

Happy New Year

THE Devil's River NEWS

50¢

Since 1890

Volume 116 • Issue 52

SONORA, TEXAS

Thursday, December 30, 2004

U.S. Election Voted Top News Story of '04

by David Cray, AP National Writer

NEW YORK - The Iraq war and terrorism dominated the 2004 list of top stories in an annual Associated Press survey, but it was President Bush election victory that editors and news directors chose as the biggest story of the year.

The war itself was the No. 2 choice, and four other stories in the Top 10 involved either Iraq or terrorist attacks.

The election, in which Bush defeated Democrat John Kerry and the Republicans strengthened their hold on both chambers in Congress, received 137 first-place votes out of 234 ballots cast. Iraq, voted the No. 1 story in both 2002 and 2003, was runner-up this year, with 79 first place votes.

Here are 2004's top 10 stories, as voted by AP members:

1. U.S. ELECTION: After vanquishing Howard Dean, John Edwards and other Democratic rivals, Kerry seemed to have a strong chance of ousting Bush. But the Massachusetts senator struggled to explain his stance on Iraq, underestimated the sting of negative ads and — in the end — narrowly lost the pivotal swing state of Ohio after a campaign in which Bush, over and over, insisted he was best qualified to be commander in chief at a time of complex challenges to national security.

2. IRAQ: Throughout 2004, Iraq was a striking mix of bloody turmoil and tantalizing promise. Anti-American insurgents wreaked havoc with car bombings and videotaped beheadings of hostages; the death toll for U.S. military forces passed 1,300, and the toll of Iraqi civilians was many times higher. Yet Iraq's interim leaders doggedly proceeded with plans for national elections early in the new year.

3. FLORIDA HURRICANES: Four major hurricanes — Charley, Frances, Ivan and Jeanne — devastated Florida and other southern states in August and September, killing 117 people in Florida, destroying 2,500 homes and causing more than \$22 billion in insured losses. Not since 1886 had one state been hit by four hurricanes in one season.

4. ABU GHRAIB SCANDAL: Photographs came to

See 2004 News page 8

Sutton County sweeps Bandera Show

Sutton county 4-Hers Cash Jennings and Laura Martin had a successful day at the Bandera County Angora goat show on December 11. Cash exhibited a buck kid and yearling buck and took 1st place in both classes. His yearling went on to win champion buck. Laura exhibited two doe kids that took 1st and 2nd in their class, two yearling does that won 1st and 3rd in the class, and one aged doe that earned 1st place in her class and went on to win champion doe. The day ended with Sutton county dominating the champion goat classes. Laura's doe was named champion goat while Cash's buck earned reserve champion honors for the day.

Congratulations Laura and Cash! The Sutton County

Donaldson named Sutton County Firefighter of the Year



Kyle Donaldson (center) was named "Firefighter of the Year" at the 2004 Christmas party held on December 18. Fire Chief Rick Cearley (right) presented Kyle with a plaque in honor of the title. Kyle joined the Sonora Volunteer Fire Department in 1964 and has served as Fire Chief, President, 1st Vice President and Secretary/Treasurer. He also served as the secretary/treasurer for the Hill Country Firemen's Association for 10 years.

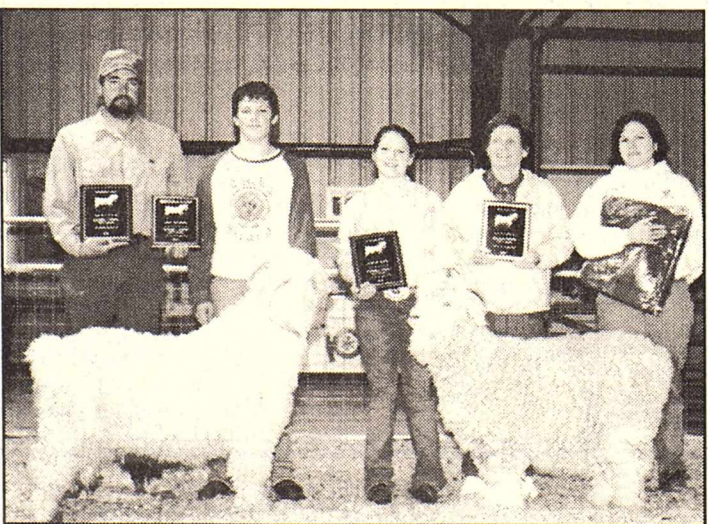
Kyle served on the local Fireman's Relief and Retirement Board for two years. He was on the committee that presented this retirement plan to the City Council in 1990 and served as a board member for the first two years after inception. He served as a councilman for the City of Sonora for five years and is a past Master of the local Masonic Lodge, of which he has been a member since 1972. For the past seven years, Kyle has served as a trustee of the Emergency Services Personnel Retirement Fund, which he was first appointed by then Governor George Bush. He was recently reappointed for another six year term by Governor Rick Perry. Kyle received his honor with daughter Traci, granddaughter Kendall, and wife Elaine (not pictured is his son, Jason). Congratulations to Kyle for this honor and Sutton County thanks you for your years of service.

Thorp retires from Sonora Volunteer Fire Department



Tim Thorp announced his retirement from the Sonora Volunteer Fire Department at the Christmas party on December 18, 2004. Thorp has been a volunteer with the Fire Department for 32 years. During his time with the Department, Tim has served in all officer positions and has worked countless fires and emergencies for Sutton County. He was joined by his granddaughter, Jocelyn, daughter, Joni, wife, Leslie, and son T.J.

Fire Chief Rick Cearley (right) presented Thorp with a special plaque bearing a chrome-plated vaunted fireman's axe, an appropriate way to say "well done" to a deserving hero.



Larry Jennings, Cash Jennings, Laura Martin, Betty Stewart and Julie Martin show off all the prizes won by Sonora in Bandera.

Livestock show will be held Friday, January 7 and Saturday, January 8. We invite the community to come out and observe the many hard working participants Sutton county has as they

A Christmas gift wrapped with a yellow ribbon

It was an early Christmas for Patti and Lester Rainer, with a special holiday visit from their son, Raymond. On leave from the Navy, Raymond and his girlfriend, Amber, also in the Navy, removed his yellow ribbon from the Old Oak Tree on Thursday, December 23, 2004. Raymond joined the Navy in May of 2000 and is stationed in Kaneohe, Hawaii until October of 2006. From December 2004 until June 2004, Raymond was on active duty in Bahrain, where they supported the army and marines with air support and logistics communication between the air and ground in Afghanistan and Iraq. Friends of Historic Sonora Main Street Manager, Ann Kay presented Raymond with special certificates of appreciation from Sutton County and the City of Sonora. She also gave him a gift certificate for a free lunch from the Sutton County Steakhouse while he was home. Everyone was glad to have Raymond and Amber home for the holidays and wished them well in all their future endeavors.



Patti and Lester Rainer happily join their son Raymond as he removes his yellow ribbon from the Old Oak Tree.

City council saturated with water rates issue

by Storie Sharp

The increase in water and wastewater rates had the Sonora City Council meeting filled to standing room only on Tuesday, December 21, 2004. Three agenda items pertained to the subject, with requests from several individuals to speak.

The city accountant report started things off, stating that the cash accounts were dropping, and the main areas of loss was the water and sewage departments. After explaining each page of his report, he gave two main reasons for the continuing loss in the water fund; 1- expenses are up and 2- more rain than previous years. He stated that the approved rate increase was much needed, but the ideal situation would have been to have raised rates in smaller increments over the years. He also stated that increases in the future would be absolutely necessary. After more explanation of the charts and graphs provided, the council accepted the report as presented.

Brigitte Rogers began the public discussions, thanking the council for allowing her the opportunity to speak and voice her opinion. Rogers stated that it was clear that the October billing was incorrect and that customers had been charged for the new rate prior to the November 1 date that was set. City Manager Brent Gesch agreed that because of the way the billing cycle fell, the customers were prematurely charged the new amount. After discussing how this came about, the council approved for Sue Moore to adjust the bills and apply a credit to the January bill for all the customers that were affected.

Mrs. Julia Hines was next to approach the council. Hines thanked the city personnel for all their assistance in helping her gather information. She then expressed strong disdain with the water rates that have been implemented. Hines stated that consumption should be how a customer is charged, not on meter size. She stressed that she firmly believes that increases are necessary, however, they should be just and reasonable and should be based on how much water a household or business uses, not how much they COULD use. She asked many questions of the council

and the city manager regarding how the decisions for the billing came to be. She also recommended that a comprehensive study be done for the sewage rate. Council members Smith Neal and Virgil Poloczek spoke on the matter, explaining that water is a precious commodity and the increase had to be made. Visitors agreed that increases are needed and expected, but why did they wait until the situation was so bad and then slam the customers with such a large hike at one time?

