Volume 109 • Issue 52

SONORA, TEXAS

Thursday, December 31, 1998

Tim Thorp named Firefighter of the . Year

The Sonora Fire Department is proud to announce Tim Thorp as the Firefighter of the Year. Tim joined the Fire Department September 13, 1972 and is a real benefit to the department. He received this honor for the first time in 1973, the second time in 1988, and for the third time this year 1998. It is a real honor to get this award. Tim served as Trustee in 1973 to 1975, Vice President from 1975 to 1976, and Assistant Chief 1978-1983, and 1998. Tim is not only in the Fire

Department he is also in the E.M.S. In the E.M.S he received his Basic in 1984, the Intermediate in 1997 and his Paramedic in July 1998.

As a recipient of the years award, Tim Thorp will be a nominee for the Hill Country Firefighter of the Year. The winner of this award will go on to a nomination at the State Convention.

The Department is proud to have Tim Thorp as a member and appreciates his on-going dedication to the organization.

Devil's

yours a Prosperous and:

New Happy New Year Don't Drink & Drive

Don't forget to eat your

black-eyed peas!)

lews wishes you



Tim Thorp proudly displays the plaque with his name on it as "Fireman of the Year".

Classic Cable **Delivers Christmas Toys**

Classic Cable is pleased to announce the completion of another successful holiday campaign in which less fortunate children received new toys for Christmas. The toys were collected from customers in Sonora when basic cable was installed or an existing customer upgraded their service. The response to the "Christmas for Kids" campaign over the past five years has been overwhelming and the program is considered a tremendous success.

Classic Cable provides services in eight Midwestern States and over 2500 toys were collected companywide. After being collected the toys were given to the Knights of Columbus for distribution to the children before the holiday.

We are committed to the communities we provide with cable television service and are proud to have the opportunity to make a child's holiday dreams come true. Community, commitment, and customer service is what we at Classic

Merchant's Association Christmas Promotion Winners Found

Despite the cold weather and icy conditions, the grand finale of the "Santa has lost his Buttons" contest went on with only a few slight modifications. Due to the cold weather, the finalists were not required to dig in the hay for the buttons. Instead, the prizes were determined by a blind draw. The final drawings took place in the warmth of Carolyn Earwood's Dance Studio. Odel Mera Flores,

JoAnn Palmer, Adelita Alverez, Rosa Noriega, Dorothy Wilson and Rae Ann Bible won the grand prizes.

The Sonora Merchants Association would like to thank all the local businesses that donated to this year's Christmas promotion. Without their generosity, the promotion could not have been possible. The merchants would also like to: thank everyone who participated in: the contest by shopping Sonora.



Rosa Noriega won the Diamond Pendant, donated by Tedford Jewelry, at the final drawing held by the Sonora Merchants Association.

Social Security Bulletin

A representative of the San Angelo Social Security Office will be in Sonora on the dates listed. The representative will be in Sonora on January 26, February 23 and March 30 at the Courthouse from 9:30- 10:30. However, you do not need to wait until the representative's visit to handle Social Security matters. Your Social Security business can be handled just as quickly by telephone. Call toll free by dialing 1-800-772-1213 Monday through Friday, 7:00 a.m.- 7:00 p.m. Or you may call the San Angelo office at 915-949-4608 Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m.

Sneak a Peek At What the Future Holds for Sonora

by Storie Sharp Seco Mayfield, General Manager of Sonora Wool and Mohair/Sonora True Value, invited us in to get a sneak preview of the new Sonora True Value, scheduled to open in the very near future. The Sonora True Value is making its new home in the old Foxworth-Galbraith building located at 112 E.

The new store is going to be managed by Mr. David Drake previously of San Angelo, TX. Drake brings with him 18 years of experience in the lumber/hardware business, having worked at Bowmans, Payless Cashways and Lowes in much more organized, so as to max-

both San Angelo and Ft. Stockton. Drake said that even though the store won't be opening as soon as they had originally hoped, things are coming together very nicely. There is still some work to be done on the remodeling and a few other areas to touch up before the doors

are opened to the public. The new Sonora True Value will be a full line hardware store and lumber yard and will carry much more of a variety than the old Foxworth store did. Drake said that

imize the storage space so that they can carry as much merchandise as

possible. Anyone planning on remodeling or building a new home will be able to "Shop Sonora First" because of the vast majority of building supplies and all other necessary hardware items, including an extensive paint section that is to be the highlight of the store. In addition to building supplies there will be a large garden and lawn section and

Wool House, including horse & vet supplies, tack and hunting equip-

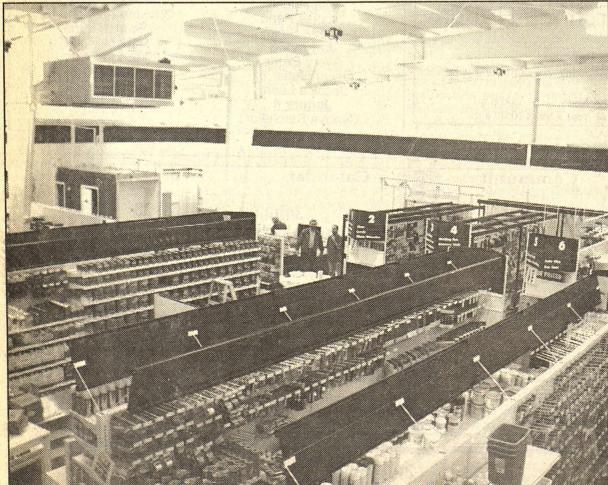
If space allows there are plans to bring over some of the feed and fencing supplies, as well as the clothing that is currently sold at the Sonora Wool & Mohair.

Drake said that "this will be a facility that the people of Sonora can be proud of," and that they plan to be competitive with the prices offered in the San Angelo stores as much as possible. Drake and

Mayfield informed us that a Retail Implementation Specialist was coming in this week to assist in the finalization of plans to ensure that everything is top of the line.

As well as an interior makeover the new Sonora True Value will be getting an outside overall paint job and a new sign is to be put up any day now. The crew at the Sonora True Value not only wants to cater to the people of Sonora, but are hoping to attract those in surrounding towns, including Ozona, Eldorado and Rocksprings. They also want the people to know that they are making a great effort to bring to town the kind of store that everyone has been asking for and needs. There will be a great variety of inventory to allow shopping at home, as well as the capabilities of special ordering and individual attention to each customer. The Sonora True Value will be open Monday through Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and on Saturday from 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

So, get ready Sonora, no more mad dashes to San Angelo will have to be made! Sonora True Value will soon be here to serve you.





A Sneak preview of the soon-to-open Sonora True Value store.

Sonora The Church Directory

THE CHURCH OF THE

GOOD SHEPHERD

PRESBYTERIAN

Lewis Allen, Pastor

319 E Mulberry

387-2616

OUTREACH CHURCH

OF CHRIST

Hwy. 277 S. Glasscock

PENTECOSTAL **CALVARY TEMPLE**

UNITED

Lonnie McGallion,

Pastor

509 Amistad

387-5266

ST. ANN'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

Father William

DuBuisson, O.M.I.

229 W Plum

387-2278

JEHOVAH'S WITNESS

310 St. Ann's Street

387-5658 or 387-5518

NEW HOPE

BAPTIST CHURCH

Don Sessom

511 Cornell

387-5215

COWBOY CHURCH

Stanley Adams

Monty Price

Auction Barn

Wednesday 7:00 p.m.

