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THE Devil's River NEWS

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SONORA, TEXAS

Thursday, November 27, 2003

Sonora Stuns Crane, Advances in Playoffs

by Ray Glasscock

Sonora's football team came onto the field at Bobcat Stadium ready to take care of business last Friday night. Although they were 17 point underdogs to Crane, the number ten ranked 2A team, they used the same formula for success that they used against Reagan County: a great punter, a great defense, and an offense that scored when given the opportunity.

Crane won the toss and deferred to the second half. The Broncos returned the opening kickoff to the 27 yard line. Caleb Ramos pitched the ball to Chris Martin for a 23 yard gain to the 40 yard line. A second pitch to Martin gained eight yards to the Crane 49 yard line. A Ramos run failed to make a first down, and the Broncos set up in punt formation. Scottie Moore tried a pass to Austin Wagoner, but Crane knocked the ball out of his hands.

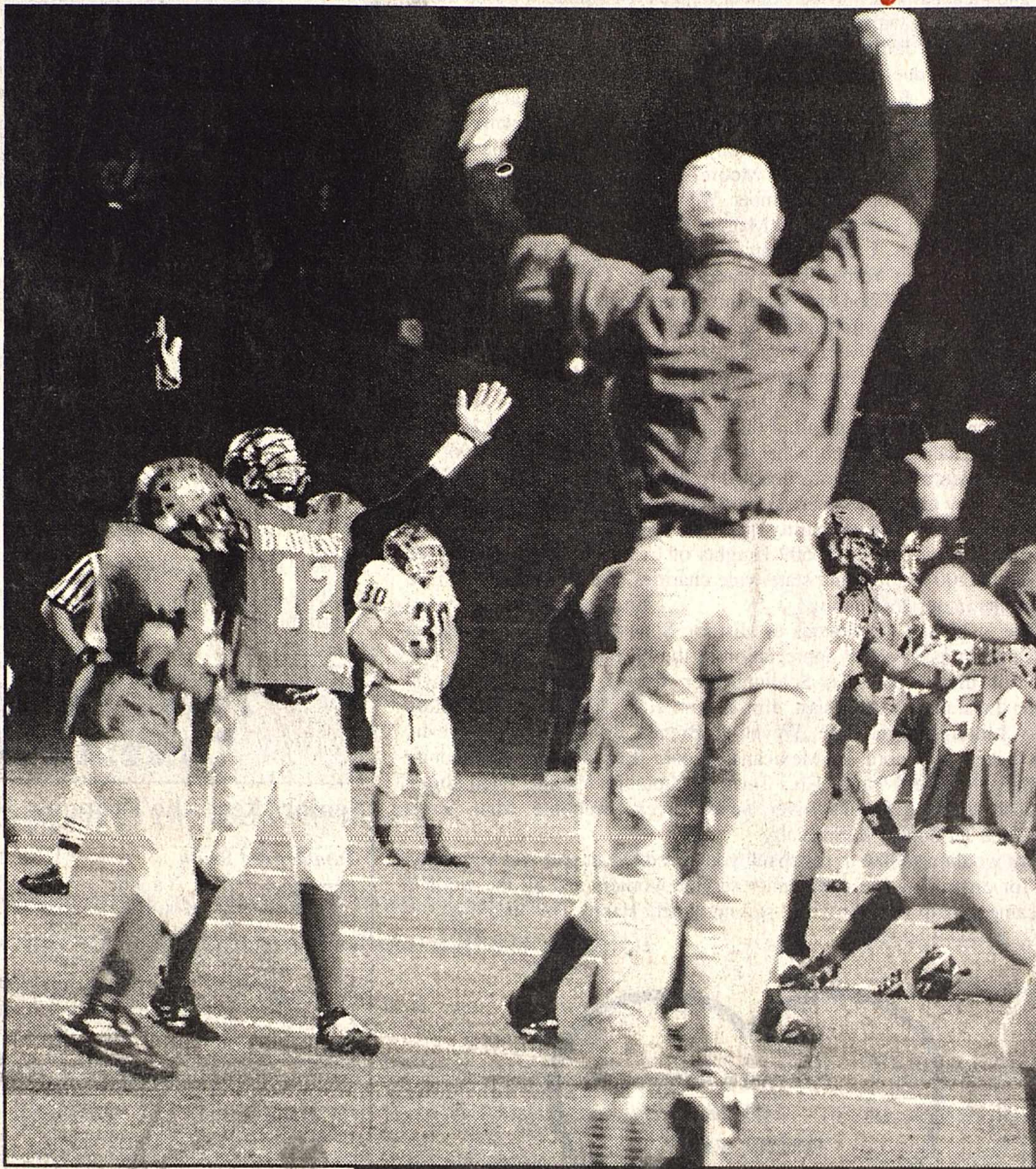
Crane's first offensive series lasted eight plays. The Bronco defense made their first statement of the night. On their second fourth down attempt, they tried to run wide. Martin, Moore, and Steven Duhon stopped Crane short of the first down.

The next Bronco series saw three catchable passes dropped by the Bronco receivers. Moore punted for 32 yards and Crane took over on their 48 yard line.

Brett McDaniel and Duhon stopped a first down run, and then Crane threw two incomplete passes. After a short punt, the Broncos took over at their own 26 yard line. Once again, the Broncos were not able to make a first down and Moore got off a booming 46 yard punt and Crane started at their 35 yard line.

Crane moved the chains twice using passes. The first quarter ended with Crane at the 36 yard line. On the first play of the second quarter with the game still scoreless, Crane threw deep and Anthony Longoria deflected the long pass away from the Crane receiver saving a touchdown. Trapper Valliant broke through the line and came after the quarterback. Laramie Hall forced the quarterback back inside into the arms of Valliant for the first sack of the game. Again, Crane got off a short punt.

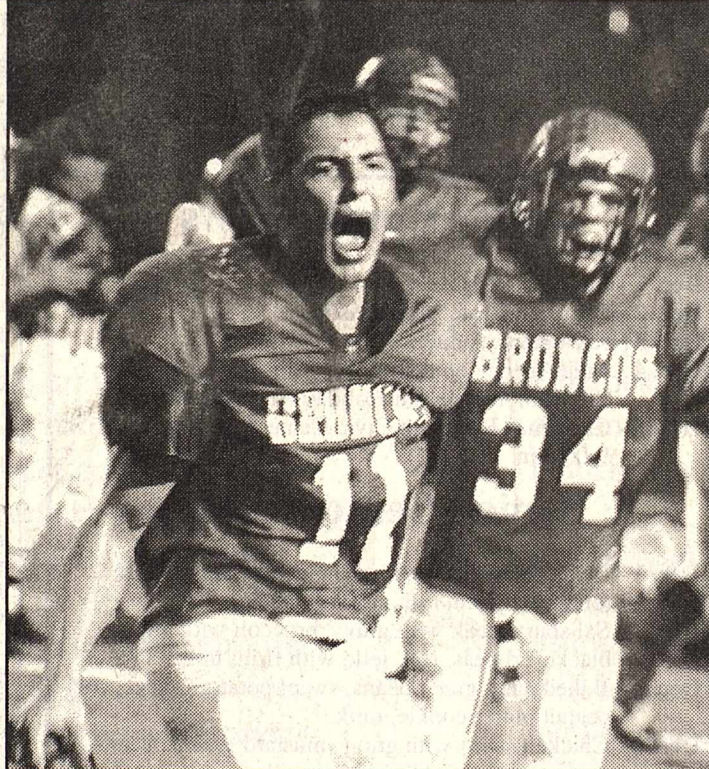
With the ball on the Bronco 21 yard line, Moore slipped out of the backfield and Cearley hit



It was pure exuberance for the Broncos as they defeated Crane for the Area Championship!

him with a short pass. Moore started up the sideline and cut back into the middle of the field at the 50 yard line. Martin blocked the only Crane defender who had a chance of stopping Moore. After the touchdown, Wagoner kicked the PAT and the Broncos had a 7 to 0 lead that they would never surrender.

On Crane's next play, a short pass to the left flat nearly tied the score. The Crane receiver caught the ball at their 27 yard line and escaped two Bronco defenders. At about the Bronco 20 yard line, Martin made him move to the inside. Wilson Wallace came from the other side of the field to catch the Crane receiver at the five yard line to deny the touchdown. The Crane quarterback handed the ball to the back who immediately dropped it. The



See Broncos page 5

Council argues responsibility of Christmas lighting costs

by Storie Sharp

"There's not enough money in the budget."

That was the answer that the City Council gave to Chamber of Commerce Executive Director, Ruthie Bounds, when she asked for the City's assistance in paying the electricity cost for the Christmas lights on Main Street for the months of November and December. Bounds informed the council that the Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors had voted to absorb the cost of hanging the lights on Main Street and the Sutton County Courthouse, because the lighting was an important part of the holiday season in Sonora. After much discussion the Chamber Board had agreed to have a company out of San Angelo hang the lights on the buildings and was going to ask the business owners if they would like to pay for lighting their building at \$1.00 per square foot. If they choose not to, the Chamber will pay the fee.

Ruthie then asked if the City could help offset the cost of the electricity, which is estimated to cost approximately \$400. Council member and Mayor Pro-tem, Gloria Lopez, said that the City has never been responsible for this cost, and council member James Blackman said that there just wasn't any money in the budget for this request.

Storie Sharp asked why the City could not help with a project that would bring visitors into this community, thus bringing in dollars and told the council of letters to the editor and phone calls that have been received in the newspaper office from concerned citizens about the possibility of not having lighting. She stated that it was her belief that before the Main Street program took the project, the City did handle the costs, and it wasn't until a previous meeting this year, that the council had decided they could not afford to pay their employees to hang the lights on the buildings because of liability costs. Sharp said that if the City couldn't afford it and the Main Street Program couldn't afford it and everyone said they couldn't afford it, then what?

Blackman responded that they just could not ask the taxpayers to be responsible for this cost. He said that hotel-motel tax was for that kind of project, and

that in contrast to previous beliefs, hotel-motel tax could indeed be used for this project. City manager Brent Gesch explained that last year it had taken four employees about two days to hang these lights and the liability costs just weren't feasible. Gesch reminded everyone that the City had paid for some of the expenses when the Main Street Program was located in the City Hall.

Council member Blackman asked why the Main Street program couldn't afford to help with this cost. Friends of Historic Sonora Main Street Program manager, Ann Kay, said that the FHSMS had allotted their funds to be spent on lights and decorations for different areas this year, including the planter box, entry ways, and the Pocket Park. Kay expressed that she would however, re-budget if the council decided that the money should be allotted differently.

Bounds interrupted the conversation by saying that the Chamber had voted to pay the costs if need be, and would submit a written request to the FHSMS to reroute the electric bills that had previously been sent to their office, to the Chamber office. Bounds asked for a yes or no as to whether the City could help with the electric costs, and if no, would they at least consider paying for lighting the City Hall building. The council then agreed that they would pay for the cost of hanging the lights on the City Hall building at \$1.00 per square foot, but could not help with the cost of the electricity.

