

# THE Devil's River NEWS

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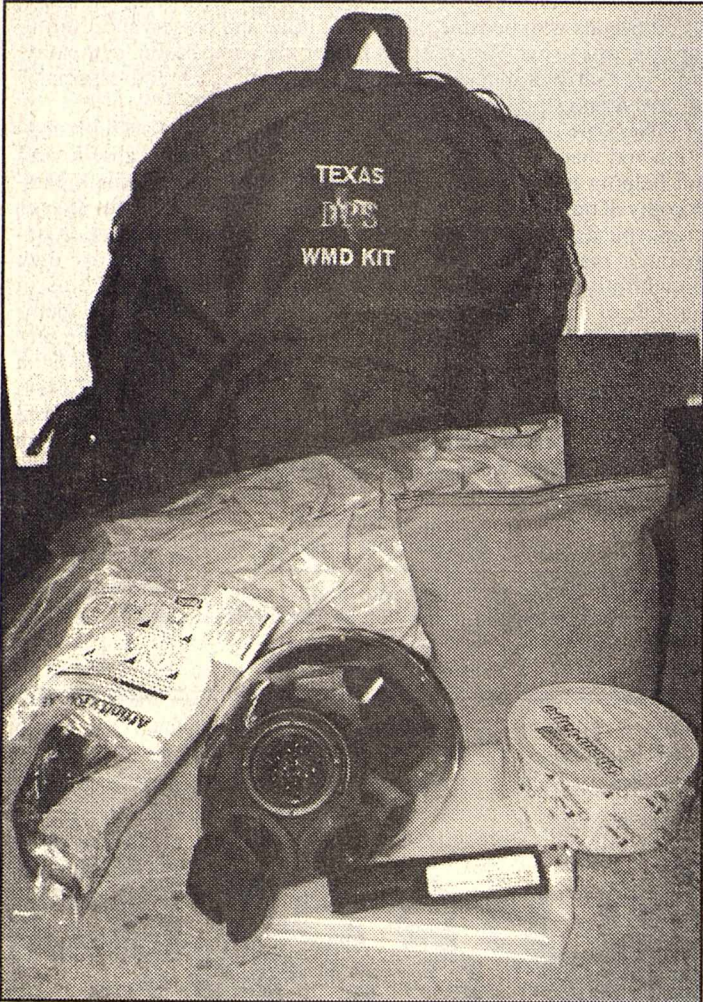
Since 1890

Volume 116 • Issue 4

SONORA, TEXAS

Thursday, January 22, 2004

## New Homeland Security Grant provides Weapons of Mass Destruction Kits for State Troopers



The Department of Homeland Security recently announced the award of nearly \$400 million dollars to ten states, including Texas, to help enhance response and preparedness capabilities for first responders and state and local governments. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has three primary missions: Prevent terrorist attacks within the United States, reduce America's vulnerability to terrorism, and minimize the damage from potential attacks and natural disasters.

Texas Department of Public Safety State Troopers were among the personnel that benefitted from these grants. All State Troopers have been provided Weapons of Mass Destruction Kits.

The kits include such things as first aid kits, protective body suits, even gas masks, and instructions for officers on how to handle a chemical or biological attack. Troopers in Sonora recently received their kits and a day of training in Abilene.

Trooper Cody Cory of Sonora said, "These kits are to protect the officer, so they can better protect the public." The contents of the kits would allow for an officer to secure a perimeter in the case of a chemical, nuclear or biological explosion.

The packs are becoming standard issue for the more than 3,200 DPS troopers across the state. Officers in Austin were the first to receive them; Waco area officers were second. Central Texas was considered a high priority given the proximity of the President's ranch.

## Hospital Board of Directors approves application for \$50,000 capital improvement grant

submitted

The regular meeting of the Sutton County Hospital District, Board of Directors, was held on Monday, January 12, 2004, in the annex of the hospital. The following board members were present: Lewis Allen, President; Sherrill Dannheim, Vice President; Virginia Epps, Maria Carrasco, Lenora Pool and Mike Healy. Also present were Keith Butler, Administrator/CEO; Michelle Schaefer, Board Secretary/CFO; Ben Epps, Kathy Knight, Ray Glasscock, Nancy Glasscock, Sheila Richter and JoAnn Hernandez with the Bank & Trust.

Minutes from prior meetings on December 8, 2003, and December 23, 2003, were approved as presented. There was no report from the Sutton County Appraisal District.

Keith Butler opened two bids for depository. The Board accepted the bid from The Bank & Trust.

Mrs. Richter gave the 4th Quarter Quality Assurance report, and Mrs. Carrasco gave a report for the Joint Conference meeting on December 23, 2003.

Butler reported on the variance or zoning change request presented to the planning and zoning board. The variance was approved by the board and forwarded to the city council for final action. A discussion was held regarding the method of paving currently listed in the hospital project plans and the limitation of possible suppliers. An addendum was added to the hospital project plans to allow the use of cold mix or hot mix

for the paving, with all Directors voting in favor.

The board then authorized the advertising of bids for the hospital project and have a special called meeting on Monday, February 16, 2004, at 2:00 p.m. for the purpose of opening bids.

President Allen reported that he and Mr. Butler would attend the Hudspeth Ranch Board meeting on January 14, 2004, to present the hospital's need for the hospital project.

Butler reported that the accounts receivables have increased due to an increase in revenue. He also reported on the clinic expansion. Dr. Pajestka was moved into the new portion on January 10, 2004, and renovation began on the old section on January 12, 2003. Completion should take one month.

Upon board consensus, Butler was given approval to apply for a \$50,000 capital improvement grant from the Office of Rural Community Affairs with a 5% match by the Hospital District. Funds will be used for the hospital construction and wellness center.

The financial report for November, given by Schaefer, showed an increase in revenue. Also noted were fees for the clinic expansion.

The December expenditures were approved.

Visitors, Mr. and Mrs. Ray Glasscock, expressed great interest in the wellness center.

There were no board comments and the meeting was adjourned.

## March 9 Primary to decide candidates, early voting begins February 23

The last day to register to vote, February 9, is just around the corner.

Early voting begins February 23 and continues through March 5.

March 9 is voting day for the Primary.

(For new Precinct information due to redistricting, see the Public Notice on page 6.)

The Primary will decide the Democratic and Republican candidates who will face off in a variety of local, state and national offices in the November general election.

Local races are all unopposed and are as follows:

- **Sutton County Sheriff**  
Joe Fincher
- **Sutton County Tax Assessor-Collector**  
Deedie McIntire
- **Sutton County Attorney**  
David Wallace
- **Sutton Co. Commissioner, Precinct 1**  
Miguel Villanueva
- **Sutton Co. Commissioner, Precinct 3**  
Milton Cavaness

Some other offices on the 2004 Primary Election Ballot will include:

- **112th District Attorney**  
Democrats: Laurie English of Ozona, and Frank Lacy, of Fort Stockton

**Presidential Race**

- Democrats:
  - Wesley Clark
  - Howard Dean
  - John Edwards
  - Richard Gephardt
  - John Kerry
  - Dennis Kucinich
  - Joseph Lieberman
  - Carol Moseley Braun
  - Al Sharpton

**Republicans:**

- George Bush (i)

**U.S. House, TX 23rd District**

- Democrats:
  - Joe Sullivan
  - Virgil Yanta

**Republicans:**

- Henry Bonilla (i)

**State House of Representatives, TX, 53rd District**

- Democrats:
  - None
- Republicans:
  - Nicki Harle
  - Harvey Hilderbran (i)

(i) = incumbent

A complete list of all offices of election will be provided at a later date in The Devil's River News.

## Sonora Board of Trustees hear campus technology and construction updates

by Storie Sharp

The Sonora I.S.D. Board of Trustees had a full slate for the January 12, 2004, meeting. Board members present were Jesse Bustamante, Tammy Favila, Tryon Fields, Scott Jacoby - President, Barbara Jennings and Tom Payton. Sam David Hernandez was absent.

School officials who were present for the meeting were Superintendent Brant Myers, Doug Bawcom, John Berry, Alice Cox, Louise Dermody, Diane Jacoby and Cynthia Keel.

Myers reported that the current enrollment was at 939 students. This is the highest number since Myers has been employed, and up from this time last year.

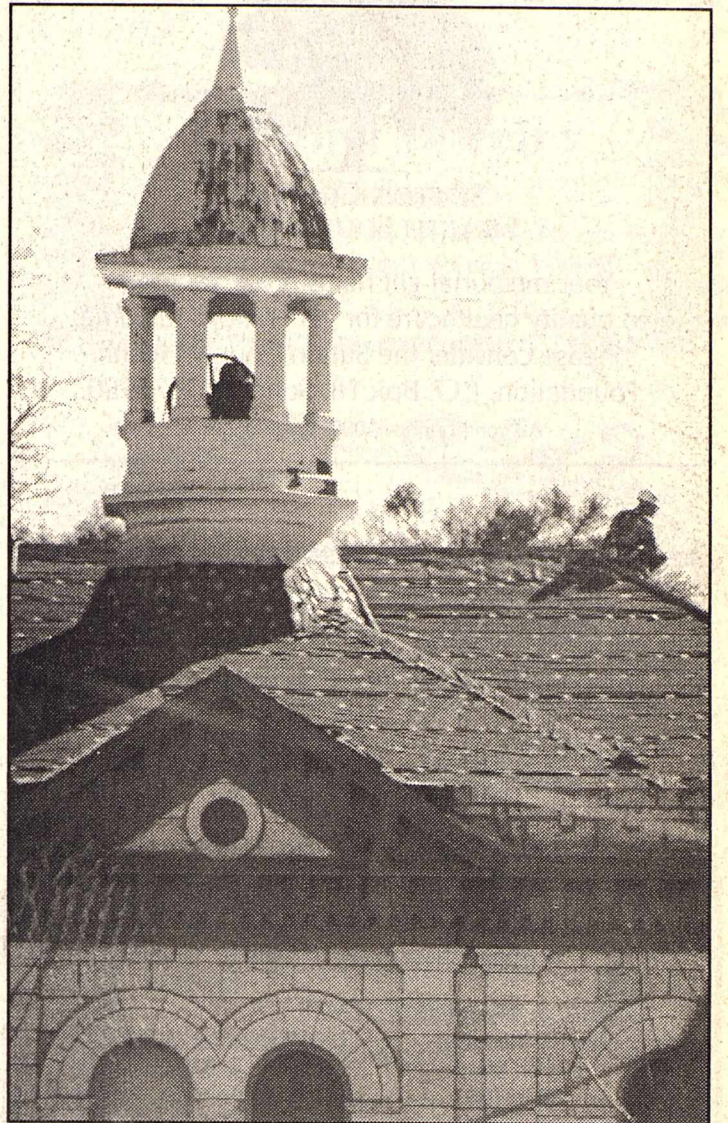
The December maintenance report showed that workers are still finishing up the air conditioning job at the high school. At the middle school, the roofers were expected to provide the specs last week, so that bids could be taken on finishing those repairs. There will be some painting projects at all the baseball fields, and the auditorium floor has recently been painted by the Tech Theatre class. In housing, there has been a drop of the foundation in the middle apartment, causing some problems in the house. Myers said they are working on getting an estimate to repair the foundation.

