

Sonora students qualify for State Debate Meet

submitted

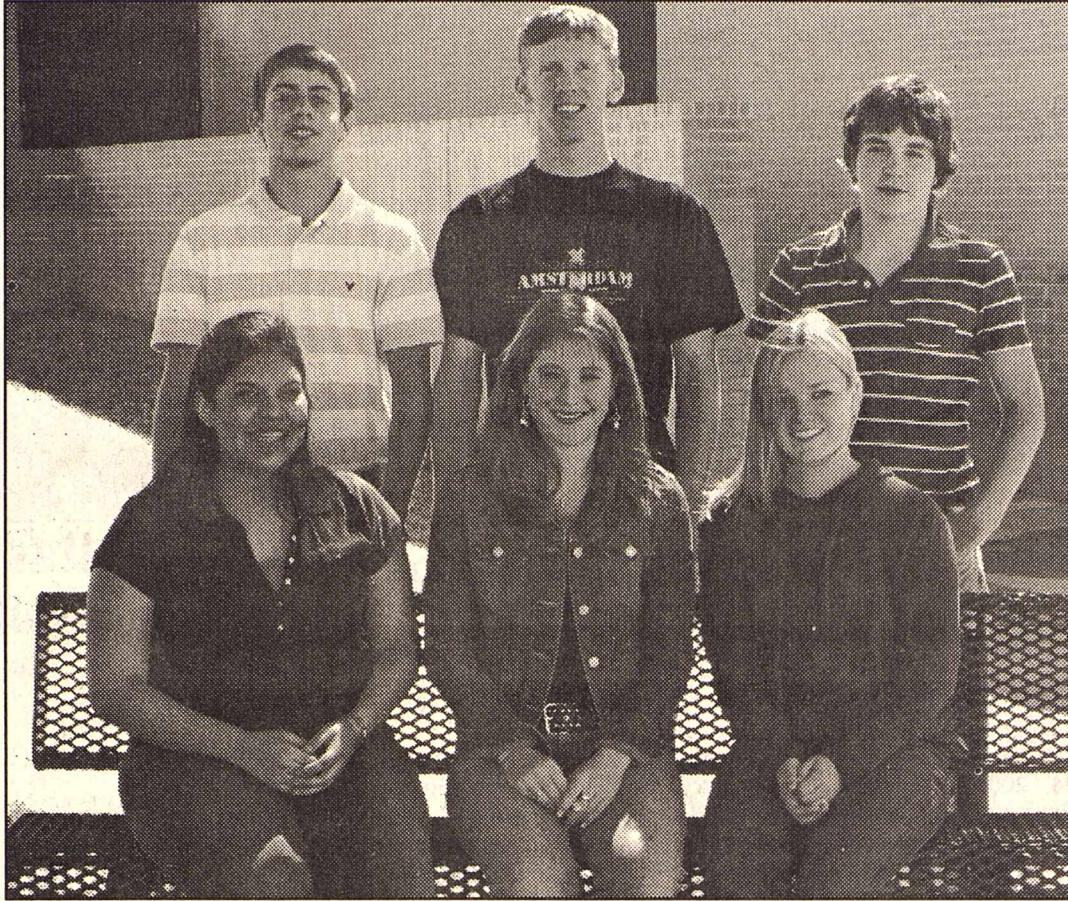
Sonora High School has qualified four students for the 2004-05 University Interscholastic League State Cross-Examination Meet, to be held March 14-19, at The University of Texas in Austin.

Qualifiers include Tara Green and Chelsea Seaton - 1st place; Craig Leonard and Stacy Sanchez - 2nd place; and Austin Wagoner and Warren Wallace - 3rd and Alternate to State.

The students qualified for the state meet by placing first or second at the UIL Cross-Examination District Meet, held in Wall on Wednesday, February 9, 2005.

"UIL debate competition develops skills in our students that directly prepare them for real world situations by challenging their problem-solving and critical thinking abilities," said Jana Riggins, UIL Debate Director. This year's cross-examination debate topic required students to research extensively the United Nations peacekeeping operations.

UIL academic contests range from social studies to accounting and from computer science to poetry interpretation. Of the 2.2 million students who participated in UIL activities last year, 637,000 competed in one or more of the 23 general



Sonora Cross-Examination Debate Team: Back row: Craig Leonard, Austin Wagoner, and Warren Wallace. Front row: Stacy Sanchez, Chelsea Seaton, and Tara Green

academic contests.