PRIMERA IGLESIA BAUTISTA **Rick Sanchez** 504 Santa Clara 387-2035

CHURCH OF CHRIST Tim Dobbs, Minister 304 N. Water 387-3190

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH Rev. Jim Stephen, Pastor Rev. Paul Cornelius. Assoc, Pastor 404 E Oak 387-2951

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH Rev. Ted W. Harris 404 E Poplar 387-2955

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH Rev. Suzanne Steves, Pastor 201 N Water 387-2466

JERUSALEM ASAMBLEA DE DIOS St. Ann's Street 387-3600

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

NEW LIFE MINISTRY CENTER Jerry & Joy Wood 204 E. Main 387-3241



BRONCHO FORD INC. 115 N CONCHO SONORA, TX 76950 (915)387-2549

Kerbow **Funeral Home** 387-2266

80 68

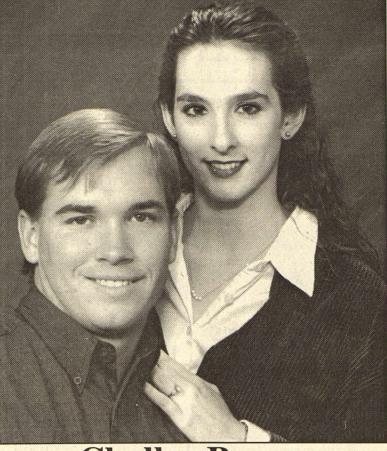
Dairy Queen

134 N. Hwy 277 387-2118 Food Center Deli 600 S. Crockett Ave. 387-5616 La Mexicana 240 N. Hwy. 277 387-3401 Los Jarritos 605 S Crockett 387-2838 Pizza Hut 401 Hwy. 277 N. 387-3540 Rosie's Cafe 207 Glasscock Av. 387-5552 Sutton County Steakhouse 1306 N. Service Rd.

387-3833 Town & Country Subway 610 S. Crockett

387-6181 Town & Country-Country Kitchen 903 N. Crockett Ave. 387-2169

Engagement



Chalk - Burns Plan to Wed

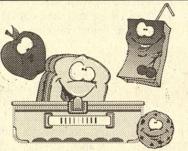
Mr. Luther Chalk and Ms. Joyce Chalk of Sonora announce the engagement of their daughter, Rebecca Kay Chalk, to William Dean Burns, son of Bill & Linda Burns of Robert Lee, TX and Lee & Ara Harris of San Angelo, TX.

A May 22, 1999, wedding is planned at the First United

Methodist Church of Sonora.

The bride-elect is a 1996 graduate of Sonora High School and is presently attending Angelo State University. The prospective bride-groom is a 1994 graduate of Robert Lee and is presently a senior at Angelo State University.

Ronnie Cox would like to be your pharmacist.



School Lunch Menu Jan. 4 - 8

Breakfast

Mon.-No School Tues.-Grilled cheese, tator tots, fruit & juice Wed.-Muffins, fruit, juice Thurs.-Hawaiian Toast, juice & fruit Fri.-Egg & cheese burritos, juice

Milk and cereal offered with all breakfast

Lunch

Mon.-No School Tues.-Sub Sandwich, lettuce, tomatoes, cheese, chips, fruit Wed.-Beef & bean burritos, Spanish rice, cheese, lettuce, tomato salad & fruit

Thurs -Grilled Ham & cheese, tator tots, mixed vegetables & Fri.-Cheeseburger, lettuce, tomatoes, pickles, potato wedges &

Catholic Church Holiday Schedule

Saint Ann's Catholic Church has the following schedule for this holiday season:

> Dec. 31st Jan 1st

Vigil Mass 7:00 p.m. New Year's Mass 10:00 a.m.

Obituaries

Frank Moore

Frank L. Moore, 69, of Del Rio and formerly of Sonora, died Wednesday, December 23, 1998, in Del Rio.

Graveside services were held at 2 p.m. Saturday, December 26 in Sonora Cemetery. Arrangements were by Kerbow Funeral Home.

He was born December 22, 1929, in Sonora. An Army Veteran of the Korean War, he was a retired truck driver.

Survivors include Della Jones of Del Rio; daughter, Denise Brunson of Eunice, New Mexico; four sisters, Patsy Johnson of Sonora, Martha Hicks of Canyon Lake, Margaret Walton of El Paso and Eva Lee Emdy of Burnet; two brothers, Jack Moore of Sonora and John D. Moore of Big Lake; granddaughter, Vikki Russell of Eunice, New Mexico and numerous nieces and nephews.

Jamie Jones

Jamie Jones, 79, died Thursday, December 24, 1998, in a local medical center.

Services were held at 2 p.m. Sunday, December 27 at Emmanuel Baptist Church with burial in Coleman Cemetery. Arrangements were by Stevens Funeral Home.

He was born October 14, 1919, in Coleman and had been a longtime resident. He was retired Army Veteran and worked for the Light Plant in Coleman for 21 years, retir-

ing in 1987. He was a member of Emmanuel Baptist Church.

Survivors include his wife, Fay Jones of Coleman; seven children, Pete Jones of Brownwood, Robbie Jones of Sonora, Jerry Berry of Burkburnett, Marsha Jones of Oklahoma City, Buddy Bird of San Antonio, Donna Ehrler and Carolyn Maddox, both of Coleman; and numerous grandchildren and greatgrandchildren.

Linda Sanchez

Linda Sanchez, 63, of Sonora died Saturday, December 26, 1998, in a San Angelo hospital.

Services were held at 2 p.m. on Monday, December 28 at St. Ann's Catholic Church with burial in Sonora Cemetery. Arrangements were by Kerbow Funeral Home.

She was born September 11, 1935, in Sonora. She was a homemaker and a member of the St. Ann's Catholic Church.

Survivors include her husband, Jesse Ortega and a son, Ruben Velez, both of Sonora; two daughters, Mary Lou Thorn of Grand Prairie and Ysaura Benning of San Jose, California; two brothers, Arturo "Square" Sanchez of Sonora and Joe Sanchez of San Antonio; a sister, Dr. Margaret Trevino of Keller; eight grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Senior Center News

December 31 - Center will be closed for New Year's January 1- Center will be closed for New Year's Day

January 4- BINGO! Birthday Party- After Lunch

January 5- AAA Reports Due!

January 7 - Crafts Anyone? Senior Center Menu

December 30- Fish Sticks, herbed potatoes, three bean salad, roll, peaches, lemon pudding and milk. January 4- Beef tips w/rice, carrots, fruit cup, cornbread, bananas w/strawberry and lemon pie.

January 5- Oven baked, chicken, lima beans, broccoli, bread, chunky and fruit mix.

January 6- Liver w/onions, scalloped potatoes, green beans, roll, apple juice and pecan pie.

Lunch is served Monday thru Friday at 12:00 noon. \$1.75 donation is suggested for those 60+ and \$4.00 from all others.

Happy Birthday

January 1 Matt Miller Enrique Sanchez Ana-Lesa Samaniego Virgil Streng January 2 Jaime De Luna Keith Hudson Nicolas Pena Gretta Smith January 3

Avery Bruns Oscar Gutierrez Jessica Luera Januar 4 Cyndye Batchelor

Linda Neff Little Bit January 5 Demetrio Castro Jr. Reynaldo Y. Sanchez January 6 Joe Buitron Jr. Melissa Freeman Glenda Ann Gutierrez Ramiro Luna Rachel Moore Martha Perez January 7 Bethany Deel Rosa Tamez

THE DEVIL'S RIVER NEWS

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Owner: Cam Longley Campbell.
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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



Member 1998

TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

Community

January 9 Market Lamb & Meat Goat Show

January 16

Angora & Swine Show. BBQ and sale will immediately follow.

> The Community Calendar **Sutton County**

207 Hwy 277 N

National Bank

Calendar

January 26, 27, & 28

Concho Valley RC&D grant writing II Workshop at the Crockett County Extension Building.

January 30

Annual Fling Ding Club Dance

is made possible by :

Member FDIC 102 N. Main 387-3861

Letters To The Editor Policy

The Devil's River News encourages letters from its reaers. Letters should be to the point, typed if at all possible and signed. Address and telephone numbers also should be included for verification puposes. No letters will be published without the author's name. Letters will be printed on a space available basis. Letters should stick with issues, and not simply be personal attacks. Letters endorsing a particular position on issues of local interest will be accepted, however letters endorsing a candidate for political office will not be accepted. We reserve the right to edit for length, content, and potentially

Letters to the Editors published in this newspaper do not necessarily reflect the position of this publication on any subject. Correspondence should be mailed to: The Devil's River News-Letters to the Editor, 228 East Main, Sonora TX. 76950

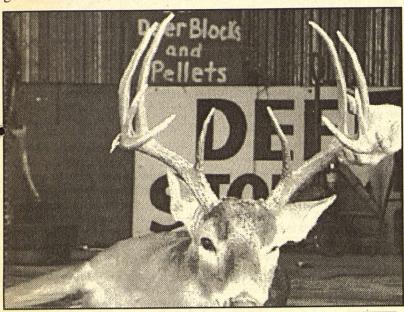
Who's Baggin' the Big Bucks?

by Storie Sharp

Well, hunting season is almost over and it seems most everyone that ventured out had a pretty successful season. I would like to say a special thank you to the guys at the Sonora Deer Storage and Processing for keeping me informed when a good one came in, and thanks to

everyone who dropped by to bring me a photo of their prize. We would still love to run any pictures that might be at the developers, so go ahead and bring them in.