The board then went into a lengthy discussion regarding the recent distribution of a School Staff Survey to the staff and faculty of the S.I.S.D.

It was suggested that the questions may have been too broad, and the charts provided by Myers did not specify what problem areas needed to be directly addressed. Board members Tammy Favila, Barbara Jennings and Tryon Fields expressed their desire to see the actual surveys, to examine the comments, so that all areas of needed improvement could be addressed.

Myers expressed his opinion that the specific comments were not necessary for Board examination, but that these comments should, and would, be addressed by administration.

This resulted in many questions, and a split reaction from the Board, with the pros and cons of both sides being discussed at length. Favila said that she had heard from several faculty members that they appreciated the opportunity to express their concerns, but wanted to know if the Board would be addressing the issues. Favila stated that this could not be done if the actual comments were not reviewed. Jennings also



Workers take their job to higher levels, working on the roof at the Od Rock School Building. The roof work is part of the renovation and construction in progress at Sonora schools.

expressed concern about not seeing the actual answers, stating that charts do not give a true feeling of what is being said.

She agreed that it is the administrators' job to tend to the issues, but it is the Board's job to guide the administration. Fields expressed concern that if the Board was mentioned on the surveys, then they should, indeed, see what the comments were.

Payton and Jacoby disagreed with the others, stating that it is the Administrators' job to tend to the problems and the Board's job was to see that the administration was doing all that they could to rectify such problems.

Jennings and Favila again stressed that they could not do so if they did not know what the specific concerns were.

Myers said that there would always be someone that was unhappy with something at the administration level, and the surveys were provided to see what areas of possible discontent needed the most focus. He reiterated the fact that he and the campus administrators were constantly trying to tend to any areas of discontent, and would continue to do so to the best of

their abilities.

Jennings mentioned the Open Records Act, which allows for such information to be accessible for review. Myers said that he would investigate the Act and get back with the Board on what he found, and if the Act supports open review, the Board would be allowed to see the comments at that time.

Returning to the agenda, Myers then presented the Board with certificates of appreciation for School Board Recognition month. Myers said that there would always be times that the Board and the administration did not agree on issues, but he appreciates all that they do, taking time out of their lives to help ensure a safe, quality learning environment for the children of Sonora.

The construction report was given by Mr. McGee, stating that the rock building was progressing well, the slab for the cafeteria had been poured, concrete pillars were being poured, the insulation for the roof at the rock building had arrived. The painters had been in town to review color schemes. Dermody reported that accent colors were being

See School Board page 4

## State Representative candidate, Nicki Harle, visits Sonora

by Storie Sharp

Texas State Representative Candidate, Nicki Harle, was traveling District 53 last week, stopping to visit with the voters and concerned citizens of all the 15 counties that she hopes to represent. The 15 counties in District 53 are Callahan, Coleman, Concho, Crockett, Kerr, Kimble, Llano, Mason, Menard, McCulloch, Real, Runnels, San Saba, Schleicher and Sutton.

Harle was in Sonora on Thursday, January 15, taking time to answer questions and get to know some of the civic leaders in our community. After introducing herself, Harle told everyone that she is asking for everyone's support because she feels that even one voice can make a difference.

Harle asked visitors what their main concerns are, other than redistricting, which she knows is a major issue to all right now. Asked what she feels small towns need to focus on for economic development, Harle said that tourism is the



Nicki Harle visits with concerned citizens at The Bank & Trust in Sutton County.

strongest focus right now. She said that there are not many people in Congress that understand economic development challenges in rural areas, and she hopes she can make them see.

Harle said that every county has concerns regarding water issues and that is an area she is

listening to and learning about, and will continue to work for.


Harle told everyone that "citizens in the district are concerned about being heard, about the need for bipartisan efforts, about the need to grow local economies, and about an increasing tax burden. They

want someone to listen and work on their behalf, and I want to be that person."

She reminded everyone that early voting for the March 9 primary begins on February 23, and word of mouth is the best way to show support.



**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**

<p><b>PRIMERA IGLESIA BAUTISTA</b> Antonio F. Gonzales, Sr. 504 Santa Clara 387-2035</p> <p><b>CHURCH OF CHRIST</b> Jerry Jackson 304 N. Water 387-3190</p> <p><b>FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH</b> T. Wayne Price Pastor 111 E Oak 387-2951</p> <p><b>ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH</b> Rev. Milton Black 404 E. Poplar 387-2955</p> <p><b>FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH</b> Rev. Conrad Archer, Pastor 201 N. Water 387-2466</p> <p><b>TEMPLO JERUSALEM ASAMBLEA DE DIOS</b> Enoc Elias Nunez 306 W. 4th St. 387-5713 387-3092</p> <p><b>HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH</b> Rev. Charles Huffman 417 E. 2nd St. 387-5366</p> <p><b>LA IGLESIA HISPANA UNIDA DEL NOMBRE DE JESUS, INC.</b> Pastor Felipe Martinez 807 Orient</p>	<p><b>THE CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD PRESBYTERIAN</b> Lewis Allen, Pastor 319 E. Mulberry 387-2616</p> <p><b>LIGHTHOUSE COMMUNITY CHURCH</b> Don Longoria, Pastor 1705 N. Crockett</p> <p><b>PENTECOSTAL CALVARY TEMPLE UNITED</b> 509 Amistad</p> <p><b>ST. ANN'S CATHOLIC CHURCH</b> Father William DuBuisson, O.M.I. 229 W. Plum 387-2278</p> <p><b>JEHOVAH'S WITNESS</b> 310 St. Ann's Street 387-5658 or 387-5518</p>
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Brought to you by:  
**Kerbow Funeral Home**  
387-2266


**Obituaries**

**Joyce M. Aaron**

Joyce Marie Aaron, 59, died Sunday, January 18, 2004, in the Hill Country Nursing Home in Junction, Texas. She was born July 24, 1944. She is survived by her nephews, Gene Thompson and family of Sonora, Texas, and Sam Thompson and family of Fort Stockton, Texas, and numerous great-nieces and great nephews. The family will have a private graveside service at a later date. Arrangements were provided by Kerbow Funeral Home.

**TEXAS TALES TOLD BY  
TUMBLEWEED SMITH**

**The Mayor Pro Tem of Toyah**

 **Tumbleweed Smith** Some cities refer to their governing bodies as city fathers. It's different in the little Reeves County village of Toyah. With only one male city councilman, the town is run mostly by city mothers. The City Hall is in a rock building that was once a church. Diana Tollett is mayor pro tem of Toyah, which gets its name from an Indian word meaning running water. "We can't afford a city manager, we're a poor little town," she told me. "We just all kind of volunteer our time. The city is run mostly on public service." Toyah has 107 residents, down from the peak of 752 in the 50's. Toyah depends on Pecos for ambulance service, but the volunteer fire department in Toyah has seven members. "I pump the trucks and drive them all," says Diana. "We work with fire departments in Balmorea and Pecos. When there's a fire, we all show up and do what we can. Same for wrecks. Toyah has no law enforcement. We depend on the county for that." Diana has won thousands of dollars in the Texas lotto. One time her husband was out of work and Diana told him not to worry. The next day she won \$20,000 in the lottery drawing. She has won another \$18,000 pot and several one thousand dollar jackpots. She does some unusual things with her winnings. She passes out one hundred dollar bills to people who need money. Diana has taught kids how to swim in the city swimming pool. She helps with the city's annual Easter Egg Hunt. Her husband works offshore in Venezuela and is gone half the time. She grew up in the little town and loves it. "It's a good little community, real quiet and no crime and good drinking water, no pollution. It's a good place to live. I've lived all over the U.S. and in Europe. But this is home." Residents of Toyah say Diana is responsible for the good tasting water, which comes from a canyon spring in the Davis Mountains. In the last six years Toyah has installed a state-of-the-art treatment system, paid for by grant money. "We've put all new distribution lines in town, and we have a grant to put liners in our waste water lagoons. We've also got a grant to build some homes for the elderly and disabled. Our infrastructure is in good shape." Diana is quick to point out she doesn't do all this by herself. She has a good group of citizens to help her. She took me out to that water treatment plant, just a few miles out of town. Both of us climbed up ladders so she could show me the water in large tanks. Back on the ground, she opened a faucet and gave me a sample. Delicious. A Toyah landmark used to be the Youngblood Hotel. The owner tore it down and sold the bricks. The old two story bank building has just sold and it's being made into an antique store, coffee shop and residence. Toyah has some good hunting. The state record mule deer was killed near the city last fall.

**Thank you for reading  
The Devil's River News**

**Senior Center News**

Jan. 26 - Bingo!  
Jan. 27 - Exercise with video!  
Jan. 29 - Crafts after lunch!  
Jan. 30 - Run errands and pay bills!

**Senior Center Menu**

Jan. 26 - Meat with spaghetti sauce, juice, noodles, zucchini squash, garlic bread, white cake with caramel icing.  
Jan. 27 - Chicken fried steak with gravy, oven potatoes, carrots, rolls, vanilla pudding with fruit, milk.  
Jan. 28 - BBQ pork chops, beans, peas, cornbread, fruit salad, milk.  
Jan. 29 - Smothered steak with gravy & onions, potatoes, green beans, juice, roll, apple crisp, milk.  
Jan. 30 - Chicken enchiladas, pinto beans, rice, tossed salad, crackers, fruit cup, 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.\*

**Cards of Thanks**

Robert "Beto" Duran would like to take this time to thank, his wife, Alda, daughter, Sylvia, son, Bob, and their families; staff and friends at the Senior Center; The Bank & Trust staff; fellow Lion members; churches in the community and everybody for the food, flowers, prayers, phone calls, get well cards and visits during his illness. To all my loving family, friends who came form near and far, you are what gave me and my family the strength to get through my illness. May God bless each and every one of you.