Through participation in the State Meet, students qualify for Texas Interscholastic League Foundation scholarships. Since its inception in 1954, the TILF

has provided \$19 million to over 14,500 students. This year, TILF expects to award an estimated 520 new and renewed grants, valued over \$1,000,000. Grants and donations from foundations and individuals

have funded these academic scholarships. Each dollar that the TILF receives goes directly for scholarships and no administrative or other overhead expenses are deducted.

Community invited to Lenten Lunches

The Sonora Ministerial Alliance wants to remind everyone that the 2005 Community Lenten Lunches began this week, February 16, 2005, with First United Methodist Church and Lighthouse Community Church hosting. Reverend Don Longoria shared devotion with the community. The host churches and ministers for the noon meetings are as follows:

February 23 - Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church and Hope Lutheran Church, Devotional speaker: Reverend Lewis Allen
March 2 - First Baptist Church, Devotional speaker: Reverend T. Wayne Price

March 9 - St. Ann's Catholic Church, Devotional speaker: Reverend Michael Dinio

March 16 - St. John's Episcopal Church, Devotional speaker: Reverend Milton Black.

For several years, the Lenten Lunches have been exceptionally attended. It is hoped that 2005 participation exceeds recent years.

Dance floor stays packed at Daddy Daughter Date Night



by Storie Sharp

The Sonora Chamber of Commerce annual Daddy Daughter Date Night was an evening to remember for many young ladies and their dates on Thursday, February 10, 2005. The Sutton County Civic Center was transformed into a Valentine haven of hearts and balloons, with frilly dresses adding just the right touch. Young ladies from Kindergarten through 8th grade posed for pictures with their dads, granddads, brothers, uncles, or borrowed buddies, before taking to the dance floor to dance the night away. From waltzing, to the Cumbia, to the Chicken Dance, not one song was played to an empty floor. The men got quite a workout, between tossing their little angels in the air for Van Halen's "Jump", to gettin' down down to the Macarena done backwards, the dates were all good sports and seemed to be enjoying it as much as their escorts. Some dads might want to polish up on their dance steps before next year, it will be hard to beat Brant and Madison Myers in the Jitterbug contest if they continue to get better in the next year!

The annual event continues to grow, and talk of a Mother-Son event are already being discussed at the Chamber office. A special thank-you to all the volunteers, board members and donors that helped make the 2005 Daddy Daughter Date Night one for the diary! For more Daddy Daughter Date Night fun, see page 5.

Spotting Scholarship Scams

Sutton County Sheriff Joe Fincher reported this week that several complaints have recently been logged by Sutton County residents in regards to telephone scholarship scams. Sheriff Fincher asked that Sutton County residents be aware of who they are talking to and be careful who you agree to spend money with. The following information is adapted from: *Free \$ For College For Dummies*

Always be extremely wary of any unsolicited scholarship offers, especially the ones that you've never heard about before. Think about it. Unless you have perfect SAT scores, you lettered in varsity track, basketball, and football, scored 100 percent in all your final high school courses, and were named state valedictorian, why would a scholarship foundation seek you out? The answer is: It wouldn't. Ah, but scam operators will. You, and thousands like you, are a potential source of revenue for scholarship scam operators!

With the exception of government-based loans and grants, few third-party scholarship funds are regulated, and that means anyone can send you an envelope full of promises or make a phone call full of guarantees. Students who spend hard-earned money for the chance to win a scholarship, grant, or low-cost loan are tossing their money down the proverbial drain.

One of the best ways you can tell that a scholarship offer is bogus is when it contains many promises. Legitimate organizations don't promise or guarantee anything, other than the honest, straightforward way that the award process works. Real organizations give you realistic deadlines, tell you whether or not they will respond to your application if you don't win, provide clear criteria for winning, and almost exclusively do not require an entry fee.

No legitimate organization will promise you that you'll win — these organizations don't even make it clear that you're likely to win. If an organization is giving away free money, why would it have to go to the trouble to track down someone like you who is willing to receive it? Millions of students will track them down. Scholarship services can't guarantee results, either, because it would be illegal for them to have any influence over the awards process. If an organization doesn't choose its award recipients based solely on its stated criteria (such as high marks), it's guilty of fraud and

can be indicted on criminal charges and sued privately. Legitimate organizations don't want to take those kinds of risks.

