

Merry Christmas

THE Devil's River NEWS

50¢

Since 1890

Volume 116 • Issue 51

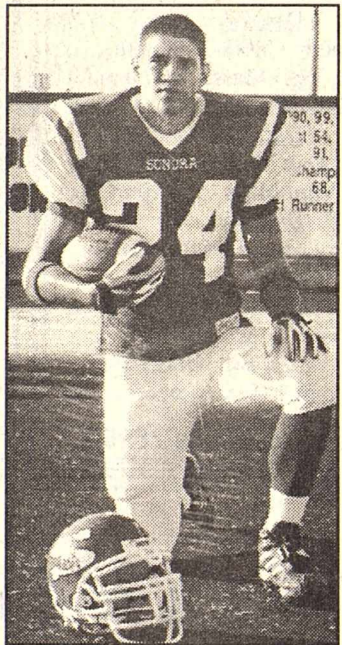
SONORA, TEXAS

Thursday, December 23, 2004

Class AA Associated Press All-State Football Team



2nd Team Wide Receiver
Anthony Longoria



Honorable Mention
Linebacker
Steven Duhon

The
Devil's River News
and
Sonora Office
Supply
will be closed
Friday,
December 24, 2004.

4-H Community Service Project Adopts Soldiers for Christmas

By Kelly L Thorp
County Extension Agent-FCS
Texas Cooperative Extension

The 4-H Community Service has been very busy this Christmas Season with all sorts of worthwhile projects. Not only have members collected canned goods for the local ministerial alliance holiday food drive but they also adopted six soldiers who are stationed in Iraq.

Laura Martin, a high school freshman at SISD, spearheaded the project with the help of her fellow 4-H project members, who collected everything from toiletries, magazines and food items to band-aides and foot powders.

What made this particular group of soldiers so "near and dear" to Laura and her friends is that the soldiers they adopted have no immediate family. When the kids learned that these men and women wouldn't be getting a package from Santa this year they got busy and started hunting and gathering goods to be sent overseas. In fact, Laura got everything collected



Laura Martin and Kelly Thorp prepare a box to be sent to an "adopted" soldier in Iraq.

within two weeks and sent the packages off the day before Thanksgiving.

So many times we hear about the bad things our teens are doing, when in fact, many of our youth today are very good kids and want to do worthwhile projects in the communities they

live in. 4-H is committed to giving the youth in our community opportunities to become civic minded individuals.

If you have a community service project idea please feel free to contact the county extension office.

Sutton County "Santas" get thanks from Iraq

Note: The following letter was received on Monday, as Mrs. Thorp was preparing the article to be sent to The Devil's River News.

Dear Kelly Thorp and the Sutton County 4-H,

I wanted to thank you for the gifts that you sent me. I hope you all know how much I and every other soldier over here in Iraq appreciate your kindness and support. We have been deployed to Samarra, Iraq since early Feb. 2004. We are all looking forward to getting back to our family, friends, and the great U.S.A. very soon. We have been working hard and at times it is difficult being away from family and friends for such a long time but we continue to stay focused and keep driving on. I can tell you that all we have to do is stop for a moment to think about all the great American people (like yourself) who consistently show their support in so many ways and it makes it all worth it. Worth it all to know that America continues to be free and prosperous. It makes me proud to serve the great American people and the great



Sgt. Page and his platoon, most of whom received packages from Sutton County 4-H.

U.S.A. Please know that not all the soldiers deployed to the Middle East will have the opportunity to write or e-mail their deepest thoughts of gratitude and thanks to all the American people who continue to show their overwhelming support. I know that I can speak for many soldiers deployed and serving their country in war that

we thank you all from the bottom of our hearts and in everything we do!

Thank you again for your kindness during the holiday season and I wish you a very Merry Christmas.

Proudly serving you and the U.S.A.

Sincerely,
Adrian T. Page, SGT.
Samarra, Iraq

It's beginning to "feel" a lot like Christmas

Dreaming of a white Christmas? Texas received fair warning that cold weather was on its way this week, with prediction of possible snow flurries in many parts of our state. A second push of arctic air is expected Thursday afternoon, with the coldest temperatures this year expected Friday morning! The Arctic airmass will begin to lift eastward on Christmas Day, followed by south winds and a return to near normal temperatures Sunday and Monday.

Residents of Sutton County and West Central Texas should prepare for the prolonged period of cold temperatures, low wind chills and brief periods of light wintry precipitation. Given the duration and intensity of the cold weather, extra care for the elderly will be necessary, as well as extra care for outdoor pets and livestock.

The American Red Cross urges families to take precautions to keep safe. "This kind of weather usually results in heat loss and power outages; therefore, it's important to know how to prepare your family," urges Connie Harvey, health and safety expert at American Red Cross national headquarters. "Keeping safe and warm in cold weather means you have to take care of home heating hazards, dressing appropriately and preparing for cold weather emergencies. Elderly people may have circulation problems and often just aren't as sensitive to the cold weather, so we need to take time to check on our elderly family members and friends," added Harvey. "Our elderly family and friends are often susceptible to hypothermia and frostbite."

According to the National Fire Protection Association, four out of seven home fires occur during December, January and February, and about half of these fires are caused by using candles and overloading electrical circuits. As families turn to alternative heating sources out of necessity or to avoid the rising cost of oil and gas, they should take the following precautions:

* Be careful with candles - Keep candles away from combustible materials. Don't leave children unattended in a room with lit candles. Keep candles, matches and lighters out of the

reach of children. Never display lighted candles in windows or near exits.

* Inspect fireplaces and wood stoves - Have your chimney connections and flues inspected by a professional and cleaned if necessary prior to the start of every heating season. Use a sturdy screen when burning fires. Burn only wood - never burn paper or pine boughs. Do not hang holiday decorations from or on your fireplace if you plan to use it as a heat source.

* Check smoke detectors - Make sure detectors are working properly and that new batteries are installed.

* Be aware of overuse of electrical outlets - Don't overload your electrical outlets. Be careful of extension cords that present hazardous walkways.

As you and your family prepare to go out in severe cold weather, please remember the following:

* Mittens provide more warmth to your hands than gloves.

* Most of your body heat is lost through your head so wear a hat, preferably one that covers your ears.

* Dress in warm layers so you can remove items if you get too warm.

* Recognize the symptoms of hypothermia that can be a serious medical condition: confusion, dizziness, exhaustion and severe shivering. Seek medical attention immediately if you have these symptoms.

* Recognize frostbite warning signs: gray, white or yellow skin discoloration, numbness, waxy feeling skin. Seek medical attention immediately if you have these symptoms.

* Wear waterproof, insulated boots to help avoid hypothermia or frostbite by keeping your feet warm and dry and to maintain your footing in ice and snow.

* Get out of wet clothes immediately and warm the core body temperature with a blanket or warm fluids like hot cider or soup. Avoid drinking caffeine or alcohol if you expect you, or someone you are trying to help, have hypothermia or frostbite.

Take advantage of this cold weather by staying inside with family and friends, and if you must be out in it, be careful and stay warm!

Fireworks believed to be cause of fire in Dry Devil's River



A small fire in the Dry Devil's River caused a lot of smoke on Monday.

The smell of smoke drifted through town on Monday, raising concerns to residents in the Sinola area. The Sonora Fire Department and City Police were soon called to respond to a small fire smoldering in the center of the Dry Devil's River, near St. Ann St. The fire was found and put out before spreading too far, but lots of smoke filled the air. City police officer, Dick Dudley, reported that an investigation of the area shows the probable cause as fireworks. Officer Dudley said that considering the dry grass and windy conditions, they were lucky the fire did not spread and no one was injured.