Beto and Family

Many thanks to Marla Percifull and Lydia Lopez for taking the time to give us a tour of Team Graphics. We were all amazed by the t-shirt screening process and how quickly a jacket and cap can be embroidered. Thanks for staying open late!

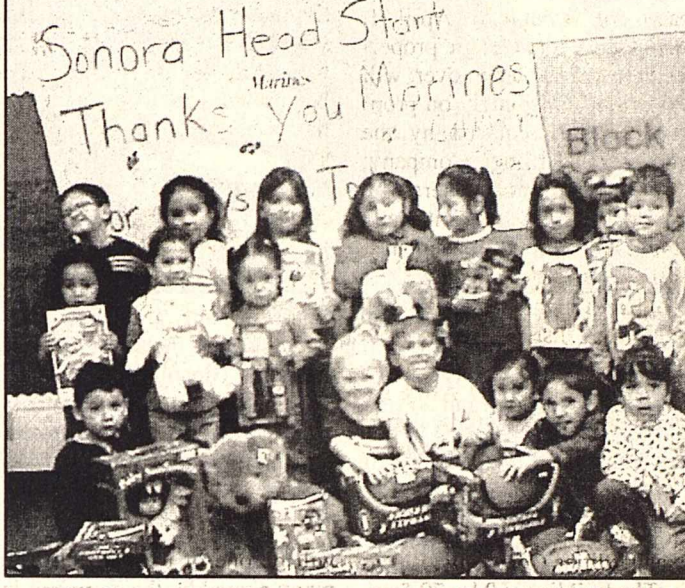
Girl Scout Troop #37  
Rita, Becky, Julissa, Kaitlyn,  
Kamrie, Leslie, Kali, Miranda, Victoria, Halle & Stormi.

The Santana Noriega Family would like to recognize the family and friends who became our rays of hope and perseverance during our time of sorrow. We are thankful for the compassion, sympathy, and love that was displayed through flowers, food, and especially our loved one's presence. There are several people we would like to give special recognition and thanks to for going the extra mile to lend us all a loving and helping hand. The Noriega Family would like to thank Mrs. Dorothy Kramer and Mrs. Mary Rogers for the beautiful flower arrangements which brought life to hearts feeling loss. Also, although many businesses were closed, we recognize how they thoughtfully welcomed us with open arms to accommodate us in our time of need. Additionally, we would like to thank all the members of the First Assembly of God Church. We are especially grateful to Santos Beserra, Sister Maria Depugh, and Sister Anna Lilia Marines for all they've done for their beloved brother in Christ. Thank you for the wonderful food that was so generously prepared for all family and friends that were present for this very sensitive time. These efforts were greatly appreciated, our gratitude and love are with you all.

Sincerely,  
The Santana Noriega Family

Thank you to everyone who helped care for me while I was hospitalized. A special thank you to Maggie Bernal.

Lois C. Campbell



The Sonora Head Start program would like to say "Thank You" to the Marines from San Angelo who donated all the wonderful toys, as part of the "Toys for Tots" program. There were 20 happy children in Sonora this Christmas who received some great gifts! Thank you!

If you received the  
**T & C Village Market Grocery Store**  
Insert dated January 22, 2004  
in last's week issue of  
**The Devil's River News**  
we would like to apologize for any  
inconvenience this may have caused you.

**School Lunch Menu • Jan. 26 - Jan. 30, 2004**

**Breakfast**


Mon. - Toast, peanut butter, assorted juice.  
Tues. - Breakfast burrito, assorted juice.  
Wed. - Biscuits, ham slice, assorted juice.  
Thurs. - Waffles, syrup, assorted juice.  
Fri. - Pigs in a blanket, assorted juice.

Milk and cereal offered with all breakfasts.



**Lunch**

Mon. - Frito pie, cheese, pinto beans, vegetable salad, sliced pears.  
Tues. - Hoagie sandwich, lettuce, tomatoes, pickles, French fries, orange wedges.  
Wed. - Barbecue on bun, baked beans, cole slaw, cherry cobbler.  
Thurs. - Grilled cheese sandwich, vegetable soup, lime Jell-o with fruit.  
Fri. - Pizza, Mexicali corn, tossed salad, rice krispie treat.

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The views expressed in submitted articles are not necessarily the views of the staff.

 **Member 2004**  
**TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION**

**Community Calendar**

<p><b>Jan. 21</b> Community Art Show 4:30 p.m. • The Bank &amp; Trust</p> <p><b>Jan. 22</b> American Cancer Society Relay for Life Meeting Sutton County Steakhouse • Noon</p> <p><b>Jan. 26</b> County Commissioners Meeting 9:00 a.m. • Annex Bldg.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>The Community Calendar</i>  P.O. BOX 798 • SONORA, TEXAS 76950 (325) 387-2861 Member FDIC</p>	<p><b>Jan. 26</b> Sonora Elementary P.T.O. Meeting 6:00 p.m. • Elementary Auditorium</p> <p><b>Feb. 10</b> Daddy/Daughter Date Night 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. 4-H Civic Center</p> <p><b>Al-Anon Family Meetings</b> Every Monday at 7:00 p.m. • Hospital Dining Room Call 387-2521 ext. 170</p> <p style="text-align: center;">is made possible by:  Member FDIC 207 N Hwy 277 N • 387-2593</p>
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Letters To The Editor Policy

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## Ask the Historical Society

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

**Q.** Does it always get this cold in Sonora?

**A.** No. Sometimes we have very mild winters and sometimes it gets even colder. B. N. Weatherby said that in 1918 his thermometer registered 5 degrees below zero. In January of 1928 there was a "little cold wave," that dropped the temperature to 9 degrees above zero. In April of the same year there was an inch of rain mixed with sleet and snow that caused many deaths of newborn kids and lambs. When I came to Sonora in 1989, we had a very cold winter, and the thermometer outside my house dropped down to 3 degrees above zero in January. But stick around, this is West Texas and the weather will change. Just don't ever complain about the rain! This is a semi-arid region that has been suffering from a severe drought. People around here don't like it when someone complains about rain. They praise the Lord for every drop they get and try not to do anything to make Him think they aren't grateful when it is raining.

**Q.** When was the old WTU icehouse built?

**A.** Devil's River News, February 3, 1928-Construction of a combined office building and ice plant in Sonora to be ready for occupancy April 1, when the ice and electric properties here will be taken over, will be started immediately on property recently acquired by the West Texas Utilities Company; it was announced here by Howard Barrett, publicity and advertising man of the company, who was in Sonora Friday.

Plans for the building were completed last week in the office of E. R. Hoppe, chief engineer, at Abilene. Construction work will be under way within a few days; material already having been shipped. The work will be done by a construction crew from the West Texas Utilities Company.

The building, 60 by 70 feet, will occupy the corner lot facing on Water Street, a portion of the 150 by 200 feet of property purchased in Sonora last week by the West Texas Utilities Company. It will be of light colored brick, cast stone coping and trimming, and fireproof throughout. Windows will be installed in metal sashes.

The building, will be set back 20 feet from Water Street. It will house the office and display room, a fixture room with model kitchen adjoining, and a large storage room.



Interior shot of Barton Saloon.

A five-ton ice plant will be built adjoining the office. A large ice vault and two cold storage rooms for the convenience of produce and market material will be provided. All machinery in the plant will be electrically driven. Automatic chutes will be installed to transfer the ice from the storage vault to the retail platform in front of the plant.

While definite plans have not been completed, the West Texas Utilities Company expects at a later date to build an auxiliary electric generating station on its property at Sonora. Surveys for a 66,000 volt transmission line from Ozona to Sonora already have been made and it is planned to have this line in operation April 1.

Devil's River News, March 30, 1928-George L. Murphy, assistant superintendent of the West Texas Utilities Company, stated here Tuesday afternoon that everything would be in readiness on April 1st for his company to take over the local power and lighting system.

Dudley Westbrook of Sterling City has been chosen by the Company as superintendent of the new plant here, which will be one of the finest of the many owned by the company in West Texas, Mr. Murphy stated.

Work on the new Utilities building here is nearing the completion stage, with two 150 h.p. Diesel powered dynamos already installed and more material arriving daily via truck.

The high line from Sonora to Eldorado, which will supply the latter city with power, will be completed within 45 days, Mr. Murphy stated. Until that time the West Texas Utilities Company will use the plant there, beginning April 1. The high line from Ozona to Sonora

will be started as soon as the lambing season is over, it was learned, and the entire line will eventually be looped to San Angelo.

Otho Drake will act as commercial agent for the company here, dividing his time between Ozona and Sonora. His home is in Ozona.

Rates for power, lighting and cooking are to be made public at the cooking school to be conducted by the company from April 3 to 6, Mr. Murphy said.

Most of us take our modern appliances for granted. We don't stop to think about the days when people had to do everything without them. In the same issue we found that front page news was the announcement that, "Sonora Motor has new vacuum cleaner. Automobile upholstery is cleaned as thoroughly as if sent to the laundry by a powerful new Emerson vacuum cleaner now in operation at the Sonora Motor Co. Sam R. Hull, one of the proprietors of the company, finds the automobiles in West Texas become literally saturated with dirt and dust and for this reason installed the new machinery. An average of about 1 quart is removed from each closed car that is cleaned said Mr. Hull."

Also in this issue we found that Wesley Sykes had the distinction of possessing the first of the new line of Ford cars to be delivered to Sutton County. It was a sports coupe, driven from Dallas by Mr. Sam Hull himself. He said the Dallas branch of the Ford Motor Company is assembling these cars at the rate of 50 per day and the maximum of 400 cars daily would be reached at an early date.

Miss Mary Dan Wilson attended the concert in San Angelo last Friday night, given by the Longhorn band of Texas

University. She is a former student of Texas U. G. W. Archer was a candidate for sheriff of Sutton County.