Whether they contact you through mail, by telephone or via the Internet, scholarship scammers generally make one or more of these false promises:

* "Our results are guaranteed." In fact, no one can guarantee that you'll get a scholarship. Nobody. Be especially wary when a third-party, such as a scholarship service, says that it can guarantee the actions of another (usually real) philanthropic organization.

* "Our offer is exclusive, and awarded to you because you're in the top five percentile (or whatever) of all students statewide." Do some soul-searching. Despite what your proud grandparents may think, ask yourself whether you're really so special that you warrant the attention of people you've never heard about before? And, for that matter, how could they possibly have heard about you unless your grades or achievements are the subject of major press coverage?

* "Our service will reduce the costs of getting scholarships." Scholarships don't cost anything, except, of course, the thousands of hours it takes you to develop the academic, artistic, athletic, or public-speaking skills for which real scholarships are awarded. If a scholarship (or another unsolicited offer) costs you money, it's most likely a scam.

* "We do all the work for you." Scholarships are work, but most real scholarship applications consist of a form, plus some supporting material, such as an essay (writing that award-winning essay for you would be fraud by the third party), a performance video (is the third party going to play the piano or score that winning touchdown for you?), or other impressive accomplishment (that must be accomplished by you).

* "We're making you this time-limited offer over the phone." Legitimate scholarships are pretty much always offered through the mail; you may receive telephone notification that an offer is on the way, especially when you interact personally with the awards committee, but you always receive follow-up correspondence by mail. Besides, you always have a reasonable amount of time to accept an offer — sometimes months. If you're pressured in any way, hang up the phone.

When it comes to scholarships, here's a simple rule that you can follow to avoid getting burned: If it seems too good to be true, it probably is!



Dollar General is here to help

The new Dollar General is open for business and wants to encourage everyone to stop by for all your shopping needs. The friendly staff is available to help you find what you are looking for and wants everyone to know how happy they are to be in Sonora. The Sonora Chamber of Commerce had a special Ribbon Cutting to welcome the new store on Saturday, February 5, 2005. Stop by and look around today.

Friends of Historic Sonora invite all to tie up Yellow Ribbons

The Friends of Historic Sonora, Main Street Program, Sutton County, The City of Sonora, The Devil's River News, KHOS Radio, and the Sonora Chamber of Commerce would like to invite everyone to join two families next week, as they tie Yellow Ribbons on the Old Oak Tree on the Sutton County Courthouse Lawn. Clay Barrow and family will tie a ribbon on for their son, John J. Cunningham on Wednesday, February 23, at 11:00 a.m. Mark and Mallory Rousselot and their family will tie a ribbon on for their son, Reid Rousselot on Thursday, February 24, at 11:00 a.m. Join us as we honor both of these young men and their families and wish them all the best as they serve our country.

Sonora shows well in San Antonio Angora Show

2005 San Antonio Livestock Show Angora Goat Results, February 8, 2005
Junior Show

Buck Kid: Meredith Earwood 6th, Emily Earwood 7th, Laura Martin 11th
Yearling Buck: Meredith Earwood 1st, Emily Earwood 3rd & 6th, John Duke Hudson 4th & 8th, Word Hudson 7th & 10th

Aged Buck: Meredith Earwood 1st

Champion Buck: Meredith Earwood

Reserve Champion Buck: Meredith Earwood

Doe Kid: Laura Martin 2nd & 9th, Emily Earwood 3rd, Mark Holman 4th, Keeli Taylor 13th

Yearling Doe: Meredith Earwood 3rd & 4th, Laura Martin 5th & 7th, Mark Holman 10th

Aged Doe: Laura Martin 3rd, Meredith Earwood 4th & 8th, Kelsey Watkins 10th

Premier Exhibitor: Meredith Earwood

Other Exhibitors: Cash & Hunter Jennings and Garrett Watkins



Foreign Exchange Student Ramona Van Dyke, Judge: Mac Gilliat, Emily Earwood, Kelsey Watkins, Meredith Earwood and Garrett Watkins with the Champion and Reserve Champion Angora Bucks

Historical Society

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

A special thank-you to John Allen Ward, III and Tuffy Whitehead for their generous donations this week to the Sutton County Historical Society and Miers Home Museum.

Q. Some of my ancestors told of a huge fire in San Angelo in 1902. It was just a few weeks before the one that took half of Main St. in Sonora. Do you have any information on the fire at the Landon Hotel?