Concern over the cost of changing out the larger meters was put up for discussion. Citizens asked why they were being charged such a large amount, \$450, to change out a large meter that many didn't even know they had. Gesch explained that this covered the cost of the meter and the labor.

Mrs. Susan Hall approached the council and expressed her concerns regarding the matter, stating that she had contacted the TCEQ and was informed that all increases must be "just and reasonable" and that a petition had been passed around and was full of people that did not feel these increases were "just and reasonable". She asked that the council please do what is right and make a decision on this matter. She also informed the council that because of the petition having the requested %10 of customers signatures, the TCEQ would be involved in reviewing this situation.

Many more questions and concerns were discussed with one analogy standing out. Mrs. Hines asked the council "if a Pinto goes to a gas station, where the gas costs \$1.81 a gallon, and fills its tank, which costs \$10, they pay \$10. If an SUV goes to that same tank and put \$10 in their tank, it does not fill their tank, but they still pay \$10 for the same amount of gas the Pinto used. Yes, they COULD use more gas, but they didn't, therefore, they are charged for the amount of gas they got." She stressed that water should be charged on the same basis, by actual, not potential, usage.

Mayor Gloria Lopez finally decided that a special meeting be called to discuss this matter further and try to come to a reasonable decision that works for all involved. Mayor Lopez

reminded the visitors that these rate discussions had begun in the spring and many public meetings had taken place to discuss this subject. It had been in the paper and mailings had been sent out and no concerns had been expressed prior to the October billing statements. She asked that the citizens remain informed in future matters so as to avoid such conflict. A member of the audience reminded the council that this is why council members are elected, to look out for their best interests and represent them in matters of such importance. The date for the public meeting to discuss the water rates was not set, but will be announced after the first of the year.

Staying on the subject of water, Joan Cusenberry asked the council if these increased rates were going to guarantee her water at all times. She expressed concerns at being "up hill" from the water source and was worried that the smaller meter might not be able to produce enough pressure to properly supply her home. Again, the Mayor said that this would be addressed in the public meeting at a later date.

In other business, the council heard the first reading of a request for approval of an SIDC project to grant \$60,000 for infrastructure improvements to the land and building occupied by Multi-Chem LLC located at 704 Glasscock Street. The council questioned the request, asking how it would benefit the community. Nancy Glasscock, office manager for the SIDC explained that the infrastructure of the building would make it more technology advanced and that a training site in Sonora would bring in approximately 15 trainees per month that would stay at local hotels and eat in local restaurants, etc. Councilmember Smith Neal agreed that the project looked like a good move. Mayor Lopez stated that a public hearing would be held on the project, as is the normal procedure for all such projects.

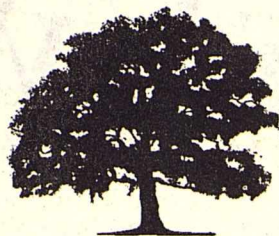
A donation from the Chamber of Commerce to the Senior Center in the amount of \$188 was accepted and a resolution supporting the Texas Pecos Trails Region was approved.

Tammy Favila approached

See City Council page 8

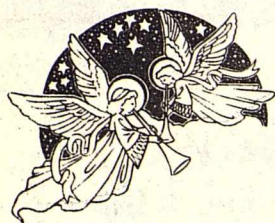
Lighthouse Community Church

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

CHURCH OF CHRIST
Jerry Jackson
304 N. Water
387-3190

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
T. Wayne Price
Pastor
111 E Oak
387-2951

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Rev. Milton Black
404 E. Poplar
387-2955

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Rev. Beverley Parsons, Pastor
201 N. Water
387-2466

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

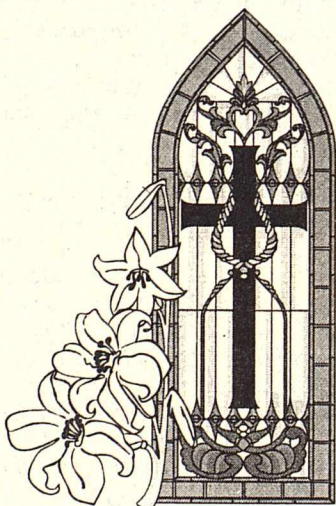
THE CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD PRESBYTERIAN
Lewis Allen, Pastor
319 E. Mulberry
387-2616

LIGHTHOUSE COMMUNITY CHURCH
Don Longoria, Pastor
1705 N. Crockett

PENTECOSTAL CALVARY TEMPLE UNITED
509 Amistad

ST. ANN'S CATHOLIC CHURCH
Father William DuBuisson, O.M.I.
229 W. Plum
387-2278

JEHOVAH'S WITNESS
310 St. Ann's Street
387-5658 or 387-5518



Brought to you by:

Kerbow Funeral Home
387-2266

Obituaries

Myrtis Mittel Courtion

Myrtis Mittel Courtion passed away at the age of 92 on December 28, 2004, having lived the past seven years in Myrtlewood Estates and Regency House in San Angelo. Her service will be held at Johnson's Funeral Home in San Angelo at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, December 30, 2004. Interment will be held at 12:15 p.m. at the Sonora Cemetery.

Myrtis was born on November 28, 1912, in Union Parish, Louisiana, and as a young girl, moved with her family to San Angelo, Texas. After graduating high school, she worked for the Tom Green County Treasurer. In 1931, she married Ben F. Mittel, a rancher in Sutton County. After 40 years of ranch life in Sutton and Coryell Counties, Myrtis was predeceased by her husband in 1971.

During her 20 years in Coryell County, Myrtis owned and operated a general merchandise store in Evant, Texas. While living there, she served her community and her church with her love for music as a pianist and organist.

In 1972, she moved back to San Angelo to join her family. She later married Dr. Charles E. Courtion, a long-time resident of San Angelo. He predeceased



her in 1979, and she is survived by his daughter, May Helen Courtion of Kerrville, Texas.

Myrtis is survived by her 3 children: daughter Marilyn Mangum and husband Charles of Austin, Texas, son Ben R. Mittel and wife Peggy of Gatesville, Texas, and daughter Melinda Jordan and husband Jerry of San Antonio, Texas. Also, she is survived by many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Myrtis was a member of College Hills Baptist Church in San Angelo and will be lovingly remembered for her service in the community to the family shelter, Shannon Memorial Hospital, the Literary Council and homebound ministries.

Gerardo "Jerry" Sanchez Almazan

Gerardo "Jerry" Sanchez Almazan, 43, passed away Sunday, December 26, 2004, at his residence. Services will be at 2:00 p.m. Thursday, December 30, 2004 at St. Ann's Catholic Church with burial to follow in Sonora Cemetery. Arrangements are by Kerbow Funeral Home.

Jerry was born June 26, 1961 in Dimmitt and was a lifetime resident of Sonora. He was a Baptist and a truck driver.

He is survived by his mother Noemi Sanford of Sonora, his father Roberto Almazan and wife Albina of Hereford, Godson Fabian Lingo Sanford of Sonora, God-daughter Marina Ramos of Grape Creek, brothers Lingo Sanford of Sonora and Robert Almazan, Jr. of Florida, sisters Sandra Villalobos and husband Michael of San Antonio, Amanda Gonzales and husband Benny Gonzales of Herford, sister-in-law Jo Ann Levario of Sonora, niece and nephews Hannah Gonzales, Zach Gonzales, Michael Villalobos, Elijah Villalobos, and Fabian Lingo Sanford.

Pallbearers are Lingo Sanford, George Noriega, Michael Villalobos, Anthony Sanchez, Luciano Sanchez, Eric Galindo, Trinidad Santana, Ponciano Castillo.

Safely Home
I am home in Heaven,
dear ones;
Oh, so happy and so bright!

There is perfect joy
and beauty
In this everlasting light.

All the pain and grief is over,
Every restless tossing passed:
I am now at peace forever,
Safely home in Heaven at last.

Did you wonder I so calmly
Trode the valley of the shade?
Oh! but Jesus' love illumined
Every dark and fearful glade.

And He came Himself
to meet me
In that way so hard to tread:
And with Jesus' arm to
lean on,
Could I have one doubt
or dread?

Then you must not grieve
so sorely,
For I love you dearly still:
Try to look beyond earth's
shadows,
Pray to trust our
Father's Will.

There is work still waiting
for you,
So you must not idly stand;
Do it now, while life
remaineth-
You shall rest in Jesus' land.

When that work is all
completed,
He will gently call you Home;
Oh, the rapture of that
meeting,
Oh, the joy to see you come!