Bounds then asked the council for permission to hang holiday banners in the downtown area and on the poles where the existing "Welcome" banners are hung. She showed the council the beautiful red banners with the Christmas trees on them. The council readily agreed to the Christmas banners being hung. Bounds also requested permission to close Main Street for a Christmas Fair and Lighting Ceremony on December 6th. She explained that the "More the Merrier" Christmas Bazaar would be held at the Civic Center on December 5th and the vendors were given the opportunity to sell their wares at the Christmas Fair on the 6th of December as

See City Council, back page

Butler reports Medical Clinic expansion progressing well

The regular meeting of the Sutton County Hospital District, Board of Directors, was held on Monday, November 17, 2003. Board of Directors, Lewis Allen, President, Sherrill Dannheim, Vice President, Preston Faris, Lenora Pool, Maria Carrasco, Mike Healy, and Virginia Epps were present. Also present were Keith Butler, Hospital Administrator/CEO, Ben Epps, Carolyn Lara and Board Secretary Kathy Knight.

The meeting was called to order and minutes from prior meetings were approved.

Butler advised the Board that the new Hospital's final plans, with changes, would be ready for review the first part of the following week. A discussion was held regarding a called meeting to approve the plans and authorize the advertising for bids. The called meeting was set for 12:00 p.m. on Monday, November 24, to meet with the architects, O'Connell Robertson & Associates, to approve the final plans and to authorize the

advertising for bids.

Butler reported that the Medical Clinic expansion is progressing well. Anticipated date to move into the new part of the clinic should be around Christmas, the work will begin on the existing portion of the building.

Butler stated that a letter had been received from TrailBlazer (Medicare) recouping \$17,409.00. CMS informed that the increased volume of outpatient work from 2002 had resulted in CMS paying too much money for 2003. They have cut the outpatient percentages from 93% to 58%, but did increase the inpatient per diem. Some of his recouped amount should be returned when the cost report for 2003 is finished.

Butler advised that the cost report seminar that he and two of his staff attended last week was very informative. The cost report is a very good reference tool to help with the reimburse-

See Hospital Board, page 8

Happy family celebrates homecoming of Jerod Williams

by Storie Sharp

There wasn't a dry eye on the Sutton County Courthouse lawn on Wednesday, November 18, 2003, as Jerod Williams removed his yellow ribbon from the Old Oak Tree.

Williams, the son of Donna Zapala of San Angelo and David and Lisa Williams of Sonora, just got home on November 14, 2003, having been gone for 4 1/2 months this time. This is his 3rd deployment with the United States Air Force, having also been active in Desert Storm. Williams is part of Security Forces, where he is a Combat Arms instructor. He helps train and maintain weapons used by our armed forces. Williams has been stationed at Prince Sultan in Saudi Arabia, Kurdistan, and many other places overseas. He is now stationed in Del Rio, Texas, at Laughlin Air Force Base and has just reenlisted for six more years.

Williams' family was excited to have him home to take that ribbon off the tree. His wife, Christy, expressed her gratitude to Sutton County for doing the yellow ribbon project and showing their support of men and



women like Jerod who volunteer to serve their country.

Jerod's grandfather, Bill Zapala, also expressed his happiness at having his grandson home, he just wasn't too happy about the 25 pounds he had lost while away from home.

Not to worry, his family assured us that his "mamaw",


Irene Williams, will help get that weight back on soon!

Jerod is excited to be home for many reasons, one big one, is being able to celebrate the holidays with his 23 month old son, Logan.


Friends of Historic Sonora Main Street manager, Ann Kay, presented Jerod with the Yellow Ribbon proclamation and a cer-

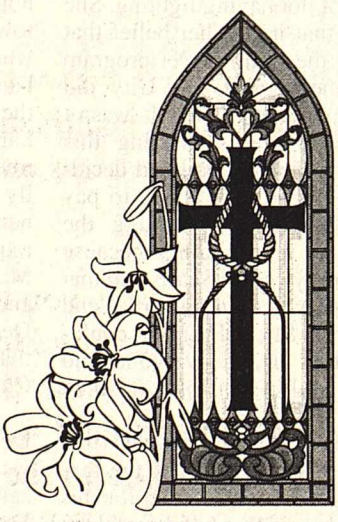
tificate of appreciation from the City of Sonora and Sutton County. Among other gifts, he was also treated to dinner at La Mexicana. Suzanne Baddeaux, of Schlumberger, Jerod's sponsor, said they were glad to be able to take his picture off the wall of military personnel away from home! Welcome home Jerod, and Thank You!

**Lighthouse
Community Church**
"Where Community is our Middle Name"
Sunday Services
Bible Study 10:00 a.m.
Worship • 11:00 a.m. • 6:00 p.m.
1705 N. Crockett


**SUTTON COUNTY
HEALTH FOUNDATION**

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


**Sonora Church
Directory**

PRIMERA IGLESIA BAUTISTA Antonio F. Gonzales, Sr. 504 Santa Clara 387-2035	THE CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD PRESBYTERIAN Lewis Allen, Pastor 319 E. Mulberry 387-2616
CHURCH OF CHRIST Jerry Jackson 304 N. Water 387-3190	LIGHTHOUSE COMMUNITY CHURCH Don Longoria, Pastor 1705 N. Crockett
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH T. Wayne Price Pastor 111 E Oak 387-2951	PENTECOSTAL CALVARY TEMPLE UNITED 509 Amistad
ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH 404 E. Poplar 387-2955	ST. ANN'S CATHOLIC CHURCH Father William DuBuisson, O.M.I. 229 W. Plum 387-2278
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH Rev. Conrad Archer, Pastor 201 N. Water 387-2466	JEHOVAH'S WITNESS 310 St. Ann's Street 387-5658 or 387-5518
TEMPLO JERUSALEM ASAMBLEA DE DIOS Enoc Elias Nunez 306 W. 4th St. 387-5713 387-3092	
HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH Rev. Charles Huffman 417 E. 2nd St. 387-5366	
LA IGLESIA HISPANA UNIDA DEL NOMBRE DE JESUS, INC. Pastor Felipe Martinez 807 Orient	

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Card of Thanks

I would like to sincerely thank all my friends and family that visited/called me during my recovery from surgery. My heartfelt thanks to the following people for the beautiful flowers: my cafeteria ladies, Los Compadres Club Members and the Administration and Board Members of Sonora ISD. I appreciate your thoughtfulness.
Sincerely, Dora Gonzales

The Church of Christ of Sonora and the Medina Children's Home would like to express their appreciation to the community for their support given through the boxes on the street in front of the church building. When the items are collected there is generally 1,500 to 2,000 pounds of clothes and other items. These donations from all over the State of Texas support one fourth of the budget of the Medina Children's Home. As you can see, this collection is very effective and much appreciated.

The Home has asked that there be no coat hangers or clothes on coat hangers put in the boxes. All clothes should be in plastic bags and tied, please. Clothes left outside the boxes that get wet are ruined and cannot be used. The Home cannot receive mattresses unless they have been treated. Nor does the Home have the ability to fix broken appliances or other items.

Again, the congregation and the Medina Children's Home express their appreciation for wonderful support you give this endeavor.
Sincerely,
Jerry Jackson, Minister

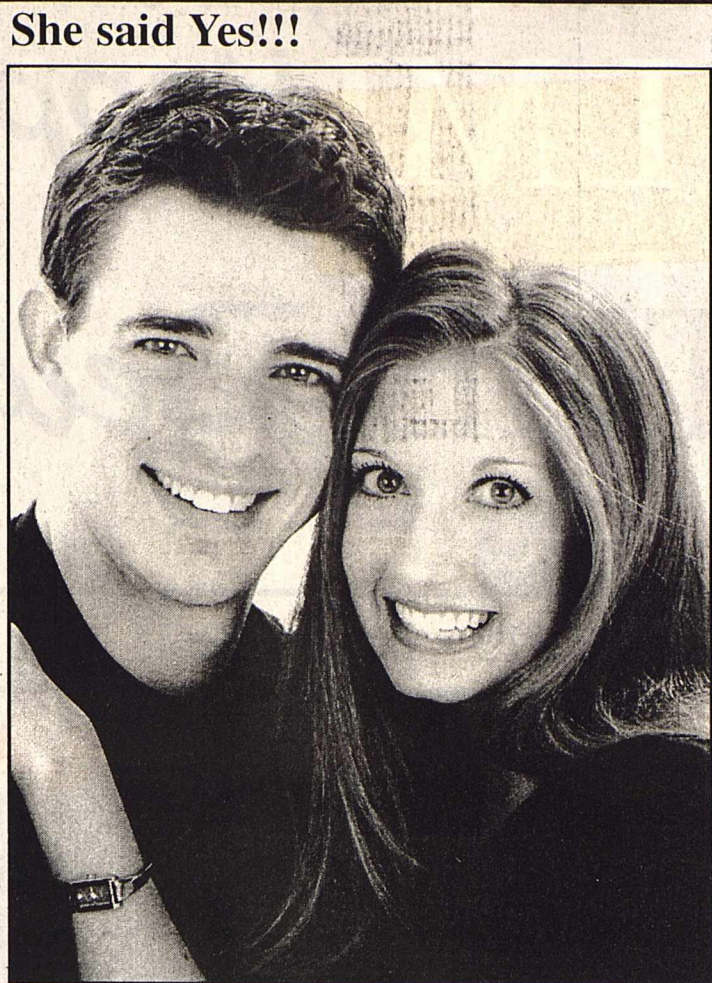
As the sun came up on Sunday, November 23, 2003 the Knights of Columbus could be found smoking turkeys, and the ladies of the St. Ann's Church were busy fixing all the trimmings, for the Community Thanksgiving Lunch. The annual dinner was wonderful, with delightful music and great company. Mike Villanueva and Nell Wallace blessed those at home by helping with almost 100 deliveries.

Kathleen and James Freeman, Sonora Daisy Scouts (Cipriana Tobias, Laura Sanchez, Sidney Burnham, Kaitlyn Lopez), Brownie Troop 37, (Kali Mendez, Julissa Esquivel, Victoria Reyna, Leslie Lavario, Halle Samaniego, Kamrie Martinez and Stormy Schwertener), Brownie Troop 104, (Kelsey Favila, Olivia Banda, Abby Creek, Melissa Freeman, Kory Humprey, Farra Lopez, Macela Moore, Brianna Reyna and Rachel Eisenhower), Jr. Troop 100, (Amber West, Shainah Johnson, Analisa Samaniego, Allison Freeman, and Maggie Ramirez), and leaders, Tammy Favila, Nelda Tobias, Carrie Sinosis, Patsy Samaniego, Whitney Perez, Nelda Yorba, Ruben Yorba, Rita Mendez, Becky Levario, Becca Love, Members of the 4-H Food and Nutrition group, Marilyn Young all helped serve tea and desserts, offering a smile with the tasty treats.

This year's cooks were Mary Perez, Linda Patlan, Blanca Virgen, Candise Patlan, Maribel Perez, Janna Martinez, Florie Gonzales, Melinda Patlan, Nelda Tobias, Carrie Sinosis, Shaylynn Burnham, Kathleen Freeman, Paul Freeman, and all of the Knights of Columbus. The Knights will use the generous donations that were given to help with the cost of the meal. They also used the funds donated to the Knights of Columbus State Charities. They are always there to help when someone in our community needs funds for medication, utility bills, and special needs children. Since 1994, the Sonora Council 10609 Knights of Columbus have contributed over \$26,000.00 to local and state wide charities. We are blessed to have the Knights in our community.

