

THE Devil's River NEWS

50¢

Since 1890

Volume 117 • Issue 4

SONORA, TEXAS

Thursday, January 27, 2005

Laurie Garza appointed to City Council, Ward 2

by Storie Sharp

The Sonora City Council convened for the regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, January 18, 2005 at 2:00 p.m. in City Hall. Council members, Smith Neal, Fred Perez and Virgil Polocek reviewed and approved minutes from the regular minutes on December 21, 2004, the Sutton County Appraisal District monthly report and the quarterly investment report.

Mayor Gloria Lopez announced that Cebridge Connections had requested a rate increase, but no representative from the company was present to explain the request. Mayor Lopez explained that a letter received had requested a residential rate increase of \$2.00 with additional increases for digital, movie subscribers, and commercial raters per unit. After discussing the issue, the council chose to deny the request at the current time. City Attorney Beth Wallace reminded the council that the company may still be able to appeal and increase the rates without approval.

A representative from Duncan Disposal approached the council with a request to consider extending a temporary 3% fuel surcharge for hauling garbage from Sonora, due to the high gas prices. Duncan Disposal asked that the 3% increase be extended for six months, at which time the contract would be reviewed and adjusted as seen fit. The council agreed to extend the increase for six months.

The Fire Department quarterly report was approved as presented.

Mayor Lopez opened a public hearing to hear comments on possible use of hotel occupancy tax. Council member Neal asked a question regarding the assignment of said tax. Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Ruthie Bounds and Friends of Historic Main Street Program Manager Ann Kay explained how each organization functions and the stipulations mandated by the State of Texas for use of the hotel/motel taxes. With no further comments the public hearing was closed.

The Friends of Historic Sonora, Inc. quarterly financial report and 2005 budget were approved as presented. Ann Kay presented the council with a certificate acknowledging that Sonora was a 2005 National Main Street award winner. Kay also presented an outline of the F.H.S.M.S. 2005-2006 goals and programs.

The Chamber of Commerce proposed budget and designated fund expenditures, as well as the quarterly financial report, were approved. The council also reviewed the Executive Director's report.

The Sonora Industrial Development Corporation quarterly financial report and 2003-2004 annual audit were

approved as presented with no questions from the council.

A request from the SIDC to expend \$9,900 of 4B sales tax for the construction of a second kiosk at the Mulberry Street entrance to Eaton Hill was unanimously approved. The purchase of two interpretive panels for the bulletin cases under the kiosk that is already on the hill and the new one to be constructed was approved in the agreement as well.

A public hearing to consider an SIDC project to expend \$60,000 for infrastructure improvements to the land and building occupied by Multi-Chem LLC located at 704 Glasscock Street was opened for comment. Mayor Lopez gave a breakdown on the proposed project and explained that Multi-Chem plans to have 720 training days in a year, with approximately 30 people staying in local motels and eating in local restaurants. SIDC board president, Carl Teaff explained that the contract with Multi-Chem calls for quarterly reports showing that all criteria are met. He also explained that with the taxes recovered from such trainees being in town, the money should be recouped in approximately three years. With no further comments or questions regarding the project, the public hearing was closed.

An amendment to Ordinance No. 554 to include multiple water wells and related facilities was approved.

The council approved the acceptance of gift certificates that had been given for Sonora Police Officers.

A request for proposals on computers in City Hall and the Police Department, as well as software for utility billing, code enforcement, municipal court, public safety and the city secretary's office were discussed. City Manager Brent Gesch explained that all the equipment and software needed to be upgraded in order to keep up with current technology. The council approved the request to obtain proposals.

Wastewater Treatment Plant manager, Jerad Shipman approached the council with a request to purchase an effluent flow meter for the wastewater treatment plant. Shipman gave a description of what the meter does and explained that it had to be purchased to be in compliance with TCEQ. The council gave consent to purchase the meter.

Two names were considered to fill the council position for Ward 2 vacated by James Blackman. Laurie Garza was appointed.

The council then went into executive session to discuss the performance of the city manager during a probationary period. No action was taken in closed session.

Sutton County sweeps Hill Country District Angora Goat Show

Sutton County youth dominated the Angora Division of the Hill Country Livestock Show in Kerrville, January 21-22. Every class was won by an exhibitor from Sutton County!

Commercial Show

Doe Kid: Laura Martin 1st & 2nd, Mark Holman 3rd

Pen of 3 Kids: Laura Martin 1st

Yearling Doe: Laura Martin 1st & 2nd, Mark Holman 8th

Pen of 3 Yearling: Laura Martin 1st

Aged Doe: Laura Martin 1st, Mark Holman 6th

Champion and Reserve

Champion Doe: Laura Martin

Champion and Reserve

Champion Pen of 3: Laura Martin

Registered Show

Buck Kid: Emily Earwood 1st & 16th, Cash Jennings 2nd, Laura Martin 11th & 13th, Meredith Earwood 12th & 23rd, Hunter Jennings 20th, Mark Holman 25th, Garrett Watkins 30th

Yearling Buck: Word Hudson 1st & 7th, Emily Earwood 2nd & 15th, Meredith Earwood 4th & 5th, Mark Holman 6th, Laura Martin 8th

Aged Buck: Meredith Earwood 1st, Emily Earwood 2nd, Word Hudson 5th, Laura Martin 13th,

Champion Buck: Meredith Earwood



Laura Martin and Meredith Earwood win big in Kerrville.

Reserve Champion Buck: Word Hudson

Doe Kid: Laura Martin 1st & 2nd, Meredith Earwood 3rd & 11th, Emily Earwood 7th, Keeli Taylor 15th, Kelsey Watkins 18th, Mark Holman 19th & 24th

Yearling Doe: Mark Holman 1st & 9th, Meredith Earwood 4th & 6th, Emily Earwood 5th & 8th, Laura

Martin 11th & 16th

Aged Doe: Kelsey Watkins

1st, Meredith Earwood 3rd & 5th, Laura Martin 6th, Emily Earwood 13th & 15th, Mark Holman 19th

Champion and Reserve

Champion Doe: Laura Martin

Champion Registered

Angora Goat and Champion

Goat of Show: Meredith

Earwood

Reserve Champion

Registered Angora Goat and Reserve Champion Goat of Show: Laura Martin

The Chance Armke

Memorial Premier Exhibitor

Award was won by Meredith Earwood.

Hospital Board hears construction details

submitted

The regular meeting of the Sutton County Hospital District, Board of Directors, was held on Monday, January 10, 2005 in the Sutton County EMS building. Present for the meeting were board members Lewis Allen, President, Sherrill Dannheim, Vice President, Preston Faris, Maria Carrasco, Noemi Samaniego, Lenora Pool, and Virginia Epps. Also present were Keith Butler, CEO/Administrator; Ben Epps; Michelle Schaefer, CFO/Board Secretary.

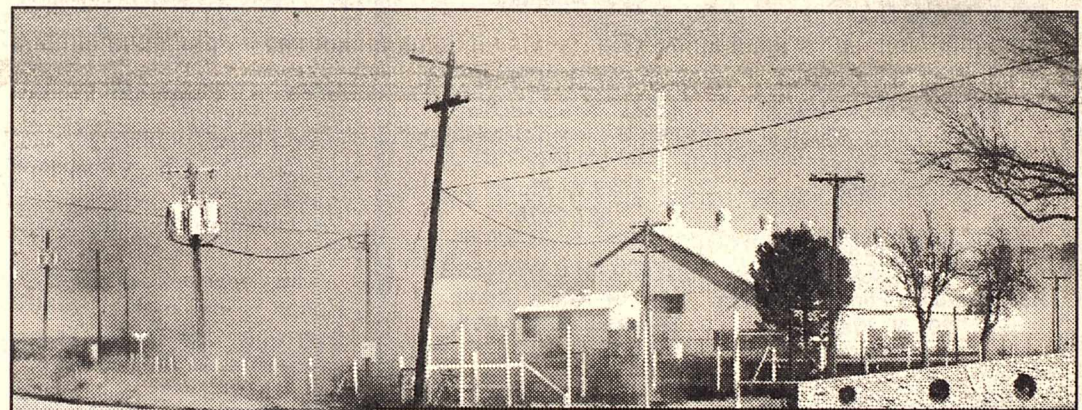
The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. Michelle Schaefer gave the quarterly QA report. The quarterly Joint Conference report was presented by Maria Carrasco, and both reports were approved as presented.

Keith Butler reported A/R days are down to 59. There was little fluctuation in revenue as had been expected during flu season. The goal is to maintain the turnaround days as revenue is increased.

Minor changes to the hospital construction plans were presented by Butler. All modifications were described and cost per change was listed. The total price difference is still less than the 1% budgeted with greater than 50% of the project completed. The only other change that can be expected is the price to lay a gas line from the existing site to the wellness center for the heating of the pool. An update on the hospital construction continues to confirm completion by the middle of April. The drywall is complete in the X-ray department, cement board is up in areas and heating and a/c in the back part of the new addition is done. The roof panels for the wellness center arrived and installers should be finished in one week. The metal studs are starting to go up in the wellness center as well. The pool contractor has tiled around the sides but will need to return to correct the layer of colored tile. Most of the equipment for the new facility has been purchased, as has been most of the radiology equipment. A decision on the R/F Suite has not

See Hospital Board page 8

Transformer spark believed to cause fire



by Storie Sharp

Sonora Volunteer Fire Department was called to a grass fire on Miers Road on January 21, 2005. The fire, believed to have started from a blown transformer, quickly spread to two structures located near the gate and barns of Lawrence and Jodie Finklea. Finklea reported that the electricity in the house blinked and a loud sound was heard from the direction of the road before the ranch worker came to report there was fire. The structures once were the Texas-New



Above: Fire and smoke spread quickly on Miers Road. Inset: Landowner Jodie Finklea and Volunteer Firewoman Alta Alewinn work to extinguish small flames in the grass near the road.

Mexico Pump Station, but has been out of major operation for many years. Volunteers from George Thorp Water Wells saw the smoke from the road and stopped to help extinguish the flames and prevent the fire from spreading. No injuries were reported.

