

The Devil's River News

75¢

Serving Sutton County Since 1890

Volume 119 • Issue 36

SONORA, TEXAS

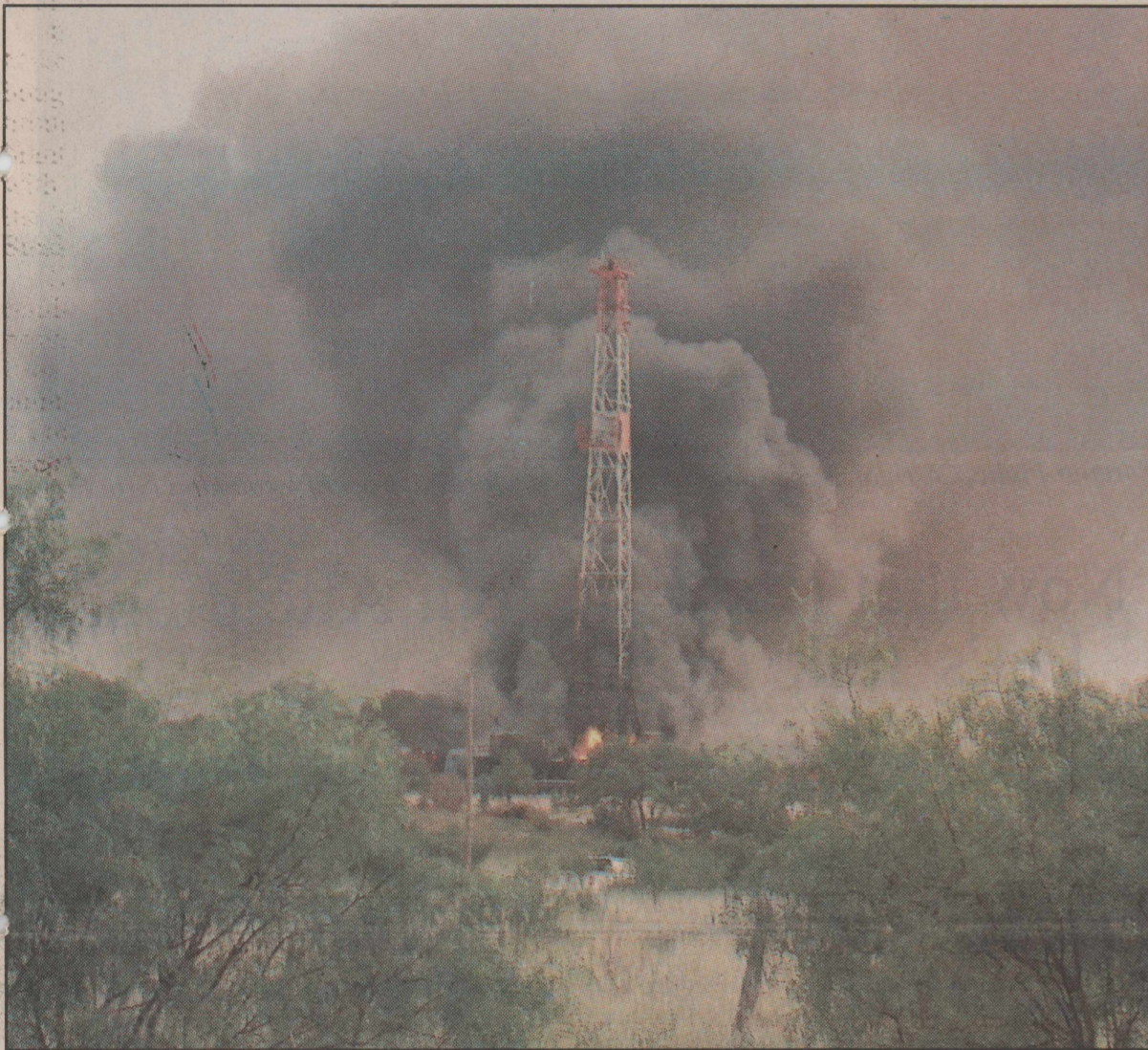
Thursday, December 27, 2007



Five beautiful young women vied for the title of Miss Sutton County in August.



August rainfall, measuring up to eleven inches, flooded our draws and turned the Dry Devil's River into a flowing body of water.



A rig explosion and fire in June injured three men in western Sutton County.



An Easter snowstorm surprised even the goats in Sutton County.

The Year in Review - A Look Back

by Becky McAngus

2007 was a year of change, rebirth, and new beginnings for me, and for Sonora. In the course of the past year, the city has diligently worked toward a permanent solution for its aging, dilapidated water and sewer infrastructure. After facing a possible enforcement action and fine in the amount of \$65,000, for a sewer spill into the Dry Devil's River, city council members are working on permanent solutions that will benefit our city well into the 22nd century. A summer of juvenile vandalism, break-ins, and graffiti led to the enactment of a curfew ordinance, the first in the city's history.

The Sonora Industrial Development Committee has completed studies of our community, its assets, and its needs in reference to growth and new jobs. The Chamber of Commerce has kept up with the business sector and provided information to and representation for business owners in our community. Friends of Historic Sonora, Main Street Program has continued its work to spark enthusiasm for revitalization of our historic downtown area.

In regard to our historic revitalization, Mike and Debra Hobbs, all on their own, bought the Historic Mercantile Building, and brought it back to life. Our downtown is vibrant again. The Old Post Office is buzzing with customers of Bahlmann Cleaners and the Thursday night "Box Dinners" from the Steakhouse and La Mexicana.

Sutton County was blessed with abundant rainfall this year, and we have the weeds to prove it! We also had webworms, butterflies, fleas and frogs. The drenching rains of the summer turned the Stockman's Paradise into a promise fulfilled. John Wesley Joy, I learned, keeps the most accurate rainfall records on the east end of the county. The August rainstorms dumped up to 11 inches of rain on the county, tearing out roads and ruining water gaps.

In April, our Lady Broncos Softball team, led by Meghan Kreig, claimed their second consecutive 2A district softball title. The Broncos got a new athletic director and head football coach, Sean Leamon. They lost their first game to Harper, but pulled together and, as a team, lived up to the Sonora tradition and

brought us an exciting season. Our cross country teams made history as they brought home three first places at district and advanced to regionals.

A Patterson drilling rig explosion and fire caused injury to three men in June, reminding us of the danger of this type of work. Wild Well Control, inc., of Houston, was called in to bring the fire under control.