The KOC and the Friends of Historic Sonora Main Street Program would like to express our appreciation to the businesses and people that made this dinner possible: Schlumberger, Carl J. Cahill, Inc., Doyle Morgan Insurance, My Design, Jim & Ann Kay, Sutton County, Sutton County Library, Angel Cafe, Wayne & Brenda Bryant, Sonic Drive-In, Dairy Queen of Sonora, La Mexicana, Sonora Band, Sonora Community Churches, Mayfield Paper Co., Town & Country Village Food Store, KHOS Radio, The Devil's River News, Creek Swabbing, Main Street Realty, and Jet Supply & Specialty.

We would also like to say thank you to Jed Davenport and Mary Jean Sims for organizing the community service workers and all the workers who came to help with the Thanksgiving lunch. Happy Thanksgiving.



Hardgrave - Kaufman

Gary and Kathy Hardgrave are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter, Kristen Michelle, to Sam Kaufman, son of Joe and Deanna Keinast of Southlake, Texas, and Lynn and Mary Kaufman of Mason City, Iowa. The couple will be married April 17, 2004, at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church in Grapevine, Texas.

Miss Hardgrave is a 1999 graduate of Sonora High School. She received a bachelor's degree in Journalism in 2003 from Baylor University and is employed by Weber Shandwick public relations agency in Dallas.

Her fiance is a 1998 graduate of Southlake Carroll High School. He received a bachelor's degree in Finance in 2002 from Baylor University. Mr. Kaufman is employed by Brinker International in Dallas.

**Texas Tales Told By
TUMBLEWEED SMITH**

Seniors keep the Economy Running Smoothly



Tumbleweed Smith
It's the older generation that spends money. People sixty, seventy and eighty are healthy, active, have good minds and shell out money for vacations, concerts, plays and movies. In any upscale restaurant most of the diners have white hair. In short, they're building memories.

In this generation, many are still working way past retirement age. They have organized their jobs and lives so they can still work and have time to do the things they want to do. This is the generation that has saved money for most of their working lives. They aren't necessarily thinking about themselves, either. They are thinking about their children and grandchildren. Many of this group think the best thing they can do is be with their families. So they take cruises and rent vacation homes so everybody can be together for a week or so every year.

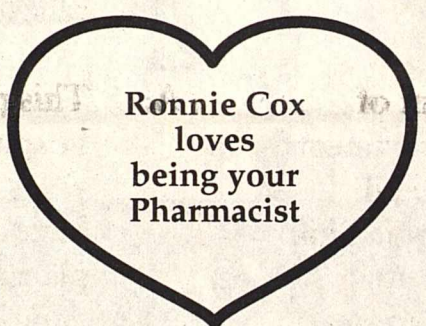
Sixty used to be the age when people slowed down. Not any more. Sixty seems to be what forty used to be years ago. Grandparents don't look like the grandparents they had. Their grandparents looked and acted old at fifty. They seemed to come from an ancient culture. Today's grandparents might be jet pilots or CEO's with no thoughts of slowing down. They ski, bicycle, dog sled, scuba dive, jump out of planes and ride rapids.

Seven out of ten workers between the ages of 50 and 70 say they never expect to quit working. Deborah Russell, who writes about economic security and work for the American Association of Retired People says, "A lot of us feel that work is part of what defines us. We want to stay connected and we plan to live a long time, so why quit working? It's not just about needing a paycheck." We've heard about Grandma Moses or Colonel Sanders who didn't start building their empires until they were over sixty. There are more and more people doing just that. I interviewed a woman the other day who writes and sings parodies at cabarets in Dallas. She looks 50. She is 79. Her office and studio are in her house. The walls are filled with her art work. She talked about her kids and her boyfriend. It's the older folks who are living life to its fullest.

Lauren Hutton, who has been called the world's most enduringly beautiful model, has just turned sixty and recently started a new makeup line for older women. Tim Conway is in his 70's. Bob Barker is 80. I interviewed a man who had just graduated from college. He is 82. Dating is a big thing for people over sixty who suddenly find themselves single. They place personal ads in magazines, they read and meet dates in coffee shops, and develop relationships. One man said dating has never been so interesting, mainly because there are so many players.

Higher divorce rates, longer life spans and a greater tendency never to marry mean there are more single Americans than at any time in the nation's history. The U.S. Census bureau says of the 97 million Americans who are 45 and older, almost 40 percent...36.2 million...are on the loose. It costs money to date.

Robert Browning said it: "Grow old along with me. The best is yet to be."



Senior Center News

Dec. 1 - Elephant Bingo.
Dec. 2 - Decorate Center for Christmas.
Dec. 3 - AAA Reports due.
Dec. 4 - Area Agency on Aging. San Angelo Senior Companion Program Holiday Recognition Party!
Dec. 5 - Christmas Bazaar at Civic Center 9:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Senior Center Menu

Dec. 1 - Baked chicken, fried rice, zucchini squash with tomatoes, juice, roll, peach cobbler, milk.
Dec. 2 - Salisbury steak with gravy, broccoli with cheese, blackeyed peas, roll, jello with fruit, milk.
Dec. 3 - Baked ham, green beans, sweet potatoes, juice, roll, peanut butter cookie, milk.
Dec. 4 - Chicken strips with gravy, mustard greens, beans, cornbread, cobbler, milk.
Dec. 5 - Catfish, spinach, pinto beans, coleslaw, cornbread pudding, milk.

Lunch is served Monday thru Friday at 12:00 Noon.
\$1.50 donation is suggested for those 60+ and \$4.00 for others. *Menu is subject to change.*
***New Sound "Hearing Tests" will be at Senior Center in January 2004! Call San Angelo 1-888-297-1963**

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Community Calendar

Dec. 5
Christmas Bazaar • Civic Center
9:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.

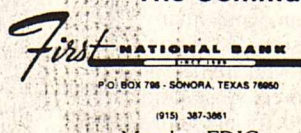
Dec. 6
Christmas Fair & Lighting
Downtown Sonora
3:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.


Dec. 8
County Commissioners
9:00 a.m. • Annex Bldg.

Dec. 16
City Council Meeting
2:00 p.m. • City Hall

Dec. 18
Santa Bucks Auction
4-H Civic Center

The Community Calendar is made possible by:


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Letters To The Editor Policy

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LMH Memorial Hospital Expansion Project



Q. Why do we need a new hospital?

A. The existing two-story facility requires separate staff for the upstairs patient rooms and the first floor emergency department. The new facility will create much more staffing efficiency by having all patient services in a single-story structure.

The existing facility has no wheelchair accessible restroom facilities and cannot be updated to accommodate this need.

Most important, we have outgrown our existing space. The hospital has added new services and expanded others. The existing hospital does not have adequate square footage for our needs.

Q. What will happen to the old hospital?

A. Support services such as materials management, medical records and the business office will relocate to the second floor.

We have made an offer to the Texas Department of Health and Human Services and the Texas Department of Health to lease the first floor and consolidate all Sutton County healthcare services under one roof. This partnership will allow for better client and patient access and give the hospital the opportunity to contract with TDH to provide services not currently offered in Sonora.

Q. Are you building a Health Club?

A. Yes! The wellness center will include an indoor swimming pool to allow for water aerobics and aquatic therapy. There will be a fitness center or gym with modern cardiovascular and strength building machines. The complex will also include an aerobic room available for a variety of exercise programs. In addition to the many fitness and exercise opportunities, the complex will consolidate all rehabilitation services, including physical therapy and cardiac and pulmonary rehabilitation, in one space.

Q. Why do we need a Health Club?

A. The vision of our hospital is to commit our compassion to significantly improve every dimension of healthcare in the community we serve. We believe prevention of disease is the single most important impact we can have on the lives of people in our community. Obesity and diabetes are the fastest growing diseases in the country; exercise is the most important prevention intervention we can provide for both of these concerns. The wellness center will give citizens access to a facility that will help them to meet this prevention goal.

Q. How much will it cost me to join the wellness center.

A. There will be an affordable monthly membership fee. The administration is working on a variety of packages. We will advertise these membership packages when they are finalized later in the year.

Q. When will the new hospital and wellness center open?

A. We plan to let bids in November and award a contract in December this year. Construction should begin in January 2004 and is expected to take one year to complete.

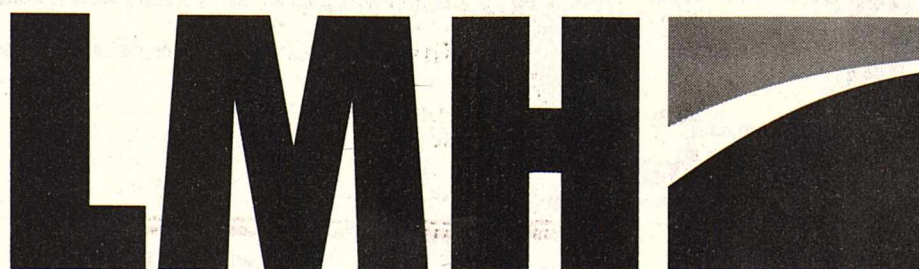
Q. How will you pay for this project? Will my taxes be raised because of this project?

A. This project will not increase your taxes. The hospital has operated in the black for the past two years and expects to continue to do so. Revenues have covered expenses so tax revenue has been placed in reserve to complete this capital project. In addition to cash reserves, we have applied for almost three million dollars in grants to assist in the project.

Q. How can I help?

A. A hospital cannot be sustained without patients. The best way to support local healthcare is to take advantage of our expanding services and spend your healthcare dollars in Sonora.

If you want to do more, we invite you to consider a contribution to the Sutton County Health Foundation. Although no funds from the foundation will be used in the new hospital and wellness center project, your contribution to the foundation will enhance healthcare in our community for generations to come. The goal of the foundation is to create a fund to reduce the need for tax support in the future. To meet this goal, the foundation requires approximately 15 million dollars so enough investment income can be generated to reduce your taxes. Now is the time to secure the future of healthcare in Sutton County, and you can play a vital role in the effort.



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Ask the Historical Society

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

Q. Is it true that short men never get ahead in life because of their height?

A. No! History shows that many short men became great leaders. Here are a few examples: Napoleon Bonaparte, called "the little corporal" because of his height, was only 5 feet 2 inches tall. Stephen A. Douglas was just barely 5 feet tall and affectionately named "the little giant." President Martin Van Buren was called "the little magician" in allusion to his shortness of stature and his mastery of political wizardry.

Gen. George B. McClellan, the Democratic candidate against Abraham Lincoln in 1864, was called "Little Mac." Admiral Farragut was only 5 feet 6 1/2 inches tall. Oliver Wendell Holmes, John Paul Jones and Gen. Phil Sheridan were each 5 feet and Beethoven was only 5 feet 4 inches tall. John Keats was barely 5 feet tall and Swinburne and Whistler were approximately 5 feet tall.

A few other men that were described as being short or under medium height were Chaucer, Michelangelo, Chopin, John

Milton, Robespierre, Alexander Pope, Charles Lamb, Ibsen, Thoreau, Thomas Moore, William H. Seward, John Quincy Adams, William Ellery Channing, Andrew Carnegie and Alexander Hamilton.

So famous poets, painters, admirals, generals, presidents, vice presidents, political leaders and several multi-millionaires were all short. Tom Thumb was known by all and greatly beloved. He turned his small stature into a money maker for himself and his wife. Vanity might hold a shorter person back, but if he or she ignores their height and perseveres, they can get ahead in life and achieve great things. My own mother, who was barely 5 feet tall, always said, "good things come in little packages." So get a positive attitude, hold your head high and work hard for what you want in life.