New Year's Eve is often celebrated with the lighting of fireworks, either at home or at small gatherings. Here are some fireworks safety tips for your family, relatives, neighbors and friends to observe when

dealing with fireworks. Please observe all laws, local and state, when considering whether to light fireworks.

To help you celebrate safely this New Year's Eve the Consumer Product Safety Commission and the National Council on Fireworks Safety offer the following safety tips:

Always read and follow label directions.

Have an adult present.

Buy from reliable sellers.

Use outdoors only.

Always have water handy (a garden hose and a bucket).

Never experiment or make your own fireworks.

Light only one firework at a time.

Never re-light a "dud" firework (wait 15 to 20 minutes and then soak it in a bucket of water).

Never give fireworks to small children.

If necessary, store fireworks in a cool, dry place.

Dispose of fireworks properly by soaking them in water and then disposing of them in your trash can.

Never throw or point fireworks at other people.

Never carry fireworks in your pocket.

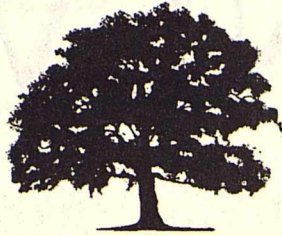
Never set off fireworks in metal or glass containers.

The lighter should always wear eye protection and never have any part of the body over the firework.

Stay away from illegal explosives.

The Sonora Police Department reminds us that fireworks are illegal in the city limits. If you choose to use fireworks to celebrate New Year's, the Sutton County Arena grounds is the proper place to do so.

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

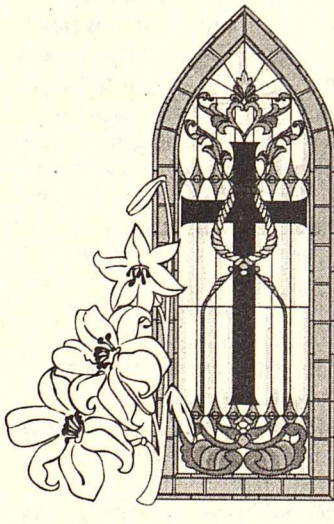


SUTTON COUNTY HEALTH FOUNDATION

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

Obituaries

Lynda Fetterolf

Lynda Christine Ballard Fetterolf, 43, died suddenly November 26, 2004, in Duncan, Oklahoma, while visiting friends.

She was born in Farmington, New Mexico, on May 18, 1961, to parents George and Shirley Ballard. She was married September 22, 2000, to Kirk Frederick Fetterolf in Victoria, Texas. Kirk is originally from Midland, Michigan. Kirk and Lynda resided at 1009 S. Concho, Sonora, Texas, since June 2003.

Lynda worked for the city of Farmington, New Mexico for 15 years before marrying Kirk and moving to Victoria, Texas, then to Duncan, Oklahoma, and then to Sonora, Texas. Kirk works for Halliburton and they are headquartered in Duncan, Oklahoma.

Lynda will be greatly missed. Besides her husband Kirk, she leaves her mother, Shirley (Roy) Frances Welton of Arizona and father, George Ballard of Reno, Nevada. She has three brothers, Steve, Tracy and Mike Ballard, in and around Farmington, New Mexico; several nieces and nephews; twin step-sons Jacob and Jared Fetterolf of Ingram, Texas; mother and father-in-law Charles D. and Dorothy Fetterolf of Beaverton, Michigan, and Harold and Jean Ballard of Midland; sister-in-law Tena (Ken) Atkins of Midland; and twin nephews Mark and Mitchell Atkins.

Cremation has taken place according to her wishes.

Clytie Adelia "MaMaw" Osbourn

Clytie Adelia "MaMaw" Osbourn, 92, of Valley Spring, Texas, passed away December 15, 2004.

Clytie was born June 28, 1912, in Llano County, Texas. She married Clarence Osbourn December 29, 1936, in Llano County, Texas. Clytie Osbourn lived in Llano all of her life. She was a member of the Llano Church of Christ. She was a former member of the Home Demonstration Club of Valley Spring. She was a homemaker and taught Sunday School for many years. She was the "best grandmother in the world."

Survivors include two daughters: Lawanda Menzies and husband, Duery, of Fredricksburg, Texas, and Glynn Dell Glasscock and husband, Tom of Sonora, Texas; three sons: Carrol Osbourn and wife, Jackie, of Valley Spring, Texas, Donald Osbourn and wife, Deborah, of Clarksville, Texas, Malcolm Osbourn and

wife, Anna, of Valley Spring, Texas; fourteen grandchildren; twenty-one great grandchildren; numerous nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Clarence Osbourn; and a brother, Wilma Larremo.

Services were Friday, December 17, 2004 at 3:00 p.m. at Waldorpe-Hatfield-Hawthorne Funeral Home Chapel with burial following in Valley Spring, Cemetery in Valley Spring, Texas. Brother Lester Bagley officiated.

Pallbearers were Jamie Osbourn, Jody Osbourn, Jeffrey Osbourn, Joe Don Osbourn, Dusty Menzies, Collin Osbourn, Platt Glasscock and Riffin Glasscock.

Memorial contributions made be made to Llano Church of Christ or Cherokee Children's Home.

Albino Sanchez

Albino Sanchez, 69 of Ozona, died Saturday, Dec. 18, 2004, at his residence.

Funeral service will be at 2:00 P.M. Thursday, Dec. 23, 2004, in Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church with burial in Lima Cemetery. Arrangements are by Preddy Funeral Home.

Mr. Sanchez was born April 12, 1935, in Ozona. He was a member of the Catholic Church.

Survivors include his wife, Gloria Sanchez, of Ozona; 3 daughters, Barbara Ann Bonora of Centerville, Maryland, Kathy Marshall of Marysville, Kansas and Tera Cantolupo of Goodyear, Arizona; 2 sons, Richard Sanchez of Ozona and Mike Sanchez of Sonora; 2 sisters, Lupe DeLaGarza and Leonore Badillo both of Ozona; one brother, Daniel B. Sanchez of Ozona.

Cards of Thanks

The Devil's River News would like to thank Donna Garrett for providing all the pictures with Santa. You did a great job and we appreciate you sharing them with us.

The Westside Lions Club would like to thank our Sonora Community for the support you gave us with our 27th RCA TV Raffle. The winner was Susan Burnham of Sonora. Again, thank you, Ben Solis, president, members, Eddie Castro Sr., Lisa Galindo, Lydia Cummings, Joe Flores, Chris Flores, Refugio Martinez, Patsy Samaniego, Tommy Sanchez, Maria Mesa, Paul Freeman and Yogi Solis. Merry Christmas to all!

The Sutton County Health Foundation wishes to extend a sincere thank-you to Mike and Debra Hobbs, Larry Finklea and James and Lois Archer for opening their homes this holiday season for our Tour of Homes.

A special thank-you to all our sponsors, Preston and Linda Love, Ben and Lenora Pool and Cleve T. and Lolabeth Jones.

Senior Center News

- Dec. 27 - Meatballs with tomato sauce, spaghetti, spinach, tossed salad, garlic bread, banana pudding, milk.
- Dec. 28 - BBQ chicken, beans, macaroni salad, sliced tomato, wheat bread, fruit cup, milk.
- Dec. 29 - Meatloaf with tomato sauce, mashed potatoes, corn, wheat roll, cookie, fruit cocktail, milk.
- Dec. 30 - Roast beef with gravy, potatoes, green beans, tossed salad, carrot cake, milk.
- Dec. 31 - Center closed for New Year's Eve!

