45pm 7:45pm 10:35pm
◆BEE MOVIE (PG)	◆THE MIST (R)
1:25pm 4:25pm 7:25pm 10:15pm	1:25pm 4:25pm 7:25pm 10:15pm
◆BEOWULF (PG-13)	◆THIS CHRISTMAS (PG-13)
1:05pm 4:05pm 7:05pm 9:55pm	1:55pm 4:50pm 7:50pm 10:40pm
◆ENCHANTED (PG)	

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As of November 30, 2007

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2 Highmount E&P/hdq 9550' Jack W Brown -wa- #5 Dw Patterson Drilling/a 39 11/27/07 4 Drlg Ahead
3 Highmount E&P/hdq 9500' Sawyer-jones -190- #11 Dw Patterson Drilling/a 120 11/24/07 7 Drlg Ahead
New 4 Highmount E&P/hdq 9250' Duke Wilson -188- #21 Dw Patterson Drilling/a 120 12/05/07 Assigned
New 5 Dominion Ok Tx E&P 8975' Mayfield -32- #21 Dw Helmerich & Payne/s 301 12/05/07 Assigned
New 6 Highmount E&P/hdq 8975' Shurley Rr -1a- #11 Dw Patterson Drilling/a 40 11/29/07 2 Drlg Ahead
7 Dominion Ok Tx E&P 8800' Mayer Ranch -35- #8 Dw Helmerich & Payne/s 302 11/21/07 10 Drlg Ahead
8 Dominion Ok Tx E&P 8700' Mayer Ranch -36- #3 Dw Helmerich & Payne/s 302 12/05/07 Assigned
New 9 Highmount E&P/hdq 8550' Bee County School Land #18 Dw Helmerich & Payne/s 301 11/29/07 2 Drlg Ahead
New 10 Highmount E&P/hdq 8300' Simmons -72- #9 Dw Helmerich & Payne/s 303 11/28/07 3 Drlg Ahead
New 11 Highmount E&P/hdq 8300' Simmons -72- #10 Dw Helmerich & Payne/s 303 12/05/07 Assigned
New 12 Highmount E&P/hdq 7600' Meckel -a- #73 Dw Patterson Drilling/a 105 11/30/07 1 Drlg Ahead
New 13 Highmount E&P/hdq 7350' R H Mittel #9 Dw Patterson Drilling/a 105 12/05/07 Assigned
New 14 Highmount E&P/hdq 7175' Shurley -139- #5 Dw Patterson Drilling/a 40 12/05/07 Assigned
15 Highmount E&P/hdq 6950' Canyon Ranch -207- #14s Dw Helmerich & Payne/s 305 11/29/07 2 Drlg Ahead
New 16 Highmount E&P/hdq 6950' Canyon Ranch -207- #12s Dw Helmerich & Payne/s 305 12/07/07 Assigned
New 17 Highmount E&P/hdq 6900' H C Epps -38- #11 Dw Helmerich & Payne/s 304 11/27/07 4 Drlg Ahead
New 18 Highmount E&P/hdq 6850' H C Epps -38- #12 Dw Helmerich & Payne/s 304 12/06/07 Assigned

SCHLEICHER

1 Wtg Exploration 10000' University 54-6 #1 Ft Heart Land Drilling 8 11/16/07 15 As Directd
New 2 Dominion Ok Tx E&P 8900' Parmer -30- #3 Dw Patterson Drilling/a 742 12/04/07 Assigned
New 3 Highmount E&P/hdq 8650' Jeffers -28a- #5 Dw Patterson Drilling/a 742 11/29/07 2 Drlg Ahead
4 Petrodata Resources 6400' Williams Ranch -c- #4 Sand Dollar Drilling 21 11/23/07 8 Drlg Ahead 4473'

CROCKETT

New 1 Approach Operating 9000' Cinco Terry -a- #905 Dw Nabors Drilling (O) 353
New 2 Approach Operating 9000' J R Bailey -a- #610 Dw Patterson Drilling/a 710 11/22/07 9 Drlg Ahead
New 3 Anadarko E & P Co Lp 7200' Clegg -83- #5 Dw Patterson Drilling/a 38 11/26/07 5 Drlg Ahead
New 4 Fiml Natural Res 5500' Maggie Moore #6d Dw Patterson Drilling/a 721 11/25/07 6 Drlg Ahead