Card of Thanks

I would like to thank all the children of St. John's Episcopal Church for their participation and wonderful production of our Christmas Pageant on Christmas Eve. Also, many thanks to the First United Methodist Church women for letting us borrow some of their decorations and costumes for our pageant. A very special thank you to Sherry Ingham, Anita Hudson, Julie Martin, Rhesa Lang and Susan Crowder, the parents that helped me with our program. I appreciate everyone taking part and making our program run very smooth.

Sincerely,
Bonnie Lou Campbell



Thanks to all who contributed their time and singing talents to make the Christmas Posadas and Christmas Caroling possible to our home bound parishioners of St. Ann's Church.

Special thanks to Michael Chavez, Katie Chavez and LeAnna Velez for portraying St. Joseph and the Blessed Virgin Mary and a special thank you to Mary Perez for providing the beautiful costumes.

Thank you,
Brenda Sanchez

Senior Center News

- Jan. 3 - Center closed for holidays! See you Tuesday.
- Jan. 4 - Bingo! Work on reports.
- Jan. 5 - TRAX Van to San Angelo.
- Jan. 6 - Start new crafts. Need ideas and volunteers.
- Jan. 7 - Run errands and pay bills.

Senior Center Menu

- Jan. 3 - Center closed for holidays! See you Tuesday!
 - Jan. 4 - Beef tips with rice, cooked carrots, cornbread, strawberry/banana mix, lemon pie, milk.
 - Jan. 5 - Oven baked chicken, lima beans, broccoli, bread chunky mixed fruit, milk.
 - Jan. 6 - Crab cakes with tartar sauce, sweet peas, okra gumbo, rolls, applesauce, milk.
 - Jan. 7 - Baked ham, candied yams, green beans, carrot/raisin salad, rolls, jello with fruit, 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.*

TEXAS TALES TOLD BY TUMBLEWEED SMITH

Some personal glimpses at 2004



I did a lot of neat stuff during the past year. Besides the regular work things like writing

52 columns, producing 260 radio programs and 120 or so radio and television commercials, teaching 9 university courses and making some two dozen speeches, I premiered a new one man show "Natural Born Storytellers" (based on the CD of the same name which came out the previous year), did my first entertaining on a ship (actually it was a barge), took my grandson to the White House and the Smithsonian,

produced a video on the only remaining refinery in the Permian Basin, had our first family reunion vacation at Lake Tahoe, went to hear Simon and Garfunkel, celebrated my two newest grandsons' first birthday, cruised to Alaska, took a 25 mile bicycle ride with my son and grandson, had 8 or so book signings, had cataract surgery in both eyes and am now cruising to Belize. Gee, that's quite a lot. You don't realize all the things you're doing during the year until you write them down.

On my report cards growing up, my citizenship grade was seldom an A because the teacher always checked the square opposite the words "does not recognize the value of time." As a student, I would procrastinate.

I remember in the third grade each student was to bring in something old and put it on a

big table in the center of the room. When the student brought in the item, he or she showed it to the teacher who made a notation in her grade book. I kept putting it off and the teacher said there was just one day left to bring in your old item. I brought it in a day late. That teacher would probably be proud of me now because I have grown to fully recognize the value of time.

My wife gave me a paper-weight a few years ago with the words THE UNTILATE INSPIRATION IS THE DEADLINE written on it. Suits me just right. I haven't missed a deadline since third grade. A friend once told me "There is no real honor in work." If work is all you do, he's right. The trick is to balance work with the rest of life: family, civic and religious activities, free time. If work is all a person has, that person doesn't have much. I think it was Norman Cousins who wrote "Nobody on his death bed ever said 'I wish I had spent more time at the office.'"

I saw a poster once of an ape sitting in a tree. The caption read "Sometimes I sit and think. Other times I just sit." Both are good pieces of advice. When people are at rest, their minds are open to new ideas. They get new energy and are rejuvenated. Europeans say they can do twelve months' work in 11 months, but not 12. They always take a month off for vacation.

Simple pleasures bring the greatest joy: observing a sunset, listening to birds, having a drink with the person you love the most or just sitting.

Have a Safe and Happy New Year!

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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

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
First NATIONAL BANK
P.O. BOX 798 • SONORA, TEXAS 76950
(915) 387-3861
Member FDIC

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.

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Chamber Chatter

Reflecting on the past year at the Chamber

by Ruthie Bounds, Chamber of Commerce Executive Director

I hope that you all had a safe and joyous Christmas! This is, of course, the time of year that we reflect on the year that has passed. So many things come to mind, both the joyful and the tragic. This past year brought us several "firsts" in Sonora. Last March the San Angelo Symphony played a concert at the Sonora High School Auditorium to benefit the Sutton County Historical Society and the Ice House Museum. This was a wonderful event and much needed funds were raised for the Sutton County Historical Society. April brought us the 1st Annual Sonora Classic; a Boer goat show, that lasted for two days and brought many of the top Boer goat breeders to Sonora. In May of 2004 another great first time event was held in conjunction with the Annual Cinco de Mayo celebration. The 1st Annual Sutton County Car Expo at the Sutton County Park & Civic Center was a huge success. There were cars of all shapes and sizes as well as motorcycles. Plans are already underway to make this event even more fun and festive.

Sonora Chamber of Commerce hosted and sponsored the "Daddy Daughter Date Nite" in February. Beautiful young ladies dressed up and came to the Sutton County Civic Center to dance the night away with their dads. The Sonora Chamber of Commerce board of directors hosted a wonderful "Casino Night" at the annual Chamber banquet in April, where outstanding citizens and volunteers were honored. A fabulous evening, thanks to all the hard work of the board of directors of your local Sonora Chamber of Commerce. In June the West Texas Championship Cook-Off Committee, along with the

Friends of Historic Sonora - Main Street Program provided a full day and evening of family fun for everyone. July the preliminary events for the Sonora Outlaw Pro-Rodeo got underway with a jack-pot team roping, county team roping and the preliminaries for the "Mutton Bustin" contest. Then, of course, in August the Sonora Outlaw Pro-Rodeo and Sutton County Days; a full week of nothing but fun. This year in spite of the unusually soggy weather, there was excellent attendance to all the Sutton County Days festivities and the Sonora Outlaw Pro-Rodeo was a great achievement, thanks to a whole lot of hard work by the rodeo committee and its volunteers.

In September Sonora began to celebrate homecoming and was preparing for the second High School Rodeo of the year to be held in our wonderful community, when the tragic news of the loss of Shane Folmar came. Shane was killed while fighting for our freedom as a marine in Iraq. The entire community mourned, but came together to give Shane's family and each other love and support. I have never seen, received or given so many hugs in my life. The pain is still there in our hearts, but the pride and gratitude we all feel for such a wonderful young man will remain with us all forever.

October is the time of year for the "Fall Festival". The Friends of Historic Sonora-Main Street Program hosted the festival this year at the Sutton County Civic Center instead of Main Street, again due to rainy weather. I am a native Sonoran, and don't ever remember so many events being affected by the rain. That just means that we had a very nice, wetter than normal year around here, and you certainly won't hear me complaining about it.

The first weekend of November is the first day of the

hunting season, so Sonora again had the opportunity to welcome many out of town visitors with the familiar pick-up trucks full of four wheelers, ice chests and camping gear. The second Saturday of November is always the date for the Sutton County Game Dinner. This event brings approximately 1500 people to the Sutton County Civic Center for a traditional Game Dinner meal and door prize drawings. As one of the oldest Game Dinners in the State of Texas, it is not only well attended, but well known, thanks to all the hard work of the Sutton County Game Dinner Committee, membership, and the businesses that donate many of the door prizes. There is always a wonderful Community Thanksgiving Dinner the Sunday before Thanksgiving, hosted by the Knights of Columbus and the Friends of Historic Sonora - Main Street Program. And this year in November, as a matter of fact on Veteran's Day, the citizens of Sonora showed the world what an outstanding community we live in, by purchasing the quilt to benefit the scholarship fund for the fallen soldiers of the 1st Infantry Division of the US Army. A group of people from Sonora, lead by John K. Wilson and Lolabeth Jones were able to buy this quilt on Ebay for a phenomenal price of \$9500.00. Just one more example of the generosity of this wonderful town.

December is a joyous and busy month for our community, beginning with "The More the Merrier" Christmas bazaar. This year the Missoula Children's Theatre held a presentation of the "Frog Prince" in Sonora with the help of the Friends of Historic Sonora-Main Street Program. The local merchants donated over \$2900.00 worth of absolutely wonderful prizes to the "Santa Bucks Auction". There were not nearly as many people at the "Santa Bucks

Auction" this year, so all those great prizes sold for not many Santa Bucks. Too bad about those of ya'll that didn't come to the auction this year; you could have really loaded up with wonderful prizes.

