

THE Devil's River NEWS

50¢

Since 1890

Volume 116 • Issue 48

SONORA, TEXAS

Thursday, November 25, 2004

Mosquito management problems cause buzz at city council meeting

by Storie Sharp

It was a full house at the November 16, 2004, meeting of the City Council, with most visitors present because of interest in an agenda item regarding integrated mosquito management procedures and mosquito spraying record retention.

Sonora resident Nora Dempsey presented the council with an abundance of material she obtained by researching mosquito management. Dempsey started off by stating that everyone was aware that there was a mosquito problem in Sonora and that she felt the infestation of the mosquitoes was because of a lack of mosquito treatment procedures. The first point Dempsey made was the problem of standing water in and around the town. She stated that the citizens of Sonora had been advised time and again to dispose of standing water to cut down on the mosquitoes. Providing pictures from the area around her house, Dempsey questioned how could the citizens be expected to do so if the city wasn't tending to existing problem areas. Dempsey advised that a large hole in the alley across from her home had been left after the removal of a dumpster and that the area had become a constant holding tank of standing water. She said that she had requested on at least two separate instances that the problem be treated, starting as far back as August, and nothing had been done. Dempsey stressed that not only was this eye-sore a breeding ground for mosquitoes, but she believed it could be a potential danger for children in the area.

Dempsey also questioned how such work orders were tended to, displaying disdain over how complaints are jotted down and not officially responded to with any type of signatures or verification of notice.

A lengthy discussion then began on the proper procedure of tending to such work orders, how they were made, who followed up on the status of such orders, providing a paper trail, etc. The council fielded many questions to City Manager Brent Gesch, questioning why the problem had not been tended to and who was responsible.

Gesch explained that such reports were put into the computer system and were tended to on a regular basis. After further debate, it was revealed that Dempsey's initial complaint had been issued on August 25, 2004, and to-date, the problem had not been tended to.

Mayor Lopez expressed discouragement over the issue, asking why and how these problems had come about.

Another thing that Dempsey pointed out was that the Texas Department of Health information stated that not all employees had to be licensed, as long as one employee was certified to spray. Gesch explained that the representative from TDH that he had worked with stated otherwise, that the

license must be "on your person."

After more debate on the topic, Mayor Lopez spoke up to say that since the City of Sonora is charging citizens for mosquito spraying it is important that the situation be handled to the best of their ability so there is not a problem such as this next year.

Sonora resident Jeani Morriss suggested that if only one person has to be licensed, wouldn't it make more sense for the city manager to be so licensed? The council agreed that this would be a viable solution and should be looked in to.

More concerns were shared about the amount of money that was collected compared to what was spent on testing, spraying, and general upkeep of the program.

Mayor Lopez ended this portion of the discussion by stating that it was obvious there were problems that need to be avoided next year, therefore it is important to have a definite plan in place to be in compliance with a mosquito management program.

On a separate agenda item, still on the same topic, Dempsey expressed concern regarding mosquito spraying record retention. Dempsey stressed that there were many discrepancies, irregularities and inconsistencies in the spraying records. She advised that the records did not show accurate measurements, dates or logged hours, therefore how could sufficient maintenance and upkeep be done on the machines. She stated that if she could see these problems by just looking through the records, wouldn't TDH inspectors be able to see these problems and couldn't this cost taxpayers money?

The council advised the city manager to ensure that better records be kept from here on out and that these problems not occur again.

In other business, the council heard a request from landowner Houston Powers to repair the water gap between the old landfill and his farm. The council agreed that to have the Matas, who originally built the water gap, repair the damaged area.

Brenda Sanchez was granted a variance to build an open carport over an existing driveway at 302 W. Plum St. and the Sonora Hotel Management LC was granted a zone change for the property behind the TxDOT yard from an R-1 Residential to an M-1 Light Manufacturing.

Councilman Virgil Poloczek requested clarification of the utility deposit policy. Poloczek stated that a concerned citizen had approached him about having to place a deposit for water on a new house, while still holding an account with the city. The customer stated that they have had an account with the city for 34 years.

Sue Moore, with the City of Sonora, informed the council that the current policy states to

See City Council page 6



Sonora shares Thanksgiving

The community of Sonora had a lot to be thankful for on Sunday, November 21. Guests were treated to a traditional Thanksgiving lunch provided by the Knights of Columbus and The Friends of Historic Sonora Main Street Program. Many volunteers slaved over hot stoves for hours to be ready for their many guests, serving up turkey, dressing, and all the trimmings. Door prizes were awarded to lucky winners, including whole turkeys and many other great gift items. The annual event gives the community a chance to gather for a good meal and great fellowship to kick off the holiday season.

Do drugs, do time

by Storie Sharp

That's what is stitched on the back of the Drug Enforcement Agency cap worn by local Drug Task Force Agent Duwayne Castro, "Do Drugs, Do Time." He and Sonora Police Officer Bryn Humphrey reported this week that patience paid off and an original stop made in April of 2004, has finally resulted in time to be served for seven drug traffickers.

The initial stop was made on April 27, 2004, when Officer Humphrey stopped a Dodge pickup for an expired inspection sticker that led to the discovery of a brick of cocaine. The occupants of the truck, Monica Canchola and David Silva, were detained for possession of an illegal narcotic, and agreed to assist local law enforcement.

What was later to be measured at one kilogram of cocaine, valued at over \$100,000, was allegedly being transported for delivery in Abilene. Another vehicle was stopped in conjunction with the drugs and three more suspects, Jose Martin Ruiz, Oscar Cezar DeLeon and Natanael Montoya were arrested for engaging in organized criminal activity.

Information provided by Canchola and Silva led to the further arrests in San Angelo, Texas.

All the defendants faced trial and were recently sentenced.

Monica Canchola was sentenced on October 29, 2004, to 41 months in a United States prison for Possession with intent to distribute more than 500

grams of cocaine and aiding and abetting. She faces a fine ranging from \$10,000.00 to \$2,000,000.00.

David Silva was sentenced on the same day to 46 months in prison, for the same charges.

DeLeon was sentenced on November 5, 2004, to 57 months, Ruiz received 60 months and Montoya was sentenced to 71 months. All were charged for Possession with intent to distribute more than 500 grams of cocaine and aiding and abetting. Each fine ranges from \$10,000 to \$2,000,000.

Robert Ramirez was sentenced on November 22, for 87 months for the same charges.

Jose Angel Neira was sentenced on October 6 and was sentenced to 240 months as to Count, Conspiracy to distribute and Possess with intent to Distribute more than 5 kilograms of cocaine with enhancement information; and 135 months as to Count 2, Possession with intent to distribute more than 500 grams of cocaine and aiding and abetting with enhancement information, the two terms to run concurrently.

Officer Humphrey and Agent Castro stated that the arrests and sentences would not have been possible without the cooperation of all agencies involved, The Sonora Police Department, Sutton County Sheriff's Department, Texas Department of Public Safety, DEA, Concho Valley Drug Task Force Agency and U.S. Customs.

Sonora wins National Trust for Historic Preservation

The Texas Historical Commission (THC) and the National Trust for Historic Preservation recently recognized Sonora, Texas as one of the 56 National Main Street Cities in Texas. In Texas, there are only 80 cities that have the Texas Main Street Program. Sonora has been a National Main Street city for six years, and has been a graduate city since 1994. Other 2006 National Main Street Cities include: Amarillo, Beaumont, Bowie, Brenham, Canton, Cartage, Celina, Clarksville, Clifton, Comanche, Decatur, Denison, Denton, Del Rio, Eagle Lake, Electra, Elgin, Fairfield, Farmerville, Floresville, Freepport, Garland, Gatesville, Gilmer, Gladewater, Goliad, Gonzales, Georgetown, Grand Saline, Greenville, Hillsboro, La Grange, Luling, Mt. Vernon, Paris, Taylor, Henderson, Irving, Kerrville, Levelland, Lufkin, Marlin,

Mineola, Monahans, Nacogdoches, New Braunfels, Odessa, Pittsburg, Plainview, Quanah, Rusk, San Marcos, Sequin, Tyler, Waxahachie, and Winnsboro.

The cities were honored at the recent Texas Downtown Association/Texas Main Street Conference in Bryan/College Station. The National Trust for Historic Preservation will honor these cities at the 2005 National Town Meeting on Main Street to be held May 8-11, in Baltimore. Cities chosen as National Main Street cities must show above average performance in 10 categories. The selection criteria focus on planning, staff and volunteers, training and program assessment. For additional information, visit the National Trust web site at www.nationaltrust.org or call the Friends of Historic Sonora, Inc./Main Street Program at 325-387-2248.

Friends of Pfc. Folmar say thank-you to Sonora

Dear people of Sonora,

Thanks for sending a copy of your paper with the nice letter. You have every reason to be proud of Shane Folmar. He was an outstanding Marine who I especially tried to emulate. He was so hard-working and resilient; nothing could keep him down. His actions rubbed off on us, and for that, made our squad and platoon better. We would also not be as close of a team within our squad if it weren't for Pfc. Folmar. We wish we could of made it to his memorial to remember him with you. Even though we are across the world right now, we are with you in spirit. Besides being a good Marine, he was a good person too, which I'm sure you know as well. The Marine Corps and Sonora have experienced quite a loss due to his passing but are no doubt better for his legacy and what he did, the people he influenced, and the lives he enriched. I feel honored to have served with him and privileged to have been his friend. I will never forget he gave his life for us and for our country and will miss him dearly for the rest of my life. Thank you for honoring him, Sonora. The values you possess help make our country the best and will help ensure our freedom and way of life. I would like to send my deepest condolences to his family and friends.