A. The Sonora fire happened in early September of 1902 and the Landon Hotel fire in mid August of 1902. We have a reprint of the article from the San Angelo Standard of August 16, 1902: CUT OFF FROM ALL HOPE OF HUMAN AID, They Perish in Sight of Hundreds of Helpless Friends- Mrs. Jas. C. Landon Among the Dead-Only Two Buildings Left on the Entire Block, and the Property Damage Totals Over \$100,000-Eye Witnesses Tell of the Terrible Disaster-Guests of the Hotel Tell of Narrow Escapes From a Fiery Death-Notes and Incidents-Funeral of Mrs. Landon.

THE DEAD- Mrs. M. A. Fowler and 9 year old grandson, Martin Glenn, of Houston. Mrs. J. C. Landon of San Angelo. Mrs. Frank Schuplinsky and three sons, Frank aged 10, Bruno aged 9, and Herbert aged 6, all of Houston. D. Henrice of Waco.

THE INJURED- B.C. Alexander, San Angelo, ankle severely sprained and face slightly burned. Sheriff W. M. Moore of King Co., ankle badly wrenched. E.R. Taft of Houston ankle sprained and back and leg burned. Sam Price, Chief of the Fire Dept., feet badly blistered. Ike Copeland and Henry Nimitz, overcome by heat and smoke. George Norton of San Angelo hand and arm burned.

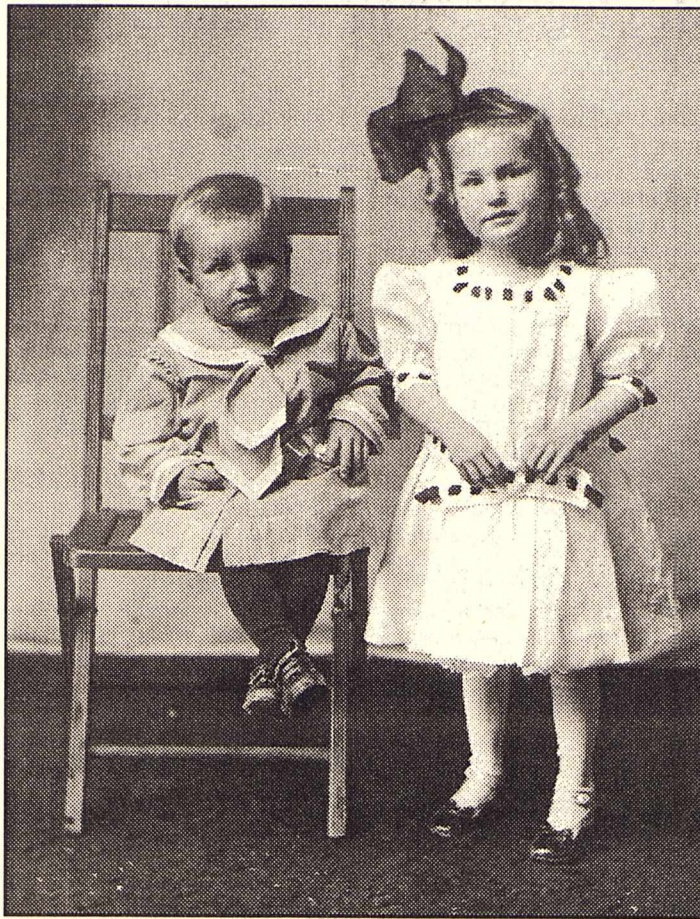
STATEMENT OF J.C. LANDON- "I retired about the usual time Saturday night. Had been told the train was one and one-half hours late, and judging from this that the fire must have been discovered just before it arrived. Earl Cain, the night clerk waked my wife and I, telling us the hotel was on fire. We arose at the same time. My first thought was to put out the fire, and I went down stairs, clad in my pants and night shirt, and barefooted. I tried to go through the office, but the smoke was so dense there that it choked me, and I turned and went down the rear way. I got out the small hose and began to throw water on the fire, and about that time a Mexican came in and helped me get out the

large hose, which we kept in readiness for fighting fire. However, by the time we got this hose in readiness the fire was so hot that we were forced to leave the building. I went out through the yard gate at the west side of Chaddourne street, and saw that the hose company had arrived. I helped the boys pull the hose in the yard, and from that time on I remember no more about the fire. I did not see my wife again after coming down the stairs. I thought she was safe, as I knew she was awake and had ample time to have escaped from the building after the alarm was given. I looked for her until daylight. I was barefooted, and my feet were considerably cut and injured by broken glass, etc. C.C. Kirkpatrick finally gave me an old pair of shoes and I continued to search for Mrs. Landon until I knew it was no use. When the bodies were taken from the ruins I identified that of my wife by the size, she being larger than the other ladies, and also by some gold bridge work in the upper front teeth.