Q. How did people keep things cool without a refrigerator?

A. Some had iceboxes and some kept things in a spring house where the cool water helped to cool the air. Some built a box with a framework of 1 by 2 pine. The sides were left open and covered with screen wire, but the top was solid wood. One side was used for a door and a pan of water was placed on the top of the home-made unit. Four strips of burlap, sufficient length to reach from the pan of water on top to another pan kept under the unit were placed around the unit. The box was then set where it could catch a breeze. The evaporation of the water would help to chill the interior of the box. This was for temporary storage only, and you had to make sure your water pans stayed full so that the burlap would keep absorbing water.

Q. Did the Devil's River News have any mention of a wedding between Jimmie McCarley and Owen Gray in 1933?

A. Devil's River News, May 5, 1933-Announcement has been made of the marriage of Miss Jimmie McCarley, daughter of Tom McCarley of San Angelo, to Mr. Owen Gray of Sonora. The marriage was performed at the church here.

State senator, former lieutenant governor to retire

State Capital Highlights

Texas Press Association

by Mike Cox

AUSTIN - The man who served as lieutenant governor after Rick Perry moved up to replace George W. Bush in the Governor's Mansion is retiring.

Sen. Bill Ratliff (R-Mount Pleasant) announced last week that he would be leaving the upper chamber of the Legislature effective Jan. 10. That date will mark the passage of 15 years since he was sworn in for his first term.

Ratliff's term is not complete so Gov. Rick Perry will set a special election to determine the senator's successor.

Ratliff was polite in announcing his leave, stressing that he would not be leaving "on a negative note." He did say his parting wish for the Senate was a return of civility, which said a lot.

The senator said he felt his greatest accomplishment had been his role in rewriting Texas' education code and in shepherding other education-related legislation.

His retirement, however, will keep him out of an expected special session sometime next year to deal with the huge school finance issue.

New Supreme Court judge named...

Scott A. Brister, who had been serving as chief justice on the 14th Court of Appeals, has been appointed by Perry to the

state Supreme Court. He fills the unexpired term of Craig Enoch, who had resigned earlier this year. Brister's term runs through 2004. After that, he will have to campaign for election to the seat.

The new judge grew up in Waco and attended Harvard Law School.

Trooper's movie watching gets bad reviews from Perry...

The day after an Austin television crew caught a Department of Public Safety trooper watching a movie on a portable DVD player in her patrol car at the west entrance to the Capitol grounds, Gov. Perry said he didn't like it and didn't expect it to happen again.

Though the trooper's sergeant told the TV reporters that he didn't see anything wrong with the trooper watching movies as long as she paid attention to her duties, that did not seem to impress the governor.

Unemployment rate drops...

The state's unemployment rate dropped to 6.5 percent in October, the Texas Workforce Commission reported. Those figures mean that from September to October, 15,000 Texans found jobs or otherwise fell off the unemployment radar.

Influenza 'widespread' across state

The Texas Department of Health classified last week's flu activity in Texas as "widespread," the fifth consecutive week for the highest classification.

Thanksgiving debate continues...

Massachusetts claims the honor, as does El Paso, of having hosted North America's first Thanksgiving feast. Now, according to the Texas Department of Transportation's Travel Division, Palo Duro Canyon also figures in the debate.

On May 23, 1541, historians say, Spanish explorer Francisco Vasquez de Coronado attended a feast put on by a group of friendly Teya Indians in the big canyon south of the future location of Amarillo. That, they assert, was a celebration of Thanksgiving.

Flu season 'widespread' across state

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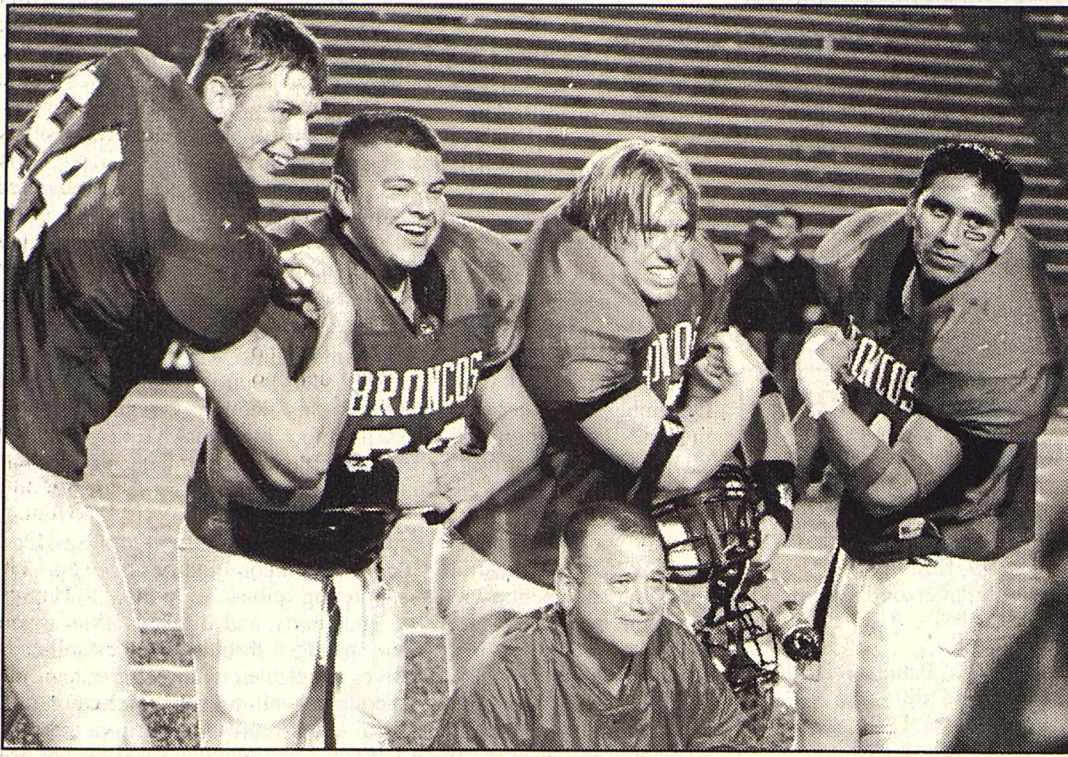
Forget Something?

We have been making plans for several weeks now. Grocery lists and phone calls to see who will be able to be there and who won't. Yes, we are planning a big meal with all the trimmings and we are also looking forward to family fellowship and especially getting to play with the grandkids. It has been a tradition in our family for as long as I can remember. On several of those occasions, right in the middle of the meal one of the cooks (my wife, mother or grandmother) would suddenly jump up from the table and dart to the kitchen and come back with another dish. They would say I almost forgot the congealed salad (we call it green stuff) or our favorite rolls or some

other dish. If we are not careful we may forget or omit God in our celebrating. God has no problem with us enjoying a good meal (*Deuteronomy 26:9 & 10, Joel 2:26*) but I think he wants us to realize where it came from and be thankful (*Psalms 50:14, 100:4, 116:17*). I also realize some years are harder than others and some people and families are going through difficult times (*Ecclesiastes 7:14*). Let's pray for them and help them if we can. Enjoy the holiday and let's not forget to thank God. See you in church on Sunday.

Brother J

Broncos from page 1



Broncos recovered.

After two runs and a short pass failed to make a first down, Moore boomed a punt from his end zone to the Crane 12 yard line - a punt of 72 yards!

The Crane drive was completely destroyed by a McDaniel sack for a big loss. Chris Perez fair caught the Crane punt at the Bronco 39 yard line.

Cearley connected with Longoria for a 22 yard catch and run to the Crane 28 yard line. Crane stopped the drive when they were able to register their only sack of the night. This time Moore's punt pinned the Golden Cranes even deeper as the ball rolled out of bounds at the Crane four yard line. Crane nearly broke a runner for a long gain, but Martin tripped him at the 24 yard line. After three incomplete passes, Crane punted back to Sonora. Once again, Perez made a fair catch at the Bronco 45 yard line.

After a couple of short gains, Cearley hit Moore with a short pass, and he ran for a Bronco first down. Cearley managed to get a pass off to avoid a sack. A short pass to Martin, followed by a pass over the middle to Longoria, moved the ball to the Crane 29 yard line. After two dropped balls, Cearley hit Martin at the 12 yard line. He made a leaping catch and continued into the end zone for the touchdown. Wagoner kicked the PAT and the score, with 25 seconds left in the first half was, 14 to 0 in favor of the underdogs.

On the opening kickoff of the second half, Duhon broke through the wedge and tackled the Crane runner at the 25 yard line. Crane made one first down on a run up the middle for about 20 yards. Their drive came to an end when Martin intercepted at the Bronco 34 yard line.

The Broncos went three and out with Moore punting to their 41 yard line. Crane appeared to be serious about scoring as they quickly moved the chains three times. Then, on second down at the Bronco 21 yard line, Moore broke through and tackled the Crane runner for a five yard loss. On fourth down, Crane tried a flea flicker, but Martin knocked the ball away from the Crane receiver in the end zone.

Once again, Crane held. Moore got off another great punt. Cearley, the deep snapper, was the first Bronco down field. He hit the Crane returner at their 21 yard line. The returner stumbled forward only to be finished off by Wallace.

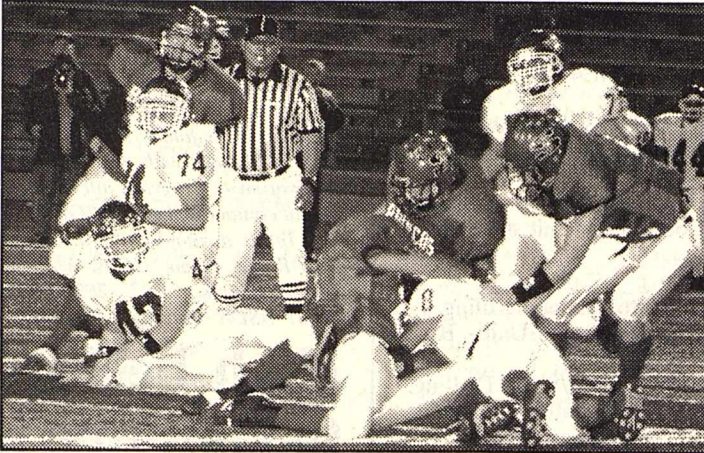
Students Beware! Top 10 College Application Mistakes

The holiday season means that college application time has arrived for high school seniors. America's admissions officers will be sorting through thousands of applications during the coming weeks. ACT, the company that produces the college admissions exam, suggests that before you apply to a college, check out the following list of the top mistakes students make on their applications, according to high school guidance counselors and admissions officers.

1. Misspellings and grammatical errors - This is a big pet peeve of admissions people. If you misspell on something as important as the application, it shows that either you don't care, or you aren't good at spelling. Some students even misspell their intended majors. But don't stop with a spell check. Proofread for grammatical errors, too.

2. Applying online, but the application isn't submitted - If you apply online, you should receive confirmation that the college or university received it. Confirmation could be an e-mail message, a web page response or

(Above) The O-Line shows what they got, bring it on Holliday! (Below) Broncos upset Crane



On first down, Valliant, who played the game of his life, smashed the runner for no gain. After one first down, Peter Duran prevented the receiver from making the third down catch and Crane had to punt.