Sincerely,
LCpl Bowron, Peter
Peter Bowron

To the people of Sonora,

Hi! I know you probably don't know me, but I am a Marine of Fox 2/5 1st Platoon. I was a very good friend of Shane Folmar, in fact we were probably best friends. It's been that way ever since boot camp. I am also a resident of Texas, from the Northeast, a place called Sulphur Springs. Me and Shane were always together, back in the States and in this country. In fact, the night before his tragedy, me and him was up until 4:00 a.m. playing poker and just talking. We talked all the time, about friends, family, what we were gonna do after the Corp., etc. We knew everything about one another. He was as good of friend that anyone could ask for. It's still weird because back in Cal. he would always crash in my room, and even here he slept in the bed next to me. Now I know that when I wake up he's not going to be there. There's not a day that goes by that I don't think of him. I have his picture hanging up on the wall above my bed, so I know he's always there.

I'm not sure how many of the platoon is writing, but I know I speak for all of us when I say THANKS for everything. The newspapers, cards, pictures, all the stuff ya'll are sending, just everything. It's muchly appreciated.

Whenever we get back, me, another Marine and his recruiter will be visiting Sonora to visit Shane's grave, his family and friends. We'll have pictures and if anyone wants to talk I would love to talk, especially to the ones that knew him the most.

Thanks for all the Blessings.
Thanks, LCpl Jose Osornio

The Frog Prince

Missoula Children's Theatre will have tryouts for all school age children to be a part of their production, **The Frog Prince**, on December 6, 2004. Practices will be held all week, with presentations on December 11, 2004 at 3:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. For more information call Ann Kay at the Friends of Historic Sonora Main Street Office, 387-2248.

Zaragoza's Meat Market is ready to help with dinner



If you think you've had enough turkey this week, let Zaragoza's Meat Market help you with something different. Now open at 109 W. Main Street, (1/2 block down from the Post Office), Zaragoza's offers custom cuts of meat with choices of T-Bones, Rib-eyes, Club Steaks, 7-Steaks, Center Cut pork chops, pork ribs, whole and half chickens and more. They also offer ground beef, homemade chorizo, menudo, carrachera, costillas and fajitas. The Sonora Chamber of Commerce and hungry friends and family welcomed the Zaragoza family with a special Ribbon Cutting on Thursday, November 18, 2004. Fresh vegetables are also available at Zaragoza's, so stop by today or give them a call at 387-6529 to place your order.

Don't be a turkey - Drive safely

During the Thanksgiving holiday, Highway Patrol troopers and other Texas law enforcement agencies will target speeders, drunk drivers, seat belt violators and aggressive drivers. Texas DPS is participating in the "Click It or Ticket Texas" campaign, which is aimed at increasing and enforcing seat belt and child seat usage. This year's campaign focuses on increasing seat belt use among pickup drivers and passengers and is called "Buckle Up in Your Truck." DPS has a zero tolerance policy toward seat belt violations, and fines range up to \$200, plus court costs.

Avoid bad driving habits that lead to road rage, such as: Not using turn signals, Driving in the passing lane, Tailgating, Flashing lights or honking, Using high beams in traffic, Not allowing adequate time for a given trip.

Traffic stop leads to drug arrest



Texas Department of Public Safety Trooper Earlie Williams was on patrol on November 18, 2004, when a routine traffic violation led to the arrest of Angellia H. Rabon of Sonora. The suspect displayed criminal indicators which led to the search of the vehicle she was driving. The search resulted in the discovery of 10 hypodermic needles and seven baggies of "ice" (Methamphetamines). Rabon was charged with Possession of Controlled Substance with Intent to Distribute and transferred to the Sutton County Jail. A passenger with Rabon was released to friends and the vehicle was impounded.

**Lighthouse
Community Church**
A Love Relationship
that is real, personal and practical
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 Rev. Milton Black 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. Beverley Parsons, 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. Tom Baden 417 E. 2nd St. 387-5366	
LA IGLESIA HISPANA UNIDA DEL NOMBRE DE JESUS, INC. Pastor Felipe Martinez 807 Orient	

Brought to you by:
Kerbow Funeral Home
387-2266

Obituary

Charles Quincy Adams
April 3, 1929 - November 2, 2004

Charles was born in a dugout in Channing, Texas, to Willie Gertrude Adams and Ernest Talmadge Andrews from London, Texas. He traveled from Channing with his parents by wagon and team to the Sonora area in 1934, where they lived in tents for two years before settling into 704 South Tayloe Street.



Charles grew up around Sonora, especially on the North Llano River, working for local ranchers gathering wool, rounding up livestock, and building concrete water tanks and cattle guards around Sutton County.

At age 13, Charles began work with Frank Robinson's Drilling Company. He worked with a crew on a failing rig to core drill for natural gas in Sutton County for Pure Oil Company. He continued to work with Frank Robinson on core drills in the Panhandle and arrived in the Monahans, Texas, area in 1947. He worked many years with Forest Oil Company and later with Sun Oil Company. He retired to work as a drilling consultant throughout Texas, Colorado, and Kansas in the 1980's while living in Odessa.

Charles' wife, Laura, passed away in March of 2000, and Charles subsequently spent more time on the North Llano River near Camp Allison. He truly enjoyed his time there, as

well as his work with the Sonora Historical Society.

Mr. Andrews was preceded in death by his parents, his siblings, and his step-daughter, Sandy Sue James.

He is survived by his daughter, Barbra Graham and her husband, Stanley Graham, of Seguin, Texas; his step-son, Tom Donaldson of New York, New York; his grandchildren, Melanie Huckaby of Seguin, Texas, and Mike James of McKinney, Texas; and his great-grandson, Deen Huckaby of Seguin, Texas.

Graveside services were held November 6, 2004, at the Cedar Hill Cemetery in Roosevelt, Texas, with Reverend Clyde Dukes officiating. Arrangements were in the care of Kerbow Funeral Home of Sonora. Expressions of sympathy may be made to the Sutton County Historical Society and Eaton Hill Wildlife

Cards of Thanks


Just a note of thanks to the teachers who stand at the curb side in the morning at the elementary building and help the small children get out of their parent's cars and off through the right door. It is most reassuring to know my child is being watched and guided through the school maze in the mornings. Hats off to you ladies for all the great work you do.

Joan Hudson

A big Thank-You goes out to the Custodial Staff of Elementary (Ray, Alma and Juan) who work very hard; and the aids who helped make the Thanksgiving Luncheon a big success. Without you NOTHING would be possible!!!

Rachel

**Our Lady of Guadalupe
Dia De La Guadalupana**
Sunday, December 12, 2004
St. Ann's Catholic Church • 311 W. Plum St.
Sonora, Texas
9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Breakfast
12 to 2:00 p.m. Lunch
1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Booths, Mariachi and D.J.
5:30 Play presented by 2nd grade class!
Come join us for the celebration!!!
Proceeds to benefit St. Ann's Building Fund


**Sonora FFA
Annual Fundraiser**
The Sonora FFA is selling meat and fruit again this year as their fundraiser.
**Christmas meat and fruit orders
are due November 29th**
Delivery will be December 7th
**Please contact an FFA Member
or call Michael Kissire at Sonora High
School at 387-6533**

**Texas Tales Told By
TUMBLEWEED SMITH**

Mine Eyes have seen the center stripe



Tumbleweed Smith

A few weeks ago I was driving on the interstate and thought a slow car was ahead of me, so I pulled over into the passing lane. When I got up to where I thought the car should be, it turned out to be a dark repair patch on the highway. Right then I decided it's time to look into getting some eyeglasses.

I've never worn glasses except to read. Once I went to an optometrist who prescribed some for me, but I never wore them, thinking my eyes were plenty good without them. This time, though, I realized I needed them. I went to see my friendly optometrist and he sat me down in the examining chair. He handed me something that resembled a big plastic spoon. "Cover your left eye, Tumbleweed," he said, "and read me the letters you see." The entire chart was fuzzy. I couldn't even see the big E at the top. He shut down the projector and turned on the light. "You've got cataracts," he said. "And you need to do something about them if you want to improve your vision." I certainly did. Not even knowing what cataracts were, I contacted an ophthalmologist and made an appointment. Before I saw the doctor, some aides came by, put drops in my eyes and took a pressure reading. The doctor shined a very bright light into my eyes and told me I had

cataracts in both eyes. They were more prevalent in my right eye, but I also had some in my left one.


He asked me when could I come in for surgery. I told him the following Tuesday would be fine. At the surgery center, I took off my shoes and shirt, put on one of those nifty hospital smocks open in back, covered my head with something that looks like a painter's beret and put some paper shoes over my feet. I was awake the whole time. The operation took about fifteen minutes. The surgery took place about 9 o'clock in the morning. I was out by ten and was able to drive to a noon meeting. I went back to see him a few days later and he said I was doing fine, that eventually we should do the other eye. I said how about next week.

It is now a few hours after the second surgery. This one was not as easy as the first. It was a little painful and the doctor kept telling me I was not looking in the right direction, that my eyeball was bobbing up and down like a cork and my head was moving around like a balloon. I had some juice and coffee and began to feel better.

Right now my left eye is closed with a patch over it. I'll take it off tomorrow. I am expecting the result in the left eye to be the same as it was for the right one.