"When I went downstairs I did not know how bad the fire was. It was perhaps ten minutes from the time I went down until all escape from the upper floor by the stairs was cut off."

Mr. Landon was questioned about rebuilding and stated he didn't know if he would but if he did it would be a larger hotel, not less than 75 rooms as a smaller place cannot handle the business. He said it would cost at least \$50,000 to erect the kind of building he considered necessary in San Angelo.

Agent A.B. Loper of the Santa Fe Railroad made the following statement-"I was at the Corner Saloon just across from the Landon when the first shot was fired. One of the shades over the front window of the saloon was raised, and someone shouted "the Landon is on fire." When I first saw the fire it was located in the office and part of the dining room. By the time I could run out of the back door of the saloon and to the middle of the street on the west side of the hotel the whole front portion of the building, on both the first and second floors was in flames. The fire seemed to come around on the north gallery and whip around to the west, then go down the south side. I saw Bernie Alexander, Mrs. Landon and two other ladies on the west gallery. Saw no others, and could not tell whether the parties mentioned came around from the front or through the west door opening on the gallery. All were huddled together, Alexander in front, and seemed to be making for the west corner of the gallery, the only place where there was no fire. They were undoubtedly all



Gertrude & Hilton North

badly frightened, and were apparently running around in a dazed condition. The ladies had on their night clothes, while Alexander had on his pants, with his coat over his arm. When the part had reached a point on the gallery about opposite the fourth post from the north front of the hotel, I saw a long tongue of flame rush out of the front windows and run around against the roof of the gallery, immediately over the heads of the group, then double back blown by the wind, and barely miss them on its return. I called, "Bernie, for Christ's sake, why don't you come down the post?" He heard me, I know, and ran at once to the fourth post, which he caught, and swung over the edge. Just as he did this the blaze came pouring out along the gallery again was blown back by the wind but this time it enveloped the group of women who stood huddled together near the wall. That was the last of them, and I know they must have died instant that wave of fire rolled over them. Alexander slipped down the post, but when his hands struck the banister he fell like a stone. I ran and picked him up and found his had a badly sprained ankle. His hair and mustache were singed and his ears blistered by the intense heat from which he had just escaped. No man will ever go nearer the gates of death and come away living than did he that night. I think all were dead before the gallery fell. I know the ladies had no opportunity of escaping from death."

W. J. Perry of Menard saved himself and his daughter thanks to help of a large gentleman who helped them kick out a yard fence made of 1x12 planks that were 8 feet tall. Mr. Perry was in his bare feet and without the help of the large man the whole group would have never made it out.

Like the fire a few weeks later in Sonora, this fire caused damage to almost a whole block of the city. Only two buildings were left standing. Property damage to the entire block totaled over \$100,000. 1902 seems to have been a year of large fires in cities in West Texas.

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 You may call a volunteer at the office on Monday, Friday and Saturday mornings at 387-5084 with your questions or to rent the John & Mildred Cauthorn Memorial Building "Old Depot." Speaking of the Old Depot we will be trying to wash more of the walls down on the outside this weekend and could use some help. Bring a scrub brush and bucket, we will supply the soap and help us take over 8 years of dirt of the outside. This would be a great project for any group to adopt and Rick could sure use the help.

Senate bill would crack down on identity theft

State Capital Highlights

Texas Press Association

By Mike Cox

AUSTIN - One month you notice that your bank statement has not arrived when it normally does. Or maybe your bank or credit union unexpectedly turns down your loan application.

Maybe you aren't your complete self anymore: Someone has assumed your identity, at least your Social Security or driver's license numbers, and is illegally making use of your once-good credit. Generically, it's called identity theft and state officials say the problem is growing increasingly worse.

With that in mind, Sen. Juan Hinojosa (D-McAllen) has filed Senate Bill 122, a bill that would enable the attorney general's office to pursue legal action against anyone who swipes credit card information or personal checks. The bill also would allow the AG's office to seek restitution and even to impose penalties on firms that allow a security lapse in regard to someone's personal information.

For more information on identity theft, check the AG's Web site at www.oag.state.tx.us/consumer/dtheft.shtml.

By the numbers...

Whether by 33 votes, as the final count last November had it, or by 16 votes, as a legislative review has determined, Hubert Vo (D-Houston) will keep his newly acquired House seat.