Crane stopped the Broncos and Moore's punt once again put Crane deep in their territory. A first down pass made it second and short. Valliant hit the runner in the backfield for no gain. On third down, Crane fumbled and Diego Cardona recovered for the Broncos.

Moore took the pitch from Ramos and ran for 15 yards and a first down. Ramos gained eight yards on the quarterback draw. Coach Herring then called his famous tackle eligible play that was last used against Spearman where Moore hit Dustin Martin for the game clinching first down. Duhon lined up tight on the left side of the line. He broke free over the middle and Cearley hit him in stride for the easy score.

With 7:28 left in the game, Crane mounted their best drive. Their receivers stopped dropping the ball, and they moved quickly down the field. Then from twelve yards out, they finally got wide with the sweep and scored their first touchdown. After the PAT, the Broncos led 21 to 7 with six minutes left in the game.

Crane attempted an onside kick. The ball went up into the air, and Moore made a very heads up play by calling for a fair catch. When Crane hit him, they were penalized 15 yards. On third down, a Crane defender guessed the play was going to be the option his way. He hit Moore just as the ball arrived, and Crane recovered the fumble. After Longoria just missed an interception, McDaniel recorded a big sack. Crane tried the hook and ladder play on fourth down, but they were stopped short of the first down.

a credit card receipt. Follow through and make sure that your application has been submitted.

3. Forgotten signatures - Make sure you sign and date the form. Often students overlook it if it's on the back of the form. Check that all spaces are completed.

4. Not reading carefully - Know the difference between County and Country. If the form asks what County you live in, the United States should not be the answer.

5. Listing extracurricular activities that aren't - Those that make the list include sports, the arts, formal organizations and volunteer work.

Talking on the phone and hanging out with friends don't make the cut. Make sure your activity information is accurate. Colleges may check with your high school.

6. Not telling your guidance counselor where you've applied - Let your guidance counselor know which colleges you're applying to, and ask to review your high school transcript before it's sent to colleges. Sometimes transcripts have

errors.

7. Writing illegibly - First impressions count, so take your time and use your best handwriting. It will make a better impression.

8. Using an e-mail address that friends might laugh about, but colleges won't - Select a professional e-mail address. Keep your fun address for friends, but select an address using your name for college admissions.

9. Not checking your e-mail regularly - If you've given an e-mail address, the college will use it. You don't want to miss out on anything because you didn't read your e-mail.

10. Letting Mom or Dad help you fill out your application - Admissions people know if your parents help, whether you have two different styles of handwriting or if your admissions essay sounds more like a 45-year-old than a 17-year-old. It's fine to get advice, but do the work yourself.

For more college planning help, visit the student section at ACT's website, www.act.org.

Sonora Colts open Basketball season against Reagan County

by: Danni Price

The Junior High Basketball programs got underway this week. The 7th and 8th grade girls traveled to Reagan County on Monday the 17th, while the boys entertained the Owls here in Sonora.

The 7th grade boys "A" team beat the Owls 32-24, and the 8th grade boys "B" team, also beat the Owls 8-2. Scoring for the "B" team were Tanner James 4 points, Joe Lugo 2 points, and Juan Dominguez 2 points.

The 8th grade boys "A" team did not end up as lucky, as they found themselves playing from behind from start to finish. These Colts seemed to "beat themselves" at every turn. There were several miscues on passes and way too many turnovers. Hopefully, with this first game under their belts, they will settle in and play "their" basketball next week. The final score was Sonora 13, Reagan County 31.

Scoring for the Colts: Zadrion McGee 4 points, Riley Sanchez 2 points, J.T. Downing 2 points, Aaron Gaytan 3 points and 2 points by an unidentified Reagan County Owl. Rebounding for the Colts were McGee 2, Sanchez 2, Alonzo Pena 8, Morgan Martinez 1, Downing 2, Gaytan 1, Nick Pena 6, Victor Vaquera 2, Dalton Dover 1.

Note: The Devil's River News is trying to get game information on all the Colt and Bronco Basketball teams. We apologize for any lack of information and will continue to try to provide our readers with all the scores and stats.

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at

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Lordy, Lordy
Look Who Turned 40!
Happy Birthday Maray!



Love,
From The Cearleys, Tackels and Liphams

Taco Grill

Happy Thanksgiving!

We will be closed
Thursday, November 27th
and resume regular business
hours Friday, November 28th.

232 Hwy. 277 N.
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A Holiday Weekend in Sonora

"The More the Merrier"

Christmas Bazaar

Friday, December 5, 2003
Sutton County Civic Center
9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Arts & Crafts, Food, Gifts,
Clothing, Jewelry and Much More!

"Christmas Fair & Lighting"

Celebrate the Season
Saturday, December 6, 2003
Downtown Sonora
3:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
Food Booths, Shopping,
Santa & Mrs. Claus,
Lighting of Downtown
& Courthouse Lawn

Oil & Agribusiness

Hunting lease license reminder

A section of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Code reads: "Landowners who lease their hunting rights to another person on property they own or control for pay or other consideration are required by law to purchase a hunting lease license. The license is to be displayed on the property."

After review of the current list of license-holders, I would like to personally thank the ranchers of Sutton County for their high compliance rate with this law.

In case of questions, please feel free to contact me. Will W. Allison, State Game Warden, (325) 387-5159



Rig Locations as of November 21, 2003

Sutton
New Samson Lone Star; 10000' Kiser #8, Patterson Drilling.
New Dominion; 8900' JM Vanderstucken #9, Key Energy.
Dominion; 8900' Rande Fawcett Trust #8, Patterson Drilling.
New Dominion; 8900' Duke Wilson - 188 - #13, Patterson Drilling.
Dominion; 8700 Lillian Bell Glasscock #3206x, Patterson Drilling.
Dominion; 8850' Mayer - 3C - #20, Patterson Drilling.
Dominion; 8750' Bobbie H Fawcett #9, Patterson Drilling.
Dominion; 7500' Canyon Ranch #2071S, Patterson Drilling.
New Dominion; 6250' Davis - D - #13, Patterson Drilling.
New Dominion; 5600' Canyon Ranch #9311S, Patterson Drilling.

Crockett
Harrison Interests; 9800' John W Henderson III - K - #64, Patterson Drilling.
New Chevron/Midland; 9500' C E Davidson Jr - B - #43, Nabors Drilling.

J. Cleo Thompson; 9000' Thompson - 68 - #3, Patterson Drilling.
New Dominion; 9000' Lillian Hudspeth Mem Hosp - A - #3, Patterson Drilling.
New Devon Energy; 7000' Helbing - 23 - #4, Patterson Drilling.
New Concho Oil & Gas; 7000' Cooke Gas Unit #5, Patterson Drilling.

Terrell
Nuevo Texas Inc.; 19000' Mitchell - 7 - #6, Nabors Drilling.
New ExxonMobil Dev Co; 16000' Banner Estate Unit - B - #1, Patterson Drilling.
Tom Brown Inc; 12000' ACU - 47 - #1, TMBR/Sharp Drilling.
EOG Resources; 10500' Noelke - A - #2602, Patterson Drilling.
Nuevo Texas Inc.; 9000' Mitchell - 7 - #4, Nabors Drilling.
Riata Energy Inc.; 7000' Scott #1201, Lariat Drilling.

Edwards
Par Minerals Corp; 8000' Four Square Ranch #10, Key Energy.
Dominion; 7400' Canyon Ranch #121E, Patterson Drilling.

Val Verde
Willo Oil & Gas; 15500' Phillip Arledge #1 H, Grey Wolf Drilling.
Newfield Exploration; 15000' Cotton Whitehead #2501, Patterson Drilling.

Schleicher
New C&F Petroleum Inc.; 8500' mayer #2A, Patterson Drilling.

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



Southwest Texas Electric Co-op joins Golden Spread family

Southwest Texas Electric Cooperative (SWTEC), based in Eldorado, has joined Golden Spread Electric Cooperative, a generation and transmission cooperative now owned by 16 electric, distribution cooperatives.

New members of the alliance in addition to SWTEC are Coleman County Electric Co-op, headquartered in Coleman; Concho Valley Electric Co-op, headquartered in San Angelo; Lyntegar Electric Cooperative, headquartered in Tahoka; and Taylor Electric Co-op, headquartered in Merkel.

Based in Amarillo, Golden Spread is a consumer-owned public utility organized in 1984 to provide low cost, reliable electric service for 11 rural distribution cooperatives. The original member cooperatives are located in the Texas Panhandle, the Oklahoma Panhandle, and the Texas South Plains. The new member co-ops serve counties in West Texas and the Edwards Plateau region.

"I am confident that joining Golden Spread Electric Co-op will help stabilize our power costs in the uncertain times ahead," said William "Buff"

Whitten, SWTEC general manager. "The mission of member-owned cooperatives is to provide the best service at the most reasonable cost available."

Robert W. Bryant, president and general manager of Golden Spread Electric Co-op, said, "We are pleased that Southwest Texas Electric Co-op has joined our innovative and growing network of member-owned electric providers."

"Golden Spread is dedicated to providing solutions for generating and delivering electric power for area distribution cooperatives. We provide crucial flexibility and a smart hedge against future energy variables in a volatile industry," Bryant said.

SWTEC, organized in 1944, has approximately 8,350 meters serving customers in Schleicher, Menard, Sutton, Tom Green, Irion, Reagan, Upton, Crockett, Pecos, Val Verde, Concho and Edwards counties. SWTEC has 4,924 miles of energized line.

SWTEC will assign its existing wholesale power contract to Golden Spread. As soon as all required contractual and regulatory approvals can be obtained, Golden Spread will become responsible for supplying electricity to these new members.

Golden Spread and its 16 member systems serve approximately 184,000 meters in 80 counties. Their combined load exceeds 1,000 megawatts and they operate 68,400 miles of energized line. Total annual revenues are more than \$300 million.

Golden Spread generates a portion of its members' electricity needs and purchases the balance from other wholesalers. Golden Spread also sells energy to other utilities when its power supply resources are not needed to serve member system loads.

Golden Spread owns 50 percent of Mustang Station, a state-of-the-art generating facility located near Denver City. Mustang Station burns natural gas in two large gas turbine-generators to produce 300 megawatts of power. Exhaust heat from the gas turbines is converted to steam to power a third generator with no additional fuel cost. The combined output of Mustang Station is 480 megawatts.

FSA County Election

The Sutton County Farm Service Agency (FSA) is currently holding the LAA #1 County Committee election. This area is the southwestern part of the county. A map of the LAA areas is available at the Sutton County FSA Office. This year only Lee Bloodworth is on the ballot. FSA changed the procedure where each county did not have to fill a minimum number on the ballot. However Sutton County still will hold the election in case of any write in candidate(s).

The FSA election is conducted by mail from November 17th through December 1, 2003. Eligible voters should receive an official ballot in the mail with instructions on how to vote for the candidate of their choice and return the ballot. All ballots must be signed, postmarked and/or returned to the Sutton County office by December 1st. Voter participation in this election is monitored and indicates FSA program interest, therefore please take time and cast your ballot. The current FSA committee will tabulate ballots on December 8, 2003 at 2:00 p.m. in the conference room located in the Sutton County USDA Service Center.