In that same issue, mention was made of larger than normal numbers of visitors attending the monthly meetings of the Sonora Independent School District. Their concerns regarding the safety and security of their children while in school prompted numerous questions from parents and reassurances from the district. Vandalism at the junior high school led to the installation of a district-wide camera surveillance system, and the district began work on a new vocational building across Taylor Street from the high school. In October, school board meetings again became the "in" spot on meeting nights, as parents attended in large numbers to discuss the district's grading policies and curriculum changes.

The district began working on a master plan to upgrade the athletic facilities at Bronco Stadium. Projected costs of the project have ranged from \$3-4 million all the way up to the latest estimate of \$2 million.

Hudspeth Hospital and the Sonora Medical Clinic lost a caring physician and health advocate, Dr. Billy Wilson, in October. Dr. Wilson departed Sonora to return to emergency medicine practice. Dr. Bradley Bundrand now practices out of the offices in Suite B.

In October, we were advised that the Texas Department of Transportation's "bypass" (they want us to call a reliever route), is expected to be financed by the taxpayers of Sutton County. Traffic, especially the "superloads" that come through Sonora on an almost daily basis, is more than our highway infrastructure is prepared to handle.

A public meeting (and that's a story all of its own) was held, and experts conducting a feasibility study for the reliever route got a cool reception from locals as they explained the need for a bypass around Sonora to alle-

viate our traffic problems. We just thought Ports to Plains was a decade away - they told us the traffic is here now, and we've got to do something to make our city streets safer. 2008 will involve more meetings of this type.

It's been a great year, and we've covered some really interesting news - even making some news of our own by leaving out one

very important letter in the word "public". This headline - by far - was the winner of the office poll for the top story of the year. I think it's been "done" to death, but the voters at The Devil's River News have no heart. So, just to make them happy, I'm including it among the top stories of the year.

A Christmas Wish Granted



The Devil's River News got a hot tip from Santa Claus that Carson Cahill, daughter of Dawn and Chacho Cahill, wanted to be on the front page of our publication. Not wanting to find a lump of coal in our stocking next year, we are obliging this pretty young lady, who is pictured at right (above) with her sister, Lane, and Santa.

The Year In Review - a Look Back at 2007

From the Front Page October 11, 2007

First Pubic Meeting Brings Mixed Reviews

By Becky McAngus

The questions were tough and local reception was lukewarm Tuesday night for a panel of experts conducting a feasibility study for the Texas Department of Transportation's proposed reliever route around Sonora.

TxDOT has indicated that a traffic reliever route is under

consideration to alleviate traffic loads on our local streets due to Sonora's designation as a city on the Ports-to-Plains Trade Corridor. "Construction of the reliever route is not imminent," noted John DeWitt, director of planning and transportation for the San Angelo TxDOT office. "Funding," he said, "is indeterminate at this time and the information gathered and determinations made during the planning process will play a significant role in any decisions regarding the reliever route."

"At this point, there are many challenges to our ability to build the Ports to Plains corridor," he said, explaining that the Texas Trunk System, established in the 1950s, provides the backbone of the trade corridor. The corridor north of San Angelo to Denver, Colorado is essentially complete. Highway 277 south of San Angelo, the 150-mile stretch between San Angelo and Del Rio, does not, at this time, carry any formal authority to construct, he explained.

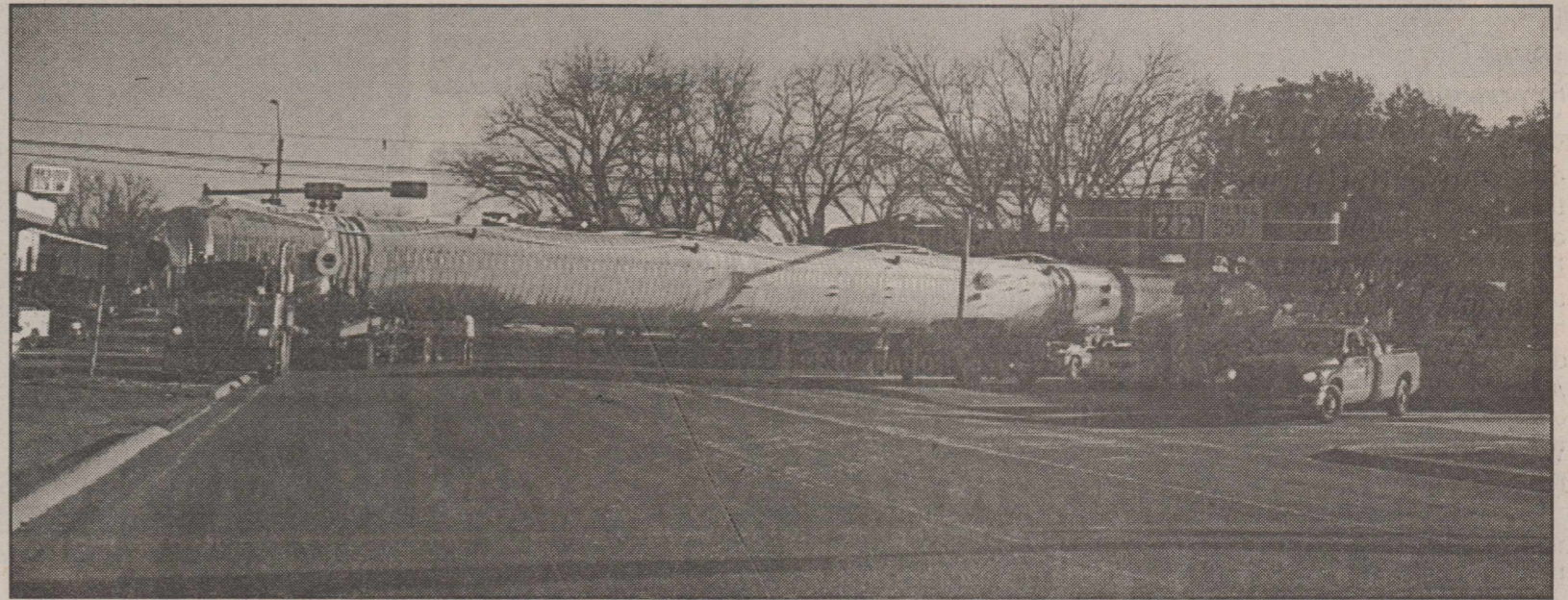
Factoring in population growth, the rapid deterioration of

the highway infrastructure, the status of gasoline tax revenues, record construction costs, federal recissions, and diversions of state tax gas revenues to other objectives, TxDOT is facing "funding challenges."

TxDOT has suggested several financing options, including new fuel tax adjustments, pass-through tolling, or public-private partnerships via Comprehensive Development Agreements or Regional Mobility Authorities. Del Rio has recently agreed to a bond election to fund the construction of a reliever route for that city, and will be paid back by the state through a pass-through tolling agreement.