The 10 point buck pictured below was brought in from S.W. Sutton County by Tony Childress.



Ten Free Flowering Trees From Arbor Day Foundation

Ten free flowering trees will be and nesting sites for songbirds." given to each person who joins The National Arbor Day Foundation during January 1999.

The free trees are part of the nonprofit Foundation's Trees for America campaign.

The ten trees are two White Dogwoods, Flowering Flowering Crabapples, two Golden Washington Raintrees, two Hawthorns, and two American

"These compact trees were selected for planting in large or small spaces," John Rosenow, the Foundation's president, said. "They will give your home the beauty of lovely pink, white, and yellow flowers-- and also provide winter berries

The trees will be shipped postpaid at the right time for planting between February 1 and May 31 with enclosed planting instructions. The six to twelve inch trees are guaranteed to grow or they will be replaced free of charge.

Members also receive a subscription to the Foundation's bimonthly publication, Arbor Day, and The Tree Book with information about tree planting and care.

To become a member of the Foundation and to receive the free trees, send a \$10 contribution to TEN FREE FLOWERING TREES, National Arbor Day Foundation, 100 Arbor Avenue, Nebraska City, NE 68410, by January 31, 1999.

Lanuary 7. Crafts Anyone?



John Mazziar of Dallas, Texas got this 12 point on his first time ever to sit in a stand at the Sam Murr ranch outside of Sonora. The buck field dressed at 140 lbs.

Vinnell Corporation Takes Over Dept. of Labor's Job Corps

The Vinnell Corporation, A TRW Company, has taken over the Department of Labor's Job Corps service contract for the Northern areas of the State of Texas from the Texas Workforce Commission effective December 1, 1998.

Mark Bottila, previously Texas Workforce Commission's Job Corps coordinator, has been hired to continue providing the program services of outreach, admissions, and placement.

Job Corps is America's leading residential employment training program. Since 1964, it has been training young adults for meaningful work opportunities. To be eligible you must: 1) be a young adult between the ages of 16 to 25. 2) be a U.S. citizen or legal resident. 3) meet income requirements. 4) be ready, willing,

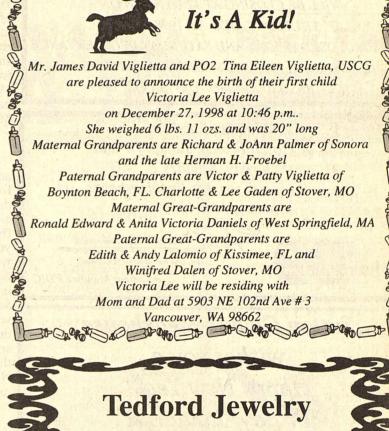
and able to participate fully in an educational environment.

Job Corps centers provide dormitory living, meals, limited medical and dental care, living allowances, clothing allowance, cash bonuses, and a readjustment allowance. Job Corps assesses student capabilities and physical dexterity during orientation, offers career training opportunities, encourages academic completion of high school requirements, and gives all students Social Skills training.

Successful graduates, are recruited from the centers by local and national employers.

If you or someone you know could benefit from Job Corps they can make an appointment to talk to Mark Bottila at (915)672-4361, ext. 220, or call 1-800-977-3634.

Welcome Baby! Ryan Alexander San Miguel would like to announce the arrival of his baby brother Noah Ismael San Miguel. He was born on Dec. 3, 1998 He weighed 6 lbs. 5 1/2 ozs. and was 19" long. Proud Parents are Adrianne & Edward San Miguel Maternal Grandparents are George Noriega, Sr. and Dora Gonzales of Sonora, TX. Paternal Grandparents are Blas & Mary Lou Solis of Sonora, TX. and numerous aunts and uncles.



Bridal Gift Registry Mrs. Dan Dockery nee Wheless Baker

Americans are hopeful at the Brink of a New **Millennium**

new millennium with more hope than dread for the future, though their optimism is tempered by concerns about a decline in morality and basic values and an uncertainty about the growth of technology. And as the 20th Century draws to a close, they place great importance on the achievements made in the past 100 years. These are among the major findings of the newest edition of "The Shell Poll," a quarterly opinion survey of Americans conducted for Shell Oil Company by Peter D. Hart Research Associates.

Two-thirds of Americans said they were optimistic and hopeful about the future for themselves and their family. When asked to describe their feelings regarding the coming of the new millennium, more Americans (30%) said "hope" than anything else. Nearly a quarter said "curiosity," while only six percent said "worry" and just one percent said "dread." They are slightly less optimistic about the future of the country as a whole, with just 58 percent describing themselves as hopeful about the nation's future.

'The portrait that emerges in the study is of a citizenry that is both satisfied and proud of what has been accomplished in the century and hopeful and optimistic about what could be accomplished in the century ahead," said Peter D. Hart, "But behind this broad picture of satisfaction, Americans have some very real concerns about the future."

When selecting from a list of choices, a solid majority of American believe both race relations (57%) and physical fitness (52%) will be better 30 years from now, while more believe the standards of living will be higher (43%) than think it will be worse (27%). Americans aren't as optimistic about respect for values and morality: 45 percent think values will be worse in the years ahead. They also worry about the crime rate, with far more (47%) saying it will be worse in 30 years than better (28%).

Surprisingly, young people aren't as optimistic about the future as their older counterparts. Americans under age 35 are very optimistic about their own lives (69%), but only a slim majority

Americans are approaching the percent describe themselves as pes- petitor, the automobile.

Further, Americans expect our daily lives to undergo substantial change. Nine in 10 believe cash will disappear, to be replaced by electronic cards; nearly eight in 10 expect informal attire to be norm in offices; almost two-thirds believe the traditional summer break for students will be replaced by a yearround schedule; nearly three-fourths think there will be more than two major political parties; and 55 percent believe fathers will spend as much time and energy raising children as mothers.

More than six in 10 think the United States will remain the world's greatest power in the 21st Century, while 42 percent believe there's a better than even chance the country will be involved in a major war in the next 30 years. In fact, more Americans (39%) list global war as their greatest fear for the future than any other potential crisis, even though a large majority (77%) cite terrorist attacks as a greater threat to the country than military conflict with another nation.

Health: Americans have great confidence about the future of health care. A majority of Americans believe several diseases and illnesses- including spinal cord injuries, diabetes, hepatitis, food-borne diseases, cancer, AIDS, herpes, multiple sclerosis and Alzheimer's disease- will be cured within 30 years. When asked to name which disease should receive the most research funding in that period, 48 percent chose cancer, making it far and away the top choice over the second highest funding priority: AIDS

Technology: People have more conflicting feelings toward technology. Despite the major technological advancements of the 20th Century, 55 percent say technology will be an equally positive and negative force in the future. And even though a majority believes there's a good chance scientists will clone human beings in the next 30 years, a large number (58%) say that possibility is what they dread most about living in

Americans are very well aware of the "Y2K" computer problem. Nearly eight in 10 say they know about it, while almost a third say it is a very serious problem. When given a list of potential problems that could result from "Y2K" computer malfunction, more Americans (30%) are worried Social Security and other government benefits won't be provided. Just more than one in five are more worried by the prospect of losing banking and insurance company records because

The 20th Century:

When asked to name one or two of the most important changes in America during the past 100 years, 58 percent said improvements in medicine and technology, while 30 percent cited the growth of civil rights for African-Americans and nearly a quarter said legal and social equality for women. Interestingly, the combined number who said the growth of civil rights for African-Americans and social equality for women (54%) in nearly equal to the number who said improvements in medicine and technology. Far fewer named the United States' becoming a super power, the country's economic expansion and the growth of the federal government as being the most significant changes.