EDWARDS

1 Newfield Exploration 10000' Shaw #7503 H Dw Patterson Drilling/a 471 10/18/07 44 Drlg Ahead
2 Megawest Energy Tex 1200' Madge Shanklin #1-91 Ft Unison Drilling 4 11/21/07 10 Drlg Ahead

TERRELL

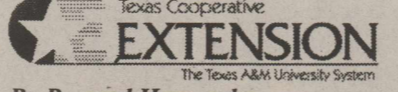
1 Encore Operating Lp 15000' Goode Estate #6 Dw Nabors Drilling (O) 641 11/07/07 24 Drlg Ahead
2 Conocophillips/odess 12500' University -4- #8 Dw Patterson Uti/lv 481 10/25/07 37 Drlg Ahead 11662'
3 Bp America Prod/mid 11600' Poulter #2703 Dw Patterson Drilling/a 118 11/08/07 23 Drlg Ahead
New 4 Fasken Oil & Ranch 7750' Brown Sw -212- #29 Dw Patterson Drilling/a 42 11/25/07 6 Drlg Ahead
New 5 Encore Operating Lp 6300' Mayme K Martin Unit #8 Dw Nabors Drilling (O) 709 11/30/07 1 Drlg Ahead

VAL VERDE

1 Winn Exploration Co 14500' Bencomo -75- #1 Dw Nabors Drilling (O) 294 09/23/07 69 Drlg Ahead

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Urinary Calculi in Sheep and Goats



The Texas A&M University System
**By Pascual Hernandez,
Sutton County Agricultural
Extension Agent**

Urinary calculi (sometimes called waterbelly) is common in male sheep and goats on high grain rations. Grain is high in phosphorus. The disease occurs when calculi (stones), usually comprised of phosphate salts, lodge in the urinary tract and prevent urination. Normally, phosphorus is recycled through saliva and excreted via feces in ruminants. High grain, low roughage diets decrease the formation of saliva and therefore increase the amount of phosphorus excreted in the urine. Lack of water and water sources that are high in minerals are also contributing factors. If left untreated,

affected animals will die when the bladder bursts and urine fills the peritoneal cavity and is absorbed into the bloodstream. While urinary calculi can occur in intact males, wethers are at greatest risk because castration of young males removes the testosterone necessary for the penis and urethra to reach full size. Lambs castrated within the first month of life are most vulnerable. In females, calculi are formed, but excreted due to anatomic differences in the male and female urinary tract. Symptoms include abdominal discomfort which may cause affected animals to have a humped-up appearance. Wethers are restless, kick at their belly and make frequent attempts to urinate. In goats, attempts to urinate are often accompanied

by bleats and rapid twitching of the tail. Grinding or gritting the teeth while resting is also an indication of pain. Before complete occlusion of the urinary tract, urine may dribble from the urethra, dry on the preputial hair, and leave mineral deposits. Dribbled urine may be bloody. Palpation of the sheath may reveal significant hypersensitivity, distension and/or swelling. Treatment of urinary calculi depends upon the location of the obstruction and could be as simple as snipping off the urethral process to allow calculi at the end of the tract to dislodge. Animals can be given oral solutions of ammonium chloride in an attempt to dissolve the crystals by acidifying the urine. Tranquilizers, antibiotics and anti-inflammatory drugs may help to naturally dislodge

some calculi. In more advanced cases, surgical intervention may be necessary to save valuable animals or pets. It is easier to prevent urinary calculi than to treat it. Feed rations which contain a calcium-to-phosphorus ratio of at least 2:1. Most commercial lamb and meat goat diets contain the proper ratio of Ca:P as well as ammonium chloride. When feeding textured feeds or mixed rations (e.g. whole grain + pellets), make sure the animals are not picking at certain feed ingredients. Horse feed should not be fed to small ruminants because it is not balanced for ruminants and can lead to stone formation. Adequate water intake is necessary especially when it is very hot or very cold. Otherwise, the urine becomes concentrated, which makes the formation of stones more likely. Provide a good high calcium mineral that is formulated for feedlot lambs.