Tax Preparer Fraud

Submitted by Kelly L Thorp
County Extension Agent-FCS
Texas Cooperative Extension-
Sutton County

Return Preparer Fraud generally involves the preparation and filing of false income tax returns by preparers who claim inflated personal or business expenses, false deductions, unallowable credits or excessive exemptions on returns prepared for their clients. Preparers may also manipulate income figures to obtain fraudulent tax credits, such as the Earned Income Tax Credit.

In some situations, the client (taxpayer) may not have knowledge of the false expenses, deductions, exemptions and/or credits shown on their tax returns. However, when the IRS detects the false return, the taxpayer must pay the additional taxes and interest and may be subject to penalties and criminal prosecution.

The IRS Return Preparer Program focuses on enhancing compliance in the return-preparer community by investigating and referring criminal activity by return preparers to the Department of Justice for prosecution and/or asserting appropriate civil penalties against unscrupulous return preparers.

While most preparers provide excellent service to their clients, the IRS urges taxpayers to be very careful when choosing a tax preparer. You should be as careful as you would in choosing a doctor or a lawyer. It is important to know that even if someone else prepares your return, you are ultimately responsible for all the information on the tax return.

Helpful Hints When Choosing a Return Preparer

Avoid tax preparers who claim they can obtain larger refunds than other preparers

Avoid preparers who base their fee on a percentage of the amount of the refund.

Use a reputable tax professional who signs your tax return and provides you with a copy for your records.

Consider whether the individual or firm will be around to answer questions about the preparation of your tax return months, or even years, after the return has been filed.

Review your return before you sign it and ask questions on entries you don't understand.

No matter who prepares your tax return, you (the taxpayer) are ultimately responsible for all of the information on your tax return.

Therefore, never sign a blank tax form.

Find out if the preparer is Accredited Tax Preparer, Enrolled Agent, Certified Public Accountant (CPA), Licensed Public Account or Tax Attorney? Only attorneys, CPAs and enrolled agents can represent taxpayers before the IRS in all matters including audits, collection and appeals. Other return preparers may only represent taxpayers for audits.

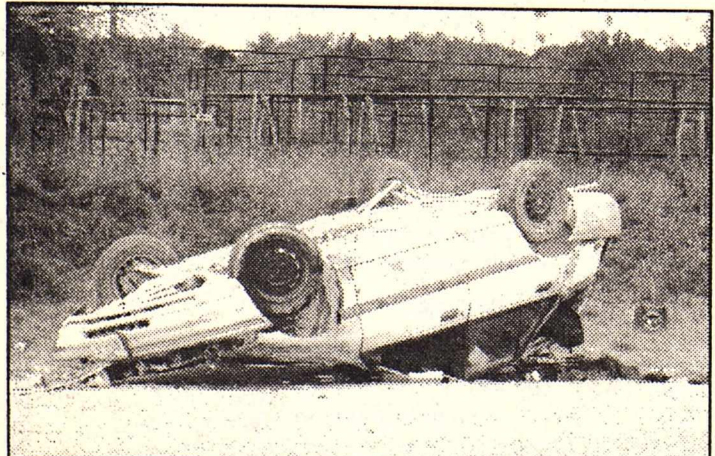
Find out if the preparer is affiliated with a professional organization that provides its members with continuing education and resources and holds them to a code of ethics.

Ask questions. Do you know anyone who has used the tax professional? Were they satisfied with the service they received?

IRS cautions taxpayers to be wary of claims by preparers offering larger refunds than other preparers. Check it out with a trusted tax professional or the IRS before getting involved.


Tax evasion is a risky crime, a felony, punishable by five years imprisonment and a \$250,000 fine.


Rollover claims one on Bond Road



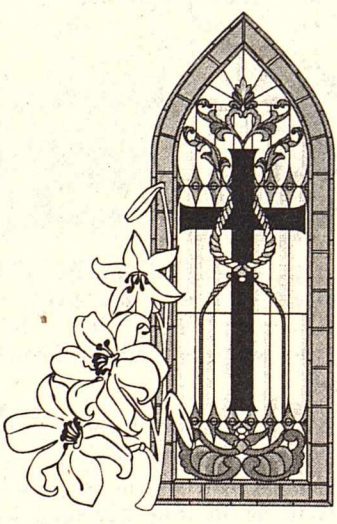
One man was killed in a one-vehicle crash mid day on Friday, January 21, 2005. Tommie Bryan Griggs, 64, formerly of Odessa and currently residing in Sonora, was pronounced dead at the scene by Sutton County Judge Carla Garner, after being ejected from the vehicle he was driving. Griggs reportedly was traveling east on Bond Road at a high rate of speed and appears to have lost control. The car rolled multiple times before landing on its top in the opposite bar ditch. Sutton County Sheriff's Department, Texas State Troopers and Sutton County EMS responded to the scene.

**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**

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

School Lunch Menu • Jan. 31 - Feb. 4, 2005

Breakfast
Mon. - French toast sticks, syrup, assorted juice.
Tues. - Cheese toast, assorted juice.
Wed. - Glazed donut, assorted juice.
Thurs. - Toast with peanut butter, assorted juice.
Fri. - No school. Speech Meet.

Milk and cereal offered with all breakfasts.

Lunch
Mon. - Chicken nuggets, scalloped potatoes, carrot sticks, dressing, fruit crisp.
Tues. - Spaghetti with meat, green beans, peach cup, garlic roll.
Wed. - Frito pie, cheese, pinto beans, tossed salad, fresh fruit.
Thurs. - Hamburgers, lettuce, tomatoes, pickles, tator tots, cookie.
Fri. - No school. Speech Meet.

Senior Center News

Jan. 31 - Bingo!
Feb. 2 - TRAX Van to San Angelo.
Feb. 3 - Crafts for Valentines - after lunch.


Senior Center Menu

Jan. 31 - Beef tips with rice, cooked carrots, cornbread, strawberry and banana mix, lemon pie, milk.
Feb. 1 - Baked chicken, au gratin potatoes, Italian vegetables, roll, fresh orange, milk.
Feb. 2 - Mexican casserole, pinto beans, tossed salad, flour tortillas, mixed fruit cup, milk.
Feb. 3 - Baked ham, green beans, sweet potato, rolls, juice, peanut butter cookie, milk.
Feb. 4 - Catfish, spinach, pinto beans, coleslaw, cornbread, lemon pudding, 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**

**Congressional Medal of Honor
Winners in Texas**

 **Tumbleweed Smith** When Charles Neal of Houston was in graduate school, he wanted to write a thesis on Texas' Medal of Honor winners. His adviser advised against it. Charles made a hobby of that topic and researched it for more than thirty years. Then he wrote a book, **VALOR ACROSS THE LONE STAR**.

"The Congressional Medal of Honor is the highest award granted by the United States government for military valor," says Charles. "It was signed into law by Abraham Lincoln in July of 1861. It has become probably the most renowned award for military bravery in the world. "Out of the 40 million plus men and women who have served in the US military forces since the beginning of our country, only 3,459 individuals have merited being awarded the Medal of Honor. Ninety-three of those are Texans."

"When you look at the record of Texans in modern wars, it's almost unbelievable. Three percent of your World War One awards went to Texans. Five percent of the World War Two awards were presented to Texans. Five percent of the Korean War awardees were Texans. Fourteen percent of the Viet Nam War recipients were Texans.

"Texas produced the most highly decorated soldier of World War One, the most highly decorated soldier of World War Two, Audie Murphy, and the most highly decorated sailor of World War Two, Commander Samuel Dealey of Dallas. Texas has provided some outstanding military heroes."

His book has 491 pages and concentrates on Medal of Honor winners during frontier times. "There are nineteen chapters of content, each one detailing the political and military situations in which 67 men were awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for deeds of valor performed within the state of Texas during the Civil War, the Indian Wars and one Mexican border disturbance. It covers the chronological span from 1861 to 1891 and is published by the Texas State Historical Association."

Charles' father was a military man and served at various military bases. "I learned many stories about military heroes from history. This kind of stayed in my psyche and the Medal of Honor became an impassioned hobby of mine.

Sometimes our purpose in life is exposed to us in different ways. Harlandale High School in San Antonio was the only high school in the United States to have produced three Medal of Honor recipients. I graduated from Harlandale High School in 1959. I felt like this book is something I was destined to do."

Obituary

Mrs. Nathan Bates

Mrs. Nathan Bates, the oldest sister of Barbara Earwood, died January 13, 2005, in the Leo P. LaChance Rehabilitation Center in Gardner, Massachusetts. Mrs. Bates was born on June 2, 1914 in Manchester, New Hampshire and is first child born to Irving and Vernice (Carraway) Tirrell. Gertrude was married to Nathan Bates of Cohasset, Massachusetts on June 27, 1932. She had one daughter, Vernice Mary, who grew up in the Cohasset schools where her father was a teacher.

Her parents, husband and three brothers Winston, John and David Tirrell preceded her in death.

Survivors include her daughter Vernice Mary Bates of Petersham, Massachusetts, and two sisters Phyllis Winnett of Whitman, Massachusetts, Barbara Earwood of Sonora and many nephews and nieces, some of whom are Elsie Belk of Winters, Texas, Melinda Crain and Edward Earwood, both of Sonora.

Tommie Griggs

Tommie Bryan Griggs, 64, of Odessa, died Friday, Jan. 21, 2005, in Sonora.

Graveside services were at 2 p.m. Tuesday at Sunset Memorial Gardens with Malcom Tyree officiating. Arrangements were by Hubbard-Kelly Funeral Home.

He was born in Dumas.

Survivors include his companion, Arlie Harris of Odessa; sons Brian Griggs of Pearl River, La., Jobe Griggs of Metairie, La., and Dylan Harris of Odessa; daughters, Trudy Martin and Starla Harrell, both of Odessa; mother Frances Griggs of Odessa; brothers, Marcus Griggs of Katy and George Griggs of Houston; sisters, Marilyn Glasscock of Odessa, Rhoda Broome of Bayside and Brenda Sartain of Houston; and nine grandchildren.