With it, I can read the eye chart well (at least half a dozen lines down) and I am quite able to distinguish between highway pavement and

School Lunch Menu • Nov. 29 - Dec. 3, 2004

Breakfast	
Mon. - French toast sticks, syrup, assorted juice.	
Tues. - Pancakes, syrup, assorted juice.	
Wed. - Toast with jelly, apple juice.	
Thurs. - Hot oatmeal, assorted juice.	
Fri. - Biscuit with gravy, sausage patty, assorted juice.	
Milk and cereal offered with all breakfasts.	
Lunch	
Mon. - Pepperoni pizza, kernel corn, pasta salad, rosy applesauce.	
Tues. - Steakfingers, gravy, potato wedges, sliced pears, hot roll.	
Wed. - Beef nachos, cheese, salad, pinto beans, tropical pears.	
Thurs. - Grilled cheese sandwich, carrot sticks, chicken noodle soup, Jell-O with fruit.	
Fri. - Hamburgers, lettuce, tomatoes, pickles, fries, banana pudding with topping.	

Senior Center News
Nov. 29 - Bingo!
Dec. 1 - Holiday crafts after lunch.
Dec. 2 - SCP to San Angelo! 9:00 a.m.

Senior Center Menu
Nov. 29 - Steak fingers with gravy, baked potatoes, mixed vegetables, biscuit, sliced tomatoes, hash cake, milk.
Nov. 30 - Pork chops with gravy, diced potatoes, sliced carrots, tossed salad, peach cobbler, milk.
Dec. 1 - Salisbury steak with gravy, blackeyed peas, broccoli with cheese, roll, Jell-O with fruit, milk.
Dec. 2 - Vermacelli with beef, pinto beans, tossed salad, tortillas, mixed fruit cup, milk.
Dec. 3 - Baked ham, green beans, sweet potatoes, juice, rolls, tossed salad, cookies, milk.

NEW HOURS: Mon. - Fri 7:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.
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.

THE DEVIL'S RIVER NEWS
USPS (155-920)
every Thursday at 228 East Main Street Sonora, Texas 76950
Phone: (325) 387-2507 FAX (325) 387-5691
Periodical postage paid at Sonora, Texas
Storie Sharp, Publishing Editor
Erica Morriss, Advertising • Danni Price, Financial
Guest Columnist: Jo-Ann Palmer
Email: General Information: editor@sonoratx.net
Advertising: sales@sonoratx.net, Financial: danni@sonoratx.net,
Owner: Cam Longley Campbell.
\$20 per year in county • Seniors \$18.00 per year (in & out of county)
\$25 per year out of county
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**Copy and Ad deadline
Monday, 5:00 p.m.**
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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

Dec. 3 "The More the Merrier" Christmas Bazaar 9:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. • Civic Center	Dec. 5 S.C.H.F. Christmas Tour of Homes 3:00 - 6:00 p.m.
Al-Anon Family Meetings Every Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. • Hospital Dining Room Call 387-2521 ext. 170	Dec. 21 City Council Meeting 2:00 p.m. • City Hall
The Community Calendar  P.O. BOX 718 - SONORA, TEXAS 76950 (915) 387-0861 Member FDIC	Bronco Booster Meetings Every Monday at 6:30 p.m. SHS Room #210
	<i>is made possible by:</i>  Member FDIC 207 N Hwy 277 N • 387-2593

Letters To The Editor Policy
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Ask the Historical Society

by Jo-Ann E. Palmer, Secretary

Q. Who was Sutton County named for?

A. John Schuyler Sutton (ca. 1822-1862) Texas revolutionary, Texas Ranger and Confederate Army officer, was born in New York and moved to Texas in 1836. The date of his birth cannot now be established, but Theophilus Noel, a private in his regiment and the unofficial historian of the old Sibley Brigade, estimated Sutton's age at about forty-five in 1862. Noel said he was "a noble looking man-dark, curly hair, dark complexion, and a clear, steady eye, indicative of the firm and manly spirit that dwelt within." Sutton served as a second lieutenant in George T. Howard's Company D of Col. Edward Burleson's First Infantry Regiment until transferred on October 12, 1839, to the Frontier Regiment of the Army of the Republic of Texas, with which he took part in the battle of the Nueces in July 1839. In 1840 he was Second Lieutenant of Capt. James B. P. January's Company F of Burleson's regiment, which was in service on the Neches River.

After promotion to First Lieutenant Sutton, served in Capt. M. B. Skerrett's Company H and in March 1841 was stationed in Austin. Sutton was Captain of "Company A," one of six paramilitary organization which accompanied the Texas Santa Fe Expedition of 1841. He was captured and incarcerated at Perote Prison, released on June 14, 1842, and returned to San Antonio in time to join Alexander Somervell's expedition to the Rio Grande; Sutton returned to Texas with Somervell, thus avoiding the Mier expedition.

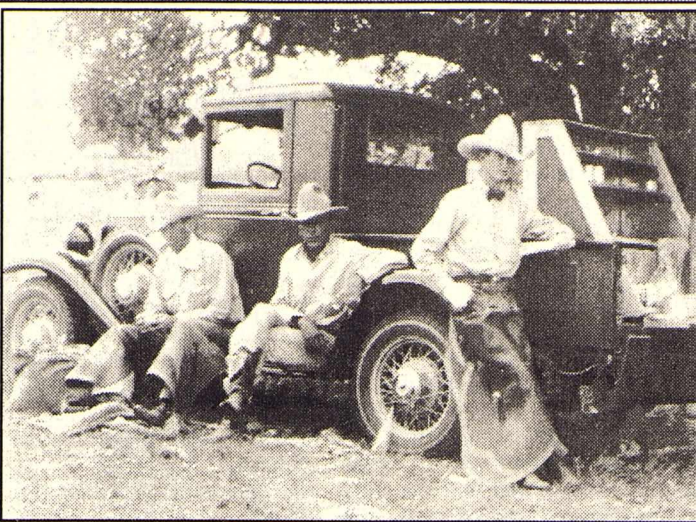
From at least May 1, 1843, through April 30, 1845, Sutton was armorer of the San Antonio Arsenal, charged with securing and keeping in repair arms at that post. From the time he left that job until September 13, 1845, he commanded a volunteer artillery company in San Antonio. During the Mexican War he served first as a private in Benjamin McCulloch's Company A of Col. John C. Hays's First Regiment, Texas Mounted Rifles, which took part in the storming of Monterrey. Sutton was mustered out on September 30, 1846, and later re-enlisted in Capt. G. M.

Armstrong's Company G of Hays's Regiment for Gen. Winfield Scott's Mexico City campaign. He enlisted as a private on May 10, 1847, and was promoted to second corporal on January 12, 1848, when his older brother, Cpl. Jesse Sutton, was granted a disability discharge. A third brother, eighteen-year-old Charles F. Sutton, died in Mexico City in February of 1848.

In 1850 Sutton followed Hays to the California gold fields. He subsequently returned to Texas and settled in Jackson County, briefly commanded a company of Texas Rangers, and thereafter, according to Noel, "sought a few years of quiet and pleasure in the bays of Lavaca, Matagorda, Espiritu Santo, Aransas and Corpus Christi," where he "was enjoying the liberty for which he had braved death" when the Civil War broke out.

On October 9, 1861, "although of a retiring and modest disposition," Sutton "soon gained the confidence and esteem of his companions," according to Noel, and was appointed Lieutenant Colonel of Col. William Steele's Seventh Texas Cavalry of Henry H. Sibley's Brigade. On December 1, 1861, he led a battalion of the regiment out of San Antonio and towards New Mexico. After rendezvousing with the rest of Sibley's command, Sutton played a conspicuous role in the Confederate attack on Fort Craig, New Mexico, where he rallied his men with the cry, "Texans, think of your rights and remember the honor of Texas." On February 21, 1862, Sutton was mortally wounded, his leg shattered by grapeshot, while leading a mounted charge on a federal battery at the battle of Valverde. Although shot from his horse, he raised himself on one elbow and motioned his men forward, refusing aid until the enemy guns were taken. When a surgeon informed him that his life could be saved only if his leg was amputated, he replied that he did "not intend to hobble around the balance of his days on one leg, and that when his leg went he would go with it." He died the following day, on February 22, 1862, and was buried without ceremony on the battlefield. He was succeeded in command by Powhatan Jordan.

This story was written by Thomas W. Cutler from information



They didn't call it a tailgate party; just gatherin' around the chuck wagon on the Selman place.

obtained in the following: Zachary T. Fulmore, History and Geography of Texas As Told in County Names (Austin: Steck, 1915; facsimile, 1935). Theophilus Noel, Campaign from Santa Fe to the Mississippi (Shreveport, Louisiana, 1865; rpt., Houston: Stagecoach Press, 1961). Charles D. Spurlin, comp., Texas Veterans in the Mexican War; Muster Rolls of Texas Military Units (Victoria, Texas, 1984).

A framed copy of this story was presented to the society by Barbara Shurley Madrid and now hangs in our offices. We would like to extend our sincere appreciation also for her donation of a keypad, mouse, monitor, CPU, speakers, etc. for the society offices. We can now have two people working at compiling articles on the history of our county and not have to wait for a turn on the computer. This is a wonderful addition to the office/archival storage area. Thank you so very much Barbara!

Now if someone would donate another printer, preferable a good Hewlett Packard or comparable model, we could have complete separate stations for volunteers to do their work and not have to copy to discs and wait to use our one printer. Rosie Jones gave us an old wrought iron table and chairs set that we are working on refinishing and going to put in the kitchen area to use for breaks. Sometimes we have as many as 6 people working in the office and we do not allow anyone to have coffee, soda, tea or food anywhere near the archival storage papers or newspapers. This

will give us our needed coffee break area.

We had a lot of rentals in November and everyone cleaned up so beautifully we could hardly tell anyone had been in the building. We would like to thank our renters for being so thoughtful.

The Christmas Tree is up in the Depot and we will be doing more decorations on the grounds if someone would donate a little money to help us buy new lights. We have to buy our own lights and the ones on the depot are beyond repair. Please help us make our little part of the downtown area beautiful for our visitors to enjoy again this year. We wish someone would donate a large manger scene to be displayed on the small slab behind the amphitheater. It would be so pretty there and since the society owns the property there would be no problem with the laws on displaying of religious scenes on property that is funded by tax payers money.