Other interesting findings

* Americans expect the biggest changes to be in education over the next 30 years. When asked to name one or two areas where great change will take place, 45 percent said education, while nearly a quarter said the workplace and politics. Further, 36 percent selected "improvements in education" as one of their greatest hopes for the future from a list choices, ranking it head of "less crime" (34%) and better race relations (29%).

* Thirty percent say the development of penicillin and other antibiotics is the greatest medical breakthrough of the 20% Century, while nearly a quarter said organ transplants and just more than one in five said the discovery of DNA.

* When asked to name which 20th Century household invention

* A large number of Americans think Michael Jordan, Bill Cosby and Oprah Winfrey will be remembered in 30 years. On the other hand, substantial majorities believe Leonardo DiCaprio, Roseanne and George Clooney will be forgotten. * Large numbers of Americans believe long-standing institutions

such as the Red Cross (93%), Harvard University (90%), Coca-Cola (89%), Major League Baseball (79%), the U.S. Postal Service (78%) and The New York Times (72%) still will be around at the end 21st Century. * Nearly half believe Biblical

prophecies can accurately predict the future, while slightly more than one in five think the Farmer's Almanac is an astute fortune-teller. Twenty-one percent say astrologers can predict the future, and 16 percent believe psychics can. Just one in 10 think pollsters can do so.

* Almost seven in 10 believe there's a good chance women will earn as much as men 30 years from now, though more men (82%) think

so than women, (57%). * When given a choice from a list of potential future breakthroughs, more Americans (35%) would prefer to see medical advances that would create safe and foolproof birth control than would help develop weight-control medication (30%). Twelve percent chose advances in anti-aging skin products, while 7 percent would prefer breakthroughs in hair-loss preven-

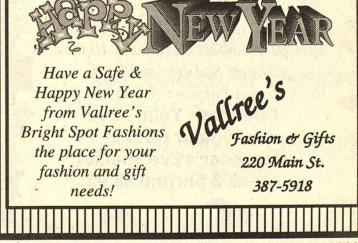
* Four in 10 believe people will retire later than they do now, while just more than a quarter think they will retire earlier.

* Forty percent think patriotism is the American character trait most likely to disappear in 30 years, making it the top choice among a list including belief in personal freedom, belief in equality and belief in free enterprise.

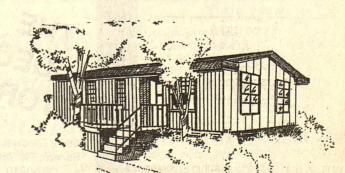
* Americans expect women's basketball and soccer to gain in popularity. More believe football, baseball, basketball and hockey just will maintain their current levels of pop-

* Most think letter writing and the tradition of mothers staying





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od Quality clothing from over 600 consignors. New arrivals daily and there's always a sale going on ! Highway 277 S. Eldorado, TX

MONUMENTS & PRE-NEED **FUNERAL PLANS** CALL JOHN WILSON **KERBOW FUNERAL HOME** 387-2266

(915) 387-3861 Member FDIC

HOLIDAY CLOSURE NOTICE

ALL BANKING FACILITIES OF

SUTTON COUNTY - THE BANK & TRUST

WILL BE CLOSING AT 12:00 NOON ON

THURSDAY, DEC. 31, 1998 AND

REMAIN CLOSED FRIDAY AND SATURDAY IN OBSERVANCE

OF THE NEW YEAR HOLIDAYS. REGULAR BANKING HOURS

WILL RESUME ON MONDAY, JAN. 4, 1999

All Banking Facilities

will be closed Friday, January 1 and

Saturday, January 2

We will resume regular Banking hours

Monday, Jan. 4, 1999

Sutton County Steakhouse

wishes you a

Happy New Year!

Friday, January 1

We will be serving breakfast

6.00 am - 11:00 am

Hope to see you for our delicious

New Year's Lungh Buffet

11:00 am - 2:00 pm

5:00 pm - 9:00 pm

1306 N. Service Rd.

387-3833

Rosie's Cafe

All Breakfast Burritos.... \$1.25

Special Breakfast 6:00 am to 10:00 am

2 Eggs, Sausage or Bacon,

Hash Brown Potatoes & Toast.... \$3.50

Open New Year's Eve

Regular Hours

New Year's Eve Special

Steak & Shrimp \$8.95

Immunization Clinic

will be at the Texas Dept. of Health January 6, 1998 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. For more information call 387-5720 or 387-2234.

F.Y.I

Anyone interested in playing Little Dribbler Basketball can sign up at

the Devil's River News office, Monday - Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.There is a \$15.00 sign up fee. Practice will start in January.

Vocational Trades Program is having their annual fruit sale. If you would like to order apples, oranges, or grapefruit and have not been approached by a student please contact Mari Sanchez at 387-6533 or

Top Weather and NOAA/National **Weather Stories**

1998-- A Wet, Warm and **Dramatic Weather Year: From** the powerful El Nino and tornadoes over Florida and the rest of the southeast states and searing heat in Texas followed by floods, to the might of Hurricanes George and Mitch, 1998 will go down in the annals of weather history as one of the most dramatic weather years in recent times. Following is a summary of some of the major weather and climate events of 1998 in the United States, with particular emphasis on the

United States Weather and Climate Summary

The United States was wet and warm in 1998. Based on preliminary January-November data from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), 1998 was the wettest year since 1973 and the second wettest year since 1895, when detailed records began by what is now the National Weather Service. The ranking for wetness was remarkable given the severe drought that extended from the southern Plains to Florida during the spring and summer. Nevertheless, extensive heavy rains primarily in the South turned the year into a wet one.

Depending on temperatures during December, 1998 could end up being the warmest year on record. Heat was persistent and widespread during the year, with the country observing its second warmest winter on record, twenty-eighth warmest spring, ninth warmest summer, and second warmest autumn.

The greatest number of tropical storms to strike the country since 1985 caused an estimated \$6.5 billion in damages, primarily in the Gulf Coast states, but also helped to relieve drought across the South. Though the abnormal weather contributed to a 28 percent drop in the nation's cotton crop and 21 percent drop in the orange crop compared with 1997, adequate rainfall and lack of sustained heat in the Corn Belt resulted in record soybean production and the second greatest corn output. Aided by El Nino- enhanced rains, the nation harvested its largest wheat crop since 1990, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

El Nino. Called the "climactic event of the century," one of the strongest El Ninos on record dominated the winter weather across the country.

El Nino-related storms, floods, and tornadoes during winter-spring 1998 in the Southeast caused over \$1 billion

in damages and 132 deaths. The 1997-98 El Nino was the first time that NOAA/NWS scientists were able to forecast and observe a major climate event from beginning to end, and their valuable forecasts helped mitigate the potential impacts. Thus, NWS issued predictions for the winter 1997-98 that allowed emergency managers, businesses, communities and individuals to take steps to pre-

pare. Active Hurricane Season. A total of 14 tropical storms and hurricanes developed in the Atlantic basin during the 1998 season. Three hurricanes and four tropical storms made landfall in the United States this year, the most to strike the nation since 1985. Three hurricanes (Bonnie, Earl and Georges), as well as Tropical Storms Charley, Frances, and Mitch, caused an estimated \$6.5 billion in damage to the U.S. South, Puerto Rico, and U.S. Virgin Islands, according to data released by the NWS' Tropical Prediction Center.

Throughout the season, NOAA scientists, working with NASA and university collaborators, conducted the most complete and sophisticated campaign of observations in hurricanes ever. This investment in

technology and research continues to provide better hurricane predictions.

Severe Tornado Outbreaks. Severe storms were rampant throughout the year, with tornado outbreaks taking many lives. The NWS increased the warning time to the public with a national average lead time in 1998 of 11 minutes. Twelve years ago, warnings often were not issued for a tornado until it touched ground. According to the NWS, the nation recorded 333 tornadoes in June, about 150 more than average and the second highest June total in 49 years of record. The preliminary national death toll from tornadoes during all of 1998 reached 129, about twice the number recorded in 1997 and three times the average. By early December, an estimated 1255 tornadoes had occurred across the U.S. with five of those being F4-F5 intensity.

Wildfires in Wildfires in Texas burned 143,000 acres in May-June, while the severe drought caused more than \$2 billion in damage to agriculture, according to state officials. For the year, wildfires across the southern U.S. burned 1.3 million acres, four times the acreage burned in 1997. The NWS deployed a team of fire weather meteorologists to Florida to aid in providing the most accurate and timely weather information to help manage the fires and keep firefighters safe.