Card of Thanks

The family of Gerardo "Jerry" Almazon would like to thank everyone for thinking of us during our recent loss. We want to thank everyone for the food, cards, flowers, prayers, and visits. We want to especially thank Ofilia Torres, Nadine Johnson and Luciano Sanchez. May God bless everyone for your thoughts and prayers.

Noemi, Lingo, Fabian and JoAnn Sanford

Letter to the Editor

On Monday, November 15, my daughter, Jennifer called me from a gas station in Sonora, Texas. She was traveling with some friends and her car broke down at that station in the pouring rain. It was about 5:30 in the evening here and too late for me to do much so I got her a hotel room nearby and prayed.

I am a single mother with two children, Jenny is my "baby" and she is 21 but that doesn't stop me from worrying about her. All I knew was that she was 18 hours from me with a car that wouldn't budge, no money and I was a worried mother. All I could do was pray and try to sleep. The next morning I tried to think of any way I could help her. I didn't have any money either to spare. I have had State Farm Insurance for more than twenty years and I have full coverage on all my vehicles, two teenagers will do that to you. I got the number of a local agent in Sonora, thinking at the very least I could have her towed and the insurance would pay for it while I thought of a more permanent solution. The first person I spoke to in Sonora was Clara, she works for Sam Dillards office. What an angel! She was the sweetest person. I explained my plight and asked if she knew any good mechanics in town. I figured someone local would. She said she would call me right back with some information. When Clara called back she had already called Lonestar Collision, my daughter and put the two of them together. Her exact words were, "don't you worry about a thing." I burst into tears, the first of many brought on by your town's kindness. The gentleman from Lonestar, whose name I did not get, picked my daughter up at the Days Inn and drove her to the car where he decided it was not the transmission (thank God) but rather something less expensive and simpler. He took Jenny back to the hotel, towed the car to his shop and ordered the part, which would not be in until the next day. A woman from Lonestar called me at work, regrettably I did not get her name either, just to tell me what was going on and to assure me everything was being taken care of. Again, tears of relief. My daughter called a few hours later to tell me that somehow a man from a local church had contacted her to let her know that they would be paying for the car repairs and another night in the hotel! I was amazed. The local police department gave all the young people vouchers for food at a local restaurant, Dairy Queen, I believe. The next day she and her friends were safely on their way thanks to the wonderful people in Sonora, Texas. Everyone I tell this story too has tears in their eyes when I finish, how a town of strangers helped a group of young people they didn't know and bring peace to the mind of a worried Mom. I wish I could thank each and every one of you personally and if you ever travel to Bedford, Virginia stop in R U Up Coffee shop and say hello to that young girls Mom, grandma and aunt, the coffee and hugs are on us.

Sincerely,
Kathy Overstreet,
Bedford, Virginia


**NEVER TOO LATE
FLU VACCINE CLINIC**

Wed., Feb. 2, 2005 • 8:00 a.m. - Noon

Dr. Johnson's Clinic
301 Hudspeth • Suite B • Sonora
Only 30 Vaccines Available!

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

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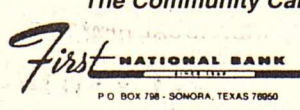
Community Calendar

Feb. 14
Commissioners Meeting
Annex Bldg. • 9:00 a.m.
School Board Meeting
Admin. bldg. • 5:30 p.m.

Feb. 22
City Council Meeting
2:00 p.m. • City Hall

Feb. 28
Commissioners Meeting
Annex Bldg. • 9:00 a.m.

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Letters To The Editor Policy

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Historical Society

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

Every once in a while we get a surprise in the mail and this week we got a big one. A large mailing envelope came in with an album full of wonderful pictures of Sonora and its early day residents. Most of them were Halbert's, Whitehead's and Jones' family pictures but there were also pictures of Loss Carmichael, the Aldwell family, the North family, Judge Tayloe and his home in San Antonio, Jack Garner, and many others. There were photos and postcards of early day Sonora and the Sonora Band members of the Silver Coronet Band.

The owner of the album was a Mr. D. F. Patterson who lived in Sonora from about 1903-1908 and worked for the Mayer Store. His wife was named Della and they were such good friends with the Halbert family that B. M. Halbert and Kidie Halbert named their daughter Della Rose after Della Patterson. The album was made from goat skins from goats raised in Sonora and has an outline of Texas, a star and PAT'S in large letters on the cover. In the bottom left corner is the initials BMH. The laces that bind the album feel like they are made out of kid skin. The Patterson family and Halbert family had corresponded up until the 1940's and there were also copies of some obituaries in the album.

One photo that we had never seen before is the shot that accompanies this article. It was taken at the corner of Main and Water Streets and is of a group of people lined up in front of the Decker Hotel. This photo was taken after the 1898 addition to the hotel which can be seen where the upper porch railings change and where there is a slight kink in the roof line. The tree is the same one that still stands at the corner today. We wish we knew who the people in the photo were. If you have a copy of this photo with names written on it give us a call and help us out please.

Q. What was the maiden name of Mrs. J. T. Hutcherson?
A. Devil's River News, March 28, 1947-Funeral services for Mrs. J. T. Hutcherson, 89, mother of B. W. Hutcherson of Sonora, were held Thursday afternoon at 4 o'clock at Fort Worth. Mrs. Hutcherson died early Wednesday morning.
Mrs. Hutcherson was born



The Decker Hotel at the north corner of Main and Concho, approx. 1900. D.F. Patterson Collection

Josephine Holdaway in 1850. Following her marriage to the late Mr. Hutcherson, she lived in Milam and Coryell Counties, where her husband was engaged in farming. In 1929 Mr. and Mrs. Hutcherson moved to Sutton County. Following Mr. Hutcherson's death in 1942, Mrs. Hutcherson moved to Fort Worth, where four of her daughters live. Mrs. Hutcherson was a lifelong member of the Methodist Church.

In the same issue we found that the one room dwelling owned by Librado Arrendondo in Sinaloa was judged a total loss following a fire at 2:30 Wednesday afternoon. Due to the time it took to report the fire, the small building was enveloped in flames by the time the fire department arrived.

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Hearn were the parents of a son born Tuesday that weighed 5 lbs and 10 oz. Sandra Kay Glasscock, 18 months old, was improving Thursday after receiving a broken collar bone Tuesday afternoon when she fell off a bed. The baby was treated locally. Wanda Sue Mackey was recovering from a severe attack of the flu.

The Sonora Cub Scouts took advantage of blustery March weather Tuesday afternoon and put on a kite flying contest at the racetrack. First place in the workmanship class was won by Mrs. J. T. Ratliff's den. The prize was a box of candy donated by the Corner Drug Store. First Prize for flying ability went to Jack Mackey, Jr., and was an identification bracelet donated by the Barrow Jewelry Store. Honorable mention was given to George Thomas, Don Valliant, Benny Friend and Billy Doran. Judges were Joe M. Vander

Stucken and Lea Roy Aldwell.

The Sonora baseball team started the season off right Sunday afternoon at the stock pens diamond, with a hotly-contested 4-1 win over the Villa Acuna, Mexico Carta Blancas. Three Sonora pitchers, George E. Smith, Tallman Millican and Bob Medford combined their efforts to hold the Cartas hitless, while their mates jumped on Torres for 3 hits and 2 runs in the last half of the first to take the lead. A Carta Blanca rally in the seventh inning produced the visitors, single run of the game, but Smith throttled it with a strike out and an easy infield out with the bases full. Sonora produced another run in the seventh and a fourth in the eighth to ice down the game.

Mr. and Mrs. E. D. Shurley were hosts to the Saturday Night Club when it met at their home last week. Potted plants, jonquils and violets were used in decoration. Mr. and Mrs. E. B. Keng won high club prize. Mr. and Mrs. G. A. Wynn, high guests. Mrs. Edwin Sawyer, bingo for ladies, and F. L. McKinney, bingo for men.

A buffet supper was served to Messrs. and Mesdames Keng, A. E. Prugel, H. C. Kirby, Cleve Jones, Jr., Sawyer, Lee B. Fawcett, C. W. McBride of Dallas, Wynn Russel Davis, McKinney, Leo Merrill, Jack Shurley, E. B. Tipton, Mrs. Rip Ward, Mrs. E. R. Tipton, Sr., and Dr. and Mrs. C. F. Browne.

Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Nichols entertained with a forty-two party Tuesday on their sixth wedding anniversary. Pastel colors were carried out in the decorations. Mrs. C. F. Browne won high and Mrs. M. C. Scott won low. A salad plate was served to

Messrs. and Mesdames M. C. Scott, T. L. Harrison, Louin Martin, Roy Sewell of Ozona, Mr. and Mrs. C. F. Browne and Mesdames W. O. Crites and Wes Hill and Ridge Sewell of Ozona.

E. F. Vander Stucken Co. Inc. weekend specials: can of beans 11 cents, can of vegetable soup 11 cents, Hunt's Tomato Pickles 29 oz. jar 10 cents, Karo Syrup pint jar 15 cents, a bar of soap 7 cents, a bunch of carrots 4 cents, 10 lbs of potatoes 29 cents, a dozen lemons 26 cents, tenderized hams 53 cents a pound, pure pork sausage 38 cents a pound, fat tender fryers 55 cents a pound, and a mesh bag of oranges 49 cents a pound.

If you have any questions concerning Sutton County history send them to "Ask the Historical Society," P.O. Box 885, Sonora, TX 76950-0885 or e-mail them to schs@sonorax.net. For building rentals, give us a call at the office on Monday, Friday or Saturday mornings from 8 to 11:45, 387-5084 or call me at home the rest of the week at 387-2855. Rental rates will increase February first. Deposits are now \$65 and the lowest rental rate for the building and grounds, 8 tables, 52 chairs and two tables for cakes and presents has been increased to \$80 a day. Larger party rates have gone up \$10 but you must rent any additional tables and chairs yourself. These rates are 51-75 people \$110, 76-100 people \$150 and 101 to 200 people \$200. These rates barely cover electric, water, paper supplies for the bathrooms, upkeep, etc. that we supply for the renters and pre-cleaning of the building every quarter.