Questions about the lack of funding, especially relating to depletion of the Texas Highway Trust Fund, were asked by those in attendance. Condemnation of land and water and mineral rights were also chief concerns expressed by local landowners, many of whom dealt with these same issues when Interstate 10 was constructed in Sutton County in the 1970's.

October 4, 2007



Due to Sonora's location on the Ports-to-Plains Corridor, Superloads like the one pictured above are a common sight in our town.

Correction: Now that I've Got Your Attention, Let's Talk Traffic

October 18, 2007

by Becky McAngus

I've been told that I'd better quit going to public meetings or I won't have any friends left! Maybe I'd just better quit writing headlines.

I really, really messed up last week's front page. (The "L" was left out of "public" in the reliever route meeting article, for those who didn't catch it.) Boy, did the town start talking! My sister, normally the most supportive family member I have, told me she was going to submit it to Jay Leno. I was so embarrassed that I considered hiding out for several days.

Then I realized that life goes on. The best part about living in Sonora is the fact that most of the people who caught my mistake were comfortable enough to call and laugh with me, and then to offer encouragement. It's what makes this job so special. Y'all know how to keep a writer humble.

I just hope people weren't so distracted by my typo that they forgot to read the story - because it's a story that is important to the future of our town.

We just **thought** Ports-to-Plains was years away. The truth is that it's here now. The trouble is that our existing roadways were not designed to safely accommodate the increased traffic and that TxDOT doesn't have the money to build a reliever route. The state wants us to pay for it, and then they'll pay us back at whatever percentage they agree to pay.

The discussion about funding, right-of-way acquisition and landowner rights got right to the heart of the matter last Tuesday night. Something has to be done to ensure public safety, but how can we afford a bond issue to build a bypass that may or may not be beneficial to our community

and may or may not be repaid by our state government?

I like the quality of life we have in Sonora - even if we don't have a superstore or a strip-mall. I'm not interested in living in San Angelo. I don't like to wait in line. Our water is clean, our air is clean, and I still know almost everybody in town. You proved that to me last week when you stopped me at the post office, in the grocery store or called me on the phone.

I promise not to work late anymore to try to get a story about a Tuesday night meeting in a newspaper printed Wednesday morning. I also promise to never use the word "pubic" in a headline again! Accuracy counts, even if the news is a week old when you get it. Thank you for reading and for responding with your thoughts.

Nicholas Receives the Maximum Sentence

May 3, 2007

Submitted

On April 23, 2007, Ronald Alan Nicholas pled guilty to three counts of Possession of Child Pornography in Sonora, Sutton County, Texas. Nicholas had been the art teacher in Sonora for 23 years when school administrators discovered, in September 2005, that he was accessing child pornography on his school computer.

The jury heard testimony from school officials and local law enforcement officers, including the Texas Rangers.

An employee of the Texas Department of Public Safety Crime Lab also testified about finding approximately 13,000 images of "apparent child pornography" on the hard drive of Nicholas' school computer and downloaded onto his floppy disks, CDs, and other media.

One hundred sixteen photographs of child pornography were admitted into evidence, including 8x10 color photographs that Nicholas had printed and stored in notebooks in the High School art room.

Nicholas testified on his own behalf and admitted that he had also accessed child pornography on the computer at his church until the computer broke. After two days of testimony, a jury of seven men and five women assessed the maximum punishment: ten years

in the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, Institutional Division and a \$10,000 fine for each count.

Laurie English, 112th District Attorney, had previously filed the required notice asking the Court to order that the sentences be "stacked" or served consecutively.

"Consecutively" means that one sentence must be served before the next sentence begins. Judge Gomez ordered that Nicholas serve the three sentences consecutively.

"This verdict achieves justice for the citizens of Sutton County and the 112th Judicial District. It also sends a message that persons who prey upon our children will be punished severely."

Curfew Ordinance Enacted

September 6, 2007

Following a summer of vandalism, graffiti defaced public and private property, and investigative overtime, the Sonora City Council has unanimously approved the adoption of a juvenile curfew, and, according to police Chief Mike House, the ordinance is being enforced. The purpose of the curfew, as reported earlier this summer, is to create provisions for law enforcement to make investigative stops of juveniles between the hours of midnight and 6:00 a.m.

The ordinance defines a minor as a person under age 17. The ordinance states, "It shall be unlawful for any minor to purposefully remain, run, walk, drive, or ride about in or upon any public place in the City of Sonora, between the hours of twelve o'clock midnight and 6:00 a.m. on any day." Further, the ordinance requires parents to monitor their minor children; "It shall be unlawful for the parent or guardian to knowingly allow or permit the minor to be in violation of the curfew..."

The ordinance does allow a minor to be out in public after midnight with his or her parents, or in the event of an emergency. Students who are attending a school, or a religious activity, or going to or coming from a school or religious activity, or are engaged in a lawful employment activity, or is going directly to or coming from lawful employment, are not subject to the curfew.

Dr. Rico Forlano

Forlano Chiropractic
Family Health Center

(325) 853-3331

Box 633
418 Hwy. 277 S.
Eldorado, Texas 76936

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Lighthouse Community

Church

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Senior Center Activities

Thu. Dec. 27 - Bingo
Fri. Dec. 28 - Happy B-Day Inocencia Ynguanzo
Mon. Dec. 31 - New Year's Eve-Center Closed!
Tues. Jan. 1 - Center Closed

Senior Center Menu

Thu. Dec. 27 - Beef Tacos, Taco Shells, Pinto Beans, Tossed Salad, Apple Cobbler and Milk
Fri. Dec. 28 - Roast Beef, gravy mashed potatoes, roll, green beans, cake with strawberries, milk
Mon. Dec. 31 - CENTER CLOSED FOR NEW YEAR'S EVE.
Tues. Jan. 1 - CENTER CLOSED FOR NEW YEAR'S.

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

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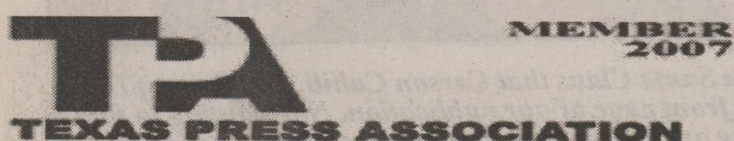
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Any erroneous reflection upon the character, standing or reputation of any person, firm, or corporation which appears in the columns of this paper will be corrected upon due notice given to the Editor of this publication. The views expressed in submitted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



Happy Birthday

December 27
Charlie Alewine, Jerry Don Balch,
Danielle Hudson, Melinda Crain

December 29
Dean Dermody, Donna Benson, Ruth Ramos

December 30
Blayne Sykes, Carol Pope, Mario Lira Jr., Katie Trevino,
Rosalie Richardson, Justin Northcott

December 31
Sabrinah Castro, Nathan Longoria, Vincent Hernandez,
Raymundo Morales, Lupe Ramon, Tina Covey

January 1
Becky McAngus, Alma Trevino, Corey Smith

January 2
Gretta Smith, Keith Hudson, Alec Morrow, Betty Lopez,
Nick Pena, Michael Martinez,

Historical Society

ASK THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
By Jo-Ann E. Palmer,
Secretary
Sutton County
Historical Society

Q. Will you please tell the story of the "Snowbabies" and their connection to Sonora again? We really enjoyed it at Christmas time last year and have bought several for our children since.