Summer Heat Wave and **Drought.** Spring and summer heat and drought caused massive wildfire outbreaks in Florida and damage to crops from the southern Plains to the Southeast. April-June was the driest such period in 104 years of record in Florida, Texas, Louisiana, and New Mexico. May-June was the warmest such period on record in Florida, Texas, Louisiana, and Arkansas. The total drought and heat costs exceeded an estimated \$6 billion in damage/costs and resulted in at least 200 deaths

(source: Local NWS Offices). Flooding throughout Texas and other areas. Tropical 'Storms Charley and Frances, along with several other wet weather systems, brought heavy rains to Texas from August to November, ending drought over much of the state, but causing at least 42 deaths from several rounds of sever flooding. Tropical Storm Charley caused 9 deaths in Texas. Del Rio, Texas, recorded its wettest day ever on August 23 with 17.03 inches of rain from Charley's remains. During the previous 8 1/2 months, Del Rio had measured just 2.89 inches. Frances made landfall on the Texas coast on September 11, bringing a five-foot storm surge and over two feet of rain. Another weather system brought over a foot of rain to southeast Texas on Oct. 17-18, causing major flooding and at least 29 deaths, predominately motorists driving onto flooded roads. Raging floodwaters swept away or destroyed dozens of homes. San Antonio tallied 18.07 inches of rain in October, its wettest month ever, including 11.26 inches on Oct. 17, the city's wettest day ever. More than 10 inches of rain on south central Kansas during Oct. 30 -Nov. 1 caused thousands of residents to seek shelter.

La Nina: This winter we will not see another El Nino but another climate phase called La Nina. La Nina tends to bring nearly opposite effect of El Nino to the United States - wetter than normal conditions across the Pacific Northwest and drier and warmer than normal conditions across much of the southern tier of the country. The NWS Climate Prediction Center forecasts indicate the cold episode (La Nina) will likely continue through the 1998-99 winter.

Reggie Williams at 387-2108.

Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) course will be offered in Sonora beginning January 12, 1999. Meeting on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. The course will end May 13, 1999. If you are interested in this course contact the Sutton County EMS office at 211 E. 3rd, or call 387-5132. Advance registra-

tion is required. The last day for registration is January 7

Thunderbird is back in service. For more information call 387-2509.

Lillian Hudspeth Nursing Home & Hospital Auxiliary meets 2nd Monday of every month at 12:00 p.m. at the Sutton Co. Steakhouse. New members welcome.

Police Reports

12/21: Public Intoxication-Officer was patrolling Crockett Street when he observed a subject swaying and having difficulty walking. Officer made contact with subject. Subject was found to be highly intoxicated. Suspect was arrested for public intoxication and transported to Sutton County Jail.

12/21: Theft of Service-Officer was dispatched to T&C #2 in reference to a theft of service. Complainant advised a maroon Ford escort with a female driver had pumped \$9.20 of fuel and driven off. Attempt to locate vehicle was nega-

12/22: Theft- Officer received a phone call at the Sonora Police Department. Complainant advised that unknown person had stolen his Ruger 22 pistol from his pickup. Investigation still pending.

12/22: Theft- Officer was dispatched to the 100 block of Castlehill in reference to a theft. Complainant advised that her diamond ring was missing from her residence. Investigation still pending.

12/22: Criminal Mischief-Officer received a call about a flood gauge marker that was knocked down. The marker appeared to have been ran over. Estimated value to repair was given.

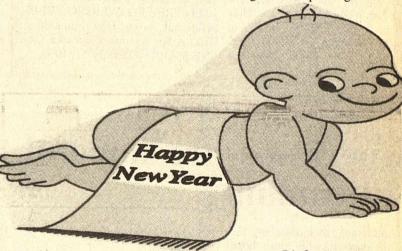
12/22: Possession Marijuana- Officer was on routine patrol when he stopped a 92 grey pickup for a traffic violation in the 600 block of State Highway 277 North. Subject was given a warning for a traffic violation. After further investigation Officer located contraband. Suspect was arrested and transported to Sutton County Jail.

12/23: Theft of Service-Officer received a call on a theft of service at T&C #2. Clerk advised vehicle was a Red Ford truck. Suspect pumped 14 gallons of fuel and had driven off. Attempt to locate vehicle was negative.

12/27: Theft of Service-Officer received a call from T&C #1 in reference to a theft. Clerk advised unknown person in a grey suburban had pumped 22 gallons of fuel. Attempt to locate vehicle were neg-

12/27: Animal Bite- Officer was dispatched to 400 block of Chestnut Street in reference to an animal bite. Complainant advised that his son had been bitten by an animal at the Golf Course Clubhouse. Animal Control Officer picked up animal and it was sent off for examination.

12/28: Theft- Officer was called to in reference to a theft. Complainant advised that an unknown person had stolen a chain saw out from the bed of their pickup. Investigation still pending.



Sharp Says Slower Growth Economic Remains the Forecast for the New Year

Index of Leading Economic week showed a 0.6 percent Indicators rebounded this month, we should still expect slower growth for the new year," State Comptroller John Sharp said

stands at 133.3, an increase of 1.4 percent from a year ago. Compared to the month of September, the index is up 0.6 percent.

The State Comptroller's office produces the monthly Index of Leading Texas Economic Indicators to help compare the Texas economy to the rest of the nation, and to help forecast changes in the Texas economy up to six months in advance.

While confidence in the Texas economy is high, consumers appear to be less confident compared to 12 months ago. Texas consumer confidence was down 3.7 percent from October a year ago, but rose by 1.1 percent compared to September this

Texas retail sales were up 7.5 percent compared to a year ago. The number of total authorized housing units for the month of October was 13,310, up 19.1 percent from last year. The number of housing permits increased by 1.9 percent from September.

The October Texas Stock Index (TSI) is 684.7, 46.1 percent higher than a year ago. The TSI is up 25.7 percent from September.

New business incorporations grew by a mere 0.9 percent higher than a year ago. The average

"Although the latest Texas manufacturing hours per workdecline from October 1997, and a 2.3 percent drop when compared to the previous month of this year.

For the second straight The October 1998 Index month, the Texas Help Wanted Index fell by 4.6 percent from a year ago; however, it was up 2.1 from the previous month.

The Texas unemployment rate showed a 0.4 percent drop from last year and remained flat compared to the previous month of this year. Currently, the unemployment rate is 5.0 percent.

In the 12 months ending in October, the state added about 253,000 new jobs for an increase of 2.9 percent. The service sector accounted for the bulk of these gains with 222,000 jobs, a 3.2 percent increase from October 1997. Construction employment continues its strong growth at an annual rate of 5.5 percent, an increase of roughly 25,000 new jobs this year. Manufacturing employment increased by approximately 9,000 jobs, up 0.8 percent from a year ago.

The price of Texas crude oil at \$12.46 per barrel for October, down 34.1 percent from a year ago. Compared to last month, oil prices were down 3.6

The U.S. Index of Leading Economic Indicators is currently at 105.6, up 1.1 percent from last year. There was a slight 0.1 percent gain compared to the month of September. Continued economic growth is expected during the remainder of 1998 and into 1999, but at a slower pace.



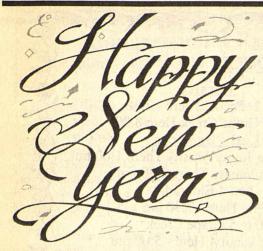
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All-Region



New Year's Day is celebrated on January 1. It's one of the most widely celebrated holidays in the world. It's a very merry holiday—people celebrate by having parties, wearing party hats, shaking noisemakers and generally having a good time.

But New Year's Day also has a serious side. Many people make resolutions—promises to do certain things—at New Year's. They may promise to do things that will make them healthy, such as stopping smoking, eating more vegetables and exercising more. Or they may try other, more serious things, like being kinder to their friends or family, spending more time with a loved one, or learning something new.

Try this: Make a list of five New Year's resolutions for yourself. Try to think of things that you would like to do, like learning to skate or play the tuba. Also, think of things that would be nice for other people, like not fighting with a younger sister or brother.