State hits another snag in Farmers' homeowner settlement

State Capital Highlights Texas Press Association

By Mike Cox

AUSTIN - The Third Court of Appeals has rejected the state's \$117.5 million rate settlement with Farmers Insurance, at least temporarily blocking any prospect of refunds for thousands of Texas policyholders.

In ordering the case back to district court, the appeals court said the Attorney General's Office went beyond its authority in representing a class of citizens in the rate dispute rather than a specific individual who alleged being harmed by Farmer's homeowner policy rates. While the Third Court's opinion did not address the settlement itself, it has the effect of nullifying it.

"We are reviewing the decision and evaluating our

options," a spokesman for the Attorney General's Office said Friday.

A spokeswoman for Farmer's reacted more subjectively: "We are deeply disappointed." She went on to blast "costly and unproductive private class action lawsuits that provide little benefit to customers."

Jailhouse blues...
A Legislative Budget Board report released last week projected that the population of the state's prison system would grow by 3,661 offenders to 154,720 by the end of 2007 and to 165,324 by 2010.

Released at the same time, but getting less attention, was slightly better news: The percentage of offenders who end up back behind bars dropped from 31.2 percent in fiscal 2000 compared with 28.3 percent in fiscal 2001, apparently the latest years for which data were available.

Bottom line: Texas is going

to need more prison units. Second bottom line: Hard as the Texas Department of Criminal Justice may try to get its inmates on the straight and narrow when they return to what cons call the Free World, nearly a third of them end up coming back to the joint.

Packing heat...

Coloradoans don't always offer Texas hunters and skiers the warmest welcome, but officials of both states have worked a deal where Texans with concealed handgun licenses will be able to pack heat in Buffalo country and vice versa. Texas now has reciprocal carry agreements with 15 states.

Governor's race to get Kinky...

Kerrville mystery novelist and singer Kinky Friedman will formally announce his candidacy for governor at the Alamo on Feb. 3.

Known for his one-liners in

both song and print, Friedman told a reporter for the British news service Reuters that he was dead serious in his desire to retire Gov. Rick Perry.

"I have achieved a lot of my dreams," he said, "and I want to see that young Texans achieve some of theirs." Also, he added, "I need the closet space" in the Governor's Mansion.

Friedman has said he will run as an independent.

Know any heroes?

The Texas Department of Agriculture is looking for heroes who saved a life in rural Texas last year in incidents related to ranching or farming (but not traffic crashes.)

Nominations must be submitted to Lola Lemmon, TDA safety coordinator, by Feb. 2. Honorees will be recognized March 21 in San Antonio at the Texas Safety Association's annual conference.

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To find out more or reserve your membership, call: 387-2348



Happy 6th Birthday Little Robert!

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First Baptist Church announces February ministries....

February 6 • 10:45 AM • The Supper of Our Lord
February 13 • 1st Year "Watchman Prayer Ministry" Recognition
February 16 • Lenten lunches begin - Noon St. John's Church
February 27 • "Baptist Distinctives Day" Rev. James Mitchell

Immanuel Baptist Church, San Angelo
Prayer Ministry begins 2nd year

Regular Weekly Schedule
Sundays: 9:45 a.m. Bible Study • 10:45 a.m. Worship • 6:30 p.m. Worship
Mondays: 6:30 p.m. "Experiencing God" Study • 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
Youth Group at Youth Center
Adults - "Wednesday Spark!"
Thursdays: 6:00 p.m. "Believing God" Study

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Chamber Chatter

Working for you, Sonora

by Ruthie Bounds, Chamber of Commerce Executive Director

I really look forward each week, to writing this column to inform the Devil's River News readers what is going on in Sonora. There are always so many things going on, and this week is no exception. For the next three weeks we will be selling tickets and getting ready for the "Daddy Daughter Date Night." This dance is open to girls from kindergarten to eighth grade. The advance tickets are \$7.00, and they will go up to \$10.00 at the door the night of the dance, so be sure to come by the Sonora Chamber of Commerce Office & Welcome Center to sign up now for the dance.

I will be in McCamey on Wednesday, January 26th working with the committee and representatives from the 22 counties involved in the Texas Pecos Trail Region. We will be reviewing the information gathered from those counties and the deadline dates for turning in the info. I want to remind you all to get your letters of support for the Texas Pecos Trail Region in to the Sonora Chamber of Commerce Office as soon as you can. The Sonora Industrial Development Corp., the Friends of Historic Sonora, Inc./Main Street Program and the Sonora Chamber of Commerce have committed to each give \$500.00 per year for the first three years of the regions activation. This fulfills our obligation of \$1500.00 per year for Sonora and Sutton County. This does not mean that we wouldn't be willing to accept pledges from other organizations, individuals or businesses to be submitted along with our application for grant money from the Texas Historical Commission Texas Heritage Trail Program.

There is so much going on in Sonora these days that it is hard to keep up with everything, so if I leave something out of my column that you think should be included, please call and let me know or you can e-mail me at soncoc@sonoratx.net. Our phone number is 325/387-2880 and we are located at 205 Hwy 277 North. You can find information about upcoming events by visiting our website at www.sonoratx-chamber.com.

Filing Your Taxes? Learn About Earned Income Tax Credit

The Average 2003 EITC Tax Refund For Texas Families Was \$2,000

AUSTIN - Last week, Governor Rick Perry announced the expansion of a successful outreach campaign to promote the advantages of the federal Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) for eligible working Texans. The "Earn it. Claim it. Save it." campaign helps Texas families claim their share of this federally funded program.

"Helping Texas families is one of our top priorities, and EITC does just that," said Governor Rick Perry. "I would like to see 100 percent of eligible Texas families apply for EITC. Last year more than 2 million Texas families took advantage of EITC, with an average tax refund of \$2,000. Still, there were nearly 600,000 eligible families who did not apply. We need to get the word out to everyone who is eligible."

EITC is a federal tax credit for people who work, but don't earn high incomes. Taxpayers who qualify and claim the credit could pay less federal tax, pay no tax or even get a cash payment. The outreach program is funded with \$500,000 from the state's Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) block grant and is administered by the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC).

The Heart of Texas Workforce Board began Phase I

of the "Earn it. Claim it. Save it." outreach campaign in 2002, which provided EITC awareness education to employers and working families, tax preparation assistance, and financial literacy classes. That program currently includes the area served by the Heart of Texas Workforce Board and will expand to include the North Central Texas and Central Texas Workforce Development Areas. The workforce boards are among 28 boards across Texas that provide local service delivery for the Texas Workforce Commission.

The program's target audiences include businesses interested in helping employees with EITC, community leaders and lower-income working families. The goal of the program is to reach as many working Texans as possible through EITC awareness education, development of marketing materials, and creation of television and radio public service announcements.

Phase II will expand the program into the areas served by the Lower Rio Grande Valley Workforce Board, Cameron Works Workforce Board, the South Texas Workforce Board and the Gulf Coast Workforce Board, where more than 770,000 Texans are eligible for EITC based on income.

"This initiative will help working families in the Valley understand the tax credits available to them, providing badly needed funds for household necessities," said Lower Rio Grande Valley Workforce Board Chairman Sam Vale. "In 2003, EITC claims brought more than \$300 million to the Lower Rio Grande Valley, but sadly, more than \$60 million was left on the table by eligible claimants."

Income from EITC provided more than \$4 billion federal dollars to low income Texas families on 2003 federal tax returns.

Texas ranks first in the nation in the amount of EITC dollars claimed by its taxpayers in 2003.

More information on EITC can be found online at: www.irs.gov.

The Texas Workforce Commission is a state agency dedicated to helping Texas employers, workers and communities prosper economically. For details on TWC and the programs it offers in unison with its network of local workforce development boards, call (512) 463-8556 or visit www.texasworkforce.org.

Ports-to-Plains Coalition to host regional meetings

The Ports to Plains Coalition is scheduling monthly "Town Hall Meetings" in various communities along the corridor to provide an update on activities with the corridor. In addition to presentations from coalition staff and leadership, we will work to have updates from DOT officials and legislators. The first meeting is scheduled for February in Big Spring. Coalition staff will work with local members to coordinate the meetings. The initial schedule of "Town Hall Meetings" is:

- Feb 2005 - Big Spring, TX; Mar 2005 - Eagle Pass, TX; Apr 2005 - Stratford, TX; May 2005 - Clayton and Raton, NM; Jun 2005 - Lamar, CO; Jul 2005 - Boise City, OK; Aug 2005 - San Angelo, TX; Sep 2005 - Limon, CO; Oct 2005 - Sonora, TX; Nov 2005 - Canyon, TX; Dec 2005 - Plainview, TX; Jan 2006 - Del Rio, TX; Feb 2006 - Laredo, TX.

Friends of Historic Sonora Main Street plans events for 2005

by Ann Kay, F.H.S.M.S Manager

We have some wonderful events and exhibits planned for the coming year. We will start off the year with an Appreciation of Our Community Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts exhibit, which will be on display at the First National Bank of Sonora. These exhibits are a wonderful way of letting our youth know that the things they do for our community are very important in making our town the best place to live in Texas. We need your help with this exhibit. If you have a photo of your boy scout or girl scout or a scouting story, please share them with us. We will copy the photo and give it back to you. The Friends of Historic Sonora Main Street Office is located at the Mercantile Building at 232 Main Street, Suite 101, or call for more information at 387-2248.

The F.H.S. Main Street Program will display the photos and stories at the First National Bank of Sonora for all the community to visit and enjoy. We will display the stories during the month of February, which we have proclaimed Appreciation for Volunteers Month.

In the spring we will begin to plan the Annual Easter Egg Hunt and Eaton Hill Treasure Hunt. If you would like to help with this project give us a call at the F.H.S. M.S. office at 387-2248.