Our offices will be closed for the Thanksgiving holiday. We will reopen on December 3rd. If you have any questions you can call me at home at 387-2855, regarding rentals or questions for the column. I will be recovering at home from back surgery and Rick will handle getting the keys to people that are renting, picking up mail and running errands for the society. Just give us a call any days but the 23rd, 26th and 27th of November and he will be glad to help you.

We hope you all have a wonderful and safe Thanksgiving Holiday!

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Sutton County Civic Center
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Main Street Traffic

Sutton County Christmas ornaments now available

by Ann Kay, Friends of Historic Sonora Main Street Program Manager

Friends of Historic Sonora Main Street Program has received the NEW collectable Christmas Ornaments for 2004, featuring the Lillian M. Hudspeth Hospital. We have also reordered the 2001 Sutton County Courthouse Christmas Ornaments. The Sonora Woman's Club Sutton County Library Christmas Ornaments are also available at the FHSMS office. These 24K gold finish brass ornaments are collector's items and are available for \$10.00. Call the FHSMS Office to order yours today. There are still ornaments available from previous years, the 2001 Sutton County Courthouse, 2002 Old Rock School House, 2003 Windmill and Turkey and the new ones. These Christmas ornaments are wonderful gifts for your loved ones. We appreciate your business and your support of the Friends of Historic Sonora Main Street Program. Thanks to the KHOS Radio and The Devil's River News for their support of the Main Street Projects.

Mailing packages to Iraq?

Important! If you are sending packages to our military personnel in Iraq, be sure that they are addressed to a specific person and the return address is from an individual with a single address (example: Storie Sharp, 228 E. Main, Sonora, Texas 76950). Reportedly, due to an influx of packages being sent for the holidays, packages from groups or organizations may be held at a central location and not delivered to the troop or platoon of your choice, if at all. For more information or more details please contact your local post office or U.S.O office.

Chamber Chatter

Sonora has a lot to be thankful for



by Ruthie Bounds, Chamber of Commerce Executive Director

This is a special week. This is the week that we all take time to give thanks for our many blessings. At least that is what we should be doing, not just eating turkey. I want to take this time to thank some people that maybe I have and maybe I haven't thanked before. Thanks to Kim Ellison at the Best Western Sonora Inn for providing a room for Lennie while he was comprising our Chamber book; to Libb & Johnny at WJ Welding for helping with our parking rail out back; to Paul Ramsdell at Days Inn Devil's River for the room during Sutton County Days, and to the City of Sonora and the County of Sutton for working with us on so many events. There are so many wonderful volunteers who have helped during the course of the year, with The "More the Merrier" Christmas Bazaar, the Santa Bucks Auction, the Daddy Daughter Date Nite, the Cinco de Mayo Celebration, the West Texas Championship Cook-Off, Sutton County Days & the Sonora Outlaw Pro Rodeo, that I am afraid to try to name them all for fear of leaving someone out. It takes a lot of volunteers to put on these events, and so many people unselfishly give of their time and talents to serve on these committees and keep these wonderful events going each year. I do want to express my gratitude to our wonderful Sonora Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors and their families: Storie Sharp, Marla Percifull, Juanita Estrada, JoAnn Jones, John Jones, Mike Samuels, Ben Solis, Becky Allison, Susan Hall, Lisa

Seaton, Doug Huddleston, & Jody Luttrell. These volunteers and their families have sacrificed many hours for the community of Sonora. I also want to take the time to thank Donna Garrett, Michelle Lipham, and Allyse Edmondson; these are the ladies that have to put up with me at the Sonora Chamber of Commerce Office & Welcome Center. The promotions and events that we help to put on every year don't happen by accident, they require planning and hard work. And I am extremely proud of all of our events, and know that they are only possible because we have such great volunteers.

We have two events coming up in the next few weeks: "The More the Merrier" Christmas Bazaar on Friday, December 3rd, and the "Santa Bucks Auction" on Thursday, December 16th. Both of these events will take place at the Sutton County Civic Center. "The More the Merrier" is a great old fashioned Christmas Bazaar with shopping, food, bake sales, gift wrapping, and Christmas decorations. There will also be a chance to have your child's picture taken with Santa from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. The "Santa Bucks Auction" will begin at 6:00 p.m. with all sorts of wonderful gifts to bid on, in the silent auction and the live auction. We are thankful that we live in a country where we can have all of these fun events.

My most important thought this week while remembering those whom we are thankful for is the heroic men and women who serve in our military and their families. I know that I speak for many of us when I say that the sacrifice that our military men and women and their families make for all of us is totally awesome. Thank you

Christmas Tour of Homes
December 5
3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Visit the Homes of Mr. & Mrs. Mike Hobbs,
Mr. Larry Finkler and
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Sutton County Health Foundation
Refreshments will be served.
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**2004-2005 Lady Broncos
 Basketball Schedule**

Nov. 29
 Reagan County • Here • 6:30 p.m. • JVB
 Nov. 30
 Christoval • Here • 5:00/6:30 • JVA,V
 Dec. 2,3,4
 Ballinger Tournament • There TBA • V

COLT BASKETBALL

Nov. 29
 Reagan Co. • Girls • Here
 Boys • There
 7th grade • 5:00 p.m./8th grade 6:15 (approx.)

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Letters to the Editor

**Concerned citizens speak out
 about water rate increase**

Dear Mayor Lopez,

This letter is in regard to the current increase in the city's water rates. Shortly after purchasing our house from the City of Sonora, the city offered to change the size of the water meter at no cost to us due to its large size. Upon questioning the staff at City Hall, I was advised to keep the current meter in place due to our location as lack of water pressure could be a problem. Because of this, I did not request a smaller meter.

Receiving my water bill after the rate hike was shocking. My water bill has more than doubled. Upon phoning City Hall to question the charges, I learned that my meter size is 1 1/2 inches. I was under the impression that it was only 1 inch. I also was told that it would cost \$450.00 to have my meter changed and possibly the added cost of a plumber if the city workers could not successfully complete the job.

I believe the added charges to my bill are abhorrent and excessive, as I had no control over the size of the meter originally installed. The use of water by this household had significantly decreased since the summer, but I am being charged over twice as much. At this point, I can neither afford to pay my water bill nor the cost of a new meter.

Considering the circumstances, I would like the council to review my situation. Hopefully, we can resolve this problem in a way that is workable and fair for everyone involved.

Sincerely,

Dear Editor,

I attended the October 2004, City Council meeting concerning the new water rates effective November 1, 2004. My opinion was that the increase was not a reasonable amount and the new meter charges were outrageous. I also asked several questions concerning the increase, including "When a utility company or contractor damages or breaks a city water line, does the city charge the homeowner to recover the lost revenue?"

I was told no.

That, of course, needs to be changed. The city needs to recover all revenues possible and not burden the citizens more by increasing the water rates.

In looking at my water bill dated 10/01/2004 to 11/01/2004, I noticed that everybody was charged the new water rate which was supposed to go into effect November 1, 2004. If the water bill had a billing date of 10/01/2004 to 10/31/2004, the old rate would have been charged. I talked to Mr. Gesch about this problem and asked him to please correct everyone's water bill for October usage which was billed in November 2004.

I appreciated Julia Hines' letter to the editor very much and I urge every citizen in Sonora to attend the December 21, 2004, City Council meeting. Together we can make changes.

Sincerely,

Brigitte R. Rogers

Dear Editor,

This family of two also received our water billing of \$181.84 for this month. I just focused on the total, but immediately began to take notice of all the charges and sure enough the GRAND total was \$181.84. This was a 100% increase!

I called my city councilman and to this date he has been unable to visit with me to give me some explanation. We have both left recorded messages.

Following are a few questions I would like answered:

1. Total number of customers?
2. How many 3/4" meters?
3. How many 1" meters?
4. How many 1 1/2" meters?
5. How many others?
6. What are the rates for out-of-city customers?
7. Are the meters accurate and how often do they need servicing?

I would also like to know if the businesses which use larger amounts of water than households were able to budget this increase? Think about our school, hospital, restaurants, motels, and car washes. All of these probably must raise prices or even raise taxes.

I have been told by our city manager that I can pay \$450.00 for a new 3/4" meter (I now have a 1 1/2" meter).

He explained that the cost of new meters had gone up 60%. If I recall correctly, the cost of new meters which we discussed a couple of years ago was \$450.00. Is that new math or WHAT? I was taught that 60% of \$450.00 was \$270.00 I asked him if he would guarantee me the same pressure if I purchased a 3/4" meter. I received no answer.

As some people already know, I have lived in this neighborhood over 30 years. Over these years I have begged for water pressure. Sometimes I just pleaded for water. I have made many calls over the years. How will going to a 3/4" meter effect my water?

I ask you to think of all the ramifications. Why would new families or businesses want to move to Sonora if they know about our water situation?

If you would like answers to all or some these questions, please join me at the regular City Council meeting on December 21, 2004 at 2:00 p.m. at City Hall.

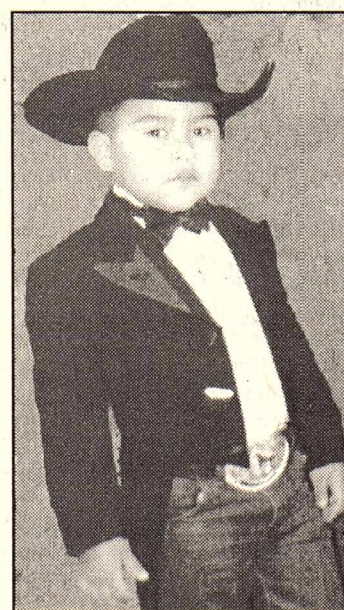
Joan Cusenbary

**Little Mr. Sutton County encourages
 others to share this holiday season**

'Tis the season for thanksgiving and sharing. That is what Little Mr. Sutton County Alex Castilleja is hoping everyone will remember this holiday season. Alex and his family, Elsa and Milton, are asking for your assistance in helping out their special friend Zachary Gomez.