FSA to Close Sonora Office in Early 2008

On November 28th John T. Fuston, State Executive Director for the Texas Farm Service Agency (FSA), announced that USDA has approved the Agency's plan to close 11 county offices identified in part two of a multi-faceted, statewide streamlining initiative. According to Fuston, Texas FSA received the letter of approval signed by Acting Secretary of Agriculture Charles Connor on November 16th. "After considering fully, all public input on this issue and adjusting our plans as deemed appropriate, our final proposal for this phase of our restructuring plan was issued to and approved by Acting Secretary Connor." Receipt of Secretarial approval to proceed with the office closure plan means that as of November 16, 2007, the clock started ticking on a 120-day period in which Texas FSA begins the administrative and strategic processes required to close a county office. "Numerous logistics must be considered before we can close any one office; let alone 11 offices. We are targeting mid March 2008 as the official closure timeframe," said Fuston. Phase I (part two) of Texas FSA's restructuring plan calls for the following county office realignments:

- Angelina/Trinity County (Lufkin) FSA office will be closed and the new headquarters will be in Nacogdoches County (Nacogdoches).
- Cass/Marion County (Linden) FSA office will be closed and the new headquarters will be in Harrison County (Marshall).
- Crockett County (Ozona) FSA office will be closed and the new headquarters will be in Reagan County (Big Lake).
- Jefferson/Orange County (Beaumont) FSA office will be closed and the new headquarters will be Liberty County (Liberty).
- Kent County (Jayton) FSA office will be closed and the new headquarters will be Dickens County (Spur).
- Kimble County (Junction) FSA office will be closed and the new headquarters will be Kerr County (Kerrville).
- Menard County (Menard) FSA office will be closed and the new headquarters will be Concho County (Eden).
- Panola County (Carthage) FSA office will be closed and the new headquarters will be Harrison County (Marshall).
- Presidio/Jeff Davis County (Marfa) FSA office will be closed and the new headquarters will be Brewster County (Alpine).
- Shelby County (Center) FSA

office will be closed and the new headquarters will be Nacogdoches County (Nacogdoches). Note: This move applies to Commodity Program Operations only - Farm Loan Programs will continue to be administered out of Shelby County. • Sutton County (Sonora) FSA office will be closed and the new headquarters will be Schleicher County (Eldorado). By early January, producers, landlords for FSA business office locations and affected employees can expect to receive written correspondence from FSA management regarding the process for closing FSA offices in Texas. "Upon receipt of their letter, producers will have 60 days in which they can elect to move their respective business records to a county 'of their choosing' if a county other than the default headquarters location is more convenient," Fuston emphasized. "However, after this window of opportunity has expired, all producer records in the county slated for closure will be automatically transferred to the new headquarters of record." For more information, contact Brenda Carlson at (979) 680-5213.

4-H Showmanship Clinic Set

Sutton County 4-H Stock Show Exhibitors will get help staying on track for the upcoming stock show season by attending a Lamb and Goat Clinic with Mark Baxter and Taylor Little. Topics to be discussed will be feed and exercise. Most of the program will be spent on showmanship. Stock will be available for you to practice on or bring your own for this event. 4-H'ers who will be showing lambs at the county show are required to be shown on december 28th at the 4-H Langford Barns. Please contact Pascual Hernandez if you need help hauling your stock to town.

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Henry David Thoreau

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Junction Stockyards

Market Report
12/3/2007

Sheep & Goats Market Report
Ewes and Bucks mostly 2-5 higher. Choice kids steady to 1 higher. Lower quality kids 1-2 lower. Nannies steady on active market. Other classes mostly steady.

Sheep:

- #1 Spring Lambs 50-70 lbs .95-1.10
- #1 Spring Lambs 70-90 lbs .90-1.03
- #1 Old Crop Lambs 50-70 lbs NA
- #1 Old Crop Lambs 70-90 lbs NA
- Fat Ewes - .35-.45
- Thin Ewes - .12-.28
- Bucks - .28-.40
- Baby Tooth Ewes - .60-.72
- Solid Mouth Ewes - .37-.48

Ewe & Lamb Pairs - no test Goats:

- Baby Tooth Angora Stocker Nannies - .45-.52
- Solid Mouth Angora Stocker Nannies - NA
- Stocker Muttons - NA
- Angora Kids - NA
- Angora Kids Shorn 1.05-1.14
- Weighting Angoras-Shorn (Thin) - .17-.27
- Weighting Angoras-Shorn (Fat) Nannies - .28-.34
- Stocker Spanish Nannies .60-.80
- Fat Spanish Nannies 40-.48
- Fat Spanish Muttons & Billies .75-1.00 mutt. .90-1.10
- Fat Yearlings - 1.05-1.15
- Fat Spanish Kids - 1.12-1.21
- Small Kids - 1.08-1.22
- Thin Kids - .92-1.05
- Spanish Nanny & Kid pairs NA

Market report brought to you by:

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Texas Sized Poinsettias

by
Tumbleweed Smith



greenhouse filled with several colors of poinsettias. Yellow, oranges, whites, and shades, combinations of colors and variations of the traditional red, which is still the most popular.

Ellison's Greenhouses in Brenham took me to that greenhouse is filled with 8,000 poinsettias in Houston," she told me. Ellison's is one of the largest poinsettia growers in Texas. It kicks off the poinsettia season with an open house featuring a huge Christmas tree in pots. It is up only a few days, but thousands of people go see it.

"They come to look at the sea of beautiful, beautiful colors," says Bobbie. "We have the Texas orange and Aggie maroon. Customers can go through the greenhouses and select the plants they like. All of our flowers are pinched so they have more flowers on them. My favorite is Monet, which has cream-colored leaves with burgundy splashes."

The Christmas plants come in a variety of sizes. "We probably grow the most sizes of anybody in the area. We do a two and a quarter inch pot, which has a poinsettia about three inches tall, all the way up to our Texas size, which is six feet tall and six feet across, and that is awesome. The leaf spread on the tree is about 24 inches. They're just gorgeous."

Those Texas size poinsettias come in a big pot. "It's a 22-inch nursery container with about 15 gallons of soil in it. The reason the plant gets so big is the way we handle it. It starts on May first and gets special treatment in that we keep all the extra growth picked off the sides so it grows tall. The Texas size is our trademark right now. They've become very popular. We have them in malls, banks, hotels and big office buildings."

Some people in warm climates plant the poinsettias in their yard.

"In the right area they will grow outdoors. They don't like it below 50 degrees, so you have to be careful where you plant them. In south Texas they grow wild and get as tall as the houses. Poinsettias originally came from Mexico back in the 1800's when the US Ambassador to Mexico, Joel Poinsett brought some back to the states."

With proper care, poinsettias can last much longer than just the holiday season. They need to be placed in a spot with bright natural light and the soil should be kept moist. Empty any water that drains into the container under your plant. If you let the plant sit in this water, the leaves will yellow and drop. The plants do best with temperatures not over 75 degrees during the day and not below 60 degrees at night.

Tips for Controlling Holiday Spending

By Jim Raymond, Community Banking President, Wells Fargo Bank, San Angelo

'Tis the season to be jolly... and not have regrets when bill-paying time comes around in January!

According to a Gallup Poll conducted in November, Americans predict they will spend an average of \$866 on Christmas gifts this season. And it seems like there has never been a better time - with rising gas prices, continuing uncertainties in the housing market and other economic worries - to think ahead before you shop, stay focused in the stores and remember what gift-giving is all about.

In the spirit of the season, here are 12 tips that will help all of us avoid the holiday debt blues. We want to encourage everyone to carefully consider spending and to find ways to enjoy the holidays -- while keeping important financial goals in mind.

BEFORE YOU SHOP: Plan Your Holiday Spending

1. Determine your budget for gift giving. Consider spending less than last year. And stick to the budget you set. Figure out how much to spend on each person and write it down. Consider creating a spreadsheet. One idea is to make your purchases using a pre-loaded, widely accepted gift card.

2. Make your 'perfect gift' list, then comparison shop at online outlets. Find out where you can get the best value for your money. Identify stores that sell those gifts and look for sales.

3. Develop a plan to pay off your total holiday spending if you will be using a credit card. Considering setting up monthly online bill payments for a certain amount. If you have a set amount taken out of your checking or savings account each month, you won't be tempted to spend that on other things.