Happy Birthday

January 27
Robert Zapata, Jr. Delilah Aguero, Adrienne San Miguel, Hunter Lawson, Katrina Sanchez, Timothy Young, Sierra Samaniego, Michelle Cramer, Shannon Vick

January 28
Rachel Aguero, Amy Gutierrez, Greg Duke

January 29
Armando Sanchez, Jody Luttrell, Brittany Hernandez

January 30
Jeremy Surber, DeVoe Smith, Vince Jackson, Lewis Allen, Noah Moore, Jason Geske, Tonya Brown, Nash Traylor, Chap Traylor

January 31
Armando Castilleja, Jr., Oscar Jimenez, Gloria Mears, Luan King, Veronica Orozco, Daniel Thorton

February 1
Kaci Blake Lewis, Katy Ramos, Mark Samaniego, Kristina Hernandez, Brandi Neff, Margi Parks, Mario Lira, Sr., Graham Bloodworth, Fidel Acevedo, Dainah Hernandez,

February 2
Marissa Trevino, Laurie Garza, Wayford Tyler, Jr., Irene Beard, Cassie Krieg, Linda Robles, Jose Casillas

Senior Day 2005 at the Capitol

Senior Day 2005 at the Capitol is set for Tuesday, February 8, 2005 at 10:30 a.m. on the South Lawn of the State Capitol in Austin, Texas.

Senior Day 2005 at the Capitol theme is "Seniors: The Heart of Texas," which will focus on seniors' past and present contribution to the state, as well as those yet to come.

There is a \$20.00 (non refundable) charge for this trip, which includes a round trip ticket on chartered vans, your lunch and a snack. For more information on Senior Day 2005, please contact Rosie Quintela or Dale Metz with the Area Agency on Aging of the Concho Valley at 325-223-5704 or 1-877-944-9666 by February 1, 2005.

Nature Conservancy to host guided driving tour

Bring your own vehicle to explore Davis Mountains Preserve

FORT DAVIS - The Nature Conservancy of Texas will hold a guided driving tour of the Davis Mountains Preserve at 9 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 5. Registered participants will drive their own vehicles to experience this opportunity to observe the preserve's rugged beauty in a unique way. Participants should bring a picnic lunch.

Four-wheel-drive vehicles will be required for this outing; however, all-terrain vehicles are prohibited. The tour will not be "off road," but will take place on rugged ranch roads on the preserve. The tour is limited to nine vehicles, with registrations accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. Please contact Crawford Marginot, (432) 426-2390, Ext. 1, or cmarginot@tnc.org, for reservations or information.

Owned and managed by The Nature Conservancy of Texas, the 32,000-acre Davis

Mountains Preserve on Hwy. 118 near Fort Davis is a spectacular representative of a "sky island" ecology, providing home to animals and plants that live nowhere else in Texas and some found nowhere else on Earth. The preserve was part of the historic "U Up, U Down" McIvor Ranch until the Conservancy acquired it in 1997.

The Nature Conservancy is an international, nonprofit organization that preserves plants, animals and natural communities that represent the diversity of life on Earth by protecting the lands and waters they need to survive. To date, the Conservancy and its more than 1 million members have been responsible for the protection of more than 14 million acres in the United States and have helped protect more than 83 million acres in Latin America, the Caribbean, Asia and the Pacific. In the Lone Star State, The Nature Conservancy of Texas owns 33 Texas nature preserves and conservation projects and manages another 27 projects through voluntary land-preservation agreements with landowners. The Nature Conservancy of Texas protects 250,000 acres of wild lands and, with partners, has conserved close to a million acres for wildlife habitat across the state. Visit The Nature Conservancy of Texas on the Web at nature.org/texas.

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Lady Colt 7th graders Victorious in Llano

by Nancy Glasscock

The 7th grade Lady Colts basketball team won the Llano Basketball Tournament on Saturday and were still on a roll when they entered the Eldorado gym on Monday night. The gals pressured their opponents throughout the game by stealing the ball, intercepting passes, and continually causing them to make critical mistakes. The halftime score was 18-2 with Cassie Krieg, Amy Hernandez and Sara Gillit getting the buckets. In the second half, Coach Jennings substituted to give the rest of the team's players playing time. Cassie Krieg was the high scorer with 16 points and almost as many steals. The final score was 25-3 in Sonora's favor.

The next game will be at home, versus the 7th grade Lady Lions on Monday, 31 January.

Scoring:
Sara Gillit - 2; Amy Hernandez - 5; Cassie Krieg - 16; Alyssa Vela - 2



7th grade Lady Colts: Back to Front, L-R: Cassie Krieg, Monica Sanchez, Alyssa Favila, Amy Hernandez, Alyssa Vela, Sara Gillit, Maraya Dunn, Ashley Brown, Bianca Trevino, Tori Castillo, Bethany Berry, Brittany Hernandez

Little Dribblers 5th and 6th grade teams

Sonora City League Little Dribblers has chosen teams for the 2005 5th and 6th grade division.

Teams and coaches are as follows:

Boys

Wolverines
coached by Betsy Smith and Earlie Williams
Milton Black, Christian Kenney, William Otwell, Clayton Parks, Emilio Santellano, Bryce Smith, and Nathaniel Villa

Red Raiders
coached by Gary Leonard and Keith Hudson
Dakota Daniels, Word Hudson, Davis Jimenez, Zachary Leonard, Kyle Patlan, Refugio Sanchez, and Phillip Stephens

Slammers
coached by Manuel Tobias
Jesse Amador, Ricky Samaniego, Ryan San Miguel, Garrett Smith, Braxton Snyder, Cande Tobias, and Colyer Dermody

Longhorns
coached by Mindy Castaneda and Desirae Boldt
Kevin Barron, Osbaldo Castaneda, Edward Garza, John Hidalgo, Daniel Lankford, and Ethan Morriss

Cowgirls
coached by Becky Allison
Serena Lee Allison, Valeria Buitron, Chelsey Lou Campbell, Leandra Castaneda, Elizabeth Chavarria, Rose Karnes, Marilee Reyna, and Karina Trevino

Swish
coached by DeVoe Smith
Monica Dominguez, Mariah Gonzalez, Selena Mesa, Marissa Prieto, Morgan Smith, Evelyn Solis, Morgan Vyllecka, and Jasmine Daniels

Cougars
coached by Genaro Perez and Frank McGee
Daniela Cano, April Castillo, Crystal Coronado, JoAnna Garza, Brook Glosser, Courtney James, Kash McGee, and Ashley Perez

All Stars
coached by Paula Sanchez
Delilah Aguero, Sarah Carrillo, Ashley Guerra, Crystal Hidalgo, Hunter Jennings, Alicia Lira, Chelby Ramos, and Ana-Lesa

Bronco Varsity downs Eldorado Eagles

By Nancy Glasscock

Hot shooting by forwards Brett McDaniel and Evan Gulley proved to be too much for the Eldorado Eagles to overcome Tuesday night January 19th on Sonora's court. The Broncos led from start to finish despite Eagle forward Terrell Boysaw's 20 points.

The first quarter was all Broncos with 21 points scored to the Eagles' seven. Gulley, McDaniel and point guard Craig Leonard all had three-pointers. Embre Smith contributed four tough points, several offensive rebounds and blocked shots on defense.

The Eagles' coach subbed heavily in the second quarter trying to find a mix of Eldorado players who might stop the Broncos' steady scoring. Evan Gulley had his fourth three-point shot of the game. Eldorado started to pressure the Broncos more this quarter and slowed down the Sonora offense. The Bronco defense held Boysaw scoreless for this quarter. At the half, the Broncos led 35-18 and no Broncos were in foul trouble.

The Eldorado defense stepped up and the Broncos' shooting cooled off in the third quarter. Eldorado outscored Sonora 19 to eight. Austin Wagoner, Dustin Creek and McDaniel had the only buckets for the Broncos. During the first three quarters, only Gulley, Leonard and two Eagle players went to the free throw line. At the end of the third, Eldorado drew within six points of Sonora with the score 43-37.

The fourth quarter had the Eagles fouling the Broncos' ball handlers in order to get the ball

back. Bronco players went to the line nine times and were ten for seventeen from the charity line. McDaniel dominated in the fourth quarter sinking basket after basket and blocking three shots on defense. Boysaw scored nine of his 20 points and two Eagle starters fouled out. The Broncos got their fifth victory in district play with a 61-51 score. Sonora is now tied for first place with Reagan County and Wall also at 5-1.

The Broncos led from start to finish. During the first two quarters, Evan Gulley was "on fire." He hit on 4 of 5 three-point shots. He finished the game with 15 points. Brett McDaniel was high point for the Broncos with 25 points. As a team, the Broncos played great team ball with Craig Leonard, Austin Wagoner, Steven Duhon, Dustin Creek, and Embre Smith all making big baskets. Terrell Boysaw was high point for the Eagles with 20 points. Broncos are now 5 and 1 in district.

Sonora plays Mason (4-2) in the Punchers' gym on Friday night.

Sonora 61, Eldorado 51
ELDORADO - Boysaw 20, Ussery 5, Bustos 6, Cathey 4, Grubbs 4, Wipff 4, Dombroski 3, Garcia 2, Estrada 2, Ballew 1. Totals - 21 4-10.

SONORA - McDaniel 25, Gulley 15, Smith 6, Leonard 5, Wagoner 4, Creek 4, S. Duhon 2. Totals - 22 11-21.

3-point goals - Eldorado 5 (Bustos 2, Boysaw, Ussery, Dombroski); Sonora 6 (Gulley 4, Leonard, McDaniel). Records - Sonora is 10-6, 5-1 in dist. Eldorado is 1-5 in dist.

Angelo State Dean's List Released for 2004 Fall Semester

The Dean's List for the 2004 Fall Semester has been announced at Angelo State University in San Angelo, Texas.

To be eligible for the Dean's List, students must be enrolled full-time and maintain a 3.25 grade point average on a 4.0 scale.

The honorees, along with their majors, including the following from the Sonora area: Allison Arlene Benson, interdisciplinary child development and learning; Ruben Brown, English; Mark P. Cooper, music; Tamika L. Marshall, mathematics/secondary certification; Zane Shurley Martin, biochemistry; Jared Scott Percifull, marketing; and Zedekiah Joshua Snodgrass, pre-nursing.

Students of the Week

Jose Lugo is a freshmen at Sonora High School and is the 14-year-old son of Jose Ramiro and Irma Lugo. Although Jose was born in San Angelo he has lived in Sonora all of his life.