Shortly after Rep. Will Hartnett (R-Dallas) released a 60-page report last week that longtime House member Talmadge Heflin had not provided the Legislature "clear and

convincing evidence" of election irregularities, Heflin withdrew his challenge.

Legislature considers fountain of youth...

Rep. Rob Eissler (R-The Woodlands) has filed a bill that would accomplish what various hopefuls have tried for centuries - the restoration of youth.

As it is now, when someone turns 21, they can legally buy an alcoholic beverage at any hour on their birthday, even at 12:01 a.m. But if it passes, House Bill 36 would give a minor seven more hours of youth, postponing the dawn of a person's legal drinking age to 7 a.m. on their

21st birthday.

More sober news for imbibers...

House Bill 50 would give city, county or state police officers authority to set up sobriety checkpoints and stop motorists at random to check for drunken drivers. Previous attempts to pass a similar bill have failed, but the buzz is that it has a better chance this session.

Texas is one of only 10 states without such a law. Mothers Against Drunk Driving says states with similar laws have experienced reductions in fatal DWI crashes.

The Moodys



You won't want to miss this opportunity to see and experience the fun-filled and moving ministry of The Moodys. The Moodys, from San Antonio, Texas have been delighting the hearts and lifting the spirits of people from coast to coast for years. So come laugh and cry, clap your hands and praise the Lord as this talented and dedicated family share the love of Jesus Christ with all who come. Bring someone with you. Let them know that Christians can have fun too!

Location: First United Methodist Church
Date: Sunday, February 20th
Time: 10:55 a.m.

Tedford Jewelry

Bridal Registry

Pam Green bride-elect of Cole Crenwelge
Lauren Whiteside bride-elect of Anthony Renfro
Carla Weaver bride-elect of Bonner Walsh
107 NW Concho • 387-3839

Ol' Sonora Trading Co.

Bridal Registry

Pam Green bride-elect of Cole Crenwelge
Lauren Whiteside bride-elect of Anthony Renfro
Ashley Henson bride-elect of T.J. Harris

Rosey Bud Florist

MERLE NORMAN
COSMETIC STUDIOS

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Gifts Galore & More

Bridal Registry

Pam Green bride-elect of Cole Crenwelge
Lauren Whiteside bride-elect of Anthony Renfro
Ashley Henson bride-elect of T.J. Harris

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We have new merchandise arriving daily. Come in and check out our new specialty items just in time for spring!

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Opening April 2005: A state-of-the-art health and wellness center in Sonora.

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- Health Awareness and Prevention Programs
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Types of Membership

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Individual + Spouse
\$50 / month

Family
(Head of household + spouse + up to two children under age 18 living at home)
\$75 / month
(Additional children \$5 / month)

Legal dependents under age 16 may utilize specific areas and programs while parent or guardian is at the Health & Wellness Center.

Activation Fee: \$25 per member
(Not to exceed \$100 per family; activation fee waived if you sign up before May 31, 2005)

Senior citizen (60 & Over), corporate, and pre-pay discounts available.

Monthly membership fees may be paid only by credit card or bank draft.

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SATURDAY • 8 a.m.-7 p.m.
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325 / 387-SWIM (387-7946)

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SPECIALS!

Jewelry Show

Jeweled Belt Buckles, Fine and Fashion Jewelry
Sterling Silver, Turquoise, Texas Star Jewelry
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Bracelets, Rings, Necklaces, Earrings, Bracelets,
Broaches, Ostrich Skin Purses in Fashion Colors
along with

Belts By

b.b. simon

Kippys

Friday, February 18, 2005
At Amigo's Dream Restaurant in Eldorado
10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Visa and MasterCard accepted

"Answers on Aging" Community Meeting slated for February 17

The Sutton County Senior Center and the Area Agency on Aging of the Concho Valley Council of Governments are hosting a community meeting on Thursday, February 17, 2005 at 11:30 a.m. at the Sutton County Senior Center located in Sonora, TX. "Answers on Aging" is a community meeting designed to provide information about services and programs available to older individuals. A brief introduction to the Area Agency on Aging will be followed by a question and answer session. Senior citizens, their families and friends, and other persons who are interested in issues affecting the aging population are invited to share their insights, concerns and thoughts for solutions to the unmet needs of the county's older population. A wide variety of printed

information covering various topics will also be distributed. Area Agency on Aging representatives with expertise in the areas of Information & Assistance, Benefits Counseling, Nursing Homes, Care Coordination, and Care Giver Support will be available to answer questions.