As you know this committee is responsible for Farm Service Agency local administrative decisions on commodity price support loans and payments; yields, marketing quotas, eligibility for conservation programs; incentive, indemnity and disaster assistance, and other programs directed and managed through the local office. County Committee representatives are elected by direct vote, so the Sutton County Committee encourages all persons including all female, minorities, and member of under-represented groups to participate in the election process. Please be reminded most husbands and wives are eligible voters. If you feel that you are an eligible voter, have an interest in a farm or ranch, and did not receive a ballot, you may come to the office at 510 South Divide, Eldorado before December 1st to request one.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C., 20250-9410, or call (202) 720-5964 (voice or TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

High beef prices expected to continue in 2004

by: Blair Fannin

COLLEGE STATION - Gone are the concerns of cancer risks from eating too much beef. Even Canada's case of mad cow disease earlier this year caused a mere blip in trading on Wall Street.

With high-protein, low-carbohydrate diets fueling the demand for beef, and a fast-paced society favoring the convenience of heat-and-serve beef products, cattle producers are selling just about anything on the hoof to take advantage of record-high prices.

"The whole market trend right now, or the psychology is 'let's rush them to market,'" said Dr. Ernie Davis, Texas Cooperative Extension livestock marketing economist.

Record-high cattle prices in 2003 continue as experts say this year will go down as the best ever. Average steer prices a week ago were at \$1.04 a pound, while finished steer prices hit a record \$115 per hundredweight during October.

To take advantage of the high prices, cow-calf producers have been opting to send lightweight calves to market sooner, further decreasing the nation's beef supply. Even packers are pulling feeder cattle "green" from the feedlots to meet supply demands.

"Our placements in feedlots [for this time of year] are expected to be 10 percent higher at least from a year ago," said Jim Robb, director of the Livestock Marketing Information Center in Denver. "Clearly, this is a very unique set of market circumstances."

The million-dollar question on the minds of those in the beef industry is how long will the high prices last? According to Davis and Robb, prices will remain historically high on into the first quarter of 2004, but not at the record levels seen in October.

Several key factors are fueling the current market:

* All eyes are on Canada and when it will be allowed to resume trading of live cattle across its border. "That's at least four months down the line," Davis estimates. "As early as the market could open is in March."

* Attention is being paid to feedlots. According to Robb, the feedlots "hold all of the cards."

"They don't need to market animals until the packers come to them," he said. "That will go on for three or four more weeks. I suspect by the time we get to December, we're trading lower fed cattle prices still at historically high levels, but they are getting into the 90s mostly as opposed to the \$1 (per pound) range. That's still the highest prices we've ever posted barring this year or this quarter."

* The price of corn. Analysts say there has been a record U.S. corn crop this year. With prices hovering around \$2 a bushel, many feedlots aren't too worried about the price of corn. However, a poor corn crop in 2004 could change the price of cattle.

"If you have a short corn crop, most of the adjustment

will be on the cattle side, which means cow-calf prices have to adjust accordingly," Robb said.

"Expect the nation's beef cow inventory to be tighter by Jan. 1. Davis and Robb expect fewer cows will be slaughtered in 2004 because they will be worth more due to limited beef cow numbers.

"We have this changing story out there," Robb said. "From a rancher's perspective, these cull cows could be worth far more than they were in 2003. I'm hearing purebred bulls are selling from \$300 on up to \$500 higher than a year ago."

Davis said, "We're still trying to set the long-term stage for the cattle cycle. We've delayed this cycle another year."

While beef producers are enjoying the high prices, the liquidation of cattle across the United States continues, and will again cut into supplies heading into 2004. With the exception of Texas, which has been rebuilding cattle inventories the past three years, the Midwest has experienced drought conditions for the last two years, preventing rebuilding efforts.

"When we go through this year's liquidating numbers, that will be a 14-year cattle cycle," Davis noted. A normal cattle cycle is approximately a 10-year period in which the number of U.S. beef cattle is alternatively expanded and reduced over several consecutive years.

Generally, low prices occur when cattle numbers (or beef supplies) are high, precipitating several years of herd liquidation. As cattle numbers decline, prices gradually begin to rise, causing cattle producers to begin adding cattle to their herds. The cycle is relatively long due to the time lag between when a cow-calf operator decides to expand a herd, and when those additional animals reach slaughter weight.

"This is now the longest liquidation phase in the cattle cycle since we have had relevant records," Robb said. "It goes back to the late 1880s, but they didn't have good records then. The key to keeping us from rebuilding in 2004 is if we have drought in cattle country. Every year since 1996, we have had some cattle states affected by drought."

With drought and fewer cattle numbers, beef producers are managing to still place cattle in feedlots.

"How are we doing that? Number one, we are still using a large percentage of heifers off each year's calf crop," Davis said. "In fact, heifer slaughter has made up nearly 40 percent of federally inspected steer and heifer slaughter for the past few years. The other thing is we are pulling cattle younger and lighter. Our slaughter ages have been pushed down."

"We were slaughtering cattle at 16 months to 17 months, now we're looking at 13 months to 14 months on these cattle. The feedlots are trying to keep up their numbers. That's been the trend the whole year."

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Sutton County 4-H showcases local chefs at annual food show

by Kelly Thorp, Sutton County Extension Agent, Home Economics

The Sutton County 4-H Foods and Nutrition Project held its annual 4-H food show on Thursday, November 20, at the Civic Center. For six weeks contestants have participated in food and nutrition groups led by Lisa Galindo and Quirina Perez. Participants learned the importance of food safety, menu planning, healthy eating, and food preparation.

The food show is the highlight of the project in which members compete for a chance to travel to San Antonio to represent Sutton County at the district level. This year's local competition had 12 hopefuls. The following participated:

Clover Kids Division (Ages 8 and under):

Fruits and Vegetables: Kylie Love- 1st Place

Nutritious Snacks: Stella Ingham- 1st, Marci Parks- 2nd, Sydney Dermody, Julia Pope

Pre Junior Division (Ages 9 and in the third grade to 10 years old)

Main Dish: Alexis Galindo- 1st
Nutritious Snacks: Morgan Vyvlecka - 1st

Junior Division (Age 11-13 years old)

Bread: Kayla Webb- 1st



Back row: Lindsey Frasier, Kayla Webb, Alex Galindo, McKenzie Watkins, Laura Word; center row: Kylie Love, Marci Parks, and Julia Pope; front row: Stella Ingham, Morgan Vyvlecka and Sydney Dermody

Main Dish: Lyndsey Fraiser- 1st

Fruit & Vegetables: Karley Fraiser- 1st

Senior Division (Age 14-19 years old)

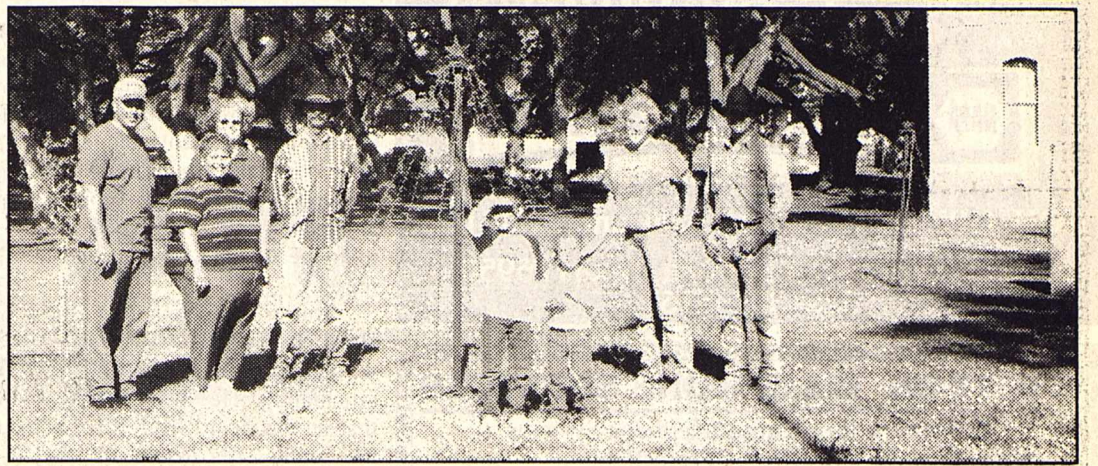
Main Dish: McKenzie Watkins- 1st

Fruit and Vegetables: Laura

Word- 1st

Congratulations to everyone who participated. All first place winners, with the exception of Clover Kids, will represent Sutton County on December 6th at the District Food Show in San Antonio.

Chamber Chatter



Volunteers work to put up Christmas trees on the courthouse lawn Saturday.

SONORA Chamber of Commerce

by Ruthie Bounds, Chamber of Commerce Executive Director

It was pretty much a family affair Saturday, with the little volunteers adding a festive mood to the decorating of the Sutton County Courthouse lawn. The weather couldn't have been more perfect for Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, Keith Butler, Juanita Estrada and her daughter, Victoria, Mickey, Storie, Garrett and Dawsyn Sharp, and Rick, Ruthie and Tonya Bounds, who spent the day making Christmas trees out of white lights to help add a luminous welcome to the upcoming holiday season. Additional lighting will be completed soon, and will be lit at the Christmas Fair on December 6, 2003.

The Sonora High School National Honor Society students were on hand early to help string

lights, but a little snag in the original plan set things back a bit, so they got to go home early. The Chamber greatly appreciates the NHS volunteering their Saturday morning, and don't worry, you aren't completely off the hook yet, we'll be calling for help again soon.

Keith Butler and Brant Myers started Saturday morning off very early, replacing the "Welcome" banners with festive "Happy Holidays" banners on poles around town. The red banners with the snow covered Christmas trees add a festive feeling to the air, getting everyone ready for Christmas season.

The seasonal fun will begin on Friday, December 5, 2003, with the "More the Merrier" Christmas Bazaar at the Sutton County Civic Center from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. There is still space available for vendors interested in peddling their wares at the one-stop Christmas shopping opportunity. There will even be a booth offering

Christmas gift wrapping, so you can get all your Christmas projects completed at one place. If you miss this shopping opportunity on Friday, many of the vendors will be back on Saturday, setting up camp on Main Street as part of the "Christmas Fair". There will be many treats and sweets to choose from, as well as the coveted visit from old St. Nick.

Don't miss this opportunity to have your picture made with Santa Claus. The streets will be lighted about dark.

For more information on any of the holiday promotions, including Santa Bucks, the "More the Merrier", the Christmas Fair and Lighting or Santa's visit, call the Sonora Chamber of Commerce at 325-387-2880.

Chamber of Commerce

E-mail -

soncoc@sonoratx.net

Website -

www.sonoratx-chamber.com

Sutton County Health Foundation proposes new officers at November's meeting

President Jim Stephen called the meeting to order with the following in attendance: Carl and Melissa Teaff, Randee Fawcett, Alvis and Patricia Johnson, Rodney Knight, Al Elliott, Glen Fisher, Curry Campbell, Joe David Ross, Ben Pool, and Sharon Holman.

Minutes from the October meeting were approved as printed.

Sharon Holman, Treasurer, reported that the SCHF Endowment Fund has a balance as of September 30, 2003 of \$133,056.18. This balance is a total of \$130,000 contributions, \$206.34 interest and dividends, and \$3,183.31 unrealized gains, less \$333.47 in

investment/management fees. Funds at FNB total \$13,060.42.

Alvis Johnson donated a life insurance policy to the SCHF October 20th. The foundation is both owner and beneficiary. All paperwork to transfer the policy has been sent to Prudential Financial.