Even though most people know him as a patriot from the Revolutionary War, he was also very good at working with silver. Paul Revere was born January 1, 1735, in Boston, Massachusetts. On April 18, 1775, he rode from Charlestown to Lexington to warn the people living there that the British troops were on the way. He became a legendary hero at the start of the Revolutionary War. And in 1863, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow wrote a poem about the ride, "Paul Revere's Ride."

Along with his famous ride, Revere was a leader of the Sons of Liberty and was involved in a number of patriot activities, including the Boston Tea Party in 1773.

Revere used his work as a silversmith to promote the cause of freedom. For instance, he carved a picture of the Boston Massacre. He was also responsible for providing the patriots with ammunition for guns and cannons. And he designed and printed the first Continental money. After the war, Revere became one of New England's leading silversmith. He also was a pioneer in the production of copper plating in America.





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Soon we'll all sing High School Band Tryouts Auld Lang Syne as we say "Hello" to '99

For The Week Of January 3-9

ARIES March 21-April 20

Start your new year out right by helping someone close to you. He/she is counting on your advice and support. Don't turn away, even if you aren't completely sold on the idea. It's time to get your savings plan under way.

TAURUS April 21-May 21

Don't depend on a friend's investment advice. He/she listened to the wrong person. You don't want to get dragged down with them. Take some time off for yourself. With the hectic pace of the holidays, you didn't get much time for you.

GEMINI May 22-June 21

Remember those New Year's resolutions you made? Take out your list. This is the week to start on them. Work on them one at a time, and then it won't seem to be such an insurmountable task. This might be a good week to plan a romantic dinner.

CANCER June 22-July 22

Set aside time to visit a relative in a nursing home or the hospital. It's been a long and lonely stay for your loved one. Take a creative approach to a problem that's been bugging you, and it might help you solve it to everyone's satisfaction.

July 23-August 23

Don't overdo that new diet you started. Even though it's been a good plan for you, it may not work for everyone, so don't push it on others. That small problem that's been nagging you... solve it now before it gets bigger and

August 24-September 22

Seek a loyal friend's help and advice about your job. He/she will be a great source concerning opportunities, interviews and more. A night out with friends may be just what the doctor ordered. It's a great way to relieve those job tensions.

September 23-October 23

Bad weather doesn't mean you can't work on home improvements. Remember, some of those projects you were going to do are inside the house That would be a good place to start. Stay within your budget and go with your original plans.

SCORPIO October 24-November 22

Remember that big New Year's resolution? You had better get on it this week. If things seem tough at work right now, don't let it get to you. Attitudes and projects will get better as the week goes on, so don't make any hasty decisions.

SAGITTARIUS November 23-December 21

A big opportunity may be heading your way at home or at work. Just be open-minded and don't let it pass. When an old friend contacts you, don't let old, petty differences get in the way of renewing what used to be a great friendship.

CAPRICORN December 22-January 20

Problems will arise this week, and you will need to be patient. Remember, your patience was one thing you resolved to work on this year. Don't let an annoying person at work cause you to blow your cool. You'll come out on top if you don't.

AQUARIUS January 21-February 18

Don't get frustrated with a friend who seems to have let you down. He/she may have run into a problem but will come through for you in the end. It's time to think about the savings plan again. Seek the advice of a professional first.

PISCES February 19-March 20

Before you go any further into a new relationship, take time to really think it through. This is definitely one time to lead with your head, not your heart. Even if you don't want to hear it, listen to a close friend who has some sage advice.

For Entertainment Purposes Only

All-Region Band tryouts were held in Ballinger on Saturday, December 12th. Thirty-five different schools in the area sent 228 students to participate. A total of 89 students were selected for the Symphonic band and a total of 81 students were selected for the Concert band. The region clinic/concert is set for Friday and Saturday, January 15th and 16th at Hardin Simmons University in Abilene,

A total of 65 students from the Symphonic band were chosen to go on to Area tryouts. Students trying out for Area must attend the region concert. Area tryouts will be held on Saturday, January 19th, at

McClennan County College. A select few of these highly talented students will then be selected to go on for State tryouts.

Students who attended the All Region Band tryouts from Sonora were Joe Flores- Contra Bass, Mark Cooper- Trombone, Mirabel Capuchina- Saxophone, Manuel Campos- Saxophone, Cody Ainsworth- Trombone. Two students from Sonora were selected to play in the Concert band and they are Joe Flores and Mark Cooper. We would like to congratulate these students on their success and hard work and would like to encourage all students to continue to work hard so next year they will make the



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Back Talk

Chiropractic Care Questions & **Answers**

Physical therapy and drugs are not helping my carpal tunnel syndrome. Could chiropractic help?

Carpal tunnel syndrome (repetitive strain injury of the wrist) is often unresponsive to medical care or physical therapy. In this condition the nerve to the hand is entrapped or "pinched." Many cases of carpal tunnel which are operated on are actually due to a condition which is easily treatable by chiropractic care. Chiropractic adjustment of the spine or wrist may be able to release pressure on the nerve and alleviate pain, restoring normal function. A chiropractor might also make recommendations to avoid a recurrence of the problem.

Back Talk is copyrighted by the Texas Chiropractic Association and is edited by a panel of doctors headed by Dr. Chris Dalrymple, editor in chief of the Texas Journal of Chiropractic. Send questions for Back Talk to 1601 Rio Grande, Suite 420, Austin, Texas, 78701.

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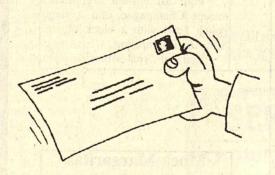
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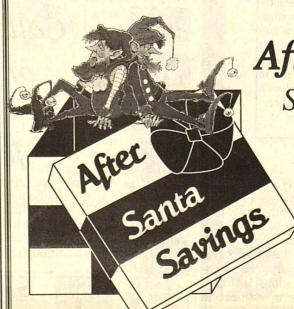


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New Year with a new recipe of good fortune and good food!

Black-eyed Peas With Ham

3 1/2 c. Fresh black-eyed peas or Frozen, thawed

3 c. Chicken stock or canned lowalt broth

4 oz. Ham, finely chopped 1 sm. Yellow onion, chopped 2 tb. Balsamic vinegar or red wine

3 lg. Garlic cloves, minced

1 Bay leaf 1/2 ts. Dried thyme, crumbled 1/4 ts. Dried crushed red pepper

Bring all ingredients to boil in heavy arge saucepan. Reduce heat and simmer until peas are tender, stirring occasionally, about 45 minutes. Season to taste with salt and pepper.

Yield: 6 servings Kwanzaa Recipes

Blackeyed Peas Deluxe

2 (16 ounce) cans blackeyed peas 1 1/2 ounces pepperoni, diced medium green pepper, minced medium onion, minced

Combine all ingredients in a saucepan; stir. Simmer for 1 hour. Serves 6

I teaspoon hot taco sauce

Maria's Cabbage

1/4 lb highly seasoned smoked line sausage

1 medium onion, chopped

2 or 3 tomatoes, peeled and chopped 1 medium head cabbage, coarsely shredded salt & pepper

Remove casing from sausage and crumble meat; saute with onion. pour off any grease. Add tomatoes, cabbage, salt and pepper. Cover pan tightly and simmer over low heat until cabbage is tender, about 10 minutes Serves 6.