Jose likes to play football and basketball and he likes to hang out with friends and listen to music. His favorite subject is science because it is fun and he enjoys doing experiments.

After graduation he plans to go to college but has not decided where just yet.



Jose Lugo

Steven Keith Barthelemy is the 16-year-old son of Julie and Emmett Barthelemy. Steven is in his junior year at Sonora High moving here in 1990. Steven was born in Winters, Texas.

He enjoys playing football, golf and tennis and lists his hobby as hanging out with friends. His favorite subjects are chemistry and AP English.

After graduation he plans to attend the University of Texas.

The faculty at Sonora High would like to congratulate our students of the week on their hard work and commitment to doing what is right.



Steven Barthelemy



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REPORT OF COUNTY TREASURER OF SUTTON COUNTY, TEXAS, OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES FROM OCT. 1, 2004 TO DEC. 31, 2004

FUND	BEGINNING BALANCE	RECEIPTS	TRANSFER IN	DISBURSEMENTS	TRANSFERRED OUT	BALANCE
General	\$ 2,344,965.61	\$ 741,047.89		\$ 905,658.74		\$ 2,180,354.76
FMFC	\$ 168,115.75	\$ 114,761.19		\$ 202,682.45		\$ 80,194.49
Flood Control	\$ 24,281.40					\$ 24,281.40
Law Library	\$ 6,469.62	\$ 899.81		\$ 397.00		\$ 6,972.43
Lateral Road		\$ 12,508.10				\$ 12,508.10
State Trust Funds						
State Bond Fees	\$ 597.00	\$ 630.00				\$ 1,227.00
Employee Benefit Fund	\$ 207,600.17			\$ 20,166.00		\$ 187,434.17
Sutton County 911	\$ 7,511.58	\$ 2,386.30		\$ 2,404.40		\$ 7,493.48
Appellate Fund	\$ 550.29	\$ 252.85		\$ 647.91		\$ 155.23
Sheriff Seizure Fund	\$ 511,617.24	\$ 34.72		\$ 28,512.00		\$ 483,139.96
Courthouse Renovation	\$ 83,016.77	\$ 143,679.23		\$ 201,798.21		\$ 24,997.79
					TOTAL	\$ 3,008,658.81
CHECKING ACCOUNTS						
Courthouse Renovation	\$ 24,897.79	FMFC	\$ 53,942.90	General	\$ 246,318.01	
Appellate Fund	\$ 155.23	Sutton County 911	\$ 7,493.48	Sheriff Seizure	\$ 33,139.96	\$ 365,947.37
General 1st National				CTHSE RENOVATION		
Money Market Accounts	(General)	\$ 2,166,459.85	(FMFC)		\$ 2,192,711.44	
CD Accounts	(Seizure)	\$ 450,000.00	(FMFC)		\$ 450,000.00	
					TOTAL	\$ 3,008,658.81

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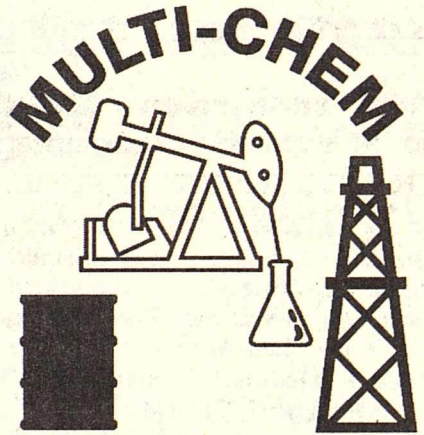
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**Rig Locations as of
 January 21, 2005**

Sutton
 Dominion; 8800' Joe M Hill - Vanderstucken - B - #4, Patterson Drilling.
 Dominion; 8575' Mayfield - 39 - #20, Patterson Drilling.
 Dominion; 8200' Shurley - RR - #9 - 2, Patterson Drilling.
 Dominion; 7700' Shurley - RR - 6 - 3, Patterson Drilling.
 Dominion; 7250' Ward - 127 - #13, Patterson Drilling.
 New Dominion; 8850' Mayfield - 41 - #15, Patterson Drilling.
 New Dominion; 8800' Hicks - 22 - #16, Patterson Drilling.
 New Dominion; 8400' Shurley RR - 5 - #1, Patterson Drilling.
 New Dominion; 6800' Canyon Ranch - 114 - #10S, Patterson Drilling.
 Dominion; 6650' Shurley #117, Patterson Drilling.
 New Dominion; 6600' Shurley #118, Patterson Drilling.
 New Dominion; 6600' Shurley #119, Patterson Drilling.
 New KCS Resources; 6500' Carta - 103 - #12, Patterson Drilling.
 New Devon Energy; 6000' GH Davis #8, Patterson Drilling.
 New Dominion; Shurley RR-6-#2, Patterson Drilling.
 New Dominion; 6650' Morris - 64 - #14, Patterson Drilling.

Crockett
 Endeavor Energy; 10500' Dudley - 26 - #2H, Big Dog Drilling.
 Approach Operating; 9000' JR Bailey - A - #511, Nabors Drilling.
 Approach Operating; 9000' Approach Bailey #405, Patterson Drilling.
 Momentum Energy; 7900' Harris Ranch - 4HH - #1, Patterson UTI/TMBR.
 J. Cleo Thompson; 7500' Todd Pooled Unit #1, Patterson Drilling.
 Approach Operating; 9000' Bailey #409, Nabors Drilling.
 New Encore Operating; 9100' H&H Drilling Company #2039, Patterson Drilling.
 New Approach Operating; 9000' Bailey #411, Nabors Drilling.
 New EOG Resources; 5900' Shannon Hospital - 4 - #3, Nabors Drilling.
 New Anadarko E&P; 7500' Couch #13, Patterson Drilling.
 New FIML Natural Res.; 5500' Baggett - B - #4C, Patterson Drilling.
 Mission River System; 2200' Meadows Ranch #1, Hinz Drilling.

Terrell
 Riata Energy Inc; 19000' Mitchell #1201, Lariat Drilling.
 Riata Energy Inc; 12000' Mitchell #6301, Lariat Drilling.
 Newfield; 15000' Poulter #3802, Patterson Drilling.
 ConocoPhillips; 12600' University - 4 - #7, Patterson UTI/LV.
 PXP/Houston; 11000' Mitchell - 8 - #9, Patterson Drilling.

Edwards
 New Newfield; 14000' Whitehead #7401, Patterson Drilling.

Val Verde
 Pure Resources; 4500' Mills Trust - 145 - #1, Nabors Drilling.
 New Chesapeake; 6500' Mills Trust - 19 - #5, Patterson Drilling.

Schleicher
 TXP; 7700' TC Meador #7, Heart Land Drilling.
 New Dominion; 8550' Edwin S Mayer Jr - E - #24, Patterson Drilling.
 New Dominion; 7900' University - 5416 - #2, Patterson Drilling.
 New Discovery Operating; 7000' Bearce #3, Heart Land Drilling.
 Pogo Producing Co; 6900' West - 80 - #11, Heart Land Drilling.

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

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**Last chance programs for
 obtaining Pesticide CEUs**

The Tom Green County Extension Office presents a "Last Chance Pesticide License CEU Program" on Thursday, February 10, 2005. The program will be held at the Texas A&M Research & Extension Center, at 7887 US Hwy 87 N, San Angelo, Texas. Registration begins at 12:30 p.m. and the program will be from 1:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. The registration fee is \$5 and a total of five (5) CEUs are available (2 general, 1 IPM, 1 Laws & Regs, and 1 Drift Min.).

Speakers will be: Cory Pence - TDA on Laws & Regs; Rick Minzenmayer - EA-IPM on Cotton Production; Dr. Billy Warrick - Ext. Agronomist - Drift Minimization; Tommy Antilley - CEA, Ag/NR - Coke County on Brush Buster Update; Steve Sturtz - CEA, Ag/NR - Tom Green County on Brush Control Update; John Begnaud - CEA, Horticulturist on Lawn & Ornamental Stress; Billy Kniffen - Watershed Management.

Please RSVP by Wednesday, February 9, to Tom Green County Extension Office, 325-659-6522

For those Licensed Private Applicators whose five year license will expire on February 28, 2005, a "Final Chance" CEU Meeting will be held on Thursday, February 24, 2005 at the Lonesome Oak Café (formerly Radicke's), 12145 Loop 107, in San Antonio, Texas. The program will promptly begin at 6:00 p.m.

Topics and speakers will be: Brian K. Hanson, Bexar County FSA Executive Director - FSA Programs and Important Dates; Charles Stichter, Extension Agronomist, Uvalde - Sprayer Calibration; Dr. Noel Troxclair, Extension Entomologist, Uvalde - Insect Control on Pastures; Jose Juarez, Texas Department of Agriculture - Laws & Regulations.

Attendees will receive three (3) CEU credits (1 - Laws & Regs; 1 - IPM; 1 Drift Mgmt.). The cost is \$10 per person, with a meal and drink provided. Please RSVP to Sheila at the Bexar County Extension Office at 210-467-6575 by February 22, 2005.

Oil & Agribusiness

Abilene workshop offers tools for Texas wildlife management

Writer: Steve Byrns, (325) 653-4576, s-byrns@tamu.edu

ABILENE - Texas Cooperative Extension will host the "Texas Wildlife Experience-Toolbox For Success" workshop on Feb. 22 in conjunction with the Texas Farm, Ranch and Wildlife Management Expo.

The program will be from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. in the Western Heritage Ranch House, next to the general offices of the Taylor County Expo.

"Wildlife continues to grow as an important source of income throughout our entire region," said Gary Bomar, Extension agent in Taylor County. "This program's purpose is to help producers recognize and optimize the growing list of activities and governmental options currently available to them. We've gathered some of the best in the business to present this information. This program will be a day well spent for anybody in the wildlife business, or for those contemplating entering the industry."

The program's scheduled topics are:

- "Reading the Land - The Key to Better Management."
- "From Goals to Implementation - The Lowdown on Federal and State Programs."
- "Wildlife Cooperatives and Associations."
- "Legislative Issues and Updates."