Randee Fawcett gave the nominating committee report. The proposed slate of officers are: President Ben Pool, Vice President Randee Fawcett, Secretary/Treasurer Sharon Holman. Board members slated for a three year term are Alvis Johnson, Lolabeth Jones and Pascal Allison.

Alvis Johnson announced

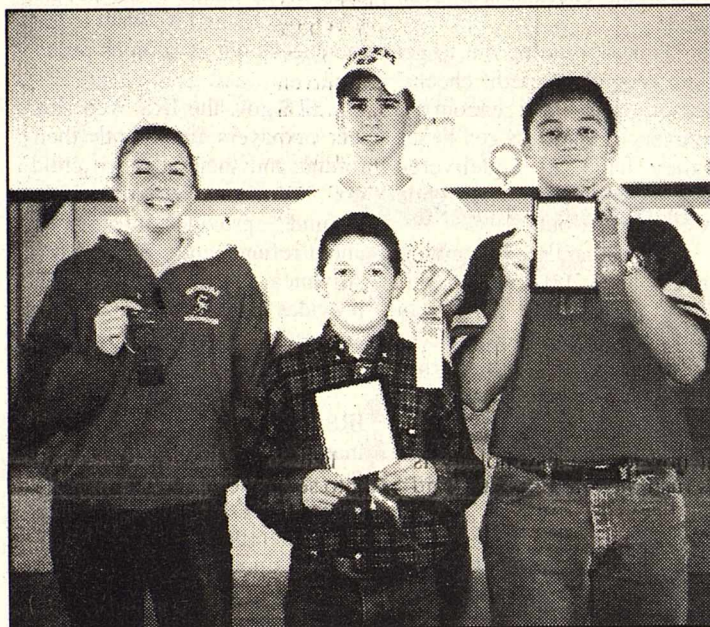
that he is going to give the SCHF a cash gift that will bring the balance of his donations for the year to \$100,000.

The purpose of the SCHF is a long-term support of Lillian M. Hudspeth Memorial Hospital and healthcare resources in Sutton County.

The goal of the SCHF is to provide supplemental funds for the operation of the hospital and other healthcare resources in order to decrease need for tax

support of healthcare in Sutton County.

Do you have a retirement account or pension fund? Qualified pension funds and IRA's normally trigger estate and income tax when passed to heirs. They make excellent charitable bequest assets, eliminating both taxes. Contact Keith Butler at the Lillian M. Hudspeth Memorial Hospital for more information.



Emily Butler, Ty Love, Word B. Hudson (front), and J.T. Downing show off their winnings in Shooting Sports.

4-H Shooting Sports travels to Del Rio for competition

submitted

Sutton County 4-H Shooting Sports participants traveled to Del Rio, Texas on Saturday, November 15, 2003 to compete in the Val Verde County Invitational 4-H Shooting Contest.

In the Senior Division, Ty Love shot for 8th place and Emily Butler shot for 12th.

In the Junior division J.T. Downing finished 2nd.

Word B. Hudson brought back 1st place in the Pre-Junior Division.

J.T. also won a drawing for a Thanksgiving Turkey.

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Sonora FFA Annual Fundraiser

The Sonora FFA is selling meat and fruit again this year as their fundraiser.

Thanksgiving meat orders only are due November 10th
Delivery will be November 18th

Christmas meat and fruit orders are due December 1st
Delivery will be December 9th

Please contact an FFA Member or call Michael Kissire at Sonora High School at 387-6533

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Hospital Board from page 1

ment for the facility. He advised that Parrish, Moody & Fikes presented the seminar, and they work very closely with the legislature to implement changes to their hospitals. Butler said that he is going to send for a proposal from Parrish, Moody & Fikes to do the Hospital District's cost report.

Butler reported that the Health Fair was very successful, with approximately 1000 in attendance. He also reported that he has heard from three of the grants, for help with the funding of the new hospital. These three had been rejected, but there are still 5 he has not heard from as yet.

The annual Hospital Auxiliary rummage sale was very successful. The Auxiliary made approximately \$1200, which they are going to use for help with the landscaping of the new Hospital.

Butler advised that the CT scan is running 100%. Initially they were having problems with the software that transmits the scan to the radiologist for reading, but all issues have been resolved.

Butler reported that the

accounts receivable at the end of October were down. The office staff has been working diligently to keep it down. He said that up front collections have improved, but this continues to be stressed.

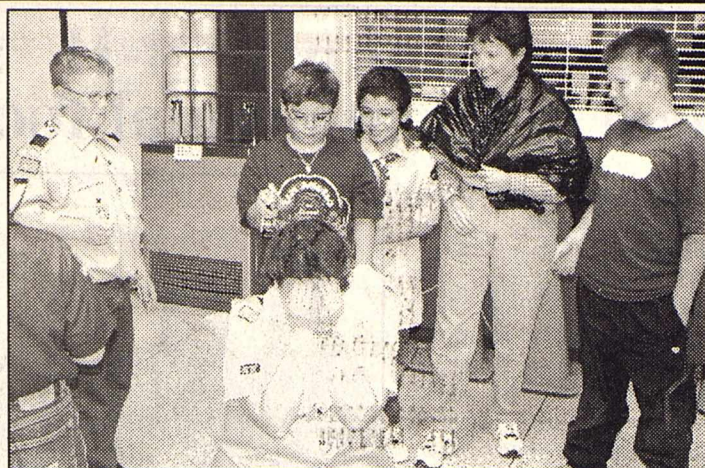
Mrs. Knight gave the financial report for September. Expenses were up due to the professional fees paid for the Medical Clinic expansion and the plans for the Hospital project. Expenses for the year are still under budget, with the revenue over budget.

October expenditures were approved.

Ms. Carrasco stated that the hospital staff was very professional and compassionate during her recent illness. She advised that she had the very best of care and was very thankful that our hospital was here.

Dr. and Becky Johnson were complimented for their work in the community and the organization of the Al-Anon group each week.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.



Scouts give leaders a new do...

Cub Scouts got to give their pack leaders a dye job at the November pack meeting. The boys were promised the fun if they met their popcorn sales goal of \$10,500. The boys did better than expected, selling \$11,200 worth of popcorn. The colors of choice for the new hairstyles were gold, orange, purple and black. Hey, at least it covered that grey huh? :

Millions in Refund and Child Credit Checks Returned to IRS, Taxpayers Urged to Update Addresses by Dec. 5

WASHINGTON - IRS Commissioner Mark W. Everson reminded taxpayers they have until Dec. 5 to claim 115,744 undelivered checks from this summer's advance child tax credit. After the December cut-off, taxpayers cannot claim the checks until they file their tax returns next year.

These undelivered checks are among nearly 24 million issued this summer and fall for the advance child tax credit. In all, more than \$14 billion in child credit checks have been issued.

"Time is running out to get an advance child credit check," Everson said. "We encourage taxpayers to visit IRS.gov to see if they have an undelivered check from the advance child tax credit mail-out."

In all, the IRS has money for more than 200,000 taxpayers whose income tax refund or advance child tax credit checks were undelivered and returned to the agency. Taxpayers need to update their addresses before the IRS can reissue the checks, which total more than \$118 million.

In addition to the 115,744 child credit checks worth more than \$50 million, there were another 92,810 "regular" tax refund checks, those issued to refund tax overpayments, returned to the IRS as undelivered. These "regular" refund checks total more than \$66 million - an average of \$722 per check.

"Our Web site makes it easy for taxpayers to track undelivered checks," Everson said. "Our goal is to get this money back in the hands of the people it belongs to, and we want to get the checks out as soon as possible."

IRS.gov, the IRS Web site, lets taxpayers track both their refund and their advance child tax credit. "Where's My Refund?" provides information about refunds and "Where's My Advance Child Tax Credit?" provides information about the tax credit. Both are available on the IRS home page.

To use the resources on IRS.gov, taxpayers enter information including their Social Security number and their filing status (such as single or married filing jointly). In addition, the refund amount shown on their 2002 tax return is required for refunds. To get information on the advance child tax credit, taxpayers must also enter the number of exemptions shown on their 2002 tax return.

When the information is submitted online, taxpayers see Web pages that show the status of their refund or advance child tax credit check. In many cases, they also get instructions they need to resolve problems.

"All we need is a good address," Everson said. "As soon as we get the correct address we can start the check on its way. We urge taxpayers to act before Dec. 5 for the advance payments so we can reissue the checks before the end of the year."

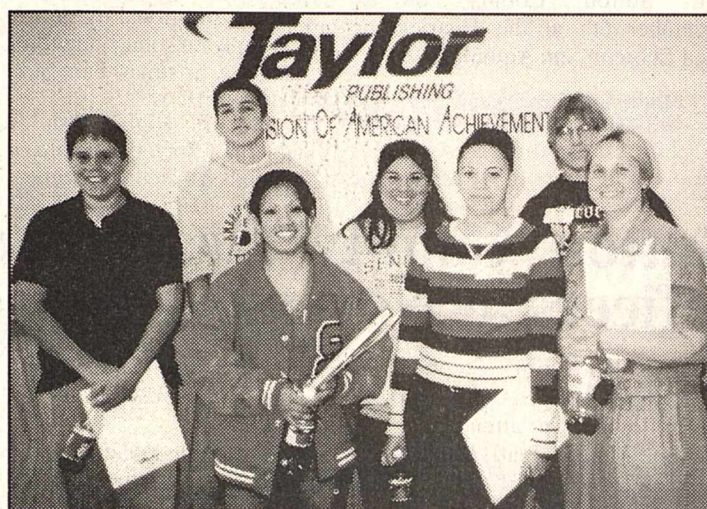
Taxpayers without access to the Internet who think they may be missing a refund or advance child tax credit check should first check their records or contact their tax preparer before calling the IRS toll-free assistance line at 1-800-829-1040 to update their address.

Taxpayers can avoid undelivered refund checks by having their refunds deposited directly into a personal checking or savings account. Direct deposit also guards against theft or lost refund checks. The option is available on both paper returns and electronically filed returns. More than 44 million taxpayers chose direct deposit this filing season, up 11.6 percent from last year. Direct deposit was not available for the advance child tax credit checks.

Refund checks go astray for reasons that can vary with each taxpayer. Often, it's because a life change causes an address change. If taxpayers move or change their address and fail to notify the IRS or the U.S. Postal Service, a check sent to their last known address is returned to the IRS. The Postal Service says more than 40 million Americans change addresses annually.

Taxpayers who have moved since filing their last tax return can ensure the IRS has their correct address by filing Form 8822, Change of Address, with the IRS. Download the form or request it by calling 1-800-TAX-FORM (1-800-829-3676).

S.H.S. Yearbook students study printing in San Angelo



Sonora High School Yearbook students visited Taylor Publishing Company in San Angelo, Texas earlier this month. The class, Garret Watkins, Clint Cearley, Crystal Guerra, Zed Snodgrass, Perla Perez and Veronica Hernandez, and, advisor, Mrs. McDaniel, attended a yearbook workshop.

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For Sale: Great buy with warehouse, large shed, 2 houses, in excess of 1 acre in city. 3 blks. from 277 S, zoned light industrial, needs repairs. Can finance. Call 972-296-3238.

For Sale: 1 and 1 1/2 Lots for Sale in Sonora at 1403 Glascock with large pecan trees, good neighborhood. Go look and for more information call Gloria Bishop 325-392-3430.