This year has been one of a kind! Thoughts of appreciation come to mind for all those that have helped with everything this year. The Board of Directors of Sonora Chamber of Commerce, led by the tireless Storie Sharp, worked so hard to make all of the events in Sonora a proud accomplishment and gave guidance to Donna, Michelle, Allyse and myself through out the year. My more than dedicated assistant, Donna Garrett has worked so hard through out the year, even with the deployment of her husband Scott to Kuwait. She has been instrumental in the development of events and promotion of tourism for Sonora, not to mention the fact that she keeps me organized. Michelle Lipham and Allyse Edmondson have helped out during rush times and during times when Donna needed off to tend to her family. For their great attitudes of "call me whenever you need me" I am very grateful. My wonderful family has supported me and helped me with so many things this year, so I send a special thanks to my husband Rick, my son Jason, my mom Nell Wallace, my cousin E.J. Ashley, my brothers and their families, and my good friends Fran & Stacy Pennington, and all the wonderful people of the Church of the Good Shepherd. You all were there to help hold me up when I needed it the most!

As we look back upon the year of 2004, I hope that we will all remember to keep those serving our country and their families in our prayers, not just for 2005, but forever!

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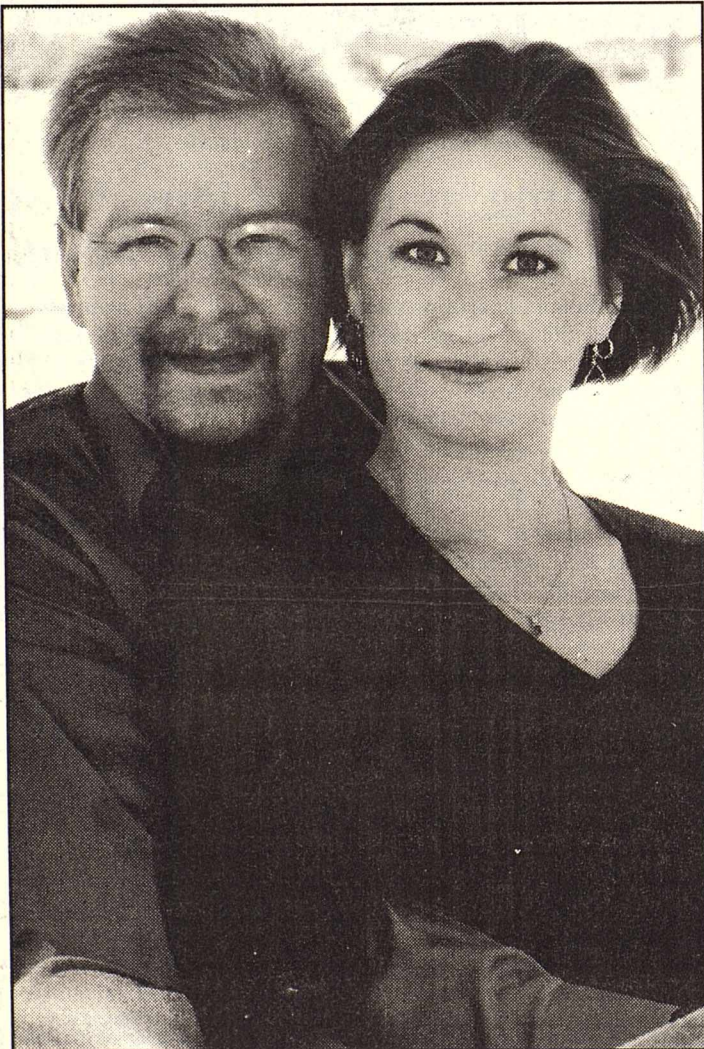
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Engagement Announcement

Fields, Worley announce summer wedding plans



Dr. and Mrs. John Fields are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter, Becca, to Jesse Worley. Jesse is the son of Rick and Tammy Worley of Abilene, Texas. The couple plans to be married June 4, 2005, at the Cauthorn Depot and Amphitheater.

Becca graduated from Sonora High School in 1995, and is currently pursuing her Master of Fine Arts in Theater at Texas Tech University. Jesse is also attending Texas Tech.

Happy Birthday

December 30

Justin Northcott, Mary Jean Sims, Carol Pope, Mario Lira Jr., Jeannette Thompson, Erica Olson, Lilianna Garcia, John Reynolds, Blaze Sykes, Katy Trevino, Rosalie Richardson

December 31

Jerri Martin, Patsy Samaniego, Nathan Longoria, Blanca Estrada, Orlando Tirado, Dean Dermody, Tina Covey, Raymundo Morales

January 1

Shirley Hall, Dorothy Jimenez, Ana-Lesa Samaniego, Becky Collins, Amy Harris, Joe Micheal Campos, Brianna Kesinger, Richard Gomez, Ilze Contreras

January 2

Alex Morrow, Keith Hudson, Gretta Smith, Betty Lopez

January 3

Missy Longoria, Melissa Fisher, Mikey Owen, Camille Marshall, Lance Haynes, Armando Noriega, Norma Williams

January 4

Wylie Wagoner, Linda Neff, James Alexander, Elyssa Prieto, Ebot Flores, Katelyn Lipham, Xzavier Castilleja, Delaney Ramsdell, Heather Smith

January 5

Nicole Aguirre, Randy Garcia, Renee Smith, Demetrio Castro, Jr., Colton Hooper, Miranda Perez, Fransisco Perez

Saint Ann Catholic Church
Holiday Schedule

Dec. 31

Vigil Mass • New Year • 7:00 p.m.

Jan. 1

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

Jan. 2

Sunday Mass • 8:00 a.m.
Sunday Mass • 11:00 a.m.



May the Holy Family bless you with
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First Baptist Church
 announces January Ministries....
January 2nd
 Bible Study • 9:45 A.M. • Worship 10:45 A.M.
January 5th
 Wednesday Schedule Resumes
January 17th
 "Experiencing God" Bible Study begins
 (As with every ministry, community invited!!)
January 19th
 King's Kids Resume
January 24th
 Community "Men's Meeting"
 Special Speaker: Mr. Sloan Gunter, Fredericksburg, Texas
Regular Weekly Schedule
 Sundays: 9:45 a.m. Bible Study • 10:45 a.m. Worship
 5:00 p.m. Ladies' Bible Study • 6:30 p.m. Worship
 Mondays: 8:00 p.m. Men's Emmaus Group
 Wednesdays: 3:15 p.m. King's Kids (K-4th Gr.) • 5:00 p.m. Ladies' Emmaus Group
 6:15 p.m. Family Night Meal
 7:00 p.m. Team Kid - Preschoolers & Children
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Ken Holloway to perform at Lighthouse

submitted
 Some ministers deliver their message from a pulpit. Others use books tracts or cable TV to carry God's word to the masses. Ken Holloway comes to the world with simpler tools....a voice, a guitar, and a host of great country songs. **Holloway will be bringing his ministry to the Lighthouse Community Church on Sunday, January 9, 2005 at 6:00 p.m.**

Once a star attraction in the country bars and honky tonks of his native Lafayette, Louisiana, Ken no longer sings about cheating hearts, false starts and long weekends. Today Ken Holloway uses the country music he loves and grew up on to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Ken's 1994 self titled debut album racked up a trophy case of awards and hit songs. But, more importantly, in a genre of music still in the process of defining itself, Ken Holloway emerged as a pace setter, establishing himself and Christian Country as powerful forces in the mix of modern-day country music. From his self-titled debut to the award winning "He Who Made The Rain" release to the present "The Ordinary" it's clear that Ken Holloway is moving into crucial subject matter only hinted at in his previous work.

The strength of the family and traditional American values that are built on it, are central to Ken, both the man, and the musician. Ken Holloway has become a pace-setter and premiere artist and writer in Christian Country. Along with those attributes, Ken has also



Ken Holloway

been ordained as a Minister of the Gospel and is preaching as well as singing. Another vision Ken has seen come to pass is his own recording studio, and record label. His goal is to help struggling young artists get started and possibly ease the load of those just getting into ministry.

Holloway's focus and purpose has become clearer than

ever. "I've found that there's real evangelistic power in just building relationships and friendships with people. Our families and our world are falling apart and I want to remind them to get back to our everyday, ordinary values of faith and family. And, that's for everyone - not just church people."

Sonora residents among ASU graduates

Angelo State University conferred degrees upon 358 students during 2004 Fall commencement exercises December 18 in San Angelo, Texas.