Mrs. John B. Abercrombie

Potluck Blackeyed Peas

14 lb. bacon diced 2 cups chopped celery 2 cups chopped green pepper 2 cups chopped onion 2 cans (1 lb. each) tomatoes 2 cans (1 lb. each) blackeyed peas

Saute bacon with celery, green pepper and onion. Add tomatoes and peas, simmer 30-40 minutes. Serve in soup bowls. Accompany with jalapeno cornbread. Serves 6-8 Mrs. George A. Hill III (Gloria Lester)

Loosely adapted from the back of an Albers cornmeal package:

Mexican Style Cornbread

1 1/2 cup yellow cornmeal 1/2 cup whole wheat flour l egg or equivalent vegan egg replacer 1 Tablespoon baking powder

1 cup nonfat milk <or rice or soy milk> 1 16 or 17 ounce can creamed corn 1/4 cup chopped onion

1 small can chopped Ortega chilies 1 teaspoon <or more> jalapenos 1/4 cup chopped red bell pepper 1 teaspoon salt <if you like>

mix dry ingredients mix wet ingredients blend together

spray 8" pan with cooking spray, bake 35 - 40

If you prefer more traditional cornbread, leave out he onions and chilies, add a tablespoon to 1/4 cup sugar if you like it

Cabbage Casserole 1 medium head cab-

bage 2 tablespoons butter 2 tablespoons flour 1 cup milk 1 tsp salt 1/2 tsp pepper 3 drops Tabasco 2 hard-cooked eggs, sliced 1 cup grated sharp cheese 1/2 cup bread crumbs

Shred cabbage (makes about 4 cups and steam for 5 minutes; drain. Make cream sauce of butter, flour and milk. Season cream sauce with salt, pepper and Tabasco. Remove from heat. In 2-quart casserole, place a layer of cabbage, sliced egg and grated cheese. Repeat layers. Cover with cream sauce and top with bread crumbs. Bake at 350 for 20 minutes. Serves 6-8. Mrs. C. Harcourt

Wooten

Champagne Punch

8 oz. Cognac 8 oz. cherry liqueur 8 oz. triple sec

4 oz. fresh lemon juice 4 oz. simple syrup

2 bottles Champagne Pour all chilled ingredients except Champagne into a large punch bowl with a block of ice. Stir. Add Champagne.

Red Gal Drink Mixes

Mock Margaritas

1 can (12 oz) frozen lemonade concentrate, thawed, undiluted 1 can (12 oz.) frozen limeade

concentrate, thawed, undiluted

1 cup confectioner's sugar 6 cups finely crushed ice

1 bottle (1liter) club soda, chilled

Lime slices

Coarse salt

In a 4 quart non-metal container, combine lemonade concentrate, limeade concentrate, confectioners sugar and crushed ice, mix well Cover and freeze, stirring occasionally. Remove container from freezer about 30 minutes before serving time, let stand at room temperature to thaw slightly. Spoon 2 cups slush mixture into blender. Add 1 cup club soda. Cover and blend until slushy smooth. To serve, rub rim of glass with lime slice and dip rim ir coarse salt, then fill the glass with the drink. Garnish with lime slice.

Unkown

A STATE OF THE STA 1998 - 99 SONORA BASKETBALL SCHEDULE

Sonora Colts

Jan.11 Ozona Girls - Here 5:00 pm & 6:15pm

Boys -There 5:00 pm & 6:15pm 9th Grade Jan. 2 Pecos There - 4:30

Bronco Junior Varsity Jan. 2 Pecos There -6:00 Jan. 5 Grape Creek Here - 5:00

Varsity Jan. 2 Pecos There - 7:30 Jan. 5 Grape Creek Here 8:00

Lady Broncos Jan. 2 Boerne Junior Varsity There 1:00 pm Jan. 2 Varsity There 2:30 pm Jan. 4 Eldorado 9th Here - 7:30 pm Jan. 5 Grape Creek

> Junior Varsity Here - 5:00 pm Varsity Here 6:30 pm

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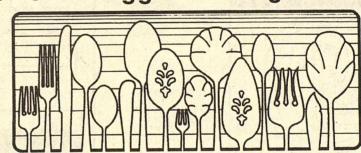
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Congressional Record

Proceedings and Debates of the 105th Congress, **Second Session**

House of Representatives Hon. Henry Bonilla of Texas In the House of Representatives

Friday, December 18, 1998

This is a nation founded on rules and laws. We are a young country, but we are the greatest that has ever

America is strong and gets stronger because we are passionate about our laws, of which no one is above. If you're a mayor, a police officer, a senator or the President you must obey the law just like any other citizen.

American law and our system of justice rely on truth - truth presented by witnesses sworn before God. Those who have appeared before grand juries in this country know it is a daunting experience, knowing that if you stumble, if you lie, you could commit perjury and maybe wind up in jail.

Thousands of Americans today.

have been prosecuted and have criminal records because they perjured themselves just like the President. The President's own Justice Department regularly prosecutes Americans for perjury. And yes, they are prosecuted for perjury in sexual harassment cases.

We are not talking politics here. In politics a President may lie to the American people on television, lie in town meetings lie in TV commercials. I think that's wrong and so do most of my colleagues. But that's not against the law and that's no a reason to impeach. Voters are the ultimate judges in those cases. But here we are talking about

As we search our conscience today to cast our votes, let's remember the rules and laws on which our nation was founded. No one is above the law. Let's vote to uphold that American principle

US Commerce probes cattle imports from Canada, Mexico

department confirmed Wednesday it will investigate cattle imports from Canada and Mexico for alleged unfair trade practices and outlined

its schedule for proceeding.

The Ranchers - Cattlemen Action Legal Foundation, the grass roots group which asked for the investigations, has estimated that underpriced cattle from both countries cause \$1 billion to \$2 billion annually in damage to U.S. cattle producers.

An attorney for R-CALF told Reuters late Tuesday that Commerce had accepted the group's three separate petitions, which were first filed on Oct 1.

In a fact sheet, Commerce put the number of live cattle imports in 1997 at 1.35 million from Canada and 667,862 from Mexico.

R-CALF alleges that Mexico and Canada are `dumping" cattle in the U.S. market at unfair prices.

R-CALF also alleges that Canadian producers benefit from federal and provincial subsidies that enable them to offer their cattle at discount prices in the United States.

The new investigations, which could force Mexico and Canada to sell their cattle at a higher price in the U.S. market or pay a differential duty to the U.S. government, come as the United States and Canada have been trying to soothe frazzled farm trade nerves along the border.

The probes also follows Mexico's decision earlier this fall to launch its own investigation into charges by Mexican producers of unfairly priced beef, pork and live cattle imports from the United

U.S. hog producers have also mulled asking the U.S. government to curb imports of Canadian hogs.

The next step in the R-CALF cases is for the U.S. International

(NAPS)-A few decades ago, a

glimpse of a white-tailed deer

along a rural roadside was rare.

In the last 10 years, however,

whitetail population in the U.S.

has nearly doubled to an estimat-

ed 26 million. This number is

increasing by nearly 1 million per

year. Many wildlife experts be-

lieve there are more deer today

than when Columbus arrived in

Seeing a deer along a rural

roadside is no longer uncommon.

In fact, it's dangerously frequent—

more than 500,000 deer/vehicle

accidents occur annually, resulting

in more than 16,000 injuries and

insurance claims in excess of

\$1 billion. Tragically, about 150 of

these collisions result in human

deer population is responsible for

substantial economic losses to

farmers and rural homeowners.

Deer adapt quickly to human

activity and will readily feed on

farm fields, gardens and landscape

plants when wild foods are scarce.

Nationwide, these losses total sev-

deer population explosion? Many methods have been tested, but

most have proven impractical,

ineffective or too costly. Instead,

scientific deer management pro-

grams involving regulated hunt-

ing appear to have the best chance

What can be done to control the

eral billion dollars annually.

In addition, the burgeoning

fatalities

(Reuters) - The U.S. Commerce Trade Commission to make a preliminary decision by January 18 on whether the U.S. cattle industry has been injured by the imports, Commerce said.

If that hurdle is cleared, the countervailing duty investigations begin running on separate time

Commerce's deadline for making a preliminary determination of whether there are Canadian subsidies that warrant countervailing duties is February 25. It has until May 11 to make a preliminary determination in the anti-dumping cases.

Commerce then has until May 11 in the countervailing duty case and until July 26 in the anti-dumping cases to make a final determination if unfair trade practices have occurred.

If any the cases are still alive at that point, they go back to the ITC for a final injury determination.

If the ITC again determines injury has occurred, that then clears the way for Commerce to impose

Top Four Gas Producing Companies in **Sutton County** as of August 1998

Operator	110110
Louis Dreyfus	1441
Burlington Resources	447

321

KCS Medallion

81 **Gruy Petroleum**

Addressing The Deer Population Explosion

AGRIBUSINESS

USDA Announces extension to sign-up for Livestock Assistance

Farm Service USDA's Administrator Keith announces that the deadline for eligible livestock owners to apply for USDA's Livestock Assistance Program has been extended. Under this new \$200 million livestock assistance program, USDA will compensate farmers and ranchers for 1998 losses because droughts and other natural disasters reduced grazing vegetation.