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Public Notice

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR THE COUNTY OF SUTTON PROPOSED ON-SITE SEWAGE FACILITY ORDER

The County Commissioners of Sutton County will conduct a public hearing under the authority of Chapter 366 of the Texas Health & Safety Code to consider the regulation of on-site sewage facilities (including septic tanks) in Sutton County, Texas, to prevent possible pollution or injury to public health. A copy of the proposed order is available for review at the County Judge's Office, Sutton County Courthouse Annex during the normal business hours of 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Date: December 8, 2003 Time: 8:30 a.m.

Location: Sutton County Commissioners Meeting Room Sutton County Courthouse Annex Sonora, Texas All interested parties are encouraged to attend and to participate in the public hearing.

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• ELF (dts) PG	2:30	7:30	
• ELF (PG)	1:30	6:30	
• TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE dts (R)	2:40	7:45	
• LUTHER (PG-13)	1:40	7:00	
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• ELF (dts) PG	5:00	7:30	9:45
• ELF (PG)	4:00	6:30	9:00
• TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE	5:10		
dts (R)	7:45	10:00	
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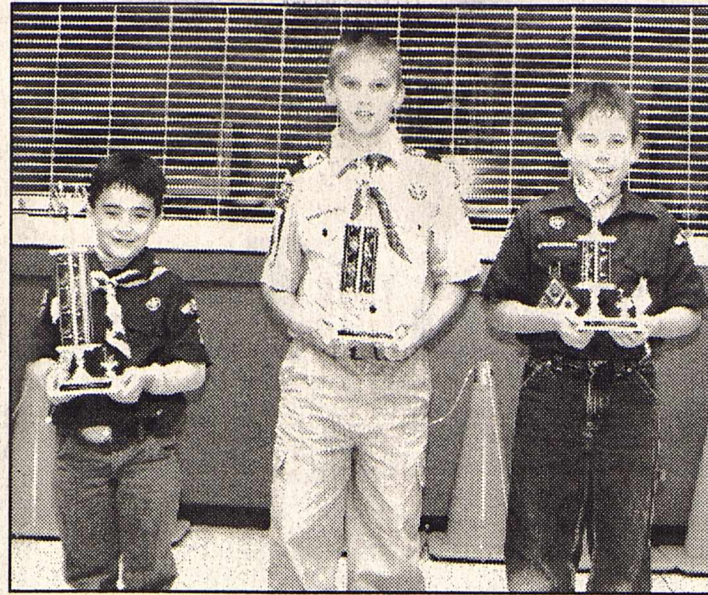
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Popping up winners at the Cub Scout pack meeting

The highest selling popcorn scouts were announced at the Pack 19 meeting on Monday, November 17, 2003. The money raised each year from these sales goes toward renovations of the Scout hut, advancements, camps the boys attend and supporting activities. This year's three high salesmen were: 3rd. Phillip Stephens (right), 2nd- Dustin Covey (center) and the top salesman was J.D. Garcia (left). The Scouts sold approximately \$11,200 in popcorn. Way to go Sonora!

City Council from page 1

well. Several churches and organizations have already expressed their desire to sell food or snacks. The council asked Police Chief, Mike House, if that would be a problem and were assured that it was fine. The council then approved the closing of Main St. from Crockett St. to Water St. and Water St. from Poplar St. to Oak St. for the Christmas Fair and Lighting Ceremony on December 6, 2003.

In regular business, the monthly tax collection report, the performance bond and payment for the Sutton County Appraisal District were approved. The council cast their 180 votes for Jim Stephen as the Sutton County Appraisal District Director.

Nancy Glasscock was appointed as the Sonora Industrial Development Corporation liaison for the Texas Economic Development Enterprise Zone program.

Jeffery Sutton was present to discuss the Concho Valley Council of Governments grant for Title III meals. Sutton explained that legislation had made some major cuts to the CVOG in the last year and this grant would help offset costs of meals for Senior Citizens. The grant is a matching grant from all the counties involved in the program. The executive committee of CVOG had voted in July to go ahead with this matching grant, with the understanding that all counties involved were informed of how much they would be responsible for matching, in order to keep this program going. Somehow, Sonora had "slipped through the cracks", and the council was unaware that they were going to have to come up with money to assist in matching Sutton County's portion. This program assists with more than just meals, including Senior Companions, Foster Grandparents, Adult Health Care services and more. The executive committee had discussed taking the \$28,000 deficiency caused by the budget cuts and dividing it by the 13 counties involved. However, not all these counties take part in all the services, including this nutrition option, so it wasn't fair to ask everyone to pay the same amount. Further calculations were done, dividing the total among counties with the nutrition services. The cost for Sonora, \$2,672, is split between the City of Sonora and Sutton County, for a total of \$1,336

from the City of Sonora. In the fiscal year 2003, Sonora and Sutton County received \$67,387 in service from the CVOG. The council approved the payment of \$1,336 to assist in matching the grant.

Ann Kay and Friends of Historic Sonora Main Street Program Board of Directors, Joy Galbreath and Tabby Sanchez-Abrego then made a presentation to the City Council and several visitors. The FHS handed out glass awards and certificates to people who helped make the Planter Box project possible. The project recently won Best Public Improvement Project for a Small Town at the Texas Downtown Association Conference, and the FHS wanted to share the win with everyone that helped.

"To make things happen we all have to work together," said Ann Kay, as she proudly handed out the certificates to representatives from TxDOT, local media, the City of Sonora and more.

The Friends of Historic Sonora then made a recommendation to appoint Tony Adkins as the new FHS Board member. The recommendation was approved as presented.

A lengthy question and answer session was then held between City Manager Gesch, the Council and representatives from The Bank & Trust and First National Bank. The object of discussion was depository bids. After much deliberation over costs of services, interest rates, etc. a motion was made to award the bid to the First National Bank. Motion carried.

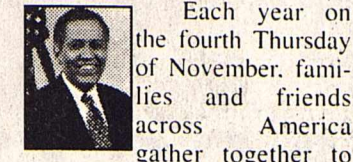
Hours of operation at the convenience station (old landfill) were discussed and it was agreed to leave it as is, with hours on Saturday from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. and from 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Anyone needing to use the station during business hours from Monday through Friday can call City Hall to get access.

The council decided not to fill the mayor vacancy until the May elections.

St. Ann's Catholic Church was granted permission for a procession after dark from Liberty Park to the Church for the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe on December 12, 2003.

The meeting was adjourned after a brief explanation by City Attorney Beth Wallace regarding some previous TCEQ violations that are being tended to.

Counting Our Blessings on This Thanksgiving



Each year on the fourth Thursday of November, families and friends across America gather together to celebrate Thanksgiving. This holiday gives us the chance to reflect on the many blessings we possess as citizens of this strong and wealthy nation.

As we celebrate Thanksgiving 2003, and face our new challenges in America, it's important to give thanks for the many blessings we share as Americans.

We should give thanks for living in a free country ruled by the people. It's easy to forget how fortunate we are to be a democracy. But the recent War on Terrorism has brought us new reason to reflect. The people of Afghanistan did not have the opportunity to elect their leaders. The Taliban leadership took over the government of Afghanistan and rules by nothing short of a dictatorship. Let us be thankful we live in a democracy where we enjoy the freedoms of religion, speech, the press and the right to assemble.

Another simple blessing that is often overlooked is America's free, prosperous economy. Unlike any other nation, America's spirit of individualism and independence has

produced the world's top economy. From the very first families who struggled to farm this country's rich soil to today's high-tech entrepreneurs, the pioneer spirit has propelled our nation to the forefront of discovery and exploration.

Finally, we should give thanks for the thousands of men and women who protect us on a daily basis: the firefighters who protect our homes and places of business; the police officers who look over our family and friends; and of course, the men and women of the armed services, who dutifully watch over our nation. Each of these groups does their part to keep our nation safe from harm's way. We would not be the nation of the free, if we were not also the home of the brave.

As our nation faces the War on Terrorism, now more than ever, we are thankful for the blessings our nation has provided each of us. I hope that on this Thanksgiving day, as family and friends gather around the table, each of you will say a special thanks to the amazing blessings our nation.

God bless each of you and may God continue to bless America. Happy Thanksgiving to you and yours.

Representative Henry Bonilla

F.Y.I.

The Devil's River News will be closed on Thurs., Nov. 27 and Friday, Nov. 28 for the Thanksgiving Holidays. Sonora Office Supply will be closed Thursday, Nov. 27, and will be open for business on Friday, Nov. 28.

Cub Scout Pack 19 will have their Pack Meeting and Annual Food Drive on Monday, December 8, 2003. The meeting will start at the Scout Hut at 4:30 p.m., with collections taking place until dark. The scouts will then meet again at the hut for pizza and roasting marshmallows! Pinewood Derby cars will be delivered at this meeting. Everyone is encouraged to have their canned goods ready to be donated. You can guarantee a pick up by calling Jan Stephen at 387-5821 or Lauri Smith at 387-2461. Canned goods can also be dropped off at The Bank & Trust c/o Laurie Smith.

Westside Lions Club meetings are the 2nd Wednesday of each month at the Sutton County Library at 6:30 p.m.

Emmaus gathering - 2nd Tuesday of every month at Lighthouse Community Church, 6:30 p.m. Babysitting provided.

Friends of Historic Sonora Main Street Program now have the 2003 Christmas Ornaments. The 24K gold finish brass ornament is a windmill and a turkey on the Sutton County Courthouse Lawn. The cost is \$10. Visit the Friends of Historic Sonora Main Street office on Main Street to get yours today, and add it to your Sonora ornament collection.

The Depot may be rented by calling the Sutton Co. Historical Society at 387-5084. Open Mondays, Tuesday until noon and Fridays.

OUR OPINION: Sitting Down For Thanksgiving Dinner, Don't Forget The Day's Purpose

reprinted with permission from the Town-Crier in Wellington, Florida

As we prepare to celebrate Thanksgiving this week, focusing all our energies on finding the perfect turkey and appropriate table decorations to impress dinner guests, it is important to remember that the holiday is about much more than just stuffing ourselves with food.

While gastronomic delights are certainly a central part of the celebration, the Thanksgiving dinner in today's age has largely become a perfunctory (yet immensely enjoyable) routine. However, the true purpose of Thanksgiving, as the name implies, is to give thanks and

reflect on the past year; taking the time to reflect on the many things we generally take for granted. It is a time to stop worrying about what we don't have and recognize and appreciate all that we do have.

Thanksgiving is a time to put things in perspective and realize that the "good life" is only relative to one's situation. What may seem to you like normal desires may seem downright greedy to others not as fortunate. Simply being able to have a Thanksgiving dinner at all is a dream for the many Americans (not to mention many around the world) who lack either the money for food, the family to share time with, or both.

It is also important to remember the spirit of the first Thanksgiving dinner, in which the Pilgrims and Indians (Native Americans, if you prefer) worked together to gather food for the giant feast. This should remind us all of our true nature — that underneath the social guises we strive so hard to uphold, we are all human beings. Thanksgiving dinner serves as an equalizer, reminding us that we all have the same basic needs.

So when you carve up that turkey next week, trying to avoid the slices with excess amounts of fat, try to look at your life in the same way: appreciate what you already have. If it has gotten you this far, how much more do you really need?

Happy Thanksgiving from all of us at the Town-Crier and The Devil's River News!

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