Senior Center Menu

- Dec. 27 - Bingo!
- Dec. 28 - Kooking with Kelly! Nutrition Ed. Noon.
- Dec. 29 - Crafts anyone?
- Dec. 30 - Get ready to celebrate New Year 2005.
- Dec. 31 - New Year's Eve. Center will be closed!

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.

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Sonora, TX 76950

The Parish of St. Ann's Catholic Church would like to cordially invite you to a Birthday and Semi-Retirement Party for Fr. William Dubuisson on

Monday, December 27, 2004

at the Civic Center at 6:30 p.m.

A money tree will be available.

Saint Ann Catholic Church Holiday Schedule

- Dec. 24**
Confessions - 5:00 - 6:00 p.m.
Christmas Vigil Mass - 7:00 p.m.
Midnight Mass 12:00 a.m.
- Dec. 25**
Christmas Day Mass - 10:00 a.m.
Sunday Vigil Mass - 7:00 p.m.
- Dec. 26**
Sunday Mass • 8:00 a.m.
Sunday Mass • 11:00 a.m.
- Dec. 27**
75th Birthday & Retirement Party for Fr. Bill, O.M.I.
6:30 p.m. • Civic Center

311 W. Plum St. • Sonora, Texas 76950

Happy Holidays from the Devil's River News
 Devil's River Internet
 Cheetah Wireless
 Sonora Office Supply

Community Calendar

- Jan. 3**
Back to School
Old Rock School Open House • 10:00 a.m.
- Jan. 7 & 8**
Sutton County Junior Livestock Show
- Jan. 10**
Commissioners Court
9:00 a.m. • Annex Bldg.
- Al-Anon Family Meetings**
Every Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. • Hospital Dining Room
Call 387-2521 ext. 170

The Community Calendar



- Jan. 13**
Chamber of Commerce Meeting
Noon • Chamber Office
- Jan. 18**
City Council Meeting
2:00 p.m. • City Hall
- Jan. 24**
Commissioners Court
9:00 a.m. • Annex Bldg.

is made possible by:



Member FDIC

207 N Hwy 277 N • 387-2593

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

Member 2004
TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

Letters To The Editor Policy

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Christmas greetings to all our customers and friends!
Thank you for your patronage.
We wish you many wonderful blessings for the New Year!

We will CLOSE at 2:00 p.m. on Christmas Eve and be CLOSED all day December 25th and 26th.
 We will be Re-Open the 27th at 6:00 a.m.

Sutton County Steakhouse
 1306 N. Service Rd.
 387-3833



Main Street Program prepares for a busy New Year

by Ann Kay, FHSMS Manager

It is the time of the year to be thankful for all of God's blessings! Downtown Sonora looks like a diamond in its entire luster, and if you haven't taken the time to drive around town, you should. The western heritage has been a favorite of many of our visitors in town. We have had many guests and visitors from Europe and other countries around the world. It is always a favorite of the Europeans and other visitors to see our historical western town and hear the family stories of the old west. We have the Ranch Women's Exhibit and the Veterans from All Wars exhibit for them to enjoy.

It has been a busy year and the coming "New Year" will bring more wonderful exhibits and displays for all to enjoy. We are planning a Western Heritage Exhibit of Cowboy Boots, Rodeo Belt Buckles, Old Cowboy hats, photos of great horses, saddles, barbed wire and

spurs, all with a story to tell. We invite you to share some of these things for the Western Heritage Exhibit so young students and other guests get a taste of the west in action.

The Tea Cup and Postcards Exhibit will be another project where we will honor the ladies of the West.

We will continue to promote our wildlife trails on Eaton Hill.

The artists in our community are a special part of the West too, and we will honor the art of the West.

There will be a hunting exhibit with wonderful photos and some guns.

These are just a few projects we will be working on in the coming year. We also have some great things planned for the youth of this community in the world of the arts. All of these projects are designed to promote our western heritage to out-of-town guests. We are the friendliest town on Interstate 10.

We had a visit last week from the Texas Historic Commission - Texas Main Street Program's Wayne Bell. He is an architect who has an interest in some of the buildings in Sonora and he will be working with us on some future projects in historic downtown Sonora. Wayne was impressed with all the buildings that have been restored. Of course our Sutton County Courthouse was at the top of the list.

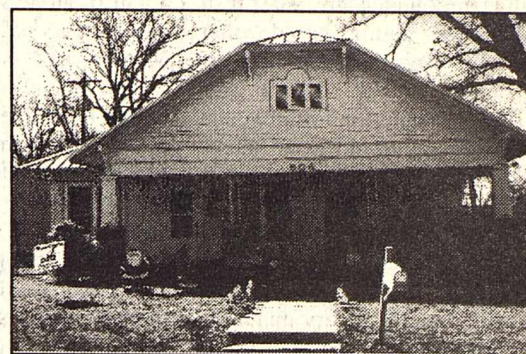
We would like to thank the judges for dedicating their time for the "Best Dressed-up for Christmas" homes and businesses. They have been so impressed with all the creativity and the beauty of the sparkling lights. We appreciate all the folks who "dressed-up" for Christmas. Sonora has the Christmas spirit!

Merry Christmas to all and to all a good night!

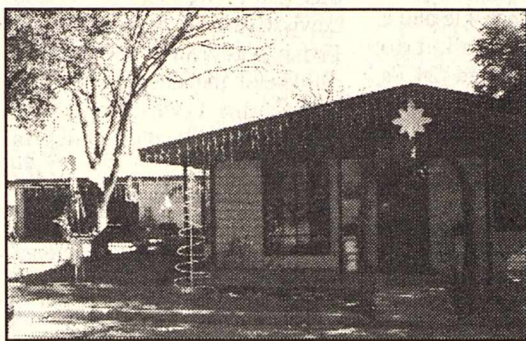
Week 3 "Best Dressed-up for Christmas" winners



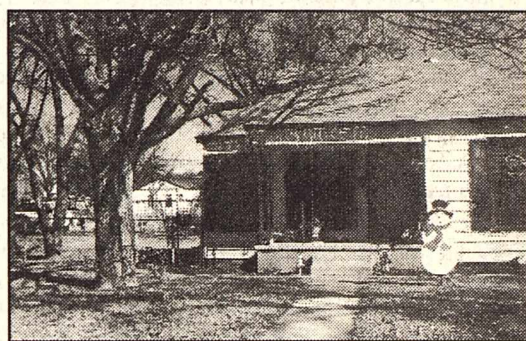
Shannon Family - 507 E. 2nd St.



Mabry Family - 506 Concho Ave.



Fuentes Family - 305 San Frances

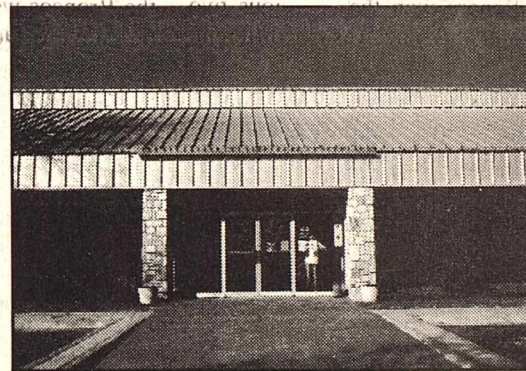


Knight Family - 1309 Glasscock

Week 3 "Best Dressed-up for Christmas" Businesses



Lisa's Flowers - 102 E. Chestnut St.



The Bank & Trust - 229 Hwy 277 N.



La Mexicana
240 Hwy 277



Sonora Chamber of Commerce
205 Hwy 277 N.

Protect Your Vehicle During the Holidays

The Grinch not only wants to steal Christmas, he wants to steal your car, too! Protect your vehicle this holiday season from Mr. Bah Humbug himself: The Auto Thief.