A. Admiral Robert E. Peary was a great supporter of naval aviation to protect the coast of the United States, and his family visited Sutton County in 1917 (they were returning from a trip to California that he had undertaken in the interest of naval aviation). The family stopped in Sutton County so they could visit Henry H. Diebitsch; his wife's brother-in-law. We don't have a paper telling of this visit, but we do have one of the February 28, 1920 "The Devil's River News" which tells, "Henry H. Diebitsch had just received word of the death of his brother-in-law, Admiral Robert E. Peary, which occurred at his home in Washington D.C. on Friday, February, 20th."

Peary was married to Josephine Diebitsch Peary in 1888. She was the daughter of a linguist at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington D.C. In June of 1891, she accompanied her husband and a small crew of the "kite" to northern Greenland. They wintered in McCormick Bay, an area roughly midway between the Arctic Circle and the North Pole. If you want to learn about her time in the Arctic, read "My Arctic Journal" a narrative of stress and treacherous character of living in the severe northern climate. Her book was published in 1893 when she had returned to the far north with her husband on another expedition. While there, she gave birth to a daughter named Marie Ahnighito Peary, who was fondly called "The Snow Baby" by press and locals. "They had never seen a white baby and, in her little white fur outfits, they thought, with her pure white face, that Marie looked like a snow baby," Josephine would write in her next book, "The Snow Baby," which was a true story.

After several years away from the Arctic, Josephine and her young daughter would journey north to meet her husband at Fort Conger. Unfortunately, her vessel, the "Windward," was damaged by an iceberg and Josephine, Marie and the crew wound up spending the winter, in Greenland, about 300 miles south of Robert Peary's camp. During that winter, Josephine met Alaskasingwah, Peary's pregnant Inuit lover. Despite pain caused by his infidelity, and long absences, she remained supportive of her husband.

After her husband returned from the North Pole in 1901 and retired in 1911, he and Josephine spent their summer with their two children, Marie and Robert Jr. on Eagle Island. In the winter they resided in Washington, D.C. Josephine planted a garden and hundreds of trees on the island. Some people tried to claim Peary never reached the North Pole, but his wife staunchly supported his claims all her life and presented evidence of his



Commander Robert E. Peary

journals and photographs to support all his claims.

A man named Cook had perpetrated a hoax that he was the first to reach the North Pole. His stories were proven to be lies, but it took a lot of work and without all the journals, photos and proof that Josephine had constantly presented, he might have succeeded in his lies.

Josephine Diebitsch Peary was recognized for her personal accomplishments in 1955 by the National Geographic Society, they awarded her their highest honor, the Medal of Achievement. On December 19, 1955 Josephine died, at the age of 92, and was buried alongside her husband in Arlington National Cemetery. If you ever get to see Arlington Cemetery be sure to ask to see their graves. You will be amazed by the size of the cemetery and all the famous people who lay at rest there.

Now we will tell you more about the Snowbabies. When Marie Peary was born, the news traveled around the world. Inuit men and women and children from hundreds of miles around traveled on their sledges pulled by dogs to see the baby. They wanted to see if she was warm and not made of snow, she was so white; they had to touch and feel the warmth and make sure she was a real live child. They named her AH-POO-MIK-A-NINNY, which translates to "Snow Baby." In the book Josephine Peary wrote called "Snow Baby," there are pictures of Marie lying on reindeer blankets in her fur outfit. Stories and pictures of the beautiful white baby born in the Arctic caught the attention of children the world wide. Some people in cold climates dressed their infants in fur outfits, imitating the outfit Marie had worn.

The term "snow baby" had been around for many years. It was used to describe German delicacies made of sugar that hung on Christmas trees and adorned cakes for many years before the little "Snow Baby" was born. There were even some toys made in early days to resemble snow babies made of sugar, but with real faces on them. Over the years, many different manufacturers had made the little snow babies, but most of them were very fragile and didn't survive for very long.

With the birth of Marie, the Germans knew they had a market for the little dolls and started to make them out of a more durable material resulting in the creation of bisque dolls. They came in many different poses and sizes, from as small as 12 inches, and were exported all over the world. Most of them are



Marie Ahnighito Peary



Josephine Diebitsch Peary

now prized items in thousands of private doll collections. Larger "Snow Babies" were made to be used as displays in stores, especially around Christmas time. Along with Santa Clause, the "Snow Babies" became kind of a symbol of Christmas. Some were made with bisque heads and cloth bodies and haven't survived well, but they are a highly prized collectible. Today many stores sell the little bisque dolls come in all different shapes and sizes. I have a collection of them myself that I started back in the 1970's.

We want to wish everyone a happy and safe holiday

season from all the officers of the Sutton County Historical Society. We will be closed on December 25th and again on January 1st but we will be open on December 27th and 29th and January 2nd so that people who are in town and would like to tour the Miers Home Museum or peruse the archives can stop by and visit. A special thanks to our helpers who put up the lights in the Miers Home Museum, offices and bathrooms. We are unable to decorate the John & Mildred Cauthorn Building this year as the carpenter is working on putting up the base for the new soffit and

trim along the top of the building at this time. The building is going to look so beautiful when it is finished. We have cut out some overgrown and dead shrubbery and hope to replace it with some vegetation that takes very little water. Water is becoming liquid gold, and we all have to learn to conserve and plant lawns that take very little water and are in tune with nature in this area.

Now a special big THANK YOU to all my readers who know I have been trying to collect nuts for the United

States Coast Guard's young men and women. To date, I have picked up and cracked by hand over 95 lbs of nuts. Half have been mailed out and the rest I will take to Mobile Stations when I go there from January 10th approximately February 10.

I will try to have columns written ahead while I am gone. We will also try to have volunteers in the office on Tuesdays and Thursdays while I am gone. If you can volunteer to help file or work around the office while I am away, please give the office a call at 387-5084.



Claire Jones, Mary Adele Balch, Jodi Finklea and Nancy Davis wore their hats and prettiest smiles at the Kentucky Derby in April of 2007.