Zachary Gomez is a 14 year old young man who is working to collect toys, blankets, coats, etc., or monetary donations for the ICD Bridges Family Shelters. This is the fifth year that Zachary has volunteered on his own to raise funds for a place that today only seems like a dream to him, a place where not too long ago it provided a safe haven for his mom and little brother, Xavier. That place is a Family Shelter, a place where not only do we see the women who are victims of domestic violence, but also the children involved in each situation. That's where Zachary comes into play, and where Alex wants to help. Raising funds is a way for Zachary to overcome his childhood experience of living in a shelter. Alex and his family want to help because they are blessed with all that they have been given and want to be able to share those blessings with others.

The NewBridge Family Shelter focuses its efforts on providing housing and services to victims of domestic violence



Alex Castilleja

with the objective of protecting victims from further abuse, and serving as the first milestone in the beginning of victims' adventures into safe and productive lives. Since its inception in 1979, NewBridge has provided services and safe haven for over 10,000 individuals.

If you would like to help Zachary and Alex in their quest to help the NewBridge Family Shelter that caters to this area, including Sutton County, donations can be dropped off at 1201 Savell St. If you have any questions or would like more information call Elsa Castilleja at (325)450-8743.

**Proud parents reflect on
 7th grade Colts season**

As our football season has come to an end and I look back, it only takes a few words to sum up our 7th grade team. Amazing..... Extremely talented..... And I couldn't be more proud.

We all want to believe that our children are full of athletic ability, but, I think I can safely say that I wasn't the only parent blown away by the talent the 7th grade boys showed.

Our quarterback, Kris Aquero, was all over the field. Not only was he behind the ball, many times he was on the receiving end of the ball and he ran touchdown after touchdown. He would run up out of nowhere and make some unbelievable tackles. On more than one occasion we watched as

Aguero came busting out of a crowd of opponents after we thought he was down for the count and then continue on to score for the Colts. I believe one of the highlights of the Colt's season was during the Sonora vs Mason game. Mason was attempting to pass for a two-point conversion when Aguero intercepted the ball in the Mason end zone and ran the ball for more than 100 yards to score for the Colts... And where you saw Aguero, Santana was always near by. Harvey always seemed to be in the right place at the right time.

Some of those hand-offs between Aguero and Santana were so smooth even the fans would lose sight of who actually had the ball. Santana grew faster and bolder with each game. We saw Santana make some unexpected breaks and run like crazy. He went on to score a touchdown for the Colts. Santana also played strong arm safety. We watched as Santana became more and more aggressive and literally threw some of his opponents to the ground.

Our other quarterback, Caleb Gonzales did an awesome job as well. He ran some great plays and made some interceptions regaining control of the ball for the Colts. Gonzales was responsible for scoring a number of touchdowns for the Colts. We saw him time and again bringing down the opponents with some awesome tackles.

Chacho Mesa proved himself time and again by being on the receiving end of Gonzales' straight shot passes. Mesa would be right on, catch the ball and run, gaining yardage for the Colts. Mesa was also found in the midst of his fair share of tackles.

And what can we say about Will Anderson. He stood out as much as his bright red Nikes... We found Will running the ball, gaining yards for the Colts. And we watched as Anderson brought his opponents to their knees with some awesome tackles.

Then there was "The Neff." Dustin Neff, our running back, made some incredible plays. Being on the receiving end of the ball, Neff ran and gained lots of yardage for the Colts, often running to the tune of six points. Neff didn't shy away from his share of tackles during the season either.

But where would our quarterbacks be without a strong front line, including a great center? That's just what Michael Stephens was. Not only did Stephens do a great job as center, but he was also responsible for the kickoff signaling the beginning of the game and perhaps even the second half of the game. But Stephens didn't stop there; he was found responsible for some pretty impressive tackles himself. And to further go on about the front linemen, how about that Tyler Creek and Cash Jennings? (I've frequently heard them referred to as "The Bash Brothers," now they are more commonly referred to as "The Pork Chop Pair"). I don't know about you, but I wouldn't want to be the one having to go face to face with either of them. They defi-

nately dished out more than their share of pain. Creek and Jennings both did an incredible job of blocking for our quarterbacks. Tyler Creek intercepted a pass during the Junction game and gained control of the ball for the Colts. Jennings had a brief moment of glory at the end of the Mason game when he picked up and ran the ball back for the Colts. These two boys gave new meaning to the phrase "Stopped dead in your tracks" with some of the tackles they made.

In the Sonora vs Grape Creek game, we got to see Manuel Flores shine as he pushed back three opponents and then went on to recover the ball for the Colts.

Another of our linemen, Paul Faz, started the year playing tight end. He was then moved to right tackle on offense where he made some tremendous blocks for our quarterbacks. Faz also played defensive end where he made some really good tackles and shared a little dirt with our opponents.

Then we had players like Tommy Gonzales and Zoilo Rodriguez who went out there and took on players twice their size. No fear.... Now boys, that's heart!

I realize that there are a number of players who weren't individually recognized. I want you to know that the team wouldn't be what they are without you. The linebackers, linemen, receivers, tight ends and ends. It took each one of you being exactly who you are and doing just what you did to make this team a winner.

Thank you coaches for recognizing our young men's abilities and showing them how to make the most of those abilities. You did an awesome job coaching our boys. There were a couple of these games that were really trying; I was amazed and impressed with your ability to remain calm. By showing your good sportsmanship, you have taught our boys to play with good sportsmanship.

Cheerleaders - football wouldn't be the same without you. You did a great job. Keep the team spirit going. Thank you to Mr. Berry for being such a great supporter of our Middle School boys. Our dedication to our youth goes beyond your duties as a principal. Parents and fans, you play a very important role in encouraging our kids. Thank you for all of your support.

A special thank you to Paul Stephens for taking it upon yourself to announce the last couple of games. It was very much appreciated. As were your attempts to get the fans and parents more involved in the cheering department. Your recognition of the cheerleaders was commendable. I'm sure they appreciated being acknowledged for a job well done. Your light sense of humor was welcomed. I know I certainly hope that you will be available for next year's games.

In closing, our 7th grade boys were victorious seven times out of their eight district ball games losing only to the Eldorado Eagles. They played one non-district game against Eldorado in which the Eagles were victorious. All-in-all our 7th grade boys had an awesome first season. We couldn't be more proud for them. I am eagerly awaiting next year's football season when our boys return as 8th grade players. I'm sure the excitement will only grow, as will our boys and their talents. Go Colts!!

Kelly Aguero.

The scores for the season were as follows:

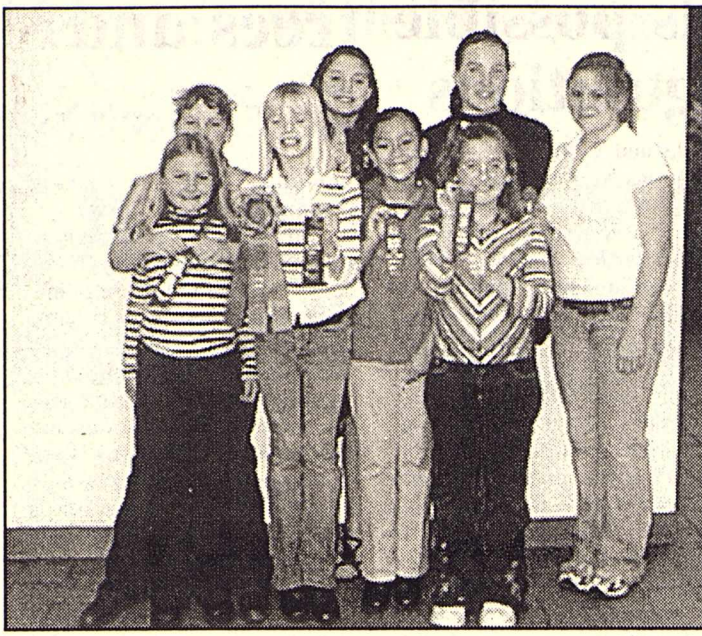
Sonora 36	Coleman 0
Sonora 0	Eldorado 20
Sonora 18	Reagan Co 0
Sonora 6	Eldorado 18
Sonora 26	Ozona 6
Sonora 24	Mason 12
Sonora 16	Wall 0
Sonora 48	Grape Creek 6
Sonora 36	Junction 8

Sutton County 4-H Holds Annual Food Show

by Kelly Thorp, Sutton County Extension Agent - Home Economics

The Sutton County 4-H Food Show was held on Monday, November 15, 2004, at the Civic Center. Although the group was small in numbers, participants got the opportunity to prepare for district contest held in December in San Marcos. The group entered recipes in the following categories: main dish, breads and cereal, fruit and vegetables, and nutritious snacks. Participants were judged on their knowledge of foods and nutrition, preparation, menu planning, food safety, and the food guide pyramid.

The following are the group that will represent Sutton County at the District Food Show: Front row (L to R) Macie Friess, Morgan Vyvlecka, Adriana Faz, Marci Parks, Back Row: Stella



Ingham, Alexis Galindo, Shainah Johnson, and Samantha Adkins. being the 4-H Foods Coordinator and leader this year. Best of luck at district contest, girls!