W. E. Smith known to his hundreds of friends around this section as "Soapy" dropped dead on the streets of Mertzton last Friday afternoon at 1:30. He was in the drug business at Ozona and about to open a clothing store there when his death came. He was one of the most consistent advocates of progress in Ozona, having been among the first to support the movement for a new hotel there.

Sonora Gas and Oil Co. had been furnishing locals gas and oil for the past 3 months at the barrel rate of 16 cents per gallon for gasoline and 18 cents per gallon for trucks. Saving in gasoline in wholesale lots is effected through the sale of coupon books for straight trade at 23 cents.

If you haven't bought your table for the dinner before the symphony yet, we suggest you do soon. There are only a few left and they are going very quickly.

If you have any questions, concerning Sutton County history, send them to "Ask the Historical Society," P.O. Box 885, Sonora, TX 76950-0885 or stop by our offices at 307 Oak Street. You may call us at the office, Monday and Friday mornings, 387-5084 or call me at home at 387-2855 the rest of the week. Museum tours are conducted any day we are in the office or by special appointment. We are a non-profit organization that has been in existence for over 35 years. We are totally manned by volunteer staff. We have no paid employees; all of our dues and donations go into preserving the history of Sutton County.

## The Deduction of Charitable Contributions

**Business Tips:** by Pamela Venable

Each year taxpayers make cash contributions to a variety of charitable organizations. Sometimes questions arise about whether the contributions are deductible for federal income tax purposes and in what amount, especially if benefits have been received as a result of making a donation.

How much can be deducted if the donor receives a benefit with a value greater than the amount donated in exchange for the donation? Internal Revenue Code (IRC) § 170(c) defines a charitable contribution as a donation or gift to, or for the use of, a qualified organization. Qualified organizations include nonprofit groups that are religious, charitable, educational, scientific, or literary in purpose or that prevent cruelty to children or animals. Generally, the deductible amount of the contribution to such an organization is the amount actually paid. Yet if a contribution generates a benefit for the taxpayer, only the amount by which the contribution exceeds the value of the benefit received is deductible.

So, if John pays \$150 for tickets to a church dinner, and the fair market value of the din-

ner is \$60, he must subtract \$60 from the \$150 paid to determine the deductible portion of his contribution. Similarly, if Susan receives tickets to a charity event, such as a ball, in exchange for a donation to the charity, only the difference between the ticket price and their fair market value can be deducted—even if she does not attend the event. Yet if she returns the tickets to the charity for resale, she can deduct the entire contribution. In reality, the return of the tickets is an additional contribution to the charity. In other words, the original contribution is reduced by the fair market value of the charity event, but when the ticket is returned to the charity so it may be sold to the public, there is an additional donation for the value of the ticket.

Further, suppose a charity states in its fundraising information that donors who make a minimum donation of \$40 may receive a year-long subscription to a business journal, which has a fair market value of \$80 as a gift if they request it when making their pledge. A donor or makes a donation of \$80 or less and requests the subscription does not have a deductible contribution since the benefit

received exceeds the donation.

In the end, the law is fairly straightforward about how the amount of a deductible charitable contribution is determined. Except memberships of \$75 or less and donations in exchange for items of "insubstantial value," the allowable deduction is the amount by which the donation exceeds the value of what is received in exchange. For any questions you might have on tax-deductible business expenses, please contact a Certified Public Accountant. For a listing of those accountants in the Concho Valley who currently serve the small business community, contact the Concho Valley Center for Entrepreneurial Development at 325-942-2098 or [cveced@cvced.org](mailto:cveced@cvced.org).

*Business Tips is provided by Ms. Pamela Venable, Director and Certified Business Advisor IV at Angelo State University's Small Business Development Center. For more specific information on the topic of this Business Tips article, contact her at [Pamela.Venable@cvced.org](mailto:Pamela.Venable@cvced.org)*

In last week's story on the Sutton County Junior Livestock Show, the Sonora FFA was inadvertently left out of the title and caption under the group picture.

Everyone would like to apologize for this deletion and want to thank Michael Kissire for all that he does to promote the youth of Sonora and Sutton County, and the Sonora FFA for their continued promotion of agriculture in our community.

## Community Art Show

The Friends of Historic Sonora Main Street Program and The Bank & Trust want to remind everyone of the Community Art Show, featuring local and surrounding county's artists, January 21-26, 2004. The art will be displayed in the lobby of The Bank & Trust.

A special welcome reception kicks things off at 4:30 p.m. on January 21, 2004, at The Bank & Trust.

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### Knights of Columbus Annual Banquet

**January 24, 2004**  
**St. Ann's Catholic Church**  
*Mass 4:00 p.m.*  
*Social Hour: 5:30 p.m.*  
*Reception & Award Ceremony Following*  
**Sutton County Civic Center**  
*Dance 9:00 p.m. - 1:00 a.m.*  
*Romaldo y Grupo Estilo*

**FOR TICKETS OR MORE INFORMATION**

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**Bernardo "Yogi" Solis**  
387-5304 after 5:30 p.m.  
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### Ann -n- Marie's GRAND OPENING

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**Chamber Chatter**

**Ann-n-Marie's opens; Dads get ready for date night with daughters at "Valentine Ball"**

**SONORA**  
Chamber of Commerce  
by Ruthie Bounds, Chamber of Commerce Executive Director

We are excited to announce the Grand Opening & Ribbon Cutting for Ann-n-Marie's, the upscale consignment shop that has opened in Sonora. Ann-n-Marie's specializes in women's, men's and children's clothing, including plus sizes for women. They also carry accessories, home décor, handcrafted sterling jewelry & much more. The Grand Opening will be at noon on Friday, January 23, 2004, at Ann-n-Marie's, located at 305 S. Crockett in Sonora. Ann-n-Marie's will be giving away a Grand Opening Gift, so be sure to come to the celebration. It is great to have such a wonderful consignment shop, concentrating on quality and style, open up here in Sonora. Please join us in celebrating and welcoming Ann-n-Marie's. We hope to see you all there!!

planning for the Daddy Daughter Date Night for February 10, 2004. The "Valentine Ball" will be held at the Sutton County Civic Center from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. This event was a huge success last year and we are looking forward to the same success this year. A disc-jockey has been hired to provide the music for all the little princesses and their dads, and of course, there will be a photographer to take pictures that will capture the memories. The Daddy Daughter Date

Night is an evening of music and dancing for girls from kindergarten through eighth-grade, and their dads. Tickets will be sold in advance at the Sonora Chamber of Commerce Office and Welcome Center for \$7.00 each and will be sold at the door for \$9.00 each. (From all reports the daddies had as much, if not more, fun last year than the young ladies did.)

Sonora Chamber of Commerce  
Phone - 325/387-2880  
E-mail - soncoc@sonoratrix.net  
Website - www.sonoratrix-chamber.com



Dads and their daughters dance the night away.

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**The state of our District**



by Henry Bonilla

This week, President George W. Bush delivered his State of the Union address to an attentive audience. These are tumultuous times and I believe it was the speech our nation needed to hear.

In his national address, President Bush reminded us of the tremendous accomplishments made over the last year. But all the time, the president expressed that we still have a long road ahead of us. He presented a blueprint for our nation's success. I believe that with this vision, our nation can and will remain focused and strong.

Much like the president reviewed the state of the Union, I've taken the opportunity to review the state of the 23rd Congressional District. And I have good news: The state of our district is STRONG!

Growth statistics show that cities in our district are growing at a rapid pace. This record growth is providing more economic opportunities for people throughout the 23rd Congressional District. Growth means more jobs, better opportunities for small business owners, and continued economic development. Our district universities are expanding and health care facilities are providing better service, more doctors and nurses and greater coverage for all patients.

By working with the local border patrol, we're keeping our

borders prosperous and safe. Our farmers and ranchers are seeing improvements in grants and research programs that help bolster their profitability. And our local military service-members are enjoying improvements in salary, base renovations and retiree commitments.

Yes, the state of our district is strong. But we must remember that "no man is an island." The issues affecting our nation also affect our state and our district. And while I will always look out for the needs of the 23rd Congressional District, I am also committed to keeping a watchful eye on the needs of our nation.

As a member of the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee, I am dedicated to rebuilding our national defense. We must continue to support our men and women in uniform who have taken an oath to defend and protect our nation. As our troops face new challenges, we must demonstrate the true commitment for our armed services.

As Chairman of the Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee, I oversee hundreds of state and national agriculture programs. Last year's Agriculture bill was great news for Texas agriculture producers. Many of the programs funded will directly impact farmers and ranchers in the 23rd district and throughout our great state, as well as our nation. I remain dedicated to keeping the agriculture industry strong and healthy. Beyond my subcommittee

positions in the House of Representatives, I want each of you to know that I will not back down on the issues I have fought for since my first days in Congress. We must continue to provide meaningful tax relief to the people of America -- especially considering our current economic conditions. Now more than ever, we also need to look out for the small businesses of America. They are the backbone of our country. Small businesses should be protected so they have the opportunity to grow and flourish. I'll also continue my work on the Texas/Mexico border; I'll aim for better health research funding; and of course, I'll shoot for the stars when it comes to educating our nation's children.

After more than a decade of commitment to these issues, we've seen remarkable results. But we're not finished. This year will bring us one step closer to accomplishing our goals and making the 23rd district better than ever.

It goes without saying that America is facing new and different challenges. With these challenges come important, new goals that we must attend to. President Bush has set forth his goals for our nation and now you and I must set goals for our district. By standing together we will prove that these goals can be accomplished. We will prove that we are a united district and united nation, prepared to work together for the good of America.

**School Board from page 1**

added in the Primary and Intermediate buildings. McGee ended his report by telling the board that a fiber optic line had been cut while digging, but repairs were under way. He also stressed his appreciation to the teachers and children for respecting the boundaries and working to keep everyone safe during the construction.

Erik Craig, the new Technology Directory for S.I.S.D., reported that besides the break in the fiber optic line causing the e-mail to be down, that everything was going well. He said that most of his efforts currently are on upgrading and bringing all buildings up to grade. New servers will have to be obtained to allow the ability to add software and a better network. Craig also reported that he had installed virus scans on all machines, allowing for a better version of Internet filtering. There is now no way that students can get around the filters to visit restricted sites on the net. An in-house mail server has been installed, allowing for the

S.I.S.D. to be identified with own e-mail addresses. This system allows for the District to remain in operation even if the region goes down. Many other impressive opportunities will soon be available in the District, allowing for better communication for teachers, staff and parents. A web site is also now up and running for the Sonora Middle School.