A car is stolen every 25 seconds in the United States, amounting to over 1.2 million vehicles stolen across the country last year alone. In 2003, Texas motor vehicle theft victims suffered losses totaling \$782,330,003, making auto theft the number one property crime in the state.

Sgt. Jerry Hataway with the Arlington Police Department warns, "Thieves are everywhere. Most are opportunist who try to take the easy way out. Don't leave your car anywhere you're not sure of and be aware of your surroundings."

Thieves are always looking for the next victim, and the holidays are a perfect time for them to score big. While you are out shopping, dining or enjoying friends and family this season, you can help protect your vehicle, valuables and life if you follow these simple preventative steps:

1. Always take the keys with you and lock the doors.
 2. Park in well-lit areas.
 3. Use anti-theft devices anytime your vehicle is left unattended.
 4. Do not leave valuables out in plain sight to tempt thieves.
- "Over the holidays motor vehicle burglary picks up at the shopping malls and congested areas. Thieves go where the crowds are because it makes it easier for them to blend in and commit a crime," Sgt. Hataway said.

Thieves target all vehicles, which makes every driver a potential victim of auto theft. By stealing your car a thief can also gain access to your identity and personal information. Be proactive this holiday season by staying attentive and helping to reduce auto theft in Texas.

For more information on auto theft prevention or to be put in contact with your local ATPA task force, call 1-800-CAR-WATCH.



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Merry Christmas

Merry Christmas
 and a very Happy New Year
 to our friends, customers and clients.


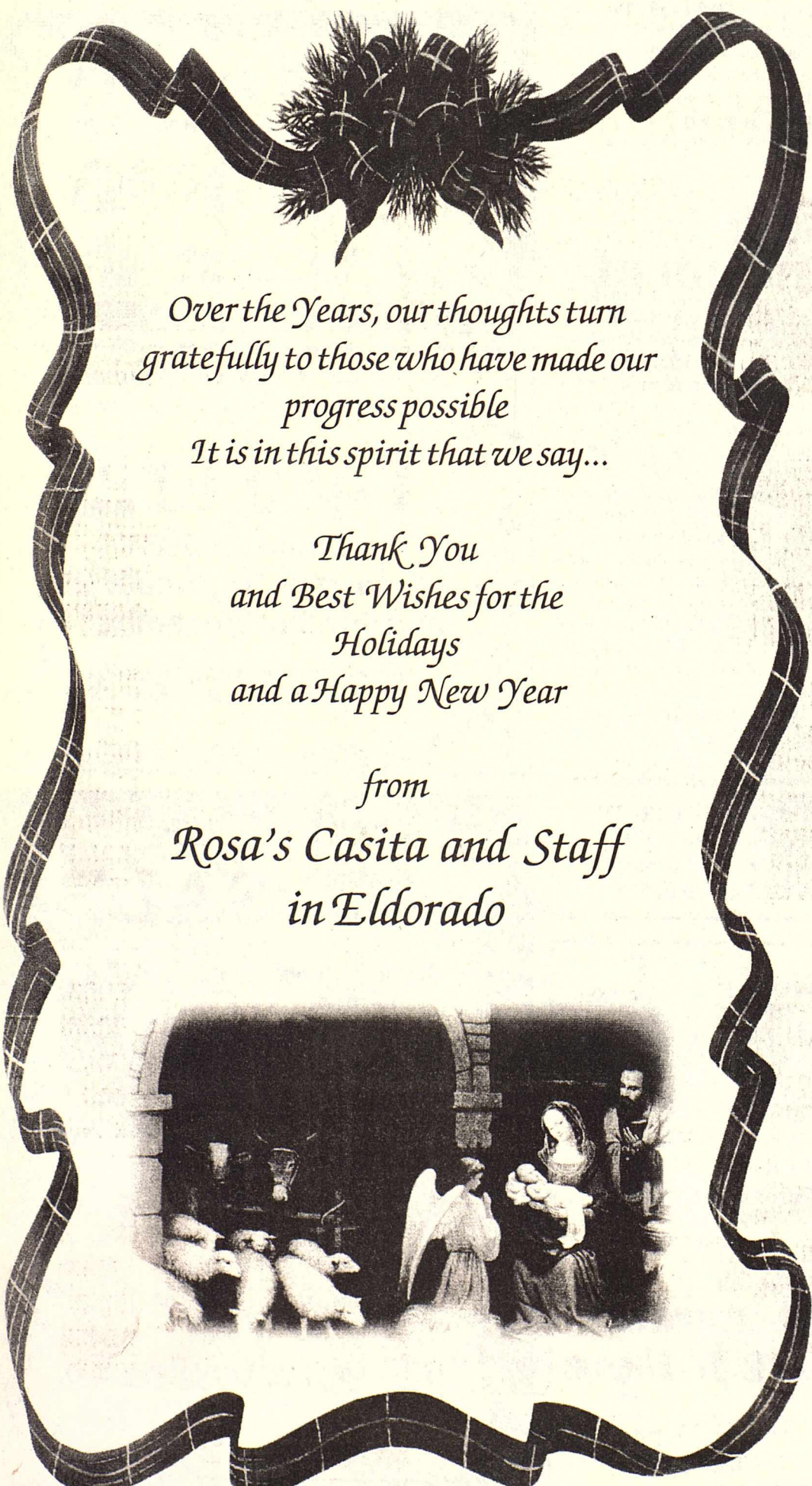
From
Sanchez Welding and Construction
 and **La Mexicana Restaurante**



Over the Years, our thoughts turn gratefully to those who have made our progress possible
 It is in this spirit that we say...

Thank You
 and Best Wishes for the
 Holidays
 and a Happy New Year

from
Rosa's Casita and Staff
 in Eldorado

Danielle Matthews to represent Sonora at Young Leaders Conference

submitted

Danielle Matthews, granddaughter of Royce and Gloria Mears, who was invited by the Congressional Youth Leadership Council, will be attending the National Young Leaders Conference in Washington D.C. as a representative of the State of Texas in the spring of 2005 for academic achievements and leadership ability.

Among other academic and leadership achievements, Matthews has been selected for the National Society of High School Scholars and Who's Who Among American High School Students. The trip to our nation's capital includes tours of the nation's monuments and historical sites, witnessing congress at work, as well as model congress committee hearings, lobbying and leadership briefings. The stay will be six days long at the



Danielle Matthews

beautiful campus of the National 4-H Center, located in the Washington D.C. metropolitan area.

Lady Broncos Fall to Mason's Cowgirls

by Nancy Glasscock

The Sonora Lady Broncos basketball team played on a cold home court last Friday night. Maybe that's why the roundball just wouldn't go in for the hometown gals. Shots rattled in and out all night. Mason's team height, quickness, and full court press proved to be too difficult to overcome. Sonora only got two buckets from Meghan Krieg in the first period. Sonora pulled within four points of Mason at the break with three-pointers from Jillian Gulley and Krieg, and baskets by Lauren Smith and Kristina Hernandez. Mason pulled away again in the third quarter and never looked back. Sonora didn't step onto the free throw line until 4:30 was left in the game. The final score was 52-30. Meghan Krieg was Sonora's leading scorer with thirteen points (5 FG's and 2 FT's). The Lady Broncos play next on December 27th at Reagan County.

Scoring: Meghan Krieg 13; Tissie Waggoner 6; Lauren Smith 4; Jillian Gulley 3; Kristina Hernandez 2; Amanda Word 2

Broncos start holidays with a win over Christoval

by Maray Cearley

Last week Sonora traveled to Christoval to play their last game before the holidays and the start of district play.

This was the third time they had met this season. Sonora won the previous two and this one was no different. The Broncos outscored the Cougars in the third period 16-6 which led to the final score of 57-42.