Persons wishing for more information may contact Juanita Meza at 325-387-5657 or the Area Agency on Aging of the Concho Valley at 325-223-5704 or 1-877-944-9666.

Make plans to attend this important event at the Sutton County Senior Center and the Area Agency on Aging staff will help you find . . . answers! Services of the Area Agency on Aging of the Concho Valley are funded by the Texas Department on Aging.

Prescription for the Blues

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

Cold weather, gray skies, long nights - all these things go hand-in-hand with the winter months. All of the cold and dark may lead to decreased happiness and less activity with friends or family. It's okay to be "down" or "blue" every now and then but when those "down" feelings last for an extended period of time - two weeks or more - you may be suffering from depression and need to seek help from your health care provider.

Though there is no one cause for depression, a sense of loss may be the greatest cause. Loss is common in the older adult population: loss of independence, loss of friends and family, loss of income. Another cause of depression is chemical imbalances within the body, especially the brain. Then, there are just some cases of depression that cannot be explained. The thing to remember about depression is that it is mostly treatable with therapy, medications or both.

Depression is a word that no one wants to hear, no matter what the age. When someone mentions the possibility of depression, it is not accusatory or derogatory; it is because that person has a concern for your

well-being. Experts estimate that about 25% of adults over age 65 have one or more symptoms of depression. These symptoms include:

- Feelings of emptiness and ongoing sadness
- Lack of energy
- Loss of pleasure in daily activities
- Social isolation
- Problems with sleep
- Eating more or less than usual
- Uncontrollable crying
- Difficulty focusing and making decisions
- Thoughts of death or suicide.

Though this is not an exhaustive list of symptoms for depression, it may give you a general idea of what depression may look like in different people. Remember that depression may even be able to hide behind a smiling face.

Treatment for depression may be just as individual as the person who is suffering from it. Of course, the first step in treatment is admitting there is a problem. Only then will you or your loved one be able to seek the treatment needed. One popular option for treatment in older adults is support group therapy. This not only allows the person to talk through his or her problems but it provides much needed social interaction and conversation with other people. This type of therapy may be obtained from the local senior citizens' center, senior nutrition site or activity group. In other words, there are many free or low-cost options for group therapy.

You and your health provider may decide that you need a type of therapy that is more one-on-one. Though this type of therapy is probably not free, ask your health provider about coverage from your personal health insurance or from Medicare. Your health provider or your therapist may recommend that you begin taking some sort of medication for depression. These medications may help improve your mood, sleep, appetite and concentration. There are several types of these medications and some may take several months before they begin affecting your depression. Keep your health provider informed about how these medications are making you feel and whether or not there are any unpleasant side-effects.

Though many treatments are very effective to combat depression, the ideal situation for any person is to prevent depression from happening. The following suggestions may help prevent the onset of depression:

- Prepare for major life events such as retirement or moving from your home. Some changes in life can be anticipated. Have a plan for your personal time and effort so that you do not get bored.
- Try to maintain the friendships you have established and always strive to make new friendships. Interaction with others is one of the most effective ways to keep depression from affecting your life.
- Maintain old hobbies and develop new ones. You should keep an interest in the things that have always brought you joy and try to cultivate new interests to keep your mind sharp.
- Be physically fit and eat a balanced diet. Physical activity not only gives you an outlet for pent up energy but also may give you the opportunity to interact with other people. Your diet will also play a part in helping keep your body's chemistry in proper balance.

The best recommendation is to stay active; physically, mentally and socially. Remember not to stretch yourself too thin in the process - you will know when you have taken on too much. For more information, contact your County Extension Agent or go to www.gmhfonline.org/gmhf/consumer/depression.html.



Chet Weitz ropes in Las Vegas.

Weitz wins big in Vegas

The National Finals Rodeo, which is held in Las Vegas every year during the month of December, is the rodeo where every cowboy entered is striving to take home that championship saddle.

Chet Weitz of London, Texas, went to Vegas with high hopes of doing just that, and he accomplished his mission.

Chet competed against 25 other contestants from around the world in the Five and Under Dummy Roping, which was held at the Sands Expo Center. Chet, who is only three years of age, was awarded the Youngest Buckaroo 2004 Las Vegas Championship saddle.

Chet is the son of Doyle and Renee Waits of London, Texas, and the grandson of Robert Weitz of London, and Leta Walker and Don Rutherford of Amarillo.