4. Set up e-mail alerts to stay up-to-date on credit card and other activities such as check postings. Some banks, such as Wells Fargo, also offer mobile banking, where you can check balances, transfer funds and receive alerts through your mobile devices.

5. Keep saving money on a regular basis. Don't take a "holiday" from setting aside some of your income for future needs. WHILE YOU SHOP: Stay Focused

6. Limit your credit card use and stay within your credit card limit. As a general rule, if you find yourself using more than two cards or requesting increases in limits, you may be spending more than you can afford.

7. Avoid impulse purchases. With advertising and sales enticing you to buy, it's easy to go overboard. Especially for larger purchases, think it over for 24 hours. Is this item something you really need and can afford?

AFTER YOU SHOP: Enjoy the New Year by Managing Your Debt

8. Pay at least the minimum amount due -- and the full amount if you can -- when you receive your credit card statement. Making the highest payment possible will reduce your balance and additional interest. Many people try to pay double or triple the minimum if they can't pay it all off.

Main Street Traffic

By Mary Ann Kay

Friends of Historic Sonora Main Street Program are grateful to all the folks who are helping in the Christmas on Main Street Event. Lots of things are going on in the downtown area, including the Grand Opening of the Mercantile Building, held December 3rd. We are so proud of Mike & Debra Hobbs who have worked so hard to breathe life back into this jewel of a building. As part of the grand opening, the Mercantile Building will host a one-woman exhibit of one of the outstanding artists of our community, Barbara Earwood. Barbara will be showing off her wonderful watercolor paintings, and other special pieces of art will be on display at the Mercantile on December 5th. Barbara will have several pieces for

sale, and invites everyone by to see if there isn't something that will please that special person on your Christmas list.

We invite you to take a walk in downtown Sonora and look for some of the unique gifts for Christmas at Team Graphics and Everett's Furniture & Emporium. A great lunch stop is the Mercantile on Main Restaurant and Bakery. If you'd like to pick up a good take-home meal on Thursday nights, don't miss the cooking at the Old Post Office.

We will start announcing the winners of the "Best Decorated Homes for Christmas" awards in the Devil's River News and the KHOS Radio. Merry Christmas!

Committee to Operate Old Ice House Museum

In 2003, American Electric Power donated the old "Ice House", built in the mid 1920s, to the Sutton County Historical Society. Recognizing the historical significance of the building to our community, the Historical Society has a vision of a museum for future generations to enjoy.

Rose Mary Jones, historical society president, has appointed an "Old Sonora Ice House Ranch Museum" committee. This committee, which has taken the reins for the establishment and operation of the new museum, includes Marvin and Wanda Shurley, Rose Mary Jones, Jo Ann Hernandez, Lesa Whitehead and Rex Ann Friess.

As a committee, the members have extended their appreciation to Jo Ann and Rick Palmer for their endless hours of volunteer work and overseeing other workers on the Ice House during the past four years. Under their supervision, the building has been cleaned to the point that the committee can further pursue the vision.

It is the committee's plan to open the doors on the museum in the near future. Anyone interested in the status of the project, volunteer assistant and/or donations, may contact any of the above mentioned committee members.

Conaway Announces Re-election Bid

On Monday, Congressman Mike Conaway (R-TX) officially launched his 2008 reelection campaign when he filed paperwork for his reelection with the Republican Party of Texas in Austin. Conaway released the following statement announcing his reelection effort:

"I want to continue to lead the charge in Washington for fiscal responsibility, a strong national defense, and to keep our government accountable" said Conaway, a C.P.A. and small businessman seeking his 3rd term in Congress. "As I travel across the district, I am genuinely heartened to see the hard working and committed spirit of Texans throughout District 11. I look forward to being able to continue to address the issues that are most important to them in Washington."

The 11th Congressional District of Texas includes 36 counties in Central and West Texas including the communities of Midland, Odessa, San Angelo, and Brownwood. Congressman Conaway currently serves on the House Agriculture, Armed Services, Budget, and Republican Policy Committees and is an Assistant Republican Whip.

For more information please contact Jeff Burton at (202) 302-8637.