Brett McDaniel and Clint

Cearley had outstanding performances. McDaniel had 17 points, 11 rebounds, 6 blocked shots and 1 steal.

Cearley also had 17 points along with 5 rebounds, 4 blocks and 4 steals. Also scoring for the Broncos were Embre Smith 6, Steven Duhon 5, Austin Wagoner 4, Dustin Creek 4 and Cullen Parker 4.

The Broncos will start district action in Sonora on New Year's Eve at 3 p.m.

Out-of-School Examinee Registration Packets for February Exit Level TAAS or TAKS retests available

During each regular exit level test administration, individuals who are no longer enrolled in school and who have not previously met minimum expectations on all sections of the TAAS or TAKS retest, but have met all other graduation requirements, may retake the necessary section(s).

The TEAMS test will no longer be administered. Examinees eligible for TEAMS will take the exit level reading and/or math TAAS test(s). TEAMS students are not required to take the writing tests. TAAS scores will be matched to the TEAMS passing standard.

Individuals who are no longer enrolled in a Texas public school and who wish to register to take the exit level TAAS or TAKS test, may pick up a registration packet at any high school campus, district central office, or education service center. The appropriate test registration form must be completed and returned in the pre-addressed envelope and must be received in Austin, Texas, no later than 5:00 p.m., January 21, 2005. A student can register for the TAAS or TAKS test online by accessing our web site at <http://k12testing.tx.ncspearson.com> or by completing a registration form.

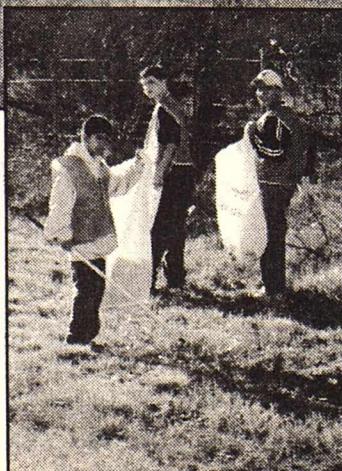
The Texas Education Agency and Pearson Educational Measurement will not be responsible for registration forms that are delayed or lost in the mail. To ensure that individuals are registered, forms should be sent by either registered mail or certified mail.

Boy Scouts clean up Hwy 277



Sonora Boy Scout Troop 19 worked on Tuesday, December 14 and Thursday December 16, 2004, cleaning up a portion of Hwy. 277 S.

These scouts are working to earn donations that will help pay for winter camp that will be held at Camp Sol Mayer.



Business Tips: Trim Your Tax Tree

Ah, it's that magical time of year again. Sleigh bells, reindeer, holiday parties, and year-end tax planning!! Okay, so trimming your taxes is not nearly as fun as trimming a tree but it certainly has its own rewards come April 15th. So, before you take another swig of eggnog, spend a few hours figuring out what tax saving moves you should make between now and December 31st. Here are six to consider this year:

Pour over your books. Do you have any bad debt in your accounts receivable, that is, invoices that have remained unpaid for six months or more? If so, you may be able to claim a deduction, but only if you've made serious efforts to collect the money before year-end. Hiring a collection agency or sending certified late-notice letters are two of the best ways to prove to the IRS you have tried.

Next, tally up your profits and calculate your tax tab. Have you paid nearly enough in quarterly taxes to cover your 2004 bill? If not, you've got plenty of company. According to a study conducted by the American Institute of Professional Bookkeepers, the number one mistake small business owners make is to pay too little in estimates. If you find yourself in this situation, you may want to reduce your income by claiming as many legitimate deductions as possible and set aside monies for the tax bill soon to come.

To find out deductions for which you may qualify, as well as the paperwork you will need to support those deductions, be sure to visit a qualified accountant. This year, deduction limits have increased on a few items, most notably tangible assets. Under the IRS's Section 179 rule, you can deduct up to \$100,000 in furniture, computers, vehicles and other tangible equipment purchased in 2004.

But do not rush out and buy a sleek new desk just yet. First, you must consider next year's earnings. In any kind of budget or cash flow projections, you have to look at more than one year, especially when approaching year-end. For instance, if you have a big contract (and lots of revenue) coming up next year, you might want to delay

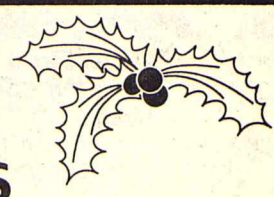
purchasing equipment now and buy it in January 2005.

Similarly, by projecting your 2005 earnings, you can determine whether it makes the most sense to speed up revenues this year or do the opposite. For instance, if this year's earnings are exceptionally high, you may want to delay billing in December. That way, your customers will pay late and you won't get the income until January 2005.

The final and best way to keep taxes at bay is to place cash into a retirement plan. Don't have the money? No problem. As long as you file for extensions, you can have until October 15th of next year to come up with the cash for this year's plans. Just don't get behind on your planning efforts for 2005. See, Uncle Sam isn't such a Grinch after all!! Ho, ho, ho.... Happy Holidays from the IRS to you!

"Business Tips" is provided by Ms. Pamela Venable, director and certified business advisor IV at Angelo State University's Small Business Development Center.

Season's Greetings



Gas
\$7.17 per MMBtu.
Crude Oil
\$39.86/BBL

As of December 21, 2004

203 S. Hwy 277 • 387-3881

Location-Builders



UPS

228 E. Main • 387-2498

Need Some Holiday Rest?
CROCKETT COUNTY CARE CENTER
now offers 24-hour a day
Respite Care

This service gives the patient's at-home caregiver an opportunity to rest or vacation secure in the knowledge that their loved one will receive quality professional care.

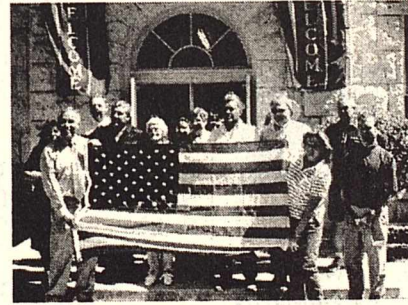
Respite care at Crockett County Care Center can extend up to two weeks and includes:

- Professional staff on duty 24 hours a day
- Administering patient's medication and plan of care
- Room and Board
- Opportunity to participate in all care center activities

For more information, contact Crockett County Care Center Administrator Benny Gibbs or Director of Nurses, Vicky Childress.
103 North Avenue H • 392-3096

A holiday greeting from

Congressman Henry Bonilla



Dear Friends,

I hope that this holiday season brings you and yours all the joy on earth.



It has been my honor to represent you for the last twelve years and I look forward to another successful year for the people of the 23rd Congressional District.



All my best,

Henry Bonilla



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Don't Forget Your Pets



submitted by Pascual Hernandez, Sutton County

Though our winters are generally mild, it has been cold lately and more cold weather is surely in store for us. These cold spells during winter can pose special risks to pets. As such, remember to keep outdoor pets in a warm dry area. You might even need to elevate your pet's bed off the floor. Also, staying warm means that the body will use extra calories so adjust your pet's diet accordingly when the temperatures drop.
Cats often nap on warm car engines, so knock on the hood or tap the horn and then wait a few minutes before starting the

car. Pets like the smell and taste of anti-freeze but even a small amount can kill them so watch for leaks. If the weather becomes severe it might be a good idea to bring your pet inside. It will be important to remove ice or caked mud from your pet's coat and paws at once. A sign of frostbite will be a reddish, white or gray skin and it may be scaly or sloughing. Consult your veterinarian if you suspect that your pet may be frostbitten.

Our pets provide us with companionship and affection, so don't forget to keep them as comfortable as possible this winter. Have a safe and merry Christmas.