The 2004 Fall Graduates from Sonora are:

Jennifer Gamez, Bachelor of Science.; Juan F. Marines, Bachelor of Business Administration; and Susan Marie Nicholas, Master of Education.

Cole graduates from Texas A&M Corpus Christi

One student from Sonora, Cassi Cole, was among the 535 graduates who received their degrees during Texas A&M University - Corpus Christi's 2004 Fall Commencement on December 18, 2004. Cole received a Bachelor of Science from the College of Education.

A&M - Corpus Christi President Robert R. Furgason delivered his last commencement address as president of the University. Last April Furgason announced he would step down as president to become the Director of the University's Harte Research Institute for Gulf of Mexico Studies.

Students encouraged to fill out Student Aid forms early

Time for filling out and submitting the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is just around the corner. January is when students and their families should begin filing out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The FAFSA may be submitted to the Department of Education (ED) no earlier than January 1, 2005. However, families should begin collecting the information they will need to complete the form as soon as possible. Record you will need include: 2004 federal tax forms, W-2 forms, investment records, bank statements and small business records.

By completing and submitting a FAFSA, you supply the information that financial aid offices and programs use to determine your need for financial aid. Each school will offer you a financial aid package based on your level of need to help pay for costs associated with attending school. These packages could consist of grants, scholarships, federal works study, and/or student loans.

Even if you have not made a decision about which school you will choose to attend, it is very important that you complete the FAFSA as early as possible, and make sure that the information is sent to all schools you are considering. The various award packages that the schools' financial aid offices prepare for you can help you decide which school is best for you. The FAFSA is available from your high school guidance counselor, college financial aid office and online at <http://fafsa.ed.gov>.

Let the bidding begin...NOW!

Though the 35th annual telethon benefiting West Texas Rehabilitation Center won't be aired until January 15, the telethon auction website is now open for bids on more than 250 retail items and dozens of hand-

crafted quilts and afghans. Log on at www.rehabauction.org.

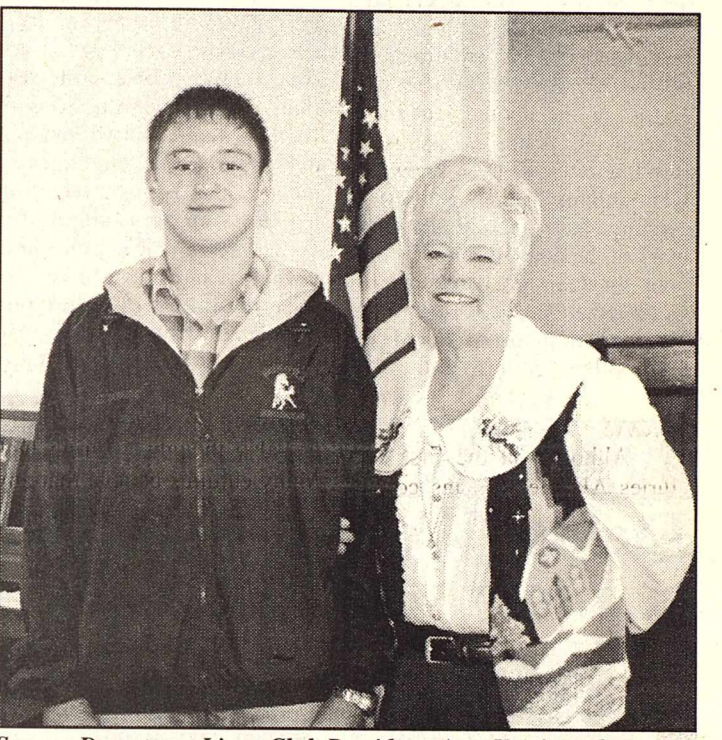
If you're looking for something with four wheels, take your choice of a 2005 Chevrolet Silverado with extended cab, a 2005 Ford Mustang, or a 2005 Polaris Ranger with bench seat. Or how about a Tige boat, a Texas Motor Speedway experience, or a six-person spa?

With 17 categories of retail merchandise plus all the quilts and afghans, the Rehab telethon auction has something for everyone...thanks to generous donations from retail businesses in the Big Country and Concho Valley.

Auction bidding will continue on-line until midnight on January 15. That's also the deadline for telephone bidding, which is possible from 6 p.m. to midnight on January 15 by dialing toll free 1-866-219-7013.

While keeping tabs on bids for an item of particular interest, a great way to spend January 15 is to watch Rehab 2005, a five-hour television special featuring fast-paced entertainment. Country-western singer Joe Nichols will be the show's headliner. Recipient of several Country Music Association awards, Nichols has a string of recording hits including The Impossible and Brokenheartsville.

Others sharing the spotlight will be 20-year-old Kristy Lee, a fast-rising female vocalist from Dallas who's equally comfortable with country music and pop ballads; cowboy singer/poet Red Steagall, Anacani, Brad Maul and Bill and Susan Hayes. Charlie Chase and Peter Marshall will share the hosting role for Rehab 2005.



Sonora Downtown Lions Club President, Ann Kay introduces J.T. Downing as the December student of the month.

Downing named Lions Club December Student of the Month

The Sonora Downtown Lions Club chose J.T. Downing as the December Student of the Month. Downing, the son of John and Robin, is active in football, basketball, baseball, track, the Mighty Bronco Band and 4-H. He is also a straight A student! Congratulations to J.T. Downing!

New Year's Driving Resolutions

While you're making your New Year's resolutions, DPS has a suggestion: add "Improve Driving Habits" to your list. Driving can be one of the most dangerous activities you engage in during the day, so taking a few moments to think about your driving is a good idea.

Here are some good driving habits to employ:

- Make sure everyone is buckled up.
- Drive sober.
- Use your turn signals.
- Do not tailgate.
- Obey the speed limit.
- Do not speed up, block lanes, slam or tap on brakes.
- Report extreme cases of reckless driving to the appropriate authorities.

Do not retaliate, gesture or make eye contact.

During the New Year's weekend, DPS will have all available troopers on Texas roadways. Troopers will be looking for speeders, seat belt violators, reckless drivers and drunk drivers from New Year's Eve through midnight on January 2.

"Please resolve to drive responsibly this year," said Col. Thomas A. Davis, Jr., director of the DPS. "Wearing seatbelts and obeying the speed limit can save lives. And anyone planning to consume alcoholic beverages should have someone else—who hasn't been drinking—drive them home."

Top 10 words for 2004

The U.S. dictionary publisher Merriam-Webster reports the top 10 words for 2004 as follows (selected by how many times the word was looked up on their web-site dictionary) -

- Blog noun [short for Weblog] (1999) : a Web site that contains an online personal journal with reflections, comments, and often hyperlinks provided by the writer
- 2. incumbent
- 3. electoral
- 4. insurgent
- 5. hurricane
- 6. cicada
- 7. peloton : noun (1951) : the main body of riders in a bicycle race
- 8. partisan
- 9. sovereignty
- 10. defenestration - the act of throwing someone or something out of a window.

It's Another New Year...

...but for what reason?

"Happy New Year!" That greeting will be said and heard for at least the first couple of weeks as a new year gets under way. But the day celebrated as New Year's Day in modern America was not always January 1.

ANCIENT NEW YEARS
The celebration of the new year is the oldest of all holidays. It was first observed in ancient Babylon about 4000 years ago. In the years around 2000 BC, the Babylonian New Year began with the first New Moon (actually the first visible crescent) after the Vernal Equinox (first day of spring).

The beginning of spring is a logical time to start a new year. After all, it is the season of rebirth, of planting new crops, and of blossoming. January 1, on the other hand, has no astronomical nor agricultural significance. It is purely arbitrary.

The Babylonian new year celebration lasted for eleven days. Each day had its own particular mode of celebration, but it is safe to say that modern New Year's Eve festivities pale in comparison.

The Romans continued to observe the new year in late March, but their calendar was continually tampered with by various emperors so that the calendar soon became out of synchronization with the sun.

In order to set the calendar right, the Roman senate, in 153 BC, declared January 1 to be the beginning of the new year. But tampering continued until Julius Caesar, in 46 BC, established what has come to be known as the Julian Calendar. It again established January 1 as the new year. But in order to synchronize the calendar with the sun, Caesar had to let the previous year drag on for 445 days.

THE CHURCH'S VIEW OF NEW YEAR CELEBRATIONS

Although in the first centuries AD the Romans continued celebrating the new year, the early Catholic Church condemned the festivities as paganism. But as Christianity became more widespread, the early church began having its own religious observances concurrently with many of the pagan celebrations, and New Year's Day was no different. New Years is still observed as the Feast of Christ's Circumcision by some denominations.