Dangerous Conditions

May 10, 2007



A dangerous rainstorm in May caused draws to swell, and overturned this eighteen wheeler south of Sonora. The driver and a passenger were rescued without injury.

By Kel Thomas

A series of storms moved over the Edwards Plateau Monday, bringing torrential rainfall, small hail, dangerous and frequent lightning and tornadic activity in the Concho Valley.

Fueled by a slow moving low pressure system and a weak cold front moving southward through Texas, the region found itself under tornado watches and warnings, flash flood warnings and severe thunderstorm conditions.

In the early hours of Monday, a bolt of lightning struck a tank battery approximately 12 miles east of Sonora. The lightning strike ignited the tanks, prompting a swift response by the Sonora Volunteer Fire Department to control the fire. By 11:00 a.m. the fire had been controlled.

In addition to the fire, a Niblett's Oilfield truck carrying a back-hoe was attempting to cross the draw on the Jones Ranch when a tree, being pushed along by rising waters, caused the truck to roll approximately three times in the rushing water.

The two occupants of the truck were rescued from the torrent by two other Niblett's employees.

When the truck initially crossed the draw, the water was easily negotiated, but in a matter of a few minutes, run-off from heavy rains cause the draw to run with enough force to overturn the truck.

Rainfall totals for Sonora were in the 2 to 2½ inch range with unsubstantiated reports of between 4 and 6 inches in the county.

Continued chances of stormy weather throughout the week, coupled with the already saturated soil profile, could produce more run-off and the potential for flooding should heavy rains occur.

Ranchers in the area are all smiles with the moisture and the green condition of rangelands

and know first-hand these conditions are an infrequent occurrence.

Hitchin' Post Leveled by Fire

February 1, 2007

By MELISSA PERNER
Editor and Publisher of the
Ozona Stockman

What once housed parties and private gatherings is now a pile of insulation, burned wood and metal.

Inside the area where patrons watched their favorite football teams on the big screen television, while enjoying their beverage of choice, is smoke and debris with pieces of insulation hanging from the ceiling. However, the ice machine still works.

For owners Pat and Debi Hamilton, the fire that destroyed part of the Hitchin' Post Steakhouse on Jan. 26th could have been much worse.

"How grateful we are that the whole building didn't burn. The part that did burn we can live without," Debi said.

The fire occurred at 8:37 a.m. and started in the back part of the restaurant, inside the largest private dining room.

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Main Street Traffic

By Mary Ann Kay

Friends of Historic Sonora Main Street Program would like to express to our community how much we appreciate the support we received from the City of Sonora, our supporters, and Sutton County for the year 2007.

Christmas is a special time for all of us to reach out and touch each other with love. We live in a community full of treasures such as artists with special talents, folks who can cook the best sweets and West Texas BBQ straight from heaven, and the wild life that walks the street. Another treasure is our ranching, oil field, and rodeo community who have kept us in the style of life we all desire. Among the blessings are the rich western heritage and traditional West Texas style of life we all know, and for this we are thankful. The historical downtown, with the Sutton County Courthouse standing with honor of the past and the future at hand, is a blessing to our community. Of course, if you are counting the blessings of this community, you would have to say the biggest blessing is the people whom we all love and work with each day. I would challenge you to stop and think of how lucky we are to be blessed with the community we live in and of the soldiers who have paid the price of freedom for all of us.

We encourage you to visit First National Bank for the Sonora High School Art Exhibit

Nativity Scenes on Display at The Bank & Trust

Peter and Iris Bradley have traveled the world and, as they have traveled, Iris has begun to collect Christmas Nativity Scenes. She has had

on December 19th January 3rd, 2008. The young talented artists of our community have chosen to participate in The Memory Project. This program is a nationwide initiative in which advanced, high school art students create original portraits for children living in orphanages around the world. Given that children who have been abandoned, orphaned, abused, or neglected usually have few personal keepsakes, the purpose of the portraits is to provide them with a special memory of their youth, to honor their heritage and identity, and to help them build a positive self-image. The art students are; Cassandra Contreras, Ross Crites, Ricky Lozano, Alicia Lowe, Mik Samaniego, Ashley Brown, Yazmin Hernandez, Heather Smith, and Felipe Silva. Come by and see the portraits before they are gone.

On January 15, 2007, friends of Historic Sonora, Main Street Program will host the Texas Pecos Trail Meeting in Sonora. The community is invited to attend and participate and show the other 22 counties in the Pecos Trail Region how we all welcome them to our town. We will meet at the St John's Episcopal Church at 10:30 a.m. We have the honor of having our Judge, Carla Garner, tell the story of the Sutton County Courthouse Restoration Project. Lunch will be served at 12:00 noon by the Sutton County Steakhouse. The price for lunch will be \$10.00.



Cancer survivors make the "Survivor's Lap" at Relay for Life in May of 2007.

The Video Store
802 Crockett • 387-3710
New Releases • Tues. December 26th
~Paradise Texas~
~Heartbreak Kid~
~Rush Hour 3~
~American Pie - Beta House~
~Eastern Promises~
~The Kingdom~
Store Hours:
Monday - Saturday, 10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.; 2:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Ol Sonora Trading Co.
121 Hwy 277 N.
325-387-5507

Bridal Selections

Dani Barker
bride-elect
Chance Dillard

Megan Fitzgerald
bride-elect
Burke Headrick

Lynzie Custer
bride-elect
Jake Trainer

Mrs. Stetson Hall
nee
Mary Armstrong

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.

Gifts Galore & More
Everett's Pharmacy
417 N. Hwy 277 • (325) 387-5871

Bridal Registry
Megan Fitzgerald bride-elect Burke Headrick
Dani Barker bride-elect Chance Dillard
Lynzie Custer bride-elect Jake Trainer
Mrs. Stetson Hall-nee Mary Armstrong

F.Y.I.

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

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. 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 Tanguma 325-277-7189



This shy angel made a huge impact on the audience at the Downtown Christmas Celebration, December 5, 2006

Team Graphics

Please Place All Embroidery and Monogram Orders By December 14th for Christmas Delivery.

NEW ARRIVALS
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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. 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.

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The Fishing Report

AMISTAD: Water clear; 64 degrees; 7.44' low. Black bass are good on crankbaits, spinnerbaits, soft plastics, and some topwaters. Striped bass are good on slabs and large redfins. White bass are good on slabs and small crankbaits. Catfish are good on cheese-bait, shrimp, and nightcrawlers in 40 - 80 feet. Yellow catfish are slow.

NASWORTHY: Water lightly stained; 57 degrees. Black bass are fair on shad-colored crankbaits and live baits. Crappie are fair on minnows and jigs. Redfish are slow. White bass and striped bass are fair on live baits and shad-colored crankbaits. Catfish are fair on minnows.