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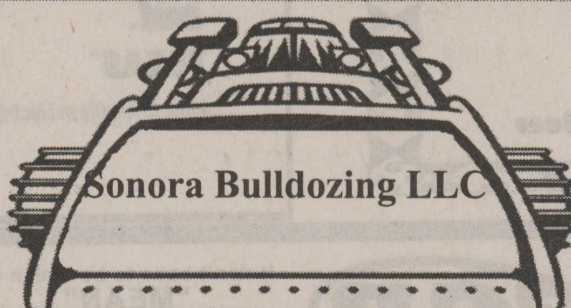
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Jessica Collins, Christmas 1987

Family Christmas Memories

by Jessica Collins

Every Christmas during my life has been my favorite. There are many that still make me smile and stand out in my memory. The memories that mean the most to me are the time that Mom had a bunch of presents under the tree; the year when Alyssa thought every present under the tree was intended for her (I thought they were all for me!); my first bike; and performing the annual Christmas Tree Salute with my Mom.

The reason that every Christmas is special to me is that everybody in my family gets together to celebrate the holiday. There are a lot of Bartzes, and when we get together there's always a whole lot of "family love and togetherness!" Family is the reason why I absolutely love the Christmas holiday. Without family, Christmas wouldn't be Christmas. It would just be another reason to eat a whole lot.

National Trust Seeks Nominations for Endangered Places List

The National Trust for Historic Preservation is accepting nominations for its 2008 America's 11 Most Endangered Places list. Since its founding in 1987, the endangered list has been one of the nation's most successful

tools in the fight to save America's irreplaceable architectural, cultural and natural heritage.

In 1998 the historic courthouses of Texas were recognized by this initiative. As a result, the Texas Historical Commission

(THC) took action to preserve these distinctive historic courthouses, prompting Gov. George W. Bush to create the Texas Historic Courthouse Preservation Program in 1999. This award-winning program provides partial matching grants to Texas counties for the restoration of their historic courthouses. Since its inception, the nationally recognized program has become a statewide partner with counties and local citizens working to restore and revitalize these historic temples of justice.

Nominations for the 2008 America's 11 Most Endangered Places list must be submitted by Friday, Dec. 14, 2007. For more information on nomination guidelines call 202/588-6141 or visit www.nationaltrust.org. To learn more about the Texas Historic Courthouse Preservation Program contact the THC's Architecture Division at 512/463-6094 or visit www.thc.state.tx.us.

"The only real blind person at Christmas-time is he who has not Christmas in his heart."

Helen Keller

ASU Offers SBA Seminar

The ASU Small Business Development Center is conducting a FREE seminar entitled SBA LOANS AND COMMERCIAL LENDING. The seminar will be held on Tuesday, December 11, from 4:00 to 6:30 p.m. in the Rassman Building Room 100.

This seminar will take the mystery out of SBA guaranteed loans, made through lenders such as banks. The seminar will explain how SBA loans work, what documents and information are required, and review the requirements to qualify

for a SBA guaranteed loan. It will also explain commercial lending, how the process works, what lenders look for, and how you can improve your chances of qualifying for a commercial loan whether it is conventional or SBA guaranteed.

The seminar will be taught by Dave Erickson. Dave is the ASU SBDC Director and is a Certified Business Advisor IV.

To Register call the SBDC at 325-942-2098 or register on-line at www.sbdc.angelo.edu

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Public Notice

INVITATION FOR BIDS

The Sutton County Hospital District is advertising for Construction Bids for the construction of three residential homes to be located at the 700 block of East 2nd Street, Sonora, Texas. Work consists of new construction of three residential homes. Sealed Bid Proposals will be received until 2:00 p.m. CST on December 6, 2007 at the office of:

Keith L. Butler, CEO
Sutton County Hospital District
308 Hudspeth Street
P.O. Box 455
Sonora, Texas 76950

All proposals will be publicly opened and read aloud at 2:00 p.m., December 6, 2007 at the Health and Wellness Center at Lillian M. Hudspeth Memorial Hospital.

Copies of the Documents may be obtained at the office of H. Schmidt Architects, 123 South David Street, San Angelo, Texas (325) 653-4242, for the refundable deposit of \$50.00 per set of documents.

A Pre Bid Meeting will be held at the site at 10:30 A.M. CST on Friday, November 30, 2007.

The successful bidder will be required to furnish satisfactory performance and payment bonds and insurance.