A very special thank you goes out to Lisa Galindo for

Holiday Food Safety - Watch Those Buffet Foods

submitted by Kelly Thorp, Sutton County Extension Agent - Home Economics

Celebrating with food and fun is a way many folks enjoy spending the holiday season. Of course, a popular way to have a party occasion is to invite friends and family to a snacking buffet of holiday perfection.

However, the type of food service where foods are left out for long periods of time leaves the door open for uninvited guests such as foodborne illness bacteria that can reside in the buffet foods.

Kelly L. Thorp, with Texas Cooperative Extension offers the following tips for keeping food safe during holiday events.

If you are cooking foods ahead of time for the entertaining event, be sure to cook foods thoroughly to a proper temperature.

To store for later reheating, divide cooked foods into smaller portions or pieces and place in shallow containers to store in the refrigerator or freezer promptly. This means planning ahead of time for adequate refrigerator or freezer storage room.

Reheat foods to be served hot to 165 degrees F.

Do not use warming trays, slow cookers or chafing dishes to reheat food. Do this in traditional cooking equipment to assure that foods reach 165 degrees quickly. Then place in the warming devices on the buffet. Use a food thermometer to check internal temperature of reheated foods such as casseroles, dips, stews, etc to be sure that the warming devices are keeping them at 140 degrees F. If not, do not leave foods out for more than 2 hours even in the warming devices.

Foods to be kept cold, such as meat, seafood, egg or dairy spreads, dips, or salads should be kept below 40 degrees F. in adequate safe storage containers. One of the best ways to serve cold foods on a buffet safely is to use a serving dish nestled in a bowl full of ice.

One tip that makes food safety more controllable is to use smaller platters or serving dishes, and replace them often on the buffet with foods straight out of reheating or the refrigerator. Never place fresh food on a serving dish that contained food that has been sitting out.

It's best instead, to replace empty platters with fresh ones. Remember, that not only is temperature a concern, but many people's hands may have been taking food from the dish which has been sitting out. People's hands can contain germs. Always use clean utensils for each serving platter as well.

Discard any perishable party foods such as meat, poultry, egg or seafood dishes, appetizers or dips if they have been on the buffet for an extended time. As a host or hostess, it is your responsibility to keep track of how long foods have been sitting on the buffet table and replace or discard any questionable items.

Other basic safe food handling guidelines are suggested for food safety for all occasions.

Always wash hands before and after handling food. Keep all kitchen surfaces, utensils and dishes clean when storing and serving food.

Never reuse a serving dish or utensil that came into contact with raw foods, or even with foods that have been on the buffet line for a long time.

Never leave foods in the temperature danger zone for more than two hours. This temperature range of 40 to 140 degrees F. is perfect for the growth of serious bacteria that can cause foodborne illness.

For more information on holiday food safety, contact your local county Extension office at 387-3101.

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Stocker Angora Muttons • .68 - .75
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Angora Kids - Shorn • 1.30 - 1.40
Weighing Angoras - Shorn(thin) • .55 - .65
Weighing Angoras - Shorn (Fat) Nannies • .68 - .78
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Sutton County Foods & Nutrition Winning Recipes

NUTRITIOUS SNACKS CORN AND BLACK BEAN SALSA

- 1 1/2 cups halved cherry tomatoes
- 1 cup cooked corn kernels
- 1 cup drained and rinsed canned black beans
- 1/2 cup coarsely chopped red onion
- 2 Tbs. corn oil
- 4 Tbs. chopped cilantro
- 1 1/2 Tbs. lime juice
- 1 tsp seeded and finely chopped jalapeño pepper
- 1/2 tsp salt

1. In a medium bowl, stir together tomatoes, corn, beans, and onion. In a small bowl, whisk together oil, 2 Tbs. cilantro, lime juice, jalapeño and salt. Add to corn mixture and stir. Let stand 15 minutes at room temperature.

2. To serve, mound in a bowl. Sprinkle with 2 tsp. cilantro. Serve with corn chips.
Stella Ingham
Age: 9
Parents: Sherry and Ben Ingham

BREAD AND CEREAL BANANA BREAD

- 3 ripe bananas
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 egg
- 1 1/2 cups flour
- 1/4 cup butter or margarine, melted
- 1 tsp. baking soda
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1 cup chopped pecans (optional)

Mash bananas with a fork. Stir in other ingredients. Pour into a buttered loaf pan. Bake at 325 degrees for 1 hour.
Macie Friess
Age: 8
Parents: Kay & Mike Friess

MEXICAN CORN BREAD

- 2 packets white corn bread mix
- 2 eggs
- 2/3 cup milk
- 1/4 pound country sausage (cooked & drained)
- 1/4 pound ground beef (cooked & drained)
- 1/2 cup Colby jack cheese (grated)
- 1/3 cup green onions (finely chopped)
- 1 can cream corn
- 3 or 4 tablespoons bacon drippings cooking spray or oil

Preheat oven to 325 degrees. Prepare pan with cooking spray or oil. Follow instructions to prepare corn bread mix. Add sausage, beef, cheese, onions, and cream corn. Mix together and pour into greased pan. Cook for 30 minutes or until top of corn bread is golden brown.
Ana-Lesa Samaniego
Age: 10
Parent: Patsy Samaniego

PUMPKIN BREAD

- 1 3/4 cup canned pumpkin
- 3/2 cup flour
- 3 cup sugar
- 2/3 cup water
- 2/3 cup shortening
- 4 eggs
- 1 tsp. salt

- 1/2 tsp. baking powder
- 2 tsp. soda
- 1/2 tsp. cloves
- 1 tsp. cinnamon

Combine sugar, shortening, and eggs. Mix with electric mixer. Add pumpkin, water, and dry ingredients. Divide batter into three greased loaf pans. Bake at 350 degrees for 1 hour.
Morgan Vyvlecka
Age: 11
Parents: Kendra and Chris Vyvlecka

MAIN DISH KING RANCH CHICKEN CASSEROLE

- 1 can (10 3/4 oz) Campbell's condensed cream of mushroom soup or 98% fat free cream of mushroom soup
- 3/4 cup Pace picante sauce
- 3/4 cup sour cream
- 1 Tbs chili powder
- 2 medium tomatoes, chopped (about 2 cups)
- 3 cups cubed cooked chicken or turkey
- 12 corn tortillas (6 inch), cut into 1 inch pieces
- 1 cup shredded cheddar cheese (4 oz)
- green onion for garnish

1. Mix soup, picante sauce, sour cream, chili powder, tomatoes, and chicken.
2. In a 2 quart shallow baking dish, arrange half of the tortilla pieces. Top with half of the chicken mixture. Repeat layers. Sprinkle with cheese.
3. Bake at 350 degrees for 40 minutes or until hot. Serve additional picante and sour cream. Garnish with green onion.
Adriana Faz
Age: 9
Parents: Marris and Santiago Faz

EASY ITALIAN CHICKEN

- 1/2 cabbage, cut into wedges
- 1 sliced onion
- 1 jar (4 1/2 oz) mushrooms, drained
- 2 Tbs quick cooking tapioca
- 2 1/2 lbs. chicken meat
- 2 cups meatless spaghetti sauce
- grated Parmesan cheese

Place cabbage, onion, and mushrooms in slow cooker. Sprinkle tapioca over these ingredients. Place chicken on vegetables. Poor on sauce. Cook for 6 hours on low.
Marci Parks
Age: 9
Parents: Kathy and Marty Parks

SESAME CHICKEN

- 1 lb. boneless chicken
- 2 Tbs. Vegetable oil
- 2 Tbs. Soy sauce
- 1/4 Tbs. Black pepper
- 3 green onions (finely chopped)
- 2 cloves garlic (crushed)
- 3 Tbs. Sesame seeds
- 1 Tbs. Vegetable oil
- 3 cups cooked rice
- 2 Tbs. Sugar

Cut chicken into cubes. Mix sugar with 2 Tbs. of oil, soy sauce, pepper, onions together and refrigerate for 30 minutes. Meanwhile, toast sesame seed

in a dry skillet with until brown. Set aside. Heat 1 Tbs. Oil in a large skillet. Combine chicken and sauce ingredients. Cook on medium heat for about 10 to 12 minutes stirring frequently. Top with sesame seeds. Serve on rice. Enjoy.
Alexis Galindo
Age: 11
Parents: Lisa & Adam Galindo

TACO SALAD

- 1 taco flavored Doritos chips
- 1 lb ground beef
- garlic salt
- 1 head lettuce
- 1 avocado
- 1 can Ranch style beans
- 2 tomatoes
- green onion, chopped
- grated cheese

Brown ground beef and drain fat. Season with garlic salt, salt, pepper, and chili powder. Keep warm.
Cut up salad ingredients: lettuce, avocado, tomatoes, chopped green onions and shredded carrots.
Place Doritos neatly in pan. Place cooked beef on top of chips. Add salad on top of meat. Spread grated cheese on top.
Shainah Johnson
Age: 12
Parents: Jenny and Jack Sykes

TURKEY AND PASTA WITH PEANUT SAUCE

- 6 oz dried fettuccine or linguine
- 2 cups fresh pea pod with tips trimmed or 1 pkg(6 oz)/frozen pea pods
- 1 cup cooked turkey or chicken strips
- 1 cup coarsely chopped pineapple or 1 can (8 oz) pineapple chunks, drained
- 1/4 cup reduced sodium chicken broth
- 2 Tbs creamy peanut butter
- 1 Tbs reduced sodium soy sauce
- 1 Tbs lime juice or lemon juice
- 1/4 tsp crushed red pepper
- 1 clove garlic, minced

1. Cook pasta according to package directions. Meanwhile, half the fresh pea pods diagonally. Place pea pods and turkey in a large colander, drain well. Return the pasta, pea pods, and turkey to the hot pan. Add the pineapple.
2. Meanwhile make sauce in a small sauce pan by stirring chicken broth into peanut butter. Heat and stir with a whisk until peanut butter melts. Stir in soy sauce, lime juice, red pepper, and garlic. Heat through.
3. Add sauce to the pasta mixture. Gently stir to coat pasta with sauce.
Samantha Adkins
Age: 13
Parents: Dawn and Thomas Adkins

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TPWD unveils possible changes to regulations

AUSTIN, Texas — The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department is looking to clarify the hunting regulations by standardizing seasons and simplifying rules relating to white-tailed deer and turkey.