Because of the time necessary to assemble information association with eligibility, many counties were not approved until after sign-up began. In an effort to give livestock owners whose livelihoods are on the line, through no fault of their own, have a chance to continue doing what they do best-- producing food and fiber for Americans and for the world, I am allowing this additional time to apply, Kelly said.

Cattle Feeders Industry Outlook for 1999

While fed cattle prices should trend higher in 1999, the meat complex will still stagger under the weight of burdensome supplies, which will limit the up side potential in the market. With that analysis, TCFA Market Director Jim Gill said the outlook for 1999 is a mixed bag, with a few bright spots to provide encouragement to cattle feeders.

One of those bright spots will be a drop in beef supplies. "Beef production in 1999 will be near 24.4 billion pounds, 5% below the 25.6 billion pounds this year," Gill said during the TCFA year end news conference. "This will put annual consumption near 64 lbs. on a retail weight basis." Leading the drop in beef production will be a decrease in carcass weights, Gill predicted. "Average carcass weights are expected to be lower than the record 724 lbs. in 1998, dropping to a more normal 700 to 705 lbs.

On the input side of the equation, grain production in 1999 is expected to be near 9.3 billion bushels, given normal weather. That's down from the estimated 9.8 billion bushels harvested this year, Gill said. "Exports will play a typiinstability in the Far East and Pacific Rim markets will likely have a major impact on final prices to feedyards.'

The downward trend in feeder cattle supplies will continue, with numbers tightening over the next several years. "This reflects the continued cow and heifer liquidation in 1996, 1997 and 1998," Gill said. "Prices, which averaged near \$76 per cwt. in 1998, will likely remain steady during 1999, provided the fed cattle market moves higher next

And, in spite of the challenges

ahead, Gill expects that cattle feeders will see a slightly better market in 1999. His price outlook for the first quarter has fed cattle prices ranging from \$55 to \$63 per cwt. In the second quarter, some strength returns to the market, with prices anticipated to range form \$63 to \$70. Third quarter prices are projected to remain relatively steady at \$64 to \$69, and fourth quarter prices should range form \$63 to \$68 per Cattle Feeders Texas cwt. Contact-Burt Association Rutherford

Sign-up for assistance under this program began November 23, 1998. Payments will be issued after publication of program regulations and the completion of the sign-up. Sign-up, originally scheduled to end on January 8, 1999, has been extended and USDA will announce the deadline after publication of the program regulations. USDA will make assistance available on a county-bycounty basis in counties where at least a 40 percent grazing loss occurred for 90 or more consecutive days. Livestock owners can contact a local USDA Service Center or Farm Service Agency office for more information.

Jan Wanoreck, CED stated that Schleicher office at 853-3535 or Sutton office at 387-3111 to set up an appointment to complete their application. Producers need to know their head count as May 1, 1998 and any changes made through December 15, 1998.

FSA administers all programs without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, disability or marital status.

Natural Gas 1999

Standard & Poor's expects average 1999 U.S. natural gas prices to test the lower band of its forecast range of \$1.80-\$2.20 (Henry Hub), and may revise its forecast downward should abnormal weather patterns continue

Standard & Poor's believes that the companies most at risk for nearterm deterioration in credit quality are independent exploration and production companies with weak competitive positions and/or high financial leverage.

If hydrocarbon prices remain depressed, these companies may continue to experience diminished financial flexibility because of lower cash from operations, difficulties selling assets at anticipated price realizations, adverse redeterminations of the carrying value of oil and gas properties, inhibited access to capital markets to refinance maturing debt, possible covenant violations, and reduced availability under bank credit facilities.

Even those few companies mitigating short-term price volatility through their hedging programs will encounter increased difficulties meeting their financial commitments and investing sufficiently to maintain their production capacity should prices remain at weak levels.

Major integrated companies are expected to fare better than the independents because of their downstream diversification and generally lower cost structures and financial flexibility.

Lower industry capital spending will cause a direct contraction of the cash flow of many service companies, although their financial flexibility is buttressed by relatively low reinvestment requirements.

Contract drilling companies with spot market contracts, especially those in the commodity land rig and shallow-water Gulf of Mexico drilling rig markets, have seen weakening utilization and day rates.

This decline in rig activity in the Gulf also has caused falling day and utilization rates in the shallowwater offshore support vessel indus-

However, service companies with high levels of committed contract backlogs, such as those participating in deep-water and international drilling markets, should perform better in the near term than companies dependent on spot busi-

Rig Locations as of December 23, 1998



Crockett County Primal Energy Corp; 7,500', Hoover 4-#4, Cleere Drilling. Rosewood Resources; 1,300', Midway Lane #135, Service

Drilling.

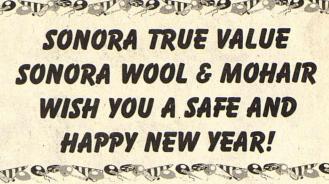
Sutton County Louis Dreyfus Natural Gas; McMillan, Patterson Drilling.

Edwards County Enron O&G; 10,000', Newby #1, Patterson Drilling.

Val Verde County Enron O&G; 6,500', M K Daniel A-#20, Patterson Drilling. Phillips Pet/Odessa; 10,200', Cauthorn D-#5, Patterson Drilling.

> For complete report contact: Scott Huggins, Rig Location & Permit Report Service









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gists, landowners and hunters is called Quality Deer Management vesting of female deer while protecting young male deer (often by mandating a minimum antler size). This maintains the population within the food capacity of

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For Sale

For Sale: '97 Blazer S10, 4 Door, green LS, loaded 35K. 915-949-

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Found: Apricot male poodle on 11th St. had leather collar, no tags. 392-

Found: Found Dec. 27 female malamute. Call 392-2706.

Young Men's Christian

Association: abbr. 11. Abba ___, Israeli politi

12. Couch

15. Gets away

23. Turkish leader title

24. Greenish-blue

Confuse

28. Tie again

29. Sound units

34. Concerns

37. Can't move

40. Bouyei

27. Robert Cooper

U.S. Justice

30. Red rock in Australia

32. Having ears or earlike

appendages

38. Semitic fertility god

43. Sietes: English form

44. The distance over which

something extends

46. Enters a poker game

18. Paddled

25. Demeter

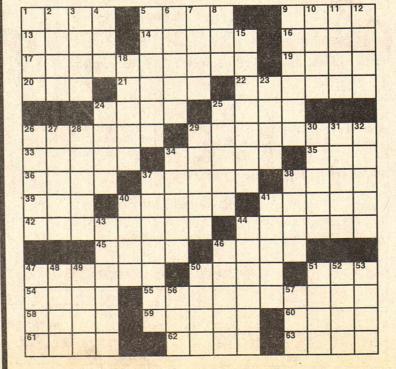
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ACROSS

- 9. So longs
- 13. James ___, America steam engineer 14. Got up 16. A raised platform
- 17. Gives further explana 19. Canadian flyers
- 20. Member: shortened
- 21. Egyptian cross 24. "Tie A Yellow Ribbon

'Round The Old Oak

- 25. Place to store animals 26. Consented
- 29. Stand between 33. Reluctant fear
- 34. Centers
- 35. Affirmative vote Sheets of glass
- 38. A grown cub bygones be
- bygones
- 40. Shows
- 41. To break down a ser
- 42. Expunctions
- 44. Removed
- DOWN

5. Gained

southeast

9. Hair stylist

60. Wings

1. Pour 2. Nathan

46. The upper angle

an offshoot such as a

The compass point that

is one point north of due

branch or leafstalk

47. Large, pubic skeletal

54. Off-Broadway theater

55. Ones living in the New

59. Jan _ . Dutch painter

England states

61. Neighboring plan to Earth

62. Formerly (archaic)

63. Millisecond: abbr.

50. "Do ___ others..."

structure

astronaut 3. Mild yellow Dutch

6. University in Iowa with bulldog mascot

7. Gothic: shortened form

- 47. Ode cheese made in balls 4. Mutual Savings Bank: abbr.
 - 49. Fibber
 - 50. Exploiter
- 48. City 3000 B.C.

 - Eastern Christianity
- 8. The compass point mid-
 - 56. Dined 57. Viet

52. Hillside

way between east and

51. Fishes, sometimes elec-53. Newfound sect of