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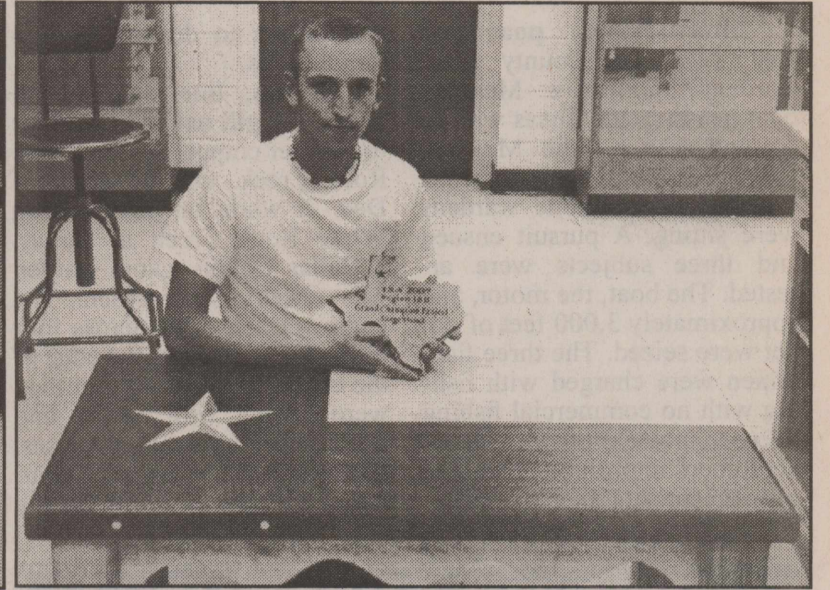
Team Builder Meeting
Thursday, January 3 @ 6:00 pm
At The Health and Wellness Center

Call Sarah at 387-2348 or stop by the Wellness Center for more information!

2007 in Review - Our Kids Saw Success!



The 7th and 8th Grade Kickin' Colt Band Won Sweepstakes in Brownwood



State Grand Champion Woodwork was earned by Evan Rousselot.



The Sutton County 4-H Wool Judging team won State.



Emily Earwood was crowned 2007 Homecoming Queen at halftime ceremonies on September 14th. She is pictured at right, with dad, Edward, and sister, Meredith.

Sonora Broncos Basketball Schedule

Dec.27-29 Reagan Co. Tournament Reagan Co.	TBA	Feb.8 Blanco * Home	5:00	6:30	Feb.12 Comfort * Away	5:00	6:30
Jan.4 Reagan County Away	5:00	8:00					
Jan.8 Rocksprings Away	5:00	8:00					
Jan.11 Junction* Away	5:00	8:00					
Jan.15 Mason * Home	5:00	8:00					
Jan.18 Brady* Away	5:00	8:00					
Jan.22 Blanco * Away	5:00	8:00					
Jan.25 Comfort * Home	5:00	8:00					
Jan.29 Junction * Home	5:00	8:00					
Feb.1 Mason * Away	5:00	8:00					
Feb.5 Brady * Home	5:00	8:00					

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Lady Broncos Basketball Schedule

DEC 27-29 REAGAN CO TOURNAMENT T.B.A.			
JAN-4 BLANCO* HOME	5:00	6:30	8:00
JAN-8 COMFORT* AWAY	5:00	6:30	8:00
JAN-11 JUNCTION* AWAY	5:00	6:30	8:00
JAN-15 MASON* HOME	5:00	6:30	8:00
JAN-18 BRADY* AWAY	5:00	6:30	8:00
	5:00		



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Sir Isaac Newton

From your Family and Friends at the
Devils River News

Oil & Agribusiness

Game Warden Reports - From The Hunting Lease to the Court

International poaching: Dec. 4, Zapata County game wardens spotted a Mexican boat heading into Texas waters. Around 6 p.m., the Mexican fishermen approached the brush line where the game wardens were sitting. A pursuit ensued and three subjects were arrested. The boat, the motor, and approximately 3,000 feet of gill net were seized. The three fishermen were charged with fishing with no commercial fishing license, possession of illegal equipment in prohibited waters, insufficient number of PFDs,

and failure to display navigational lights. **Bottles, line and — oh yeah — a gill net:** It is time for the winter crappie run on White Rock Creek. On the night of Dec. 2, while on patrol along White Rock Creek in Dallas, a Dallas County game warden was checking fishermen. The game warden came across four individuals sitting at the edge of the creek. They stated that they were fishing with bottles and line but had no fishing licenses. IDs were taken and the four were directed to clean up the

site of their trash and go to the parking lot. While investigating the creek bank where they had been, the game warden started to pull up what looked like the end of a stringer. What was pulled up was 100 feet of gill net with more than 100 fish; mostly crappie, sand bass and black bass. Multiple cases were filed and are pending.

Kids say the darnedest things: Dec. 1, a Hill County game warden located some illegal duck hunting activity at the Navarro Mills Lake Corps area in Hill County. Since duck season was closed due to a split in the season until Dec. 8, the game warden asked one of the hunters what they were out hunting for, and the hunter stated that they, two other adults and two kids were goose hunting. After checking their guns, the game warden knew that there weren't any violations since goose season was open; then he asked one of the kids, "So, y'all didn't shoot any ducks this morning?" The kid then stated that they shot one, but they could not keep it because it was not a good duck. After a brief investigation, one of the subjects admitted to shooting the duck, a Northern Shoveler.

Lousy shot, but at least he didn't lie: Dec. 1, a Motley County game warden and a Dickens County game warden were exiting a ranch in Motley County when they witnessed a pickup pulled to the edge of the road. When the wardens approached the pickup, two subjects were standing next to the fence, one with a rifle pointed out in the pasture. One of the

game wardens asked the subject if he had hit anything, and he replied: "Naw, I missed." Charges were filed.

I only poach at night: Dec. 1, a Hale County game warden was checking a large group of pheasant hunters when he encountered a man he had filed numerous charges on in previous years. The man could not produce a hunting license and stated he did in fact have one because, as he said: "I tagged the mule deer buck I shot last night with a tag from it." That statement started a four-hour investigation that resulted in seizure of three illegal mule deer from three different locations and charges on four individuals for no hunting license, improperly tagged deer, untagged deer, tagging a deer with another person's tag and hunting without landowner consent.