The Sutton County Hospital District reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any informalities in the bidding. Bids may be held for a period not to exceed 30 days from the date of the bid opening for the purpose of reviewing the bids and investigating the bidders qualifications prior to contract award.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON TAXATION OF PERSONAL PROPERTY IN TRANIT SUTTON COUNTY HOSPITAL DISTRICT DECEMBER 10, 2007, 7:00 P.M. THE HEALTH AND WELLNESS CENTER, MULTIPURPOSE ROOM 308 HUDSPETH STREET SONORA, SUTTON COUNTY, TEXAS

Notice is hereby given in compliance with Subchapter B, Chapter 11, Section 11.253, of the Texas Tax Code and Article III, Sec. 1-(d) of the Texas Constitution that the Board of Directors, Sutton County Hospital District, at its meeting at the above-named time, date and location, will conduct a Public Hearing on the adoption of an Order to tax tangible personal property in transit which would otherwise be exempt pursuant to Sec. 11.253 of the Texas Tax Code. This action relates to whether certain tangible personal property held temporarily at a location in this state for assembling, storing, manufacturing, processing or fabricating purposes (goods-in-transit) shall remain subject to taxation by the Sutton County Hospital District.

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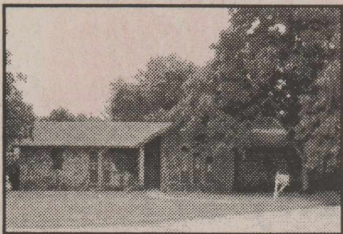
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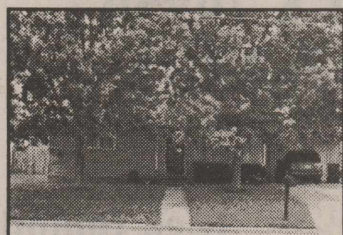
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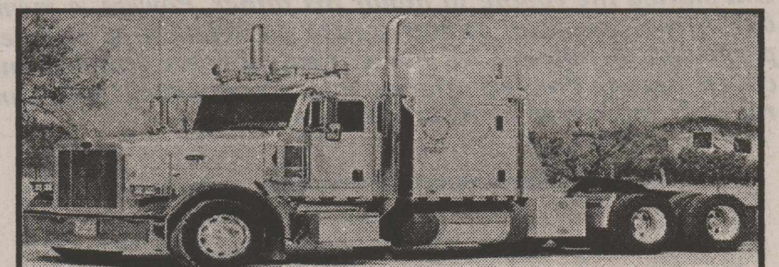
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Sonora City Council Plans to Observe Systems in Use

by Becky McAngus

The Sonora City Council will be making some road trips after the first of the year to visit communities where new sewer systems have replaced old, gravity systems. The purpose of these field trips will be to see first-hand how these systems operate on a day-to-day basis and to determine their effectiveness – before installing and upgrading the sewer system in Sonora.

“All of the members of the Sonora City Council are interested in and committed to a decision that is right for Sonora,” said City Manager Jim Polonis. “This is an investment in our future. The water and sewer systems we will install in the next two years could conceivably be in place for well over 50 years.”

Actually, with advances in public works technology, the system the City of Sonora is planning to install could be easily upgraded – for either sewer system the council members are considering – through the next century.

The Air Vac system, presented to city council on November 19th, offers many of the ease-of-installation options that are offered with the grinder pump system. Polonis explained that sewer lines for both systems would be of a smaller diameter and the lines will not be buried as deep as the current gravity system. Both of these options will offer minimal disruption of our sidewalks and street systems. The new lines could be installed in three-foot trenches or might possibly be installed by directional boring. Sonora's current system is buried an average of seven to nine feet deep, with some areas at least 25 feet underground.

The Air Vac System has been successfully installed in municipal applications throughout the country. Places like Albuquerque, NM, the historic district in Sanford, FL, Cape Charles, VA, and Port O'Connor, TX have installed these systems, with excellent results.

The system would work by the installation of a traditional gravity line carrying wastewater from the residence to a single valve pit. Each valve pit is equipped with a vacuum interface valve that activates when wastewater in the lower sump reaches a predetermined level, (typically ten gallons). When the valve activates, wastewater enters the collector line, followed by a volume of air. A central station maintains vacuum pressure within the sewer main collection lines. The wastewater forms a slug that is driven by air through the sewer mains to the central station, where it is then pumped to the treatment facility. According to company representatives, wastewater in the AirVac system moves so rapidly through the lines that buildups of grease or sludge are rare.