Presenters are: Steve Nelle, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department biologist, San Angelo; Chuck Kowaleski, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department farm bill coordinator, Temple; David K. Langford, Texas Wildlife Association, Comfort; Debbe and Johnny Hudman, Stasney-Cook Ranch, Albany; Kathy McGinty, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department biologist, Abilene; Mike McMurry, Texas Department of Agriculture, Giddings; Homer and Earline Hutto, Cedar Gap Farm, Tuscola; and Rob Hailey, Hailey Ranch, Abilene. Workshop sponsors are Extension, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Abilene Chamber of Commerce and the Texas Wildlife Association. Individual registration is \$35 per person if received by Feb. 15; after that date it is \$50 per person. The fee includes lunch, a "meet the speakers" social, dinner and notebook.

Further information is available from the Extension office in Taylor County at (325) 672-6048.

Fort Stockton Nature Tourism and Rural Diversification workshops slated for February

by Steve Byrns

FORT STOCKTON - A two-day workshop for landowners involved in nature tourism and rural diversification is set for Feb. 23-24 in Fort Stockton's Large Community Hall. The hall is off of Hwy 285 South in Rooney Park.

Registration starts at 8 a.m. both days. Each day's program starts at 8:30 a.m.

"These workshops came about because of the increased interest in nature tourism in our area," said Jed Elrod, Texas Cooperative Extension agent in Pecos County and a workshop coordinator.

"We are now seeing more 'high end' nature tourism operations being developed by landowners and entrepreneurs who are incorporating this method of generating revenue into their businesses. Its also good for our local economy, because each visitor we attract to our area for a nature experience contributes to our local economy. We are excited about the possibilities the business has for West Texas."

The two-day program will cover such topics as agricultural diversification, rural entrepreneurship, community resources, risk management, rural tourism promotion via the Internet, and evaluation of tourism successes.

Featured speakers include Dave Wilson, Big Bend Minority and Small Business Development Center director, Alpine; Dr. Robert Trentham, director of the Center for Energy and Economic Diversification, Midland; Dr. Ed Mahoney, associate professor and Extension specialist at Michigan State University; Carla Lowe, owner of Carla Lowe Associates and Waco Visitors Bureau director of sales, and Dr. Roger Hanagriff, Sam Houston State University, Huntsville.

The workshops are being sponsored by the Texas Department of Agriculture, Extension, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, and the Big Bend Region Minority and Small Business Development Center at Sul Ross State University, Alpine.

Registration for the two-day workshop is \$50 or \$25 for one day only. Contact the Big Bend Minority and Small Business Development Center at Sul Ross State University, Box C-47, Alpine, TX 79832 or call (432) 837-8694.

For more information, contact Elrod at (432) 336-2541, Jack Stallings at (915) 859-3942 or Dave Wilson at (432) 837-8694.

Controlling Summer Annual Weeds treatment time is near!

poor weed control with pre-emergent applications, is that individuals wait too late to make their treatments. Once the weed seed has germinated and the plant is growing, the majority of these preemergents will not control the weeds. The pre-emergents need to be applied before the weed seed starts to germinate. There are two exceptions to this. These products have postemergent activity as well as preemergent activity and can be applied after many of the winter weeds have already started to germinate and grow and still provide effective winter weed control. A second major reason for failure is not watering the herbicide in thoroughly. For these products to work, they need to be watered down into the top layer of the soil where most of the weed seed are germinating. Also, many of these herbicides are broken down by sunlight and if left on top of the turfgrass, they will lose some of their activity.

Preemergent herbicides are the most effective means for control of annual grassy weeds in turfgrasses. There is really not a good option for controlling grassy weeds with a post-emergent herbicide in the winter months. If the turfgrass is completely dormant, then you can use herbicides such as Glyphosate or Glufosinate - ammonium for winter grassy weed control. However, for most of our winters, many of the turfgrasses being grown in home lawns and on sports fields and golf courses do not go completely dormant. Using one of these products when the turf is not completely dormant could cause severe injury to the turfgrasses.

In our part of the state, pre-emergence applications for summer annuals may be made in mid February to early March. Finally, please read the labels on all pesticides prior to application and calibrate your sprayer/spreader.

For a list of pre-emergent herbicides, call the Extension Office or visit our web site at <http://sutton-co.tamu.edu> and click on the "Publications" tab, then "Landscape". The article is on winter weed control.

West Texas Classified Ad Network

CLASSIFIED ADS

Place your Non-Commercial classified ad in The Devil's River News, Eldorado Success, Ozona Stockman, Big Lake Wildcat and Iran News for one low, low price. Call today for details!



- Sonora
- Eldorado
- Ozona
- Big Lake
- Iran

387-2507

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.

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.

Pinson Bros. Drilling needs **Drillers and Rig Hands** in Sonora area. Must live within 30 miles of Sonora, CDL (or attainable), drug test required, lots of overtime, \$1,200.00 to \$1,800.00 per week, paid weekly. Drillers' mileage paid, health insurance reimbursement after 90 days. FREE housing and guaranteed 40 hours after probation period for the right people. Call 405-820-6129 or 405-705-1032. Leave message.

Monroe Welding • Top Pay Need Welder's Helpers. Apply at 411 S. Concho. Call 387-5454 for appointment.

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.

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

Kitchen Help Needed. Willing to train but experience is helpful. All shifts needed. Apply in person at Rosa's Casitas 318 S.W. Main, Eldorado.

Truck Driver Wanted!! Must be willing to help unload and deliver feed. Current CDL and 3 years experience required. Qualified applicants may apply at Rafter W Feed.

EXPERIENCED DRIVERS NEEDED! Must have current Class A CDL and a good driving record. Experience driving transports, vacuum trucks, operating pump trucks & winch truck. Monthly performance & safety bonuses. Health insurance, annual profit sharing, driver's days off schedule. Please apply in person at Niblett's Oilfield Service, Inc. Hwy. 277 South, Eldorado. No phone calls please.

The new Comfort Inn of Sonora opening soon is now accepting applications for the following positions: **Night Auditor, Front Desk Clerks, Housekeepers and Breakfast Attendants.** Please apply in person at The Days Inn of Sonora at 1312 N. Service Rd.

skinny's
CHALLENGING JOB AND AN EXCITING FUTURE! JOIN OUR WINNING TEAM.
 Now accepting applications for **All Positions**
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Apply at: Skinny's #107 510 Hwy. 277 N., Sonora, TX
A Drug-Free Workplace and an Equal Opportunity Employer

The Devil's River News is now accepting applications for a **Part-time Bookkeeping** position. Must have knowledge of Quick Books Pro and Microsoft Office. Experience necessary. You may pick up an application at 228 E. Main.

The Devil's River News is now accepting applications for an **Ad Design/Sales** position. Seeking a motivated advertising/sales person with good communication skills. Responsibilities will include: ad sales to new and existing accounts; preparing sales materials, creating print-ready ad documents. Experience in Mac, PC, QuarkXpress, Multi-Ad, Photoshop, Appleworks, Acrobat Reader preferred but not necessary. Apply in person 228 E. Main, Sonora.

Parker Lumber is now hiring **Part-time and Full-time Yard Hands.** Please apply in person at 112 E. 3rd St., Sonora, TX.

Hill Country Care Center in Junction needs a weekend **RN** and **part-time, PRN LVN's,** EOE, drug free work place. Call Angela at 325-446-3351.

St. Ann's Catholic Church has an opening for a **Part-Time Secretary** with good office and typing skills and knowledge of Word Perfect and Excel. Customer service experience preferred and must be bilingual/biliterate. Please send resumes to P.O. Box 298, Sonora, Texas 76950. Resumes accepted until January 28, 2005.

Schleicher County Medical Center Hospital. Equal Opportunity Employer. **R.N.**

Full-time position. 32-40 hours a week. Flexible schedule. ACLS, PALS and/or TNCC Certifications Preferred. Benefits available: Paid Time Off, Paid Holidays, Health Options, Childcare, Retirement Options. Contact: Vicki Farmer, BS, DON. Resumes may be faxed to 325-853-3523 to the attention of Vicki.

Employment Opportunity Schleicher County Medical Center. Equal Opportunity Employer. **Licensed Vocational Nurse Part-Time Position**
 24-hour employee day care, state-of-the-art equipment, numerous education opportunities, flexible schedule, competitive salary, work with highly skilled team. **Current Texas License Required.** If interested please contact: Vicki Farmer BS, RN, Director of Nursing. (325) 853-2507 x129.

Schlumberger Services is now hiring a **washbay worker.** Will train and provide safety equipment. Lots of overtime! To apply call 432-522-2232 or apply online at www.sosstaffing.com

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 We have part-time positions for caring and dependable people to work in the homes of the Elderly and Disabled in the Sonora area. We offer flexible schedules. Must be 18 years with no criminal background. No experience or Certification needed. For more information call 1-800-665-4471 E.O.E. M.F.D.V.

Immediate Positions Available
I-10 Exxon Convenience Store
Come by the corner of IH 10 and Hwy. 277 N. and pick up an application.
EOE

Dunes Mini Storages located on Hwy. 277, in Sonora, Texas, Sutton County will be holding a public sale **February 5, 2005 at 10:00 a.m.** to satisfy a landlord's lien, **weather permitting.** This is the tenant's official notice of "Intent To Sale" concerning their property. 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 Arrenondo, 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.

Public Auction Sale
 Under the authority in Internal Revenue Code section 6331, the property described below has been seized for nonpayment of internal revenue taxes due from **Edrock Yard Trust as Norminee, Alter-Ego, Transferee of Milburn R. Vernor.** The property will be sold at public auction as provided by Internal Revenue Code section 6335 and related regulations. Date of Sale: **February 23, 2005** Time of Sale: 10:30 a.m.; **Bidder Registration at 10:00 a.m.** Place of Sale: **8626 Tesoro Drive, Suite 100, San Antonio, Texas**

Title Offered: Only the right, title, and interest of **Edrock Yard Trust as Norminee, Alter-Ego, Transferee of Milburn R. Vernor** in and to the property will be offered for sale. If requested, the Internal Revenue Service will furnish information about possible encumbrances, which may be useful in determining the value of the interest being sold. (See "nature of Title" for further details.)