Myers asked what areas need to be addressed for the continued progression in technology. Craig said that the High School needs to be networked and upgraded and a router will have to be upgraded, to include the rock building.

Bids were opened and reviewed for the purchase of the new route bus. It was then approved to purchase the 35 passenger Bluebird 2004 for \$53,000 from Blue Star Bus Sales.

The 2nd reading of Update 71 revealed that the area referring to foreign and/or herbal medicine distribution at the school needed to be reworded.

Prior to the board convening in closed session, Favila passed out a small token of appreciation from the elementary teachers to the board for all that they do for the Sonora school district and students. Several thank you notes were read by Jacoby. Payton commended the three musicians that performed at the Lions Club Queen's contest on a job well done. Myers said that out-going Lion's Club Queen, Brea Hughes, had done an outstanding job representing Sonora over the past year and is also to be commended. All board members commented that the stock show participants all looked great and agreed that Sonora is lucky to have such a great group of kids. The board then broke for a short break before going into executive session.

After reconvening from closed session, a motion was made and approved to extend the Superintendent's contract for an additional year and increase his salary.

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This Wednesday, January 21st through Saturday, January 24th, Mitchell Buick Pontiac GMC will offer 90 bank repossessed, lease returns, fleet returns, auction vehicles and other clean used vehicles for thousands below normal values, and pass the savings on to their customers.

"These vehicles have been acquired at incredible savings from banks (repos), auctions, and other sources." Alvin Beaty of Mitchell Buick Pontiac GMC said. "We have been asked to sacrifice this inventory immediately - regardless of loss or profit. And if that means

selling these vehicles some for thousands below normal values, then that's what we'll do."

Every bank repossessed and other pre-owned vehicles will be available for just a \$59 possession fee\* then start making payments. Some payments only \$99 per month.\*\* "It's that simple," said Alvin Beaty. "To make these bargains even easier, we'll mark the pay-

Extra sales and finance staff will be on hand to assure customers prompt, quality service and the best finance terms possible. Mr. Beaty said, "We'll have over \$4 million in financing available for this event, so chances are we can arrange financing for just about anyone who is employed, regardless of past credit history."

Trade-ins will be accepted, and customers should bring their title or payment book to expedite delivery.

"The opportunity San Angelo area bargain-hunters have been waiting for happens this Wednesday through Saturday at Mitchell Buick Pontiac GMC. Every bank repo and other used vehicle is just \$59 then start making payments.\* Customers may never see savings like this again." said Mr. Beaty.

After the \$59 Super Sale ends at 6:00 p.m. on Saturday, January 24th, many of these vehicles will be sent to auction. Any questions can be directed to (325) 949-1811. Mitchell Buick Pontiac GMC is located at 4105 Sherwood Way in San Angelo.

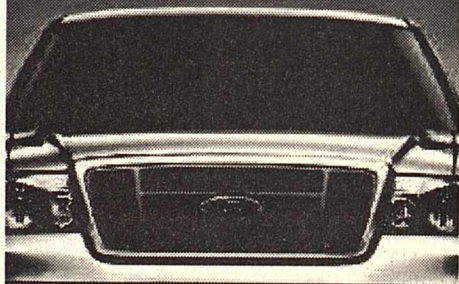
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## Broncos fall to Wall in District Opener

by Marcy Cearley

On Friday, January 16, 2004, the Sonora Broncos traveled to Wall for their District Opener. The Hawks proved to be too much for the Broncos as they improved their record to 21-1. The Broncos fell to 5-5, with a 31 -53 loss.

The Broncos got on the scoreboard first with a 3-pointer from Clint Cearley. A quick steal by Austin Wagoner helped the Broncos increase their lead to 5-2, but then the Hawks slowly took control.

Behind 6' 10" Slade Weisuhn, the Hawks lead at the end of the first period, 14-9, at the half they had increased the lead to 34-15.

The Broncos could never get their offense going. Brett McDaniel and Cearley were leading scorers, each with 8 points. Chris Martin had 6 and Wagoner and Trapper Valliant had 5 and 4 respectively.

On Defense, Valliant, Wagoner, Cearley and McDaniel all had 6 rebounds each.

This week the Broncos will play Ozona at home and will travel to Grape Creek on Friday.

## 7th grade Lady Colt basketball

by Larry Jennings

The 7th grade Lady Colts went up against the Eldorado Eagles on Monday, January 19, 2004. The Sonora girls tried hard, but just couldn't overcome the Eagles, losing 12 to 18.

Scoring for the 7th grade Lady Colts were: Steely Ingham- 5, Kaitlyn Henderson- 3, Azeneth Villanueva- 2, and Savannah Leonard- 2.



Lady Colts go up against Eldorado.

## Reflections on Eaton Hill



Reflection pool on Eaton Hill.

by Delyse Jaeger

"The unexamined life is not worth living." - my favorite quote from a philosopher. As January comes to a close (seemingly only hours after it began), many of the changes we resolved in our minds to initiate in 2004 have already been smothered in the hyperactivity of our daily lives. But should that really surprise us? As individuals in this society do we prioritize our time in a manner which reflects our hearts and our beliefs? That question was recently posed to me and my honest answer is "No, not fully enough." To affect real and lasting change, we often need time to reflect and focus on those elements of living that bring us peace and joy. Or time to contemplate and reinforce our goals and plans. Is your home a haven of quiet opportunity? I don't believe I'd want to be able to describe my home that way as long as there are young children living in it! Most of us have to purpose in order to find those moments. I prefer to experience quiet reflection surrounded by nature and, of course, Eaton Hill has provided me with many golden moments of solitude. These are the images that sprang to mind as I sat down to write about the

beautiful rock fountain and reflection pool recently completed on Eaton Hill. The newest water feature is located northeast of the Eaton House and can be reached by following the trail that crosses the corner of the yard by the native plant garden. One need not desire to wrestle life-altering questions nor search for life's true meaning in order to appreciate the peace and beauty of this special place on the Hill. It is a great spot to share with a friend, or even your Valentine. Give yourself a little gift and hike the trails on Eaton Hill. There's just no telling what you may find.

Eaton Hill Wildlife Sanctuary is a project of the Sonora Industrial Development Corporation.

## Car Wrecks

are not accidents. Someone was not paying attention. Maybe they were distracted or didn't adjust for road conditions. Maybe the trucker was late, sleepy or did not maintain his rig. Many injuries, like head trauma, are not readily apparent. Apparent injuries, like burns, paralysis or death, have many underlying and life altering consequences for you and your family. Our experience can help you now and your family's future. Call us for professional insight.

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## Little Dribblers practice starts January 24

Sonora City League would like to announce Little Dribblers group practices to be held on Saturday, Jan 24th for both divisions as follows:

3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade group practice will be held at the High School practice gym with the girls beginning at 12:45 p.m. and boys beginning at 2:00 p.m.

5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade group practice will be held at the Jr. High gym with the boys beginning at 8:45 a.m.

Girls are as follows:

10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Lisa Karnes' Team  
11:00 a.m. - Noon Devoe Smith & Randy Gillit's Teams  
Noon - 1:00 p.m. Mindy Castaneda's Team  
2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Frank McGee's Team

Anyone interested in volunteering or if you have any questions, contact Mr. Lynn Hinsley at 650 - 2223 or at home at 387-5276 or Nelda Tobias at 387-6527 work or 387-5390 home.

## Preserving the Pledge of Allegiance

by Greg Abbott

Attorney General of Texas

Half a century after Congress added the words "under God" to the Pledge of Allegiance, the U.S. Supreme Court is poised to consider whether those words make it impermissible for children to recite the Pledge in our nation's public schools.

Michael Newdow, the man at the center of the case now before the Court, contends that requiring students to say the words "under God" in the Pledge unconstitutionally establishes religion. An overwhelming majority of others, including Texas and all other states, strongly disagrees.

The case, which originated in California, has obvious implications for every state. In a brief I submitted this week to the Supreme Court, I argue on behalf of all 50 states that reciting "under God" in the Pledge of Allegiance in public schools is well within the confines of the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. In Texas, for example, schools must teach students to be "thoughtful, active citizens who understand the importance of patriotism."

One way school districts are accomplishing that goal is by having students recite the Pledge of Allegiance once during each school day.

Yet, an adverse ruling from the Court would undermine that law and those of at least 42 other states that specifically provide for public school children reciting the Pledge.

It's no secret that many of the founders of our nation and state not only believed in God, but also sought Divine guidance in fashioning our system of government. That they chronicled this reliance on God stands to reason, and it explains why so many of our historical documents, speeches and even architecture acknowledge God in one way or another.

The Declaration of Independence alone contains four references to God, including its unambiguous statement that all persons are "endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights." Likewise, the Texas Constitution begins by "invoking the blessings of Almighty God."

The Pledge of Allegiance, too, is part of our common heritage. After an early form first appeared in a youth publication in 1892, the Pledge grew in acceptance and changed form until Congress officially adopted it in 1942. Twelve years later, Congress changed it once more, inserting the phrase "under God" to make the Pledge more reflective of the nation's character.

Congressional committee reports from the time of the 1954 amendment echo the Declaration of Independence, noting that our government recognizes the importance of each person as being "endowed by [God] with certain unalienable rights which no civil authority may usurp." The addition of "under God" meant the Pledge was not the first, but simply the

latest, historical and patriotic acknowledgment of our nation's undeniable religious heritage.

I am encouraged by the fact that virtually every reference to the Pledge of Allegiance by the Supreme Court and by at least 12 individual justices over the decades has agreed the Pledge is entirely consistent with the First Amendment.

Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, for example, expressed her view in 1985's *Wallace v. Jaffree* that the reference to God in the Pledge of Allegiance "serve[s] as an acknowledgment of religion with 'the legitimate secular purposes of solemnizing public occasions, [and] expressing confidence in the future.'" Even Justice William Brennan, one of the Court's more liberal members, admitted in the 1963 case *School District of Abington Township v. Schempp* that "[t]he reference to divinity in the revised pledge of allegiance . . . may merely recognize the historical fact that our Nation was believed to have been founded 'under God.'"