Proponents of the vacuum system insist that vacuum collection lines do not leak. If there is a crack in the line, the vacuum pressure prevents wastewater from entering the groundwater environment, ensuring that the possibility of contamination is zero. With this type of system, the city would be able to install the new sewer lines in narrow trenches without relocating existing water lines.

The city borrowed \$9 million from the Texas Water Development Board in February. Six million dollars has been earmarked to upgrade Sonora's sewer system infrastructure.

Mercantile Building Has A Very Grand Opening



Photos by Becky McAngus

The Historic Mercantile Building was the site of a ribbon cutting ceremony Monday afternoon in Sonora. Mike and Debra Hobbs were joined in the celebration by much of the downtown business district as well as Santa and Mrs. Claus. Pictured above are Mr. and Mrs. Hobbs, their daughter, Shalayne Mayfield, and their special guests, the people who have businesses in the newly restored historical structure. Currently, those businesses include John and Jen Jones with Mariposa Properties, Lucy McGuffin, Mallory Rousselot, Joy McGuffin and Marie Latham with Mercantile on Main, Doug Skolaut with West Texas Magnesium, Ryon and Jesse West with JAYADD Contracting, Joe McGuffin, Ben and Lenora Pool, Stacy Fisher, Everett Michael Enterprises and Rio Diablo Resources.



Santa and Mrs. Claus visited with those in attendance at the Mercantile Building's Ribbon Cutting Ceremony.



Madalyn Fisher whispered her Christmas wishes to Santa.

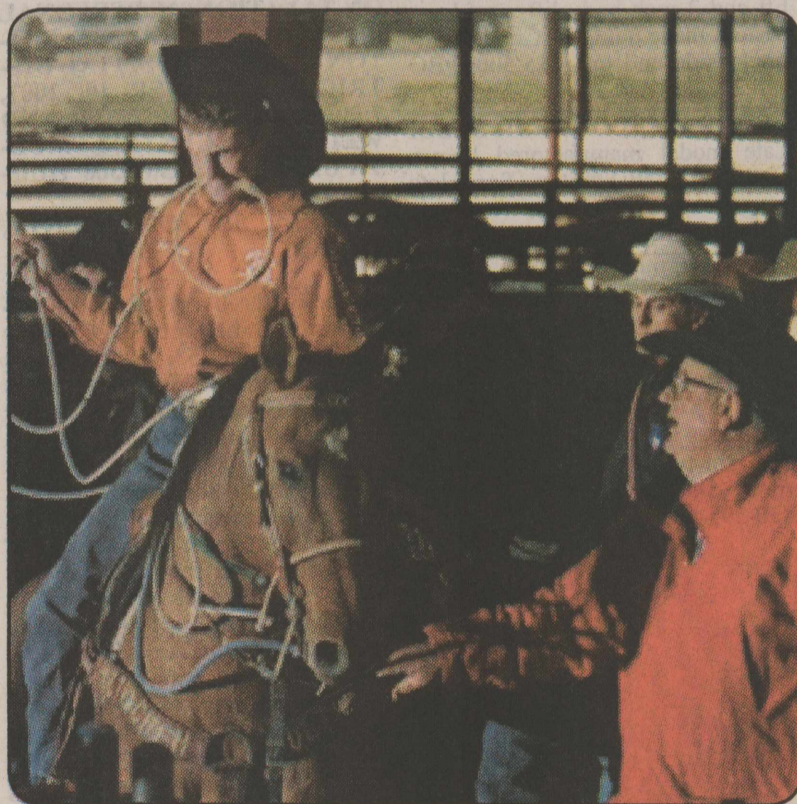


Photo by David Jennings

Sam Powers was a competitor at the Leo Ohl Memorial Roping in Hamilton, TX last weekend. World Champion Cody Ohl started the roping to honor his father. Powers, a member of the American Junior Rodeo Association, is pictured preparing to rope off his horse, Leo, with his granddad and coach, Jimmy Powers, offering last minute instruction. Sam ropes is sponsored by Multi-Chem of Sonora.

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