During the Middle Ages, the Church remained opposed to celebrating New Years. January 1 has been celebrated as a holiday by Western nations for only about the past 400 years.

NEW YEAR TRADITIONS

Other traditions of the season include the making of New Year's resolutions. That tradition also dates back to the early Babylonians. Popular modern resolutions might include the promise to lose weight or quit smoking. The early Babylonian's most popular resolution was to return borrowed farm equipment.

The Tournament of Roses Parade dates back to 1886. In that year, members of the Valley Hunt Club decorated their carriages with flowers. It celebrated the ripening of the orange

crop in California. Although the Rose Bowl football game was first played as a part of the Tournament of Roses in 1902, it was replaced by Roman chariot races the following year. In 1916, the football game returned as the sports centerpiece of the festival.

The tradition of using a baby to signify the new year was begun in Greece around 600 BC. It was their tradition at that time to celebrate their god of wine, Dionysus, by parading a baby in a basket, representing the annual rebirth of that god as the spirit of fertility. Early Egyptians also used a baby as a symbol of rebirth.

Although the early Christians denounced the practice as pagan, the popularity of the baby as a symbol of rebirth forced the Church to reevaluate its position. The Church finally allowed its members to celebrate the new year with a baby, which was to symbolize the birth of the baby Jesus.

The use of an image of a baby with a New Year banner as a symbolic representation of the new year was brought to early America by the Germans. They had used the effigy since the fourteenth century.

FOR LUCK IN THE NEW YEAR

Traditionally, it was thought that one could affect the luck they would have throughout the coming year by what they did or ate on the first day of the year. For that reason, it has become common for folks to celebrate the first few minutes of a brand new year in the company of family and friends. Parties often last into the middle of the night after the ringing in of a new year. It was once believed that the first visitor on New Year's Day would bring either good luck or bad luck the rest of the year. It was particularly lucky if that visitor happened to be a tall dark-haired man.

Traditional New Year foods are also thought to bring luck. Many cultures believe that anything in the shape of a ring is good luck, because it symbolizes "coming full circle," completing a year's cycle. For that reason, the Dutch believe that eating donuts on New Year's Day will bring good fortune.

Many parts of the U.S. celebrate the new year by consuming black-eyed peas. These legumes are typically accompanied by either hog jowls or ham. Black-eyed peas and other legumes have been considered good luck in many cultures. The hog, and thus its meat, is considered lucky because it symbolizes prosperity. Cabbage is another "good luck" vegetable that is consumed on New Year's Day by many. Cabbage leaves are also considered a sign of prosperity, being representative of paper currency. In some regions, rice is a lucky food that is eaten on New Year's Day.

AULD LANG SYNE

The song, "Auld Lang Syne," playing in the background, is sung at the stroke of midnight in almost every English-speaking country in the world to bring in the new year. At least partially written by Robert Burns in the 1700's, it was first published in 1796 after Burns' death. Early variations of the song were sung prior to 1700 and inspired Burns to pro-

duce the modern rendition. An old Scotch tune, "Auld Lang Syne" literally means "old long ago," or simply, "the good old days."

How do people around the world celebrate the coming of the New Year? There are many and varied customs from one country to another, ranging from watching fireworks to eating special foods. Some customs are very surprising or amusing, such as the Thai custom of throwing water on people or the Spanish custom of eating 12 grapes as the clock chimes twelve midnight. Many of these New Year's customs are intended to bring good luck during the new year ahead.

In Brazil, most New Year's Eve customs are related to good luck or fortune. Most people wear white clothes on New Year's Eve to bring good luck and peace for the year that will follow. If they are in a beach city, after midnight, people go to the beach, jump seven waves and throw flowers in the sea while making a wish. This will bring them good luck and fortune. They say that the goddess who protects the sea will make their wishes come true. Because of that, some people also light candles in the sand on the beach. I think this custom came from the mix of the African and Indian cultures that developed in Brazil and have spread from coast to coast.

**Renate Pauperio
China**

The Chinese New Year's holiday which is celebrated in February, is the longest and most crowded holiday in my country. During this time, people celebrate the arrival of the New Year, pray for a new start of their life in the following spring, and make many new wishes and plans.

**Yian Ma
Colombia**

Burning "Mr. Old Year" is a New Year's tradition in some cities of Colombia. It requires the participation of the entire family. It is a lot of fun; they fabricate a big stuffed male doll that represents the old year. Then they stuff the doll with different materials. Sometimes they put some little fireworks in it to make it more exciting at the time they burn it. Also, they put things inside that they don't want anymore, objects that can bring sadness or bad memories. These things will burn with the old year, meaning that they want to forget all the bad things that happened during the past year. They dress the man with old clothes from each member of the family. Then, on New Year's Eve at midnight, they set the doll on fire. This symbolizes burning the past and getting ready to start a happy New Year without bad memories of the past.

**Martha Leverett
Mexico**

In Mexico, many people usually gather with their relatives and friends to celebrate the new year. On New Year's Eve, we have some special customs. For example, we turn on the TV and wait to see or hear the bell ringing twelve times. Each time the bell rings, we eat one grape and make a wish. Then we hug each other and wish each other a Happy New Year. Some people, especially women, wear red underwear

meaning you will find love in the next year. There are also people who take out their suitcases and walk around the block, meaning they wish they could travel next year. There's also a custom on January 6th to eat a special cake with a hole in it and a small toy inside. The person who gets the piece with this tiny kid is supposed to make a special food on February 5th.

**Paola Montsalve
Korea**

My grandmother always says not to sleep on New Year's Eve. If you sleep, your eyebrows will turn white. I don't know where these words come from. Of course, it doesn't happen. Every New Year's Eve we can watch a striking-a-bell ceremony on TV. The bell is struck 33 times. This is in memory of 33 fighters who died for the restoration of Korea. On New Year's Day a lot of people go to the sea to watch the sunrise. The beaches of eastern Korea are filled with crowds of people. On seeing the sunrise, people make their new wishes.

**Seong Ah Kim
Venezuela**

In my country, people usually wear yellow underwear on New Year's Day. It means good luck for people who wear it. Most people also eat twelve grapes at midnight for good luck. People who want to travel take a suitcase and carry it around the house. Some people write wishes in a letter, and then they burn it. In almost every house, people have a big meal and make toasts with champagne.

Nakari Barrios

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Happy New Year!



A.W. Bishop, Anita Hudson, Larry Finklea, Brady Johnson, Jo Ann Hernandez, Lauri Smith, John Tedford, David Wallace, James Parker, John Plumb. Not Pictured is Sherry Ingham

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**Oil & Agribusiness
Selecting Firewood**



submitted by **Pascual Hernandez, Sutton County**

Now that the cool season is upon us, we start thinking about using our fireplaces. Though most of us don't rely on wood to heat our homes, there are some things we can look for even if the fire we're making is more for decoration than warmth. Whether you buy or gather your own firewood, you will likely have a choice from among the many species of trees in the state. Pound for pound all wood burns about the same. A pound of good dry hardwood will produce about 8600 B.T.U.s of heat energy when burned. Because of high resin content, some pine wood may produce over 9000 B.T.U.s. Hardwood and some tropical woods are denser than pine, and on a volume basis contain more heat value.

Wood is almost always sold on a volume basis; that is, by the standard cord, load, rick or face cord. Since the 'cord' measure is rather loosely applied you should determine what the seller means before you purchase. A standard cord contains 128 cubic feet of stacked wood and is assumed to be a stack of logs or bolts 4 feet x 4 feet x 8 feet.

Firewood is usually purchased already split and cut to fit a fireplace or a stove of certain dimensions. Commonly the sticks are 2 feet or less in length. A stack of firewood 4 feet high and 8 feet long is called a face

cord. The cubic foot volume of a face cord is determined by the length of the stick. A face cord of firewood cut 2 feet long contains only one-half of the volume of a standard cord. A rick is usually assumed to be the same as a face cord. A load can mean anything, and depends on the size of the conveyance, whether the wood is split or round, whether the wood is stacked or 'thrown' in, and how high it is piled.

Different types of wood have a range of characteristics, such as length of burn time, aroma, smoking, sparking, splitability, and ease of starting. Fireplace users often prefer aroma and less sparking, but may be less concerned about heating value. Wood that sparks frequently, such as cedar, may be a fire hazard and should be avoided in fireplaces. Cottonwood and pine are listed as moderate spark makers. Wood stove owners look for heavy, dense wood such as oak or mesquite, which though somewhat difficult to light, produces excellent heat and coals, few sparks and has a fair aroma. Quality considerations also include the age or dryness of the wood, and whether it is solid or decayed.