TPWD staff briefed the Regulations Committee of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission Wednesday, Nov. 3, about a series of issues that could result in changes to hunting and fishing regulations next year. Each year, TPWD considers changes in hunting and fishing regulations to achieve resource management objectives and maximize outdoor recreation opportunities.

The regulatory review process begins each fall after resource assessments by biologists and game wardens, as well as independent recommendations received from various groups. During this scoping portion of the process, TPWD gathers public input and weighs the biological implications of each issue before presenting the commission with a set of proposed regulation changes in January. Additional discourse is sought during special public meetings in the spring, and the commission at its April meeting determines the final regulation changes.

Following is a summary of those potential changes.

Potential Wildlife Regulation Changes
White-tailed Deer
* Explore antler-restriction rules in selected additional counties. This proposal would look at creating rules similar to those currently in place in six counties along the coastal prairie. TPWD is researching feasibility and public attitudes in 15 additional counties, mainly in the Coastal Prairie region. According to TPWD big game program director Clayton Wolf, this change would only happen with broad public support. "If we assume the antler restrictions are an option on a regulatory basis (at a county or regional level), our next step would be looking at other parts of the state," he notes. "We have data on harvest pressure and there obviously are areas that are getting hit hard, but before we proceed with any proposals, we want to make an assessment on hunter and landowner attitudes regarding antler restrictions."

* In the six counties that have been under the experimental buck antler restrictions, continue those regulations indefinitely with some modifications. TPWD is discussing adding a second buck to the bag limit, but at least one of the two bucks must have an unbranched antler. The agency is considering dropping the restriction requiring at least six points on one antler since bucks of that size will typically surpass the 13-inch inside spread minimum anyway.

* Consolidation of doe day categories. Currently, TPWD offers seven different sets of doe day combinations, including no days, four days, nine days, 16 days, 23 days, 23-plus days and full season. Wildlife biologists are suggesting consolidating doe days in 36 counties and cutting the options back to no days, four days, 16 days, 23 plus days or full season doe hunting. They also are looking at eliminating doe day restrictions in 33 counties, mostly in the Panhandle.

* Simplifying the aggregate buck-bag restriction in one-buck and two-buck counties. This proposal would mean hunters could take a buck in three different one-buck-only counties or they could take a buck in a one-buck-only county and two bucks in counties having a two-buck limit.

* Creation of an appeals process for deer permit programs.
* Prohibition of hunting by remote control. This issue centers on the use of Internet technology as it relates to the taking of wildlife resources.

* Removal of Hunt and Washington counties from the list of counties where the use of dogs to trail wounded deer is prohibited.

Mule Deer
* Extend Managed Lands Deer Permit program to include mule deer. This potential proposal would allow landowners under an approved wildlife management plan to enter voluntarily in a habitat-based permit program, which would allow greater flexibility in managing mule deer harvest. With this program, permit holders could hunt from the first Saturday in November through the end of the current regular mule deer season. In the Panhandle, the current season runs from the Saturday before Thanksgiving for 16 days. In the Southwest Panhandle, the current season runs for nine days beginning the Saturday before Thanksgiving, while in the Trans Pecos, the current season runs from the last Saturday in November for 16 days.

Turkey
* Several potential proposals that would consolidate and standardize turkey hunting regulations, including: standardizing the spring season length in the eastern and western halves of the state; standardizing the season length and bag composition for fall turkey seasons; and implementing youth-only spring turkey seasons for Rio Grande turkey.

* TPWD is also looking at the possibility of opening fall and spring seasons for Rio Grande turkey in Cameron and Zapata counties.

Rig Locations as of November 19, 2004

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Range Production; 9500' Wess Hill #15, Patterson Drilling.
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Dominion; 8900' Valliant #9, Patterson Drilling.
Dominion; 8800' Winnie R Aldwell Trust - K - #3, Patterson Drilling.
Dominion; 6400' Thomson #12, Patterson Drilling.

New Dominion; 9700' Arco-Phillips #2306, Patterson Drilling.
New Dominion; 8850' HE Glasscock Et Al #2804, Patterson Drilling.
New Dominion; 5000' Pfluger #8705, Patterson Drilling.

Crockett
Endeavor Energy Res.; 15000' Parker - 100 - #1 H. Big Dog Drilling.
Approach Operating; 9000' JR Bailey - A - #604, Nabors Drilling.
Bluegrass Energy; 7000' Simpson Canyon #1028, Adobe Drilling.
New Approach Operating; 9000' Bailey - #220, Key Energy.
New TXP; 7100' VI Pierce - 29 - #6, Patterson Drilling.
New Approach Operating; 9000' Bailey #208, Nabors Drilling.
New Devon Energy; 7000' Bean #6, Patterson Drilling.

Terrell
Riata Energy Inc; 19000' Mitchell #1201, Lariat Drilling.
Riata Energy Inc; 12000' Mitchell #6301, Lariat Drilling.
EOG Resources; 9500' Noelke - 31 - #1H, Nabors Drilling.
Conocophillips; 11800' ACU - 49 - #4, Patterson UTI/LV.
Nuevo Texas Inc; 9000' Mitchell - 8 - #10, Patterson Drilling.

Edwards
Newfield; 13000' Whitehead - A - #7907, Patterson Drilling.
New Devon Louisiana; 4900' James E Epperson #2, Key Energy.
Diamondback Oper; 2400' Jenkins - 62 - #2, Thornton Drilling.

Val Verde
Beeson Energy Inc.; 2450' Great Shaman #1, Hinz Drilling.

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Discovery Operating; 7000' Kaleb #1, Heart Land Drilling.
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For more rig locations call 1-800-627-9785 or go online to www.rigdata.com.

Fall ideal for planting trees and shrubs



submitted by Pascual Hernandez, Sutton County

When it comes to planting and working in our gardens most people think of springtime. However, the cooler fall months provide several advantages for getting out and planting new trees or shrubs in our gardens and yards. Trees and shrubs use this ideal weather to their advantage. Plants can grow anytime the soil temperature is greater than 40° F. During these winter months, the root systems of the fall planted specimens develop and establish. Thus, when spring rolls around, this fully developed root system can take advantage of the full surge of spring growth.

This fall planting time is ideal for planting balled and burlapped trees and shrubs. However, all bare root plants (including roses, pecan, and fruit trees) should be planted in late winter when they are completely dormant. Remember to always buy healthy plants from a reputable dealer. Also, plan before you start the planting process so you know exactly what and where you will be planting. If you are looking for a way to beat the heat while rejuvenating your yard or garden consider the fall months, as well as some fall planting guidelines. Dig a hole large enough in diameter so that a root system has at least six inches of clear-

ance on all sides and don't dig the hole much deeper than the ball. Plant the tree or shrub slightly above the soil surface to allow for settling and increased soil drainage. Carefully handle the plant by the root ball and remove all containers before planting. Use only native soil to fill in around the plant (no soil amendments), pack the soil firmly, and water thoroughly to settle the soil around the roots to eliminate any air pockets. DO NOT fertilize after planting, wait until early spring and then apply lightly. After transplanting, water every 7 to 10 days to increase success of the plant (but remember that more trees and shrubs fail from over watering than from under watering). Mulch 4-6 inches around the base of new trees or shrubs to control weeds and conserve soil moisture.

Planting trees not only beautifies, but adds value to your home. Just keep in mind that every plant in the landscape should serve a purpose. Ask yourself if you want a plant for screening, for privacy, or for shade. How large will it be five years from now? Plants, like people, grow up. A small one-gallon size plant will look entirely different after a few years of growth in your landscape.

Have fun with your fall gardening activities. For other horticultural information, call your local County Extension Agent at 387-3101 or visit the website at <http://sutton-co.tamu.edu>.

Ropers win in San Antonio



Daniel Hernandez of Sonora, Texas, and Baldo Martinez, Jr. of Del Rio, Texas, were the big winners at the "Rope the Outback" Team Roping at the San Antonio Rose Palace on Saturday, November 20, 2004.

Hernandez won first place in the #2 roping, winning a custom made saddle. Martinez won first in the #1 roping, securing him a trophy buckle.

City council from page 1

have transfer customers place a deposit and that length of accounts are not taken into consideration. A discussion was held regarding this policy and it was suggested that possibly a change to the policy be made to better serve the long time customers. After deliberation a motion was made to amend the policy to way that customers with established credit (24 months or longer) with the City of Sonora be exempt from placing an additional deposit.

Budget amendments for the Chamber of Commerce (postage) and the Friends of Historic Sonora Main Street (audit payment) were approved.

The council approved the SIDC to expend \$25,000 to assist Lillian M. Hudspeth Hospital for the purchase of emergency department monitoring equipment.

A public hearing was held to consider a SIDC project to expend \$9,900 of 4B sales tax for the construction of a second kiosk at the Mulberry Street entrance to Eaton Hill and the purchase of two interpretive panels for the bulletin cases under the kiosk that is already on Eaton Hill and the new one to be constructed.