Description of Property: .025 Override royalty interest in **All of Section 37, Block C, Abstract 398, HE & WT RR Co. Survey to include these gas wells: Cusenbary 5 and Cusenbary 8**

.025 Override royalty interest in All of Section 71, Abstract 40, CCSD & RGNG RR Co. D.B. Cusenbary Survey to include these gas wells: Cusenbary 71-10; Cusenbary 71-11; Cusenbary 71-12; Cusenbary 71-13; Cusenbary 71-14; Cusenbary 71-2; Cusenbary; Cusenbary 71-3; Cusenbary 71-4; Cusenbary 71-5; Cusenbary 71-6; Cusenbary 71-7; Cusenbary 71-8; and Cusenbary 71-9

.025 Override royalty interest in 3/4 of Section 36, Block C, Abstract 963 HE & WT RR Co. Survey, being the North 1/2 and the South East 1/4 of Section 36 to include these gas wells: Cusenbary 36-1; Cusenbary 36-10; Cusenbary 36-11; Cusenbary 36-3; Cusenbary 36-5; Cusenbary 36-7; Cusenbary 36-8; Cusenbary 4; Cusenbary 6; Cusenbary 9

Selling all 25 gas well interests in one aggregate amount.

Property may be inspected at: 2/22 from 9:30 AM until 4:00 PM at 8700 Tesoro Drive - Docs pertaining to production of wells.

Payment terms: Full payment required on acceptance of highest bid.

Form of Payment: All payments must be cash, certified check, cashier's or treasurer's check or by a United States postal, bank, express, or telegraph money order. Make check or money order payable to the United States Treasury.

Mary Beth Justice-Hillard Property Appraisal & Liquidation Specialist P.O. Box 1969 Georgetown, Texas 78627 (512) 415-3856

Bid Notice
 Sonora ISD will accept sealed bids for elevator upgrades. Specs can be obtained at the Adm. Office or by calling 325-387-2545. Sealed bids will be accepted at the Admin. Office at 807 S. Concho, Sonora, TX 76950 until Feb. 7, 2005 at 3:00 p.m. at which time said bids will be opened. The Board of Trustees will award the bid on Feb. 14, 2005 at the above location. The District reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

ORDINANCE NO. 555
 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 554 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES, CITY OF SONORA, TEXAS, BY CHANGING THE NUMBER OF WATER WELLS; PUBLICATION; CONFLICT; VALIDITY.

DULY PASSED AND APPROVED by the City Council of the City of Sonora, Texas on this the 18th day of January, 2005.

Gloria Lopez Mayor
 ATTEST:
 Patti Prather City Secretary

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY:
 Elizabeth W. Wallace City Attorney

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Hunting Lease
Hunting Lease available for 2005 Season. 2300 acres, 12 guns at \$1,800.00 a gun, 18 miles east of Sonora on Hwy. 864 (Ft. McKavett Rd.) Call 325-446-2198 or 830-997-7020.

Automobile
 For Sale: 2001 Chevy Tahoe LT with 69,300 miles. Excellent condition. \$18,500.00. Call 387-5397 after 6:00 p.m.

Minerals/Oil/Gas
 Want to purchase minerals and other oil/gas interests. Send details to: P.O. Box 13557, Denver, CO 80201.

Piano for Sale
 Piano for Sale \$900.00 or best offer. Call 325-387-7078 after 5:00 p.m.

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 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 IH-10, 4 BA mobile home with large dorm room, large tree-shaded 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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F.Y.I.

Attorney Beth Wallace will be at the Sutton County Senior Center on Friday, January 28 - reduced rate for seniors from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Discuss wills, power of attorney, or living wills. Call the Center for more information at 387-5657 or 387-3941.

The First United Methodist Church in Junction is hosting a seminar with Dr. Leonard Sweet on Saturday, January 29 at 9:30 a.m. Dr. Sweet is Dean of Theology at Drew University and author of more than 20 books. The subject of his seminar is "Ponder Anew What the Almighty Can Do!" Don't miss a hopeful and uplifting message about the challenges and responsibilities of today's church. For more information on Dr. Sweet, log onto his web site at leonardsweet.com For registration and information, call JUMC at 325-446-2153.

Head Start is looking to expand in our community! Please help determine if there is a need in our community to add an Early Head Start Program (ages birth - 3 yrs) or expand our current Head Start Program (3 yrs - 5 yrs). If interested in the program please contact Sonora Head Start, 511 Cornell, 387-6132.

The annual Cub Scout Pinewood Derby will be held on Saturday, January 29, beginning at 9:00 a.m. at the Junior High snack bar. Everyone is invited to attend and cheer for the racers!

Sutton County Critter Gitter Calling Contest - 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). Turn in will be Sundays at 10:00 a.m. at same location. All team members must be present for check-in on Sunday - Each member must have a valid Trapping license; Sutton and surrounding counties can be hunted. FMI call Paul Martinez at (325)650-0221 or (325)206-1722.

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.

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 Polite FBC Eldorado 853-2662 or Lighthouse Community Church 387-9100.

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

Hospital Board from page 1

been finalized until funding can be confirmed. As for the clinic renovation, the frame-out is complete, as well as 95% of the drywall. Completion is still several weeks away, if all goes as expected.

The financial report for November, given by Schaefer, explained a transfer of money between accounts for the purpose of payment on the hospital construction. Also noted was an entry for the 2004 property tax income. The purchase of new equipment for the new hospital was noted, as was the laboratory expense for the health fair testing. The decrease in PT revenue

was due to vacations and no relief available to fill in. Medical records had an increase in salaries due to the transcription of old charts which hopefully will be complete by the end of January. Collection of tax revenue for November attributed to a profit for the month. January expenditures were approved as presented.

In closing, all board members reported excitement on the upcoming opening of the wellness center and the benefits offered to the citizens of Sutton and surrounding counties.

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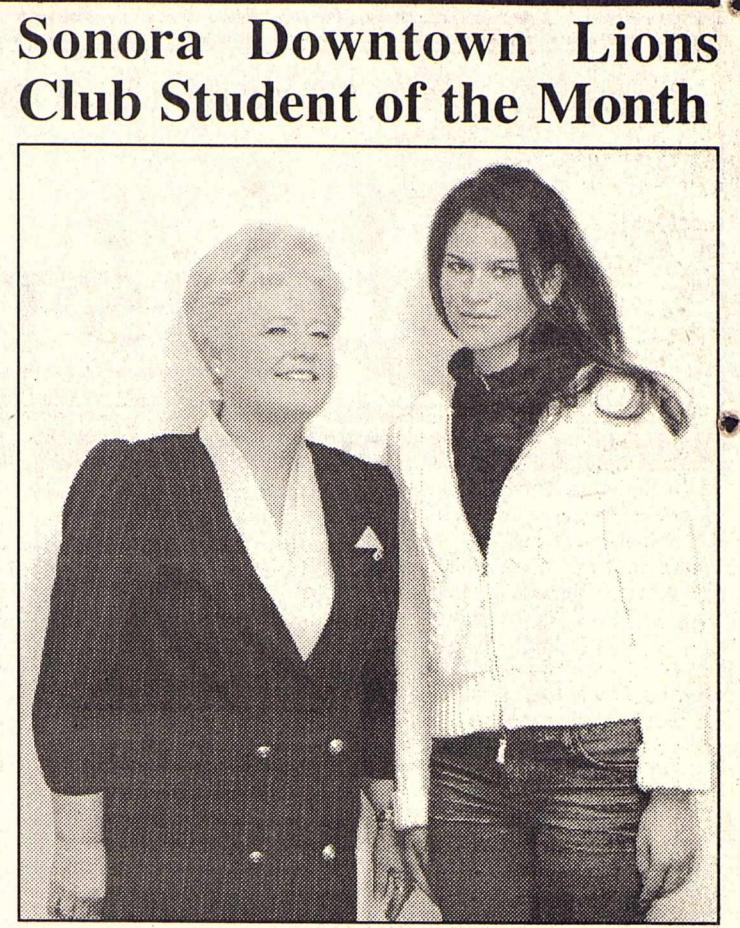
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The Sonora Downtown Lions Club student of the month, Erika McClintock, was recognized at the Tuesday lunch meeting on January 11, 2005. McClintock is the daughter of Ruben and Nelda Yorba and is a senior at Sonora High School. She is the National Honor Society Treasurer, Senior Class Treasurer, is active in Cross Country, Track and the Bronco Spirit Crew. Erika was also a candidate for 2004 Homecoming Queen and the 2005 Lions Club Queen Contest. Lion President Ann Kay presented Erika with a certificate and invited her to join the Lions weekly lunches at the First United Methodist Church. Congratulations Erika!

USDA-NRCS seeks comments on Environmental Quality Incentives Program

The USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is seeking comments from Texas landowners and organizations on its flagship conservation costshare program, the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). Dr. Larry D. Butler, State Conservationist for NRCS in Texas, is launching a comment period to allow public input on EQIP through March 15, 2005.

"NRCS periodically reviews and updates the EQIP priorities, with input from the public, to ensure the program continues to address the most important resource needs" as well as any emerging resource issues," says Dr. Butler. The program originated in the 1996 Farm Bill and was re-authorized in 2002. "Updating the national priorities will help us prepare for the 2006 program year and for the next Farm Bill reauthorization in 2007."

Public listening sessions will be held in each State in coordination with the State Technical Committee. NRCS is looking for a wide array of public and stakeholder input from these sessions. Feedback from agricultural organizations, environmental groups, commodity organizations, agencies, individuals and others is encouraged.

A listening session will be held on March 1, 2005, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Hilton Austin Airport Hotel, Del Valle Room, in Austin. In addition to State listening sessions, the Federal Register and the NRCS national website, www.nrcs.usda.gov, can be used to submit written comments. The culmination of the State listening sessions will be a national public listening session scheduled for the spring of 2005.

"These listening sessions are not exclusive to EQIP," adds Dr. Butler. "We also invite comments on our other programs, such as the Farm and Ranchlands Protection Program, Grassland Reserve Program, Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program, Wetlands

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