If you're serious about heating your home with wood, you may consider getting a sealed wood stove rather than an open fireplace. Airtight stoves can heat up to two-thousand square feet. So, keep warm and enjoy the cool weather this winter.

Sutton County Critter Gitter Calling Contest

submitted by **Paul Martinez**

There will be three calling contests in Sutton County this season: January 8 & 9, February 12 & 13, and March 12 & 13. Each contest will have registration on Saturday at 2:00 p.m. at Stagecoach Barbeque, next to Rafter W Feeds, and turn in will be on Sunday morning at 10:00 a.m. at the same location (feel free to call for directions).

The hunt can proceed immediately after the rules and regulations meeting to be held at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday. The meeting is mandatory for the team captains, but all team members are welcome to attend. Due to difficulty of all members being able to arrive by two o'clock, the team captain can register his team members. However, **ALL TEAM MEMBERS MUST BE PRESENT FOR CHECK IN ON SUNDAY.**

Each member is responsible for having a valid Trapping license. The Game Warden is aware of this contest and may be present to check licenses at check-in.

Sutton County and surrounding counties (Schleicher, Menard, Kimble, Edwards, Val Verde, and Crockett) can be hunted, but not highways, county roads, land where hunting is not permitted and land where permission is not granted for hunting. Only animals taken during contest are permitted, and no trapped, road kill, etc... animals will be accepted.

Scoring: 50 points Mountain Lion
30 points - Coyote
20 points - Bobcat
15 points - Red Fox
10 points - Gray Fox
Raccoon - 5 points will be awarded for each of the first five raccoons, each raccoon after that will be worth 1 point.

Each contest will payback

90% of the entry total and will be split between 1st (50%), 2nd (35%), and 3rd (15%). The remaining 10% from each contest will be held and awarded (along with any donated money) to the team who has the highest combined score from two of the hunts. The team must hunt two of the three hunts in order to qualify for the over-all pot. If a team participates in all three, their two hunts with the highest points will be combined to determine their over-all points.

There will also be optional jackpots for those teams interested in entering, and each will be \$10.00 per team. At this point, there will be a jackpot for the most headshots, the most of each category (ex. most Gray Fox, most Bobcats, etc.) and if an accurate set of scales is available, there will also be a jackpot for the largest animal in each category (ex. largest Gray Fox, largest Bobcat, etc...)

Teams may consist of one to four people (team must hunt together), and entry will be \$100.00 per team. Each team must sign a rules and regulations sheet upon entry stipulating that they fully understand the rules.

*Only cash will be accepted for entry and jackpots!

This contest is to have fun, as well as to help the area ranchers to control predators. In order to increase predator control, we need to increase participation, and if any rancher, business or individual would like to add money to the pot in order to increase participation, please feel free to contact Paul Martinez at (325)650-0221. For more information or questions, call Paul at the above mentioned number or (325)206-1722.

Ladybugs, Ladybugs, have invaded my home

by **Robert Burns**

Got ladybugs in the house?
If so, don't panic, said a Texas Cooperative Extension expert.

Seen in the worst light, the brightly colored beetles are merely a nuisance. In the best light, they are a beneficial insect that eat harmful plant pests, said Dr. Allen Knutson, Dallas-based Extension entomologist.

"The beetles are very beneficial as they eat the aphids that are common pests in pecan trees, roses, crepe myrtle and other shrubs," he said. "They also feed on aphids in cotton and some other field crops."

For unknown reasons, ladybug numbers have been large in the spring, the beetles become active and find their way out of the house. Other than being a serious nuisance and the possible staining problem, they do not harm people or structures," he said.

No one knows for certain how Asian ladybugs found their way to North America. Because they prefer trees more than the native ladybug species, the U.S. Department of Agriculture tried to establish them in the United States to protect pecan and ornamental trees. Though the USDA was persistent, trying various methods from the 1920s to 1980s, the official word is that their efforts failed, Knutson said.

In the United States, the beetle was first found in large numbers near New Orleans in 1988.

"Since none had been released nearby, many believe the beetles arrived as stowaways on ships coming into the port at New Orleans. If so, they arrived as did the fire ant, on-board ships entering a southern port," he said.

From populations in New Orleans, the beetle spread and was first recorded in Texas in 1992.

mechanism, Knutson said. Some people resort to spraying outside their house; some treat the inside. The pesticides work; they kill the beetles. But Knutson doesn't recommend their use, particularly inside the home.

"Hundreds of dead beetles can accumulate in wall voids and attics, creating a foul situation," he said.

Vacuuming is the preferred method of 'de-ladybugging' the home, Knutson said. Once vacuumed, the beetles can either be relocated to or disposed outside.

As for outside and attic-confined beetles, the problem will eventually just fly away.

"As temperatures warm in the spring, the beetles become active and find their way out of the house. Other than being a serious nuisance and the possible staining problem, they do not harm people or structures," he said.

No one knows for certain how Asian ladybugs found their way to North America. Because they prefer trees more than the native ladybug species, the U.S. Department of Agriculture tried to establish them in the United States to protect pecan and ornamental trees. Though the USDA was persistent, trying various methods from the 1920s to 1980s, the official word is that their efforts failed, Knutson said.

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**Rig Locations as of
December 24, 2004**

Sutton
Dominion; 7750' Canyon Ranch #20815, Key Energy.
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; 8450' Edwin S Mayer Jr - U - #10, Patterson Drilling.
New Dominion; 8300' Edwin S Mayer Jr - D - #15, Patterson Drilling.
New Dominion; 8200' Simmons Ranch #87, Patterson Drilling.
New Dominion; 7500' Ben Mittel #6, Patterson Drilling.
New Dominion; 5000' Pfluger #8805, Patterson Drilling.
New Dominion; 9600' WH Karnes - C - #7, Patterson Drilling.
New Dominion; 8750' Mayfield - 34 - #16, Key Energy.
New KCS Resources; 6500' Carta - 103 - #13, Patterson Drilling.

Crockett
New Endeavor Energy; 10500' Dudley - 26 - #2H, Big Dog Drilling.
New J Cleo Thompson; 9500' University 32-9 #2, Patterson Drilling.
New Encore Operating; 9100' Jones Ranch - B - #1338, Patterson Drilling.
New Approach Operating; 9000' JR Bailey Estate - A - #509, Nabors Drilling.
New Approach Operating; 9000' JR Bailey - A - #304, Nabors Drilling.
New Anadarko E&P; 9000' Davidson #3507, Patterson Drilling.
New Devon Energy; 7000' Helbing - 23 - #6, Patterson Drilling.
New FIML Natural Res; 5010' Adams #18A, Key Energy.

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 UTI/LV.

Edwards
New Newfield; 10000' Five - C - Ranch #6301, Patterson Drilling.

Val Verde
New Pure Resources; 4500' Mills Trust -133 - #1, Nabors Drilling.
New Willo Oil & Gas; 4000' Mills - 18 - #3, Patterson Drilling.

Schleicher
New Dominion; 8800' Edwin S Mayer Jr - N - #8, Patterson Drilling.
New Dominion; 8700' Doris Mayer Rousselot - B - #3, Patterson Drilling.

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



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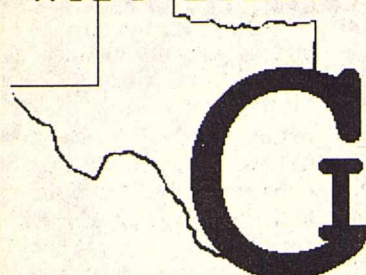
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All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing Act which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, or an intention, to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination." Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18. This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination call HUD toll-free 1-800-669-9777. The toll-free telephone number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

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: Part-Time cashier 4:00 - 12:00 shift. Come by the corner of I-10 and Hwy. 277 N. EOE.

Location Builders now hiring full-time mechanic. Prefer you have your own tools. Apply in person 203 W. 3rd. For more information 387-3881.

Operators Needed. Maintainer, Dozer and Loader Operators. CDL required. Call Mittel Dozing 277-6883.

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T & J Valve Service is now hiring a **Store Manager / Salesman** and a **Shop Mechanic**. Must have some knowledge about oilfield valves, controls, chemical pumps, production units, DE-HY's, etc. Call 325-206-0163.

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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.

Looking for a Nanny to take care of my child. Beginning at 6:00 a.m., make breakfast, take to school and possible pick up from school, occasional nights. For more information please call 325-226-3113.

Meat Market Manager Trainee and Meat Cutters, 2 years experience necessary. Contact Joel at 830-613-0856 or 325-247-1768 or fax resume to 210-349-3255.

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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Public Notices

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.

Real Estate

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.