Rig Locations as of December 17, 2004

Sutton
New Dominion; 9500' Hill-May M Ray - B
- #2, Patterson Drilling.
New Dominion; 8975' Hudspeth - 1017 - #1
Patterson Drilling.
New Dominion; 8900' Randee Hill-Fawcett
Trust - D, Patterson Drilling.
New Dominion; 8700' Bobbie H Fawcett #15, Patterson
Drilling.
New Dominion; 8450' Edwin S Mayer Jr - U - #10, Patterson
Drilling.
New Dominion; 8300' Edwin S Mayer Jr - D - #15, Patterson
Drilling.
New Dominion; 8250' Simmons Ranch #86, Patterson Drilling.
New Dominion; 8200' Simmons Ranch #87, Patterson Drilling.
New Dominion; 7500' Ben Mittel #6, Patterson Drilling.
New Dominion; 6500' Hull #8, Patterson Drilling.
New KCS Resources; 6500' Carta - 104 - #4, Patterson Drilling.
New Dominion; 5000' Vanderstucken - 1 - #6, Patterson
Drilling.
New Dominion; 5000' Pfluger #8805, Patterson Drilling.
Crockett
Devon Energy; 7000' Ruby Helbing - 16 - #6, Patterson Drilling.
New Endeavor Energy; 10500' Dudley - 26 - #2H, Big Dog
Drilling.
New J Cleo Thompson; 9500' University 32-9 #2, Patterson
Drilling.
New Approach Operating; 9000' JR Bailey Estate - B - #411,
Key Energy.
New Approach Operating; 9000' JR Bailey - A - #510, Nabors
Drilling.
Approach Operating; 9000' JR Bailey - A - #303, Nabors
Drilling.
New Encore Operating; 9000' Jones Ranch - B - #1638,
Patterson Drilling.
New Anadarko E&P; 6500' McDonald - 14 - #8, Patterson
Drilling.
Terrell
Riata Energy Inc; 19000' Mitchell #1201, Lariat Drilling.
Riata Energy Inc; 12000' Mitchell #6301, Lariat Drilling.
Newfield; 15000' Poulter #3502, Patterson Drilling.
EOG Resources; 9500' Noelke - 31 - #1H, Nabors Drilling.
ConocoPhillips; 12600' University - 4 - #7, Patterson UT/LV.
Edwards
New Devon Louisiana; 4900' James E Epperson #2, Key
Energy.
Dominion; 7725' Canyon Ranch #2113E, Key Energy.
New Newfield; 10000' Five - C - Ranch #6301, Patterson
Drilling.
Val Verde
New Chesapeake; 7000' Bunker - 30 - #9, Patterson Drilling.
New Pure Resources; 4500' Mills Trust Welborne - 1 - #1,
Nabors Drilling.
New Willo Oil & Gas; 4000' Mills - 18 - #4, Patterson Drilling.
Schleicher
New Dominion; 8800' Edwin S Mayer Jr - N - #8, Patterson
Drilling.
New Dominion; 8700' Doris Mayer Rousselot - B - #3, Patterson
Drilling.
TXP, Inc; 7600' Meador - A - #5, Heart Land Drilling.
New Pogo Producing Co; 6900' Lloyd-Moran West #2, Heart
Land Drilling.

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



Holiday indoor plants take special care to last

by Dr. Doug Welsh,

COLLEGE STATION - A white Christmas may be dreamy, but those who love plants want to keep it green, at least indoors, during the winter season.

Decorated pots of poinsettias, Christmas cactus and amaryllis can be an attractive interior garden to be kept healthy long after the chestnuts have roasted on an open fire.

Texas Cooperative Extension horticulturists and their corps of highly trained Master Gardeners have a few pointers for keeping holiday plants healthy long after the season is over.

Poinsettias
Buy a healthy plant. Is the foliage vividly green? Are the tiny buds in the middle of the plant green and closed tightly? Those are signs of a good plant, the horticulturists say.

It does not need a lot of water. In fact, it should be allowed to dry out between waterings, according to Dr. Doug Welsh, Extension horticulturist, and don't feed it. Put the poinsettia in a room with a comfortable temperature, bright light and no drafts.

After the holidays, many horticulturists recommend tossing the plant because it is a little picky about growing and blooming for anyone but a serious nursery operator.

But those who like a challenge can try getting the poinsettia to bloom again.
"This is not easy to accomplish, but dedicated gardeners sometimes succeed," Welsh said. After most of the leaves fall off, reduce the watering and store the dormant plant in a cool, well ventilated place at 60° F or above (the garage is an excellent place for these less than attractive plants).

In March prune back the stems to about 6 inches above the ground and re-pot the plant into a container which is 1 to 2 inches larger in diameter than the original pot. A good potting mix should be used.

Water the plant thoroughly and place it in a sunny window; keeping it at 70° to 75° F. When new growth begins, the poinsettia should be fertilized every two weeks with a water soluble, complete fertilizer. Follow label instructions.

Once the danger of frost is past, the plant can be moved outdoors where it receives moderate shade in mid-afternoon. As growth develops, the top can be cut or pinched back leaving three or four leaves on each shoot. Repeat this procedure each time the plant sends out new shoots until mid-August. Then bring the plant indoors and set it near a sunny window where the temperature will remain between 65° to 70° F.

In warmer areas of the United States, poinsettias can be planted outdoors in a place protected from frost.

From the first of October until the colored leaves can be seen, the poinsettia should not receive any light at night. Cover the plant at dusk using a light-proof bag or box and uncover about 8 a.m. A closet may be ideal to put it in at night. Even a quick, short exposure to dim light can prevent flowering.

Keep damp, not wet, in bright light, out of drafts and away from heating ducts.

Poinsettias planted in the ground are more difficult to handle. Poinsettias are cold-sensitive and may freeze if left unprotected. They must be exposed to a short-day lighting period to ensure Christmas color. This means that an earth-bound plant would have to be covered for 15 hours daily.

Christmas Cactus
Christmas cactus (Schlumbergera bridgesii) is an old-fashioned plant characterized by glossy, flat, chain-like segments and a pendant (flower) that is usually red or reddish-

orange. Christmas cactus is an epiphyte, which means in nature it grows hanging from trees in tropical forests.

As a houseplant Christmas cactus does best in coarse, porous soils high in organic matter. Use half sand and half fine bark or coarse peat moss. Provide excellent drainage and allow plants to become drier between watering just prior to bloom. Fertilize every two to four months with a standard balanced houseplant fertilizer when plants are actively growing. Place it away from doorways, heating vents or other drafty locations. Christmas cactus blooms best if kept pot-bound.

Christmas cactus can be encouraged to rebloom by keeping it in total darkness from 6 p.m. to 8 a.m. beginning Sept. 1 until buds form. If keeping them in total dark at night is difficult, there's another option. At temperatures around 55° F or slightly lower, Christmas cactus loses its short-day requirements for flower bud setting. If you leave plants outside until frost threatens, they should have a nighttime temperature of 45° to 55° F for four weeks, which should encourage buds. Bring them inside before a frost.

Start new plants after blooming season by cutting 3- to 4-inch segments and inserting them in moist sand. Repot once the roots are visible.

Here's a care calendar for the cactus.

* December-February: When the cactus has finished flowering, it needs about two months' rest. Give it almost no water or fertilizer at this time.

* March-May: The cactus will begin to grow, with sprouts appearing at the tips of joints. Begin to water and add a small amount of diluted fertilizer. This is the time to repot if necessary.

* June-July: The plant needs a second rest period. Water sparingly and do not fertilize, but do not let the soil dry completely.