Busy day on the water: Dec. 1, Chambers County game wardens were patrolling Trinity and Galveston Bays for oyster violations. While stopped to look at oyster boats, an unregistered vessel came up and stopped right next to the patrol boat. Citation was issued. The wardens then began boarding oyster boats. On the first boat, the wardens counted 30 percent undersized cargo; citation issued, 25 sacks returned to the reef. Second boat had 26 percent undersized; citation issued, 17 sacks returned to the reef. On the horizon, one of the game wardens saw a recreational boat coming and the "game warden intuition" kicked-in. After a short ride, the wardens caught the boat and the two occupants had eight undersized red drum,

six over the daily bag limit of black drum, and one of the guys had no fishing license. Citations issued. One of the other wardens pointed to another oyster boat and said they needed to check that boat, and the wardens found 46 percent undersized oysters; citation issued and 14 sacks were returned to the reef.

The long memory of the law: A game warden received an Operation Game Thief call about five hunters who came down from California last year to hunt exotics at a local ranch. They had bought the \$45 non-resident five-day special hunting license. During their stay at the ranch, they decided to help the ranch with their white-tailed deer management. The five hunters took a total of 11 white-tailed deer — one of them scored 123 Boone & Crockett and another 119 Boone & Crockett. The ranch manager stated he confronted the hunters about getting the appropriate license, but they did not want to spend the unexpected \$300. The ranch owner was contacted by the game warden and informed of the violations, and he stated those same hunters will be back this year. The game warden met them at the ranch this season, and although the hunters had the right licenses this year, they were cited for hunting without a valid non-resident hunting license last

year. The heads of the two bucks were returned, and restitution will be pending on the 11 deer.

Lots of problems with this trophy: Dec. 1 a Limestone County game warden initiated an investigation into the taking of a 161 5/8 Boone & Crockett whitetail deer that was entered into a local Big Buck Contest. The hunter claimed to have killed the deer at 5:30 p.m., but Austin Communications reported that the hunter's license wasn't purchased until 7:30 p.m. on that same day.

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Rig Report
As of December 14, 2007

SUTTON

- 1 Highmount E&P/hdq 9550' Duke Wilson #21-11 Dw Patterson Drilling/a 120 12/16/07 Assigned
- 2 Highmount E&P/hdq 9250' Duke Wilson -188- #21 Dw Patterson Drilling/a 120 12/04/07 11 Drlg Ahead
- 3 Highmount E&P/hdq 8975' Mayfield -32- #21 Dw Helmerich & Payne/s 301 12/07/07 8 Drlg Ahead
- 4 Dominion Ok Tx E&P 8700' Mayer Ranch -36- #3 Dw Helmerich & Payne/s 302 12/08/07 7 Drlg Ahead
- 5 Dominion Ok Tx E&P 8650' Hudspeth -2- #1 Dw Patterson Drilling/a 39 12/08/07 7 Drlg Ahead
- 6 Dominion Ok Tx E&P 8550' Mayer Ranch -40- #4 Dw Helmerich & Payne/s 302 12/20/07 Assigned
- 7 Dominion Ok Tx E&P 8300' Simmons -72- #8 Dw Helmerich & Payne/s 303 12/15/07 Moving On
- 8 Dominion Ok Tx E&P 8250' Simmons -71- #13 Dw Helmerich & Payne/s 301 12/20/07 Assigned
- 9 Highmount E&P/hdq 7350' R H Mittel #10 Dw Patterson Drilling/a 105 12/12/07 3 Drlg Ahead
- 10 Highmount E&P/hdq 7175' Shurley -139- #5 Dw Patterson Drilling/a 40 12/09/07 6 Drlg Ahead
- 11 Highmount E&P/hdq 7000' Canyon Ranch -114- #6s Dw Helmerich & Payne/s 305 12/13/07 2 Drlg Ahead
- 12 Dominion Ok Tx E&P 5550' Stewart -36- #4 Dw Helmerich & Payne/s 304 12/09/07 6 Drlg Ahead

CROCKETT

- 1 Harrison Interests 10500' John W Henderson Iii -k- #72 Ft Heart Land Drilling 8 12/01/07 14 Drlg Ahead 6949'
- 2 Approach Operating 9000' University 42-22 #2 Dw Nabors Drilling (O) 353 12/09/07 6 Drlg Ahead
- New 3 Approach Operating 9000' J R Bailey Estate -b- #1905 Dw Patterson Drilling/a 710 12/09/07 6 Drlg Ahead
- New 4 Anadarko E & P Co Lp 6800' Henderson -c- (Bbb6) #4 Dw Patterson Drilling/a 38 12/09/07 6 Drlg Ahead
- New 5 Fiml Natural Res 6200' Sudderth #2-14b Dw Patterson Drilling/a 721 12/12/07 3 Drlg Ahead
- New 6 Sigma Energy&exp Co 2000' Sigma Meadows #10 Ft Hope Drilling 1 12/15/07 Rigging Up

SCHLEICHER

- 1 Dominion Ok Tx E&P 8900' Parmer -30- #3 Dw Patterson Drilling/a 742 12/21/07 Assigned
- 2 Dominion Ok Tx E&P 8650' Powell -8- #3 Dw Patterson Drilling/a 742 12/11/07 4 Drlg Ahead
- New 3 Chaparral Energy 6200' Mcelroy Estate #2 Ft Bandera Drilling 010 12/11/07 4 Drlg Ahead

TERRELL

- 1 Encore Operating Lp 15000' Goode Estate #6 Dw Nabors Drilling (O) 641 11/07/07 38 Drlg Ahead
- 2 Newfield Exploration 15000' Poulter -36- #3601 Dw Patterson Drilling/a 118 12/03/07 12 Drlg Ahead
- New 3 Conocophillips/odess 12700' Alex Mitchell -1- #11 Dw Helmerich & Payne/s 214 12/16/07 Moving On
- 4 Conocophillips/odess 12500' University -4- #8 Dw Patterson Uti/lv 481 10/25/07 51 Drlg Ahead 12357'
- 5 Fasken Oil & Ranch 7750' Brown Sw -212- #29 Dw Patterson Drilling/a 42 11/29/07 16 Drlg Ahead
- 6 Encore Operating Lp 6300' Mayme K Martin Unit #8 Dw Nabors Drilling (O) 709 11/30/07 15 Drlg Ahead
- New 7 Encore Operating Lp 6000' Banner Estate #81 Dw Nabors Drilling (O) 709 12/19/07 Assigned

EDWARDS

- 1 Newfield Exploration 15500' Whitehead -85- Gas Unit -1- #h Dw Patterson Drilling/a 471 12/06/07 9 Drlg Ahead
- 2 Stonegate Prod Co 5000' Peterson Gas Unit -1- #2 H Dw Nabors Drilling (O) 442 12/08/07 7 Drlg Ahead