Devotion To Saint Jude

May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be praised, adored, loved, preserved & glorified throughout the world now and forever. The sacred heart of Jesus, pray for us. St. Jude, worker of miracles, pray for us. St. Jude, Helper of the Hopeless, pray for us. Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ for the help of your servant St. Jude in listening to my prayers. Say this prayer nine times for nine days. By the end of the eighth, your prayer will be answered. It has never been known to fail. Publication must be promised. Thank you Sacred Heart of Jesus & St. Jude for prayers answered. M.L.



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.

ORDINANCE, NO. 552

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING THAT THAT PORTION OF A PUBLIC STREET KNOWN AS ELM STREET, BETWEEN WATER AND CONCHO STREETS, AND BEING LOTS 1 AND 2, BLOCK U AND LOTS 1-6, BLOCK 8E, IN THE CITY OF SONORA, TEXAS, BE VACATED, ABANDONED, AND CLOSED; PROVIDING FOR THE REVERSION OF THE FEE IN SAID LAND, REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HERewith; PUBLICATION; CONFLICT; VALIDITY.

Passed and approved this the 21st day of December, 2004
City of Sonora
By: Gloria G. Lopez, Mayor
Attest: Patti Prather, City Secretary
Approved as to form and legality: Elizabeth Wallace, City Attorney

ORDINANCE NO. 554

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SONORA, TEXAS, ESTABLISHING RULES AND REGULATIONS REGARDING SANITATION AND POLLUTION CONTROL OF THE AREAS IN PROXIMITY TO THE CITY'S PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY WELLS.

Duly passed and approved by the City Council of the City of Sonora, Texas on this the 21st day of December, 2004.

Gloria Lopez, Mayor
Attest: Patti Prather, City Secretary
Approved as to form: Elizabeth Wallace, City Attorney

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1403 Glasscock - \$35,000.00. near 1403 Glasscock - \$35,000.00. 1 BA 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.

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222 Sawyer Dr. • \$92,500 • New Listing
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514 E. College • \$150,000
107 Sawyer Court • \$170,000 • Price Reduced
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Commercial Properties
220 E. Main • \$55,000 • Price Reduced
305 Crockett Ave. • \$65,000
712 S. Crockett • \$95,000 • New Listing
104 N. Crockett • \$395,000
Pecan Orchard • \$450,000
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New Listing
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F.Y.I.

All 4-H Market Lamb Project participants: We will be shearing all Market Lambs for the county show on Thursday, December 30, 2004 at 8:00 a.m. at the 4-H Center. All 4-H members who are participating in the Junior Livestock Show are needed to help clean up at the 4-H Center on Thursday, December 30, 2004 at 1:00 p.m.

Lighthouse Community Church will be starting a new Women's Bible Study on Wednesday, January 19, 2005 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. The study is "A Woman's Heart God's Dwelling Place" by Beth Moore. Discover what this means, to be a woman today through this in-depth study of the Old Testament Tabernacle. For more information call Jane Rushing at 387-3625 or the church at 387-9100.

Taxpayer Alert - The Appraisal District office will be closed on the following dates: December 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.

Transformation is a youth-focused event that is bringing the youth of Sonora, Eldorado and Ozona together as one body with one vision. 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 Politte FBC Eldorado 853-2662 or Lighthouse Community Church 387-9100.

2004 News from page 1

light showing U.S. military guards at the Abu Ghraib prison near Baghdad forcing naked Iraqi detainees to pose in humiliating positions. Prosecutions ensued, and the scandal fueled anti-American sentiment in the Muslim world.

5. SEPT. 11 REPORT: After painstaking research and dramatic public hearings, the commission formed to investigate the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, issued its report. It concluded that America's leaders failed to grasp the gravity of terrorist threats before Sept. 11 and recommended creation of a national intelligence director to oversee civilian and military intelligence agencies.

6. GAY MARRIAGE: From coast to coast, gay marriage was a volatile topic throughout the year. Massachusetts became the first state to have legal, same-sex weddings, and local officials in several places — including San Francisco and Portland, Ore. — also wed gay and lesbian couples before courts intervened. However, each time the issue reached the ballot — in 13 states in all — voters decisively approved constitutional amendments banning gay marriage.

7. ARAFAT DIES: For three decades, Yasser Arafat was a hero to most of his fellow Palestinians but considered unreliable — or worse — by leaders in the West and Israel. His death in November, at age 75, triggered emotional mourning among Palestinians but also sparked hopes of a breakthrough in efforts to end their long, bloody conflict with Israel.

8. REAGAN DIES: Alzheimer's disease had kept Ronald Reagan out of the public eye for a decade. But when the nation's 40th president died

in June, at 93, Americans responded with an outpouring of affection and respect. His stately funeral in Washington brought the country together at least briefly in a year otherwise marked by bitter partisan divisions.

9. RUSSIAN SCHOOL SEIZURE: Even in a world grown all too accustomed to terrorism, the drama in the Russian town of Belsan was shocking because children were so clearly prime targets. A band of terrorists, believed led by a Chechen warlord, took more than 1,000 people hostage at a school in September. When the seizure ended, amid explosions and gunfire, more than 330 hostages had been killed — most of them children.

10. MADRID BOMBINGS: Another stunning terrorist strike occurred in March, when 190 people were killed after bombs hidden in backpacks exploded on four commuter trains during Madrid's morning rush hour. Soon after the attack, which was blamed on Islamic militants, angry voters unseated Spain's pro-American conservative government in favor of the Socialist Party, which promptly withdrew Spanish troops from Iraq.

Voters in the AP survey were invited to write in their own suggestions for top stories. One voter listed "the growing gap between the haves and have-nots" and another the "growing influence of evangelical conservatives on our political campaigns."

A sports story almost cracked the Top 10: The Boston Red Sox' World Series victory, their first since 1918, finished No. 13 and was among 10 stories that received at least one first-place vote.



Santa's little helper

Just in time for a Texas Christmas, one of Santa's smallest cowboy elves was seen delivering goodies to businesses and houses around Sonora. Will Reed Jennings dropped off homemade cookies to help sweeten the holidays for friends and family (taking a bite or two out of a few along the way). Will is the son of David and Beth Jennings and the grandson of Reed and Barbara Jennings of Sonora.

City Council from page 1

the council again on the problem with the crosswalks around the Sonora Middle School. Favila provided pictures that she had taken of the crosswalks, showing that the paint was not staying and therefore, the walks were not visible to drivers. Favila expressed concerns that she had brought before the council in November, that drivers were not adhering to the laws and were driving too fast in the school zones. She said that she is afraid that someone is going to get hurt if something is not done. She stated that a crosswalk had been put in at the end of the curve, in front of her house, but that there were still major problems. She asked if a brighter, reflective paint could be used on the walk areas and if lights could possibly be put on the school zone signs. City Manger Gesch explained that the new paint and lighted signs had been ordered, but all were back ordered. He explained that hopefully, the new equipment would be received within the week and would be installed as soon as possible. The council and Gesch advised Chief of Police Mike House to supply vests and cones for the crossing guards until the new equipment was received and installed. Gesch also advised that the city's street sweeper had been repaired and this would help to keep the crosswalks clean and more visible.

An ordinance providing that a portion of a public street known as Elm Street, between Water and Concho Streets be vacated, abandoned, and closed was approved.

The council announced that a letter of resignation had been received from Councilmember James Blackman. With much

reluctance, the council approved the resignation of Blackman from the Ward 2 position. The council decided to table an appointment of a councilmember from Ward 2 until more research could be done on the subject.

Virgil Polocek was appointed as Mayor Pro-Tem.

Monday, December 27, 2004 and Monday, January 3, 2005 were appointed as holidays for city employees.

An addendum to the agenda, a discussion was held regarding the Integrated Mosquito Management plan which was proposed by Nora Weaver at November's meeting. Weaver advised the board that she had researched "seasonal employees" and found that any employee could be considered seasonal if they were moved from another area within the city. She also advised that the man from the Texas Department of Health agreed that he would come help the city implement a mosquito management plan.

Weaver also stated that in the November meeting it was stated that there was no West Nile reported in Sonora, but she had found that mosquitoes from this area had been sent in for testing. She informed the council what was involved in doing such testing and asked that it be discussed. Weaver called upon the council to take action on this matter. Mayor Lopez said that the mosquito problem would be discussed further at another meeting, to insure that the city is prepared for the spring.

Having no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned. Watch for public meeting dates to be announced *The Devil's River News*.

Happy New Year!

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- CLOSER (R) 2:00 *4:40 *7:15 *9:40
- THE GRUDGE 2:20 *4:50 *7:20 *9:50
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