* August-September: Increase watering; never let the plant dry out. Flower buds will begin to form. Keep the plant in one place, as drafts or sudden changes in light may cause the buds to fall off. Give very large plants a little fertilizer now. Flowers will form on healthy shoots.

This cactus can live for many years and grow quite large.

Amaryllis
The amaryllis, another popular holiday plant, is prolific and long-lived. This bulb will produce showy trumpets year after year with minimal care.

After the blossoms wither, cut the flower stem 1 inch above the base. Water and feed regularly, and provide plenty of light. Amaryllis may be summered outdoors, initially in partial shade and then into full sunlight. "Plant" the pots in a flower bed to help retain moisture.

For Christmas blooms next year, place the pots on their sides in late September. Do not water. In November, remove the old foliage, replace the top 1 or 2 inches of potting soil. The bulbs like to be crowded and should have about 1 inch between the bulb and the pot. Thoroughly water and wait until growth.

The new flower bud and stem will emerge and bloom in three to eight weeks. Water sparingly at first, increasing the amount as the stem elongates. Sunlight is essential during the growing stage. Rotate the pot to encourage straight stems. Water generously during blooming, and remove from direct sunlight to prolong the life of the bloom.
Depending on the bulb size, one to three stems will be produced. Each bulb will provide several weeks of spectacular color.

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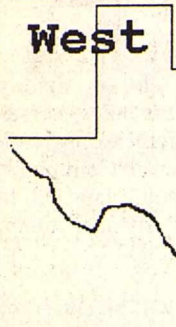
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Employment

Lariat Services, Inc. is seeking an experienced Air Driller. Wage ranges between \$20.00 to \$24.00 an hour depending on experience. Will pay \$30.00 per diem and mileage reimbursement. Benefits include 401K Plan and Dental Plan and company paid Medical Insurance. Fax resume to 325-336-9339 or contact the Fort Stockton Office at 325-336-7821.

Experienced Tanker Drivers needed for Sonora, Ozona and Sheffield areas. Call B & K Trucking at 432-836-4342.

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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Excellent Opportunity: Independent Oil and Gas Operator looking for **experienced swabbing unit operator**. Please contact Nick at 325-206-0270 or 325-387-3386.

Help Wanted: Full-time employees. Part-time for weekends and holidays. Apply in person at **The Caverns of Sonora** or call 387-3105 for more information.

Nursery Attendant needed at Church of the Good Shepherd. 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Sunday Mornings. \$25.00 per week. Call 387-2616.

Laborers and carpenters helpers needed. Must be able to pass drug test. Contact Keith 325-387-3900.

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Taco Grill is now accepting applications for **dish washers** and **wait staff**. Please apply in person at 232 Hwy. 277 N.

Automobile

For Sale: 1985 Chevy 1/2 Ton Pickup \$1,000.00. 1995 Oldsmobile Van \$2,500.00 Call 387-7094

For Sale: 2003 Grand Am GT with sunroof, leather seats, XM radio. Less than 20,000 miles. Asking \$14,000.00 call 387-3948 after 6:00 p.m.

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Have a Safe Holiday Season!

Public Notice

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS OF PROPOSED TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (TxDOT) CONTRACTS

Sealed proposals for contracts listed below will be received by TxDOT until the date(s) shown below, and then publicly read.

CONSTRUCTION/MAINTENANCE/BUILDING FACILITIES CONTRACT(S)

Dist/Div: San Angelo Contract 0907-00-063 for OVERHEAD FLASHING BEACONS in TOM GREEN County, etc will be opened on January 11, 2005 at 1:00 pm at the State Office.

Plans and specifications are available for inspection, along with bidding proposals, and applications for the TxDOT Prequalified Contractor's list, at the applicable State and/or Dist/Div Offices listed below. If applicable, bidders must submit prequalification information to TxDOT at least 10 days prior to the bid date to be eligible to bid on a project. Prequalification materials may be requested from the State Office listed below. Plans for the above contract(s) are available from TxDOT's website at www.dot.state.tx.us and from reproduction companies at the expense of the contractor. NPO: 15155

State Office
Constr./Maint. Division
200 E. Riverside Dr.
Austin, Texas 78704
Phone: 512-416-2540

Dist/Div Office(s)
San Angelo District District Engineer
4502 Knickerbocker Rd
San Angelo, Texas 76904
Phone: 325-944-1501

Minimum wage rates are set out in bidding documents and the rates will be part of the contract. TXDOT ensures that bidders will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, sex, or national origin.

Dunes Mini Storages located on Hwy. 277, in Sonora, Texas; Sutton County will be holding a public sale in **Late January- Early February 2005** to satisfy a landlord's lien, **weather permitting**. This is the tenant's second official notice of "Intent To Sale" concerning their property. The date for the sale will be published next in January. Seller reserves the right to withdraw property from sale at any time. The following tenants as of December 13, 2004 will be: **Abel Mcgee, Tammy Sheldon, Manuel Arrennondo, Stacey Campbell, Fran Pennington, Donald Bean, Benny Frazier, Casey Fitzgerald, Diane Virgen**. If you feel there might be an error regarding this notice contact Jana Dover @ 325-387-2104 or @ Landmark Apartments (office A-4). To assist in making payments or payment arrangements, you may contact me during regular business hours.

Sports Decals

Vinyl Sports Decals Call Erica 387-2507

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS OF PROPOSED TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (TxDOT) CONTRACTS

Sealed proposals for contracts listed below will be received by TxDOT until the date(s) shown below, and then publicly read. **CONSTRUCTION/MAINTENANCE/BUILDING FACILITIES CONTRACT(S)**

Dist./Div: San Angelo Contract 6124-57-001 for TRIMMING AND PRUNING TREES IN THE RIGHT OF WAY in SUTTON County, etc. will be received on January 27, 2005 until 1:00 p.m. and opened on January 27, 2005 at 2:00 p.m. at the District Office for an estimate of \$53,550.00.

Plans and specifications are available for inspection, along with bidding proposals, and applications for the TxDOT Prequalified Contractor's list, at the applicable State and/or Dist/Div. Offices listed below. If applicable, bidders must submit prequalification information to TxDOT at least 10 days prior to the bid date to be eligible to bid on a project. Prequalification materials may be requested from the State Office listed below. Plans for the above contract(s) are available from TxDOT's website at www.dot.state.tx.us and from reproduction companies at the expense of the contractor. NPO: 15090

State Office
Constr./Maint. Division
200 E. Riverside Dr.
Austin, Texas 78704
Phone: 512-416-2540

Dist./Div. Office(s)
San Angelo District District Engineer
4502 Knickerbocker Rd.
San Angelo, Texas 76904
Phone: 325-944-1501

Minimum wage rates are set out in bidding documents and the rates will be part of contract. TXDOT ensures that bidders will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, sex, or national origin.

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Approximately 75 acres of prime live oak / cedar ranch land. Perfect for weekend retreat or hunting get away. No improvements. Eastern Sutton County. Lynn Meador Real Estate 325-853-2808.

Pets

PET CARE SERVICE: Keep your pet at your home for \$5.00 a day for 1 pet & \$1.00 extra for additional. Can take pets to vet \$6.00 a trip to town only. Call 387-5649 for info. References available.

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Bob Caruthers Real Estate
BROKER



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Bobbie A. Smith Real Estate

218 Sawyer Dr. - \$87,500.00. 3 BR, 2 BA, brick home, CH-AC, kitchen appliances, incl. dbl. car garage, privacy fenced, near school and hospital. Sellers moving.

1403 Glasscock - \$35,000.00. near I-10 mobile home with large dorm room, large tree-shaded yard with grass and shrubs. Carport and storage room.