The Court clearly has acknowledged a key distinction between government-sponsored religious ceremony or display, and simple historical and patriotic recognition of religion by government institutions. To be certain, there are others like Mr. Newdow - a self-described atheist - who do not see themselves as personally "under God." The U.S. Constitution protects their right not to believe in God, just as it safeguards others who choose to do so. But that is not the issue here. Ultimately, what is at stake in preserving the Pledge in its current form is whether our school children will continue to be taught the truth that acknowledgment of God is woven just as tightly into our nation's fabric as are the other elements of our heritage.

Information on this and other topics is available on the Attorney General's Web site at [www.oag.state.tx.us](http://www.oag.state.tx.us).

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- MY BABY'S DADDY (PG-13)  
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- THE LAST SAMURAI dts (R)  
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January 23  
Grape Creek • There 6:30 p.m.  
January 27  
Reagan Co. • There 6:30 p.m.  
January 30  
Eldorado • There 6:30 p.m.

**JVA**  
January 23  
Grape Creek • There 5:00 p.m.  
January 27  
Reagan Co. • There 5:00 p.m.  
January 30  
Eldorado • There 5:00 p.m.

**JVB**  
January 26  
Wall • There 6:30 p.m.

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## The Pipeline Group offering Public Education - Contractor Awareness Program in San Angelo

The Pipeline Group's annual "Public Education - Contractor Awareness Program" will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, February 3, 2004, at the San Angelo Convention Center, 500 Rio Concho Drive, in San Angelo, Texas. The program will be sponsored by a group of companies with a common goal of preventing accidents and damages to underground pipelines and utilities. A free dinner will be catered by McGowen's Catering for all persons involved in excavation related activities in Coke, Concho, Crockett, Irion, Menard, Reagan, Runnels, Schleicher, Sutton and Tom Green counties. Following the dinner, a

brief safety program will be presented which stresses the importance of accident prevention by identifying pipeline and utility rights-of-way, use of one-call systems, and the importance of working with pipeline and utility companies to safely excavate in the vicinity of underground facilities. The Texas law requiring notification to a one-call system before excavating will be discussed. Sponsors will provide promotional materials, including: notification information for their companies, safety related brochures and other safety reminders.

Each year many lives are injured or lost, plus millions of dollars in repairs and lost products are incurred due to "third party" incidents - someone digging into a pipeline. Thousands of communications, some life-threatening, may be disrupted when expensive fiber-optic cables are damaged or severed. These types of excavation can

be financially devastating to the responsible party. This safety program is an attempt to help those who do excavation work to avoid such situations.

Sponsors for the program include: Alon USA LP - Chevron Pipe Line Co - DIG TESS - Duke Energy Field Service LP - Duke Energy Field Services - Quannah Pipeline - El Paso Field Services - El Paso Natural Gas Co - Link Energy Pipeline Limited Partnership - Longhorn Pipeline - Northern Natural Gas Co - Oasis Pipeline Co Texas LP - OG+E Enogex Inc - ONEOK Westex Transmission LP - Petro Source Carbon Co - Phillips Pipe Line Co - Pride Refining Inc - Sago Jameson LP - Seminole Pipeline Co - Sid Richardson Pipeline Co - Sunoco Pipeline LP - Western Gas Resources Inc.

For more information call (800)982-8752 or visit our web site at [www.pipelinegroup.com](http://www.pipelinegroup.com).

### PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given of the following changes in voting and commissioner precincts that have been adopted by the Sutton County Commissioners Court to comply with SB 1374C:

**CHANGE 1:** That portion of Voting Precinct 101 and Commissioners Precinct 1 that is between IH-10 and the new congressional district line coming into the City of Sonora on N. Crockett Avenue shall be moved into Voting Precinct 301 and Commissioner Precinct 3; however, this change shall not include the current polling place at the Sutton County Civic Center.

**CHANGE 2:** That two block portion in the Northern part of Voting Precinct 401 that is split by SB 1374C shall be moved into Voting Precinct 301.

**CHANGE 3:** New Voting Precinct 301A shall be comprised of the Northern Part of the Plum Street split and that area of current Voting Precinct 301 that includes Edgemont Road and Brookside Street. These two areas will be connected by moving the current voting precinct line that runs on E. Castlehill Road Northeast 100 yards.

New Voting Precinct 301 B shall be comprised of the remaining part of the old Voting Precinct 301.

**CHANGE 4:** New Voting Precinct 210A shall be comprised of all area East of S. Crockett Avenue and Tayloe Avenue of the current Voting Precinct 201.

New Voting Precinct 201B shall be comprised of all area West of S. Crockett Avenue and Tayloe Avenue of the current Voting Precinct 201.

## Historic land dispute secures ownership rights to 4,662 acres

### State Capital Highlights Texas Press Association

by Mike Cox

AUSTIN - More than a thousand Texas land owners probably weren't paying a whole lot of attention last week to the presidential campaigning in Iowa or the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling upholding Texas' congressional redistricting plan. They were more concerned about keeping their property.

The land owners had been fighting to save their rights to 4,662 acres in Upshur County, acreage worth millions of dollars in mineral rights.

Three men had filed a vacancy application with the state, hoping to prove that the land in question still belonged to Texas, not the folks who had been keeping deeds in their safe deposit boxes for years.

But last week, after reviewing the proceedings of a Dec. 17 hearing, Land Commissioner Jerry Patterson ruled that the land owners had a valid claim on their acreage.

Had the vacancy claimants been successful - they can still appeal to the courts - they stood to collect a finder's fee from the state amounting to one-sixteenth of the mineral rights to the land. That would add up to millions of dollars.

The case was settled, at least from the General Land Office's viewpoint, on the basis of history. Patterson's title experts reviewed the disputed land all the way back to the 1830s, when one William King first owned it. The conclusion was that the land did not belong to the state, though some sloppy surveying had been done.

This has been the most significant land dispute in Texas for six decades, but 10 other vacancy cases for various tracts around the state still are pending.

Move over, Bubba...

It's called the Move Over Act, and that's what it's about, moving over.

A law passed during the last legislative session requires drivers passing a police car or any other emergency vehicles parked on the side of the roadway to move from the lane nearest the vehicle or to drop their speed to 20 miles an hour below the posted limit. That can be a pretty significant slow down if the speed limit is 25 mph.

The Department of Public Safety offered a 90-day grace period, but started enforcing the law last month. Tickets can cost up to \$200, but if the violation results in property damage from a collision, the fine can reach \$500. Should a violation result in an injury, the fine can hit \$2,000 - Oh, and up to 180 days in jail.

**State Cemetery ceremony set...**

A sailor who died a long way from home will be buried in the State Cemetery in Austin.

When state archaeologists excavated LaSalle's ship the La Belle on the middle Texas coast several years ago, they found a partially clothed skeleton in what had been the bow of the French explorer's ill-fated ship.

The name "Barange" was on a pot found next to the remains, and archaeologists have assumed that was the sailor's name.

No matter who he was, he will be buried with honors in a ceremony set for 2:30 p.m. Feb. 3, at the historic cemetery run by the state.

The French ambassador to the United States will be on hand for the services, which are being arranged by the Texas State Historical Commission and the State Cemetery.

**Hall of Famer sought...**

The governor's office is seeking names of possible recipients of another type of honor - induction into the Texas Women's Hall of Fame.

Through Feb. 13, nominations will be accepted for Texas women who have made significant contributions in public service, athletics, health or business.

For more information, check the governor's Web site [www.governor.state.tx.us](http://www.governor.state.tx.us) or call 800-839-5823.

## Important program development group meeting for EQIP Jan. 27

A Program Development Group meeting for the Environmental Quality Incentive Programs (EQIP) will be held Tuesday, January 27, 2004, at the Sutton County 4-H Community Center in Sonora. Registration will begin at 8:30 a.m. and the meeting will be from 9:00 a.m. until 10:00 a.m.

For more information call Tom Payton, NRCS, 325-387-2730.

## Oil & Agribusiness

### Rig Locations as of January 16, 2003



Sutton

**Dominion;** 8950' Brown-Whitehead - 2 - #25, Patterson Drilling.  
**Dominion;** 8950' Duke Wilson #1726, Patterson Drilling.  
**Dominion;** 8950' Brown-Whitehead - 2 - #24, Patterson Drilling.  
**New Dominion;** 8650' Mayfield - 33 - #14, Key Energy.  
**Dominion;** 8800' Duke Wilson #1712, Patterson Drilling.  
**Dominion;** 8550' Winnie R Aldwell Trust #12, Patterson Drilling.  
**Dominion;** 8300' Simmons Ranch #67, Patterson Drilling.  
**Dominion;** 8250' Edwin S Mayer Jr - D - #602, Patterson Drilling.  
**Dominion;** 7600' Ward #51, Patterson Drilling.  
**New KCS Resources;** 7200' Sawyer - 167 - #12, Patterson Drilling.  
**Dominion;** 6500' Meckel - A - #63, Patterson Drilling.  
**Dominion;** 6150' Morris - 62 - #6, Patterson Drilling.  
**Crockett**  
**New Anadarko;** 12500' North Childress Ranch - 16 - #1, Patterson Drilling.  
**Chevron/Midland;** 9500' CE Davidson III #9, Nabors Drilling.  
**Encore Operating;** 7300' Montgomery -2- #8, Adobe Drilling Bronco.  
**J. Cleo Thompson;** 7500' Todd WX - 10 - #2, Patterson Drilling.  
**Terrell**  
**New Riata Energy Inc.;** 19000' Mitchell #1201, Lariat Drilling.  
**Nuevo Texas Inc.;** 19000' Mitchell - 7 - #6, Nabors Drilling.  
**Exxonmobil;** 15700' Bassett Goode #5 H, Patterson UTI.  
**Nuevo Texas Inc.;** 8265' Pakenham - 51 - #13, Patterson Drilling.  
**Edwards**  
**SDX Resources, Inc.;** 9900' Schenkel #2, Patterson Drilling.  
**New Dominion;** 9000' Four Square Ranch #62E, Patterson Drilling.  
**Val Verde**  
**Willo Oil & Gas;** 15500' Phillip Arledge #1 H, Grey Wolf Drilling.  
**Schleicher**  
**Dominion;** 8900' Edwin S Mayer Jr - P - #9, Patterson Drilling.  
**New TXP, Inc.;** 6500' Jones #7, Heart Land Drilling.

For more rig locations call 1-800-627-9785 or go online to [www.rigdata.com](http://www.rigdata.com).