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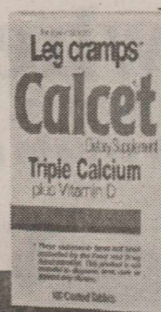
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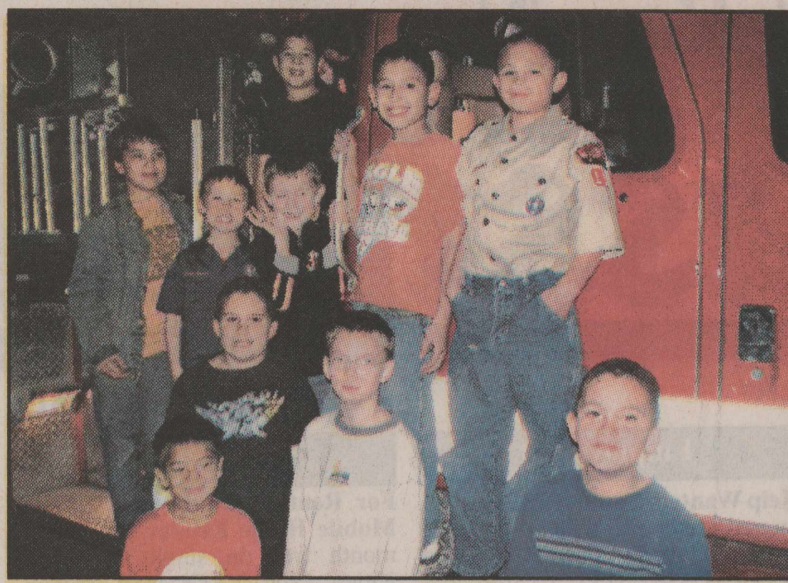
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A Visit From the Queen



Sonora was well represented at the "Christmas at Old Fort Concho" celebration. Carl Weaver camped and demonstrated fire starting, leatherwork, and other crafts. Chap, Joleta and Hunter Traylor portrayed a Confederate family, and local veterinarian Patti Strauch portrayed the imperious Queen Victoria. The "Queen", Strauch said, strolled the parade grounds visiting with "commoners" and playing "indigenous American music" on her violin.



Cub Scouts, Pack 19, standing with "Big Red." Top row, left to right: Garrett Jaeger, Kenly Young, J.D. Garza, Evan Shannon, Santiago Garza and Daniel Castro. Bottom row, left to right: Isaiah Gonzales, Bryan Brown, Jacob Jarvis, and Sean Brown.

Cub Scouts Visit Fire Hall Meet Volunteer Firefighters

by Jacqui L. Thomas

As part of the regular Cub Scout program, scouts met at the Sonora fire hall last Tuesday to learn about fire prevention and to spend some time exploring the vehicles and equipment used by Sonora's firefighters. This year, the visit was delayed slightly as the boys waited for firefighters to return from extinguishing a grass fire. The boys had a chance to handle some fire hose, and try out some bunker gear. They also learned about the rescue unit and its tools, the grassfire trucks, foam units, and the pumper truck. The boys had a chance to speak with several Sonora firefighters. After the scouts answered and asked questions about fire prevention, Department Captain Ruben Samaniego gave the boys a ride on "Big Red." The boys left seeing fire prevention as a part of their everyday lives. Some talked like they may themselves become firefighters someday.

SHS Students of the Week for December

By Kaitlyn Henderson

Alonzo Pene and Chelby Ramos were nominated as the Students of the Week for December 17-21.

Alonzo Pene, son of Chela and Alonzo Pene, is a senior this year. Alonzo enjoys working, but hasn't had time to join any clubs or organizations. Pene has lived in Sonora his whole life. He finds one of his favorite things about Sonora



Alonzo Pene

High to be the coaches. Once finished with high school, he plans on going to college and joining the Army.

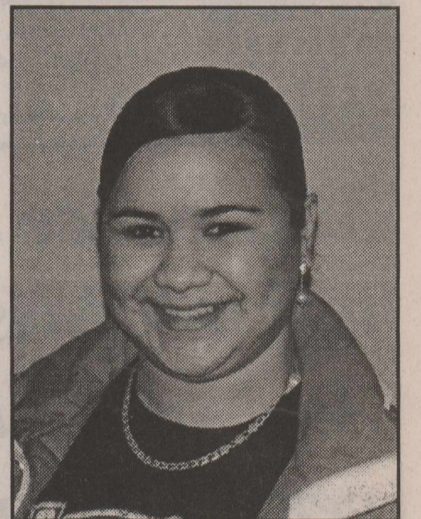


Chelby Ramos

Chelby Ramos, daughter of Cecilia Espinosa and sister to Uvaldo Ramos, is a freshman this year. Chelby enjoys

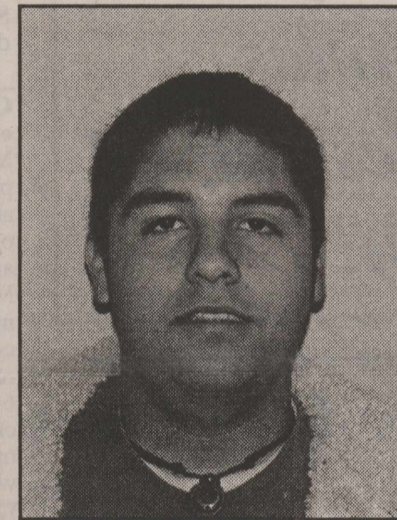
running. She also enjoys singing, dancing and hanging out with friends and family. She is involved in cross country, track, and softball. Ramos is also an active member in her church. Chelby moved to San Angelo for half of her 8th grade year and came back to Sonora this year. Her favorite thing about Sonora High is that everybody knows each other and she gets along with everybody. After graduating, Ramos plans on going into the Marine Corps and later on becoming a lawyer.

this year. Cody enjoys school and is involved in baseball. When he isn't in school he is either playing video games or working. He has lived in Sonora his whole life and enjoys having all his friends at school. Cody is undecided on what he is going to do after graduation.



Nayley Munoz

Nayely Munos, daughter of Adrian and Blanca Mier, is a freshman this year. Munoz likes pozole and dislikes Monday mornings. She has lived in Acuna and Iowa. Her favorite thing about Sonora High is the new teachers. After graduating she plans on going to college in Mexico.



Cody Solis

The Students of the Week for December 24-28 are Cody Solis and Nayely Munos. Cody Solis, son of Pablo and Lourdes Solis, is a sophomore

*Customers & Friends,
Our thoughts turn gratefully to those who made our progress possible. At this holiday season there is no more appropriate time for us to say, Thank You and to express to you and yours every happiness for this beautiful season and throughout the coming year. May your life be enriched with Christ's blessing now and always.*

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