The 2nd reading of an ordinance to change a city street name to honor the memory of Shane Folmar for military service was held. Poloczek stated that their is a resident on Marigold Street that is requesting for the change not to be made because they would have

to change their address. The council suggested that a committee be formed to find a location to honor Folmar's memory, with the possibility of a park or a statue of some sort.

The city council, Nora Dempsey and Brent Gesch then went into executive session to discuss a letter from the City Manager.

Upon reconvening in open session a motion was made by James Blackman to place a written reprimand in the city manager's personnel file for unprofessional conduct and neglect of city business. A second was made by Virgil Poloczek.

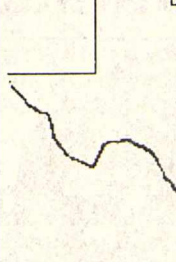
Mayor Lopez called for a vote, resulting in three in favor: James Blackman, Virgil Poloczek and Fred Perez; and one No by Smith Neal.

A motion was then made by Smith Neal to terminate the city manager immediately. The motion failed for lack of a second.

Mayor Lopez advised City Attorney Beth Wallace to write a letter of reprimand to be signed by the Mayor and the City Manager and placed in his personnel file. The mayor then advised that the city manager was on probation effective immediately.

The council then entered back into executive session to discuss city manager use of vacation time. No action was taken in open session and the meeting was adjourned with no further business.

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Sonora ISD will accept sealed bids for elevator upgrades. Specs can be obtained at the Adm. office or by calling 325-387-2545. Sealed bids will be accepted at the Admin. Office at 807 S. Concho, Sonora, TX 76950 until Nov. 30, 2004 at 3:00 p.m. at which time said bids will be opened. The Board of Trustees will award the bid on Dec. 13, 2004 at the above location. The District reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

Sonora ISD will accept sealed bids for band uniforms. Specs can be obtained at the Adm. office or by calling 325-387-2545. Sealed bids will be accepted at the Admin. Office at 807 S. Concho, Sonora, TX 76950 until Nov. 30, 2004 at 3:00 p.m., at which time said bids will be opened. The Board of Trustees will award the bid on Dec. 13, 2004 at the above location. The District reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

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NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR OIL AND GAS WASTE DISPOSAL WELL PERMIT

KCS Resources, Inc., 7130 S. Lewis Ave., Suite 700, Tulsa, OK 74136 is applying to the Railroad Commission of Texas for a permit to dispose of produced salt water or other oil and gas waste by well injection into a porous formation not productive of oil and gas. The applicant proposes to dispose of oil and gas waste into the Wolfcamp Formation, Sawyer 129 Lease, Well Number 1. The proposed disposal well is located 6 Miles South of Sonora in the Sawyer (Leonard) Field, in Sutton County, Texas. The waste water will be injected into strata in the subsurface depth interval from 4,600 to 5,150 feet.

LEGAL AUTHORITY:
Chapter 27 of the Texas Water Code, as amended Title 3 of the Texas Natural Resources Code, as amended, and the Statewide Rules of the Oil and Gas Division of the Railroad Commission of Texas.

Requests for a public hearing from persons who can show they are adversely affected, or requests for further information concerning any aspect of the application should be submitted in writing, within fifteen days of publication, to the Environmental Services Section, Oil and Gas Division, Railroad Commission of Texas, P.O. Box 12967, Capitol Station, Austin, Texas 78711 (Telephone 512/463-6792).

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F.Y.I.

Cub Scout Annual food Drive, Monday, December 6, 4:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. Canned goods can be donated from November 23, to December 6, at The Bank & Trust. If you have any questions, please contact Lauri Smith at 387-2593 or 387-2461.

"The More the Merrier" Christmas Bazaar - Friday, December 3, 9:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. Sutton County Civic Center.

Sutton County Health Foundation Christmas Tour of Homes - December 5, 3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. - \$10 - Tickets available at Teaff Oil, Main Street Realty and L.M. Hudspeth Hospital and each of the homes - Hobbs, Finklea or Archer.

San Angelo Civic Ballet's production of Nutcracker - one week-end only - 4 performances. Friday, December 3 at 8 p.m.; Sat. Dec. 4 at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m.; Sun. Dec. 5 at 2 p.m. San Angelo City Auditorium. Tickets available at San Angelo Cultural Affairs Council, San Angelo Civic Ballet Office, Angelo Civic Theatre and Kids Shoes - \$8 children, students, seniors, military; \$12 adults; \$20 premium seating.

The Sonora Woman's Club is working on compiling addresses for the Sonora Woman's Club Address Book. These books come in very handy for holidays, weddings, invitations of all sorts, etc. If your address has changed in the last five (5) years and you would like to be added to the publication that will be available for purchase, please contact Storie Sharp at 325-387-2507.

Transformation is a youth-focused event that is bringing the youth of Sonora, Eldorado and Ozona together as one body with one vision. The vision of TRANSFORMATION is based on Romans 12:2 - "Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be 'transformed' by the renewing of your mind." Don't miss this opportunity to see what God is doing. Join together on the 2nd Sunday of each month at Lighthouse Community Church - Meal at 6:00 p.m. Praise and Worship at 7:00 p.m. FMI please contact Silas Polite FBC Eldorado 853-2662 or Lighthouse Community Church 387-9100.

Over 80,000 people are on The National Transplant Waiting List. Sixteen of those people will die each day waiting for an organ. If everyone signed an organ/tissue donor card and told their families about their wishes no one would have to die waiting for an organ. Please consider the gift of life and call The Living Bank at 1-800-528-2971 if you are interested in becoming a registered organ donor or would just like more information.

Sonora Woman's Club is selling, unique to Sonora, "Sutton County Library" Christmas Ornaments to raise funds for the library. If you would like to purchase one of the collector ornaments contact any Sonora Woman's Club member or call the Sutton County Library.

Storytime at the Sutton County Library, Wednesdays, from 10:00 a.m. - 10:45 a.m. for children ages 3 through Pre-K. FMI call 387-2111.

Do well, Be well with Diabetes classes, sponsored by Texas Cooperative Extension. For more information and to register call Kelly Thorp at 325-387-3604.

Counting our blessings on this Thanksgiving



Congressman
Henry Bonilla

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 2004, 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 econ-

omy. 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 harms 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 of our nation.

Up On Eaton Hill

Gobblers and Gratitude

by Delyse Jaeger

My first attempt at "wildlife photography" took place on a hunting lease near Brackettville Texas in 1978. The prey caught in the crosshairs of my manual focus camera lens: a wild turkey. Quietly, he strode out of the brush, crossing the dry draw in shadow. As he stepped into a mottled patch of sunlight, I pressed the trigger of the camera shutter and alas, victory was mine! Upon returning to Houston, I dropped the film at the phone booth sized drive thru Fox Photo, and anxiously awaited the return of my masterpiece. When finally the moment came, I was disappointed to find I had captured only a darkened silhouette and my picture resembled more the hidden animals in a Bev Doolittle painting than something worthy of Texas Parks and Wildlife magazine!

Nowadays, especially in Sonora, the sight of a wild turkey is much more common. Visitors to Sonora thrill to the sight of twenty wild turkeys casually crossing a neighborhood street. Wild turkeys can often be seen lining a backyard fence or roosting in front yard trees throughout town. One of these days I will rearm myself with telephoto technology and bag that dream photograph of a magnificent wild turkey - feathers shining iridescent in the sunlight.

Two species of wild turkey exist: The North American and the Central American wild turkey. Our local resident is the Rio Grande wild turkey and is one of five subspecies of the North American variety. Wildlife management has brought the turkey population to over 50 times what it was in the early 1900's and many hunters consider wild turkeys to be the most challenging game animal on the continent. Interestingly, the name "turkey" was a general term used by British royalty to describe exotic imports. The American turkey was confused with another table fowl from the Turkish Empire, and today our largest native bird bears the name of a foreign country. I wonder what the name would have been if the confusion had not occurred. Any ideas? As you may know, it is often said that Benjamin Franklin campaigned for the wild turkey to become our national bird. Apparently, this is quite true but the story sprang out of a negative critique Mr. Franklin voiced of an artists' rendering of an American eagle - saying



Rio Grand Wild Turkey - TWPD, Photo by Frank Aguilar

the painting looked more like a turkey. Many years after the eagle was named, Benjamin Franklin penned a letter to his daughter in which he did make comparisons between the two birds. Can you imagine the very unusual looking head of a wild turkey against the backdrop of the American flag?

Speaking of table fowl and Thanksgiving, gratitude and appreciation; to what are we beholden this season? Taking time to list our reasons for a grateful heart is an exercise in spiritual expansion. Some are disciplined enough to keep a daily journal, chronicling the specific elements from which flow the thanksgiving of the heart. When we place our intention on discovering all that we may count as blessings, even amidst the trials of life, we open our eyes to glimpse the hand of God. Pausing to explore my own depth of gratitude revealed a multitude of people and circumstances which enrich my life beyond measure.

Allow me to mention a few close to home that I believe we can all claim: 1) those in our community who continue to work in a variety of capacities for the betterment of all, often without notice or under criticism from others. 2) The wealth of devoted spiritual leaders who sacrifice self interest for the love of God and mankind; 3) The academic leadership and dedicated teachers who take seriously the responsibility of educating our children, all the while remaining sensitive to the individual needs of each child. 4) The military personnel braving hardship and danger while in service to our nation. 5) And lastly, our family and friends, both past and present.

Whatever your current circumstance, I pray you will find a moment to consider the things this life has blessed you with, and that in doing so, your heart will quicken with gratitude. Happy Thanksgiving.

Happy Birthday

November 25

Happy Anniversary to Ray and Nancy Glasscock, Lester Rainer,

Katie Chavez, Ty Love, Zachary Mata

November 26

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