## "Bass Brigade" joins this year's Texas Brigades march for recruits

by Steve Byrns

SAN ANGELO - A select group of high school students are now being "mustered" for the 2004 "Texas Brigades," a group of wildlife-oriented youth camps targeting 13-17 year-old cadets.

Bass, the popular game fish, join bobwhite quail, white-tailed deer, and wild turkey to form the nuclei for the award-winning camps that arm participants with communications skills, leadership development, and a healthy dose of wildlife management.

"We're excited about adding the Bass Brigade," said Texas Brigades founder Dr. Dale Rollins, the Texas Cooperative Extension wildlife specialist headquartered at San Angelo. "It adds an aquatic element to our camps, thus creating a whole new realm to our offering."

"The Bass Brigade curriculum won't focus just on lakes and rivers. We'll also be looking at watershed management and rangeland health and its effects on water quality. We want the cadets to come away from the camp with an appreciation for both terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems."

The 1st Battalion of the Bass Brigade will be June 27-July 1 at McKinney Roughs between Austin and Bastrop.

"The core curriculum of all the camps is leadership development and conservation of our natural resources," said Rollins. "We meld and fashion these principles into fun and interesting activities dealing with wildlife and now fish. The result is a 100-hour crash course in growing up."

The two Buckskin Brigade dates and locations are: South Texas, 5th Battalion, La Pryor, May 30 - June 3, and North Texas, 3rd Battalion, Albany, July 18-22. Dates and locations for the two Bobwhite Brigades are: Rolling Plains, 12th Battalion, Lueders, June 19-24, and South Texas, 7th Battalion, Campbellton, July 11-15.

The East Texas "Feathered Forces" Brigade, 8th Battalion, July 25-29 at Broadus, centers around quail and turkey. Rollins said combining the turkey with the quail curriculum in this single instance has added a real boost to the camp.

"This marks the Texas Brigades' 12th year," said Rollins. "The Brigade programs continue to build. I'm constantly amazed at the commitment of the volunteers involved and of the creative educational programs the Brigade graduates conduct around the state. One of our newest Brigade ventures are

landowner workshops. We're set to do one on advanced habitat management for deer and quail on the King Ranch this spring for their lessees."

Rollins said he's also recruiting adults willing to volunteer five days as leaders. He said they go through the camp just like the cadets. "It's the best shortcourse on deer, quail, turkey, and now bass management, that you'll find anywhere," said Rollins. "And it's free...unless you count lost sleep! Any of the camps offer a great week to get your batteries recharged and restore your faith in today's youth."

"A lot of kids today consider wildlife management degrees and careers. Brigade cadets have the added opportunity of getting hands-on experience with new methods and technology taught by experts. They also plug into a network of wildlife professionals at the camps who willingly serve as mentors and references for them as they pursue a wildlife-related career."

The camps have earned numerous state and national awards as have many of the graduate cadets. Rollins said five other states currently field similar programs patterned directly from the Texas camps.

The camps' sponsors include: Texas Cooperative Extension, Texas Wildlife Association, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Quail Unlimited, National Wild Turkey Federation, Texas Deer Association, local Soil and Water Conservation Districts, private businesses, landowners, and many others.

Tuition is \$300 per cadet but Rollins said that cost shouldn't be a deterrent for applicants. "We don't want financial hardships to deter any cadet from applying for these camps. We have sponsors on standby who are willing to provide financial aid if requested."

Applications are available at <http://texnat.tamu.edu> or [www.texasbrigades.org](http://www.texasbrigades.org). Applications are due by April 15. Send them to Helen Holdsworth, 401 Isom Road, Suite 237, San Antonio, TX 78216.

Each camp is limited to 30 participants per session.

For further information contact Dr. Dale Rollins at (325) 653-4576 or e-mail him at [drollins@tamu.edu](mailto:drollins@tamu.edu) or contact Helen Holdsworth, San Antonio-based Texas Brigades executive director, at (800) TEX-WILD or (210) 826-2904, or e-mail her at [h\\_holdsworth@texas-wildlife.org](mailto:h_holdsworth@texas-wildlife.org).

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**I-10 Exxon** is looking for reliable candidates to join our team. The following positions are available: Full and Part-Time cashiers. Retirees welcome. Come by the corner of I-10 and Hwy. 277 N. EOE.

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**DQ of Sonora** is looking for day/night help. Full and part-time positions available. Non-smoking, drug free environment. Drug test required. Apply in person today, with Manager, Joana Wuest.

**Location Builders** now hiring full time mechanic, prefer you have your own tools. Apply in person, no phone calls please. 203 W. 3rd.

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**House for Sale:** 301 S. Water. 3 bedroom, 2 bath, hardwood floors. Nice yard. Must see! Call (325) 387-5801.

**Eldorado:** 202 Live Oak, beautiful corner lot, large brick home, 4/2.5, utility, large master suite, built-in entertainment center in den, screened back porch. Call 325-853-2204 or 830-613-8342.

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**SONORA STOCKPENS, INC. INVITATION FOR BID FOR REMOVAL OF PENS**

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**ADVERTISEMENT FOR BID**

The Lillian M. Hudspeth Memorial Hospital will receive sealed bids for the Hospital Relocation and Wellness Center Addition to the existing hospital facility located at 308 Hudspeth Ave., Sonora, Texas, 76950.

Bids will received until 2:00 P.M. (C.D.T.) on February 16, 2004, in the Administration Office of Lillian M. Hudspeth Memorial Hospital. If bids are mailed, they should be sent to: Lillian M. hudspeth Memorial Hospital

Mr. Keith Butler CEO  
308 Hudspeth Ave.  
Sonora, Texas 76950  
Bids must be on a Lump Sum basis. Indicate on exterior of envelope the project and bid opening date. Bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at the time and Bid Date identified above. Bids received after 2:00 P.M. on the bid date, February 16, 2004, will not be accepted. Bidding Documents, including plans, specifications and full information as to the proposed work, may be examined at the Office of the Architect-Engineer, O'Connell Robertson and Associates, Inc. 811 Barton Springs Road, Suite 900, Austin, Texas 78704. Director of Engineering Office, Lillian M. Hudspeth Memorial Hospital, 308 Hudspeth Ave., Sonora, Texas 76950 and at the following exchanges:

AGC Plan Room  
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432-520-2220

Dodge Plan Room  
3004 50th St., Suite B  
Lubbock, Texas 79414  
806-797-8898

Dodge Plan Room  
1325 S. 14th St., Suite G  
Abilene, Texas 79602  
432-676-7447

Odessa Plan Room  
2706 Henderson Ave.  
Odessa, Texas 79764  
432-337-0912

Builders Exchange  
4047 Naco-Perrin, Suite 100  
San Antonio, Texas 78217  
210-564-6900

Concho Valley Plan Room  
818 Bell Street  
San Angelo, Texas 76905  
325-655-3539

Bidding Documents may be obtained at the office of O'Connell Robertson and Associates, Architect/Engineers between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 12 Noon and 1:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, upon depositing the sum of One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) for each set of documents. The entire deposit will be refunded to bona fide Bidders upon the return of documents, in good condition, within ten (10) business days after the Bid opening.

Bidders may inspect the existing building and site by scheduling an appointment with the Hospital. Contact Mr. Keith Butler, CEO at 1-325-387-2521.

The Hospital is interested in providing opportunities for work by local sub-contractors. General Contractors are asked to consider using local contractors.

Bid Security in the amount of Five Percent (5%) of the bid amount must accompany each Bid in accord with the Instructions to Bidders. A Performance and Payment Bond in the amount of One Hundred Percent (100%) of the contract amount will be required in accord with the Instructions to Bidders.

The Owner reserves the right to reject any or all Bids and to waive informalities or irregularities in the bidding.

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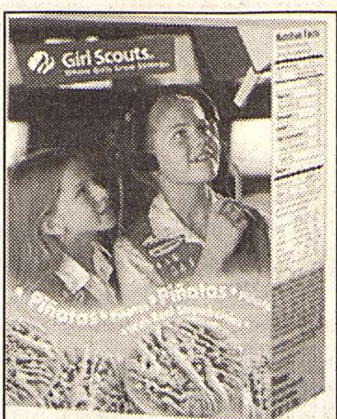
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**SERVICE DIRECTORY**