2.07 Acres corner of Savell & Cornell Sts. Former church bldg, parking lot, basketball court and baseball field. Property includes 4 BR, 2 BA double-wide which can be sold separately.

1.208 acres, 612 Water Street near Hwy. 277 IH-10. Ideal commercial location, adjoins historic nature trail. Property includes historic bldg. containing large den/living/dining room, kitchen, 2 BR/Office space with attached apt. Large workshop/garage and pool area.

(325)387-2728

Scott Jacoby Real Estate

For Sale or Lease 1603 S. Crockett **Two Office Buildings on 3.62 acres**

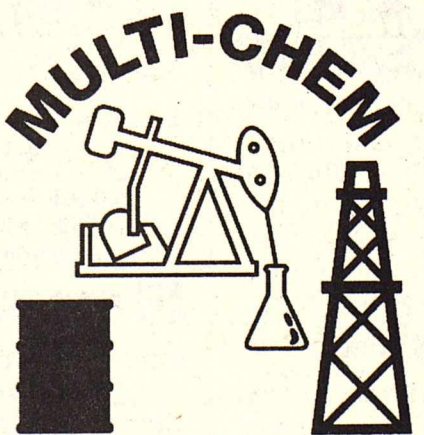
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Adult female cat 9 mo. old male mixed breed 4 mo. old female Lab Cross

We need a good home: Adult Dalmatian, 8 week old male and female kittens.

Sponsored by:  **Sonora Animal Hospital 387-2481**

F.Y.I.

The Roosevelt Jingle Bell parade will be held on Friday, December 24, in downtown Roosevelt. Ride your bikes, horses, 4-wheelers or just walk in the parade, but don't forget your jingle bells! Line-up will begin at 10:00 a.m. at the Roosevelt Community Center with the parade beginning at 10:30 a.m. Santa Claus will be available at the Back Door Café afterward for any last minute requests. For additional information call 325/446-8032.

Taxpayer Alert - The Appraisal District office will be closed on the following dates: December 24, 27, 31 and January 3. If you are unable to pay your taxes before these dates and want to make payments before the end of the year, please drop your payment in the mail with a December 31, 2004, postmark.

Sonora ISD will be hosting an open house for the newly renovated Old Rock Schoolhouse on January 3, 2005 from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Events begin with a ribbon cutting at 10:00 a.m., after which the old school bell will be rung to officially open the building. Visitors may tour until 2:00 p.m. and refreshments will be served. Everyone is cordially invited to attend.

The Lillian M. Hudspeth Memorial Hospital Auxiliary is selling tickets for a six month individual membership to the Health and Wellness Center scheduled to open in April 2005 (a \$180 value). The new facility will offer aquatic therapy, water and ground aerobics as well as a fully equipped exercise facility for both strength and cardiovascular conditioning. The drawing will be held at the March Auxiliary Luncheon. Tickets are \$1 each and available at the hospital, Sutton County Extension Office and the Sonora Chamber of Commerce Office.

6th Annual Polar Bear Classic, sponsored by the Sonora High School Golf Team, Saturday, January 15, 2005, at the Sonora Golf Course, 12:30 p.m. (please sign up early); \$10 per person (any extra donations will be gladly accepted); 18 holes of par 3 golf (scramble), ties broke with putt off; sign up at the pro shop - 387-3680. The Sonora Golf Club has waived green fees for non members. If bad weather, will postpone until the next Saturday.

SERVICE DIRECTORY

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Please call us immediately at **1-800-895-2396** for hazardous liquids pipeline emergencies, **1-800-644-4773** for natural gas pipeline emergencies, or call 911 for emergency services.


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Before you begin work near the pipelines, please contact your state One Call center. One call will inform us of your activity, and we will dispatch a company representative to mark the location of the pipeline in the vicinity at no charge. Your safety is important to Enterprise.

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The One Call number for Texas is 1-800-245-4545
Texas Excavation Safety System (TESS) 1-800-344-8377

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- Ve polvo soplando desde el interior del suelo
- Ve una nube de vapor o una charca de líquidos
- Observa construcción u otra actividad cerc del gasoducto
- Observa burbujas en consistencias de líquidos

Por favor llámenos inmediatamente al **1-800-895-2396** para petróleo, **1-800-644-4773** para gas, o llame al 911 para asistencia de emergencias.

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Antes de que comience cualquier trabajo cerca de los gasoductos, por favor contacte a su centro de llamadas One Call de su estado. El servicio One Call nos informará de su actividad, y enviaremos un representante de la compañía para marcar el sitio del gasoducto en el área circundante sin costo alguno. Su seguridad es importante para Enterprise.

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Enterprise es un patrocinador corporativo de Common Ground Alliance, CGA

Transportation agency approves \$600 million package

State Capital Highlights
Texas Press Association

By Mike Cox
AUSTIN - Texans are getting an early holiday present - \$600 million in highway safety improvement projects approved last Thursday by the Texas Transportation Commission.

The money won't really be coming from Santa Claus, of course. Texas voters in 2003 gave the Department of Transportation authority to sell up to \$3 billion in bonds to pay for highway improvement projects, with up to 20 percent dedicated to safety improvements.

This is the first tangible result of that, the largest highway safety improvement project in Texas history.

The money will fund 644 projects across the state that the Texas Transportation Institute's Safety Center estimates will save 90 lives and prevent 1,100 injuries a year. All the contracts will be let by August 2006, with many of the projects getting under way before then.

The projects include widening 1,600 miles of roadway, installing 740 miles of median barriers, 171 left turn lanes and 10 new overpasses.

Collectively, they will reduce run-off-the-road accidents, head-on collisions and rear-end crashes, TxDOT says.

For a list of the safety projects, see the TxDOT Web site at www.dot.state.tx.us.

Spanish group to develop toll road...

Spain built the first highway across Texas, the Camino Real, and it seems on track to build the largest toll road in Texas.

Madrid-based Cintra was selected last week by the Transportation Commission to begin developing detailed design and financial plans for the first component of the Trans-Texas Corridor, a 4,000-mile transportation network for car, trucks, trains and utilities.

The Spanish group has

offered to spend \$6 billion to build a 316-mile toll road from Dallas to San Antonio by 2010 and to give the state another \$1.2 billion for construction projects along the Interstate 35 corridor.

Comptroller cites teacher pay hike...

Comptroller Carole Keeton Strayhorn last week released a report called "The Cost of Underpaying Texas Teachers" that proposes a \$3,000 annual pay raise for teachers.

Texas ranks 33rd nationally in teacher salaries, and low teacher pay is associated with high turnover rates, the report says.

"Nearly 37,000 Texas teachers leave the classroom each year taking their skills to better-paying jobs or simply quitting," Strayhorn said.

Also recommended in the report is an automatic state-funded salary adjustment every two years, an expanded mentor program for teachers and a \$2,500 bonus to teachers at low-performing schools that raised their ranking from "academically unacceptable" to "acceptable" or higher.

The report can be viewed at www.window.state.tx.us/specialrpt/teachersalary04/.

Fishy fund raising...

A non-profit group hoping to raise \$2 million for an education building at the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's Freshwater Fisheries Center at Athens has come up with a way to convert left over fish food to cash.

The Friends of the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center recently put up for auction on eBay two dried, gold-painted chicken bones left over from meals eaten by Splash, Texas' record blue catfish.

Mounted in oak display cases with a notation that they were cleaned by the 121.5-pound Splash, the bones would make the perfect holiday gift for a couple of people who may think they already have everything.

Merry Christmas

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- THE GRUDGE 2:20 *4:50 *7:20 *9:50
- SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS MOVIE dts PG 2:30 *4:45 *7:00 *9:00
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