<p><b>Sonora Electric Company</b>                  Electric Repair                  Construction                  Farm &amp; Ranch                  Commercial/Residential                  Arnold Hosford                  325-387-3677</p>	<p><b>Carl J. Cahill, Inc.</b>                    OILFIELD CONTRACTOR                  (325)387-2524                  Sonora, TX</p>
<p><b>Knox Floor Covering</b>                  Carpet-Vinyl-Tile                  392-2180                  201 Ave I Ozona, TX</p>	<p><b>SONORA OFFICE SUPPLY</b>                  Office Supplies                  Open M-F 8:30-5:00                  Fax and Printer Cartridges                  Paper • Pens • Laser Printer Labels                  Rubber Stamps • Photo Paper                  Business Cards and more!                  228 E. Main • 387-2498</p>
<p><b>George Thorp Waterwell</b>                  Drilling &amp; Service                  GEO. "JENNY" THORP                  325-387-5104                  MOBILE: 325-206-0230                  206-0233                  510 W. Mulberry                  Sonora, TX 76950</p>	<p><b>Rafter W Feed</b>                  201 Cedar                  387-3042                  Your local Acco, Purina and Sure Fed Feed Dealer</p>
<p><b>LONE STAR COLLISION</b>                  Automotive &amp; Collision Repair                  Free Estimates                  Se habla espanol                  Steve Lynn • Jason Lynn                  Gabriel Perales                  325-387-3473                  1-866-380-3473</p>	<p><b>TEAM GRAPHICS</b>                  CUSTOM SCREEN PRINTING                  EMBROIDERY                  T-Shirts • Caps                  Marla Percifull                  325/387-5017                  Sonora, TX</p>
<p><b>BREWER REFRIGERATION</b>                  Lic. # TACLB012114C                  Ice Machines                  Sales - Service - Rentals                  We sell &amp; service                  Deer Coolers &amp; Freezers                  325-835-2141                  Mobile 450-2793</p>	<p><b>DRN SERVICE DIRECTORY</b>                  Large Ads • \$6.50 a week                  Small Ads • \$3.50 a week  <b>Call 387-2507</b></p>
<p><b>CELLULARONE</b>                  Lynn Sahr                  Manager                  205A Hwy. 277 N.                  Sonora, TX 76950                  (325) 387-3086 Off.                  387-2767 Fax                  277-0041 Cellular</p>	<p><b>Community Rental &amp; Supply</b>                  387-5577                  Lolabeth Jones                  Party and Event Rental                  Tables, Chairs,                  Tablecloths, etc...</p>
<p><b>TODD'S HOT SHOT SERVICE</b>                  Fully Insured &amp; DOT Certified                  1012 Tayloe • Sonora, TX 76950                  325-387-3731                  Todd Munn • 325-206-1150                  Pam Munn • 325-206-0051                  Fast, Dependable, Reliable</p>	<p><b>Electrical by Deb</b>                  Residential, Commercial,                  Phone, Data, TV                  Debbie Clark                  SBCCI Journeyman &amp; Master                  325-659-3901</p>
<p><b>Cakes and Occassional's</b>                  1102 E. Glasscock Ave.                  325-387-3310                  Mon. - Sat.                  9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.                  Specialty cakes for                  Most Occasions.                  Photo Cakes, Character Cakes.                  Baked to order using only the                  freshest and finest ingredients.</p>	<p><b>Kacie Pruitt</b>                  Nail Tech at                  The Cutting Edge                  1001 St. Ann's St.                  Tuesday - Friday                  Mon. &amp; Sat. by Appt. only                  387-2474                  Acrylics, Manicures, Spa                  Manicures and Pedicures.                  Life • Home • Tenant                  Dwelling • Farm &amp; Ranch •                  Auto • Liability • Health •                  IRA • Annuity</p>
<p><b>B &amp; H CATERING</b>                  Harold &amp; Benita Martinez                  207 W. Chestnut                  387-2528 or 206-1268                  Hrs. 7:00 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.                  BBQ Plates, Daily Specials,                  Breakfast Tacos and Catering.                  Dine-In or Carry-Out!</p>	<p><b>MARY KAY</b>                  For all your beauty needs                  contact                  Victoria Richardson                  100 Edgemont                  325-387-5280                  victoria@sonoratx.net</p>
<p><b>Los Cerritos Restaurant</b>                  Hours Mon. - Sun.                  6:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.                  Lounge Open                  5:00 p.m. - Midnight                  605 S. Crockett • 387-2838                  Martin &amp; Geneva McGee</p>	<p><b>Circle "S" Automotive</b>                  501 S. Crockett                  Sonora, Texas 76950                  325-387-5167</p>

**Girls Scouts cookies are back on the market**



They're back! Girl Scout Cookies are on sale now: The Sonora Girl Scouts are visiting the businesses and homes, selling the ever-delicious treats. Girl Scout cookies come in eight varieties and are baked by ABC Bakers in Virginia. The 2004 cookie varieties are: Thin Mints, Peanut Butter Patties, Caramel deLites, Animal Treasures, Peanut Butter

Sandwiches, Lemon Pastry Crèmes (reduced fat), Shortbread, and, new this year, Piñatas - a crunchy oatmeal base, iced on the bottom, filled with berry-luscious fruit, and finished off with swizzles of sugar glaze and cinnamon crumb topping. Each box of cookies is \$3.00.

Girl Scouts began taking orders on Friday, January 16, 2004, and will continue through January 25, 2004. Pre-paid orders only, will be accepted and the cookies will be delivered on February 11, 2004.

The purpose of the Girl Scout cookie sale is first and foremost to help girls develop a wide range of skills--leadership, entrepreneurship, money management, decision-making, planning, goal-setting, interpersonal communication, teamwork, and many more.

The second purpose is to

generate income for Girl Scout troops and our local Girl Scout Council. Your purchase helps the troops cover the costs of their pins, badges, program materials, and special activities.

Many successful business women today say they got their start selling Girl Scout cookies®. Girls practice useful life skills like planning, decision-making, and customer service. During cookie activities, girls are members of a team working towards a common goal, with each girl striving to do her best.

Every Girl Scout troop/group is encouraged to set realistic goals, such as planning field trips and community service projects, to accomplish during the year. The money earned from cookie activities helps the troop/group achieve its goals. The Sonora girls have set a goal of 36 boxes each. If they reach this goal they are planning a spring trip.

So when your local Girl Scouts come calling with this year's best-selling cookies, remember you're saying hello to tomorrow's business leaders.

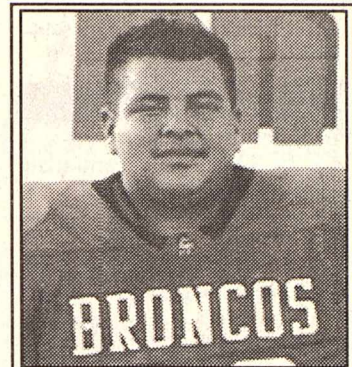
Stock up on cookies--they freeze well. For more information contact Tammy Favila at 387-3661 or any Girl Scout.

**Knight bags a buck that's out-of-sight**

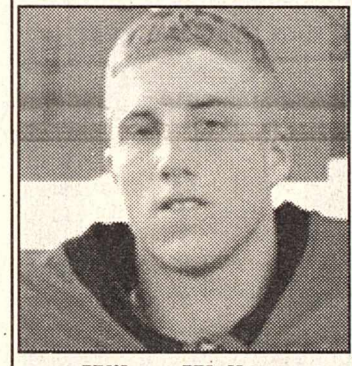


Sutton County deer hunter, Kathy Knight, killed this big, eight point buck on January 2, 2004. The buck was taken on the Marvin Shurley Ranch and scored 138 B & C points. It had an 18 1/2 inch outside spread!

Way to go Kathy, all those years married to a Game Warden taught you to choose well and shoot straight!



**Oscar Chavez Academic All-State Football 2003**



Wilson Wallace

**F.Y.I.**

Come join the Elementary P.T.O. on Monday, January 26, 2004 at 6:00 p.m. at the Elementary Auditorium. Following a brief meeting, a group of local Mexican folklore dancers called "Los Matachines" will be performing for our entertainment. Refreshments will be served.

Relay for Life committee meeting - Thursday, January 22, 2004 at 12:00 p.m. at the Sutton County Steakhouse.

Ann-n-Marie's Grand Opening - January 23, 2004, 305 S. Crockett St.

Daddy/Daughter Date Night - February 10, 2004, 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m., Sutton County Civic Center - Tickets are \$7 in advance, \$9 at the door, photo packages will be offered for \$7.

Al-Anon Family Group Meetings - Every Monday at 7:00 p.m. in the Hospital Dining Room. Call 387-2521, ext. 170.

12th Annual All American Arts and Crafts Festival - January 24 -25, 2004 at the Wells Fargo Pavilion at the San Angelo Coliseum Complex, original art, limited edition prints and handcrafted items. Hours for the festival are Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday from noon to 5 p.m. There is no admission charge.

Attention all Cub Scouts: The Scouts of Pack 19 will be hosting Our Annual Pinewood Derby on January 31, 2004 at 9:00 A.M. at the Jr. High Snack Bar. Practice runs are on 1/28 and 1/29 from 5:30-7:00 P.M. at the Scout Hut. Any volunteers willing to Judge the Derby or for any further questions or information, please contact Jan Stephens at 387-5821. Pack 19.

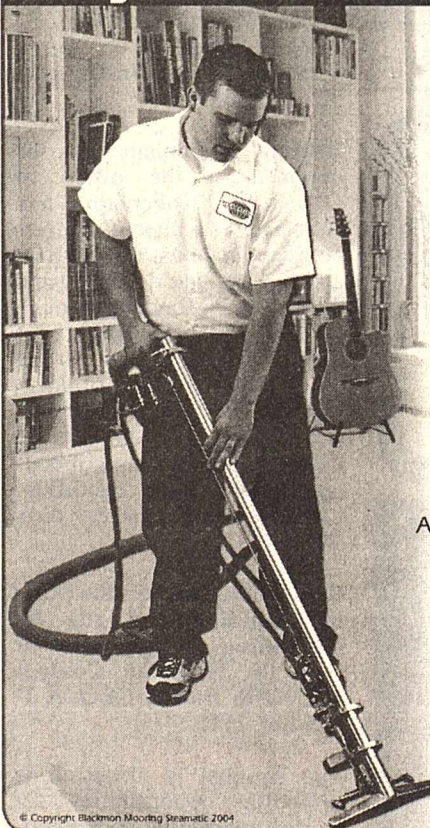
A representative of the San Angelo Social Security Office will be in Sonora, at the Courthouse, on Tuesday, January 27, 2004 from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

AARP Tax-Aide - Free tax help for tax payers with middle and low income, with special attention to those age 60 and older, will be in Sonora on Saturday, February 21, from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. at the Sutton County Sr. Center. There needs to be at least 12 people sign up, or they can't come. Call ahead and make an appointment, please. 387-3941 or 387-5657.

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

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

**Any 3 Rooms of CARPET Cleaned**



**BLACKMON MOORING** *STEAMATIC*  
 total cleaning & restoration

Over 50 Years of Quality Service

Service from San Angelo Office  
**NO! Trip Charge for Sonora Area**

**3 Rooms ANY SIZE for \$119**

**We Work Late!**  
 Appointments from 8am to 8pm Monday through Saturday

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Schedule appointments online at: [www.blackmonmooring.com](http://www.blackmonmooring.com)  
 Appointments must be scheduled within the next 7 days, service must be performed within 25 days. Residential cleaning service only.  
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Alfredo Hernandez  
 Construction Foreman

John Lopez Jr.  
 Superintendent

Robert Sanchez  
 Roustabout Foreman

Elpidio Torres Jr.  
 Construction Foreman

203 S. Hwy 277 • Sonora, TX 76950

**Dining Out Directory**

Angel Cafe  
 1005 Crockett  
 387-3748

B & H Catering  
 207 W. Chestnut  
 387-2528 or 206-1268

Dairy Queen  
 134 Hwy. 277 N.  
 387-2118

Los Cerritos Resturant  
 605 S. Crockett  
 387-2838

La Mexicana  
 240 N. Hwy 277  
 387-3401

Pizza Hut  
 401 Hwy. 277 N.  
 387-3540

Sutton County Steakhouse  
 1306 N. Service Rd  
 387-3833

Taco Grill  
 232 Hwy. 277 N.  
 387-9127