Congratulations, Chet, and we hope to see you again in Vegas for many years to come.

Great Volunteers

By Ann Kay, FHSMS Manager

The Friends of Historic Sonora Main Street Program has the best volunteer board in all of Sonora. They work hard to make downtown Sonora the best place to work and play by bringing festivals and events that spotlight the downtown area and all of Sonora. The Friends of Historic Sonora Main Street Board of Directors are: President Joy Galbreath; Vice President Rachel Duran; Secretary Tabby Sanchez-Abrego; Treasurer Maura Weingart; Bruce Kerbow, Tony Adkins, Becky McAngus, Mayor Gloria Lopez and Asst. Manager Brenda Bryant. I would like to express my appreciation to all the volunteers in our community by sharing this poem that was read at the Appreciation luncheon for Volunteers of Texas in Austin.

"Volunteers, God Bless Them"

Many will be shocked to find,
When the Day of Judgment nears,
That there's a special place in heaven,
Set aside for volunteers.
Furnished with big recliners,
Satin couches and foot stools.
Where there's no committee chairman
No group leaders or car pools.
No eager team that needs a coach,
No bazaar and no bake sale.
There will be nothing to staple,
Not one thing to type or mail.
Telephone lists will be outlawed
But a finger snap will bring
Cool drinks and gourmet dinners
And treats fit for a King.
You ask, who'll serve the privileged few
And work for all they're worth?
Why, all those who reaped the benefits of the great volunteers!

Have you hugged your volunteer today? Thank you, Sonora!

We have some wonderful events and exhibits planned for this year. We will start off with an Appreciation of our community Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts Exhibit that will be on display at the First National Bank of Sonora. These exhibits are a wonderful way of saying to our youth that the things they do for our community are very important in making our town the best place in Texas to live. We especially want you to know we appreciate all that you do. We will give a certificate of appreciation to the Boy Scout troops and Girl Scout troops at the Sonora City Council meeting on February 15, 2005 at 5:00 p.m. We would like to express our appreciation to the parents, Lewis Allen, scout leaders and scouts for the loan of the photos and uniforms for the exhibit. The photos and displays can be viewed at the First National Bank for all the community to visit and enjoy for the month of February. The exhibit opened Wednesday, February 16, 2005. We would like to express our appreciation to the First National Bank of Sonora and KHOS Radio for sponsoring the display.

Wallace awarded as A&M Distinguished Student

The Dwight Look College of Engineering at Texas A&M University recently recognized and honored Hunter Clay Wallace for Outstanding Academic Achievement. Wallace received the Distinguished Student Award for the Fall 2004 semester.

Hunter Clay Wallace is the son of Will and Peggy Wallace of Blanco and the grandson of Nell Wallace of Sonora.

Todd Keller awarded Diplomate by American Board of Periodontology

Todd A. Keller, D.D.S., M.S. of New Braunfels, Texas was awarded Diplomate status by the American Board of Periodontology at its recent meeting in Dallas, December 10, 2004. The American Board of Periodontology is recognized by the American Dental Association as the national certifying board for the dental specialty of Periodontics. The Board awards Diplomate status upon those who, after two to three years of postdoctoral advanced specialty training at an accredited institution, successfully complete a two part examination which consists of a comprehensive written examination and an oral examination.

Dr. Keller received his dental degree in 2000 from University of Texas Health Sciences Center at San Antonio where he also received his advanced certificate in Periodontics in 2003. Currently, he is in private practice full-time in New Braunfels, Texas.

Dr. Keller is an active member of the American Academy of Periodontology, American Dental Association, Southwest Society of Periodontists and River District Dental Society.

Todd Keller is the son of Diann and Mike Keller of Sonora.

Relay for Life Team Captain Meeting

If you are, or are interested in being, a 2005 Relay for Life Team Captain, there will be a special meeting on Thursday, February 24, 2005 at the First National Bank of Sonora.

For more information contact Steve Sharp at 387-2507.

SONORA CLEAN-UP

Saturday, February 26, 2005
9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

The City of Sonora has designated Sonora Clean-up on Saturday, February 26, 2005 to allow customers to discard items otherwise difficult to dispose of in regular refuse service. Customers may deliver material to the Trash Collection Site located at the end of South 1st Street Sinaloa (old Landfill Site). Industrial Containers will be available for customers to dispose of their trash. Do not dump any trash on the ground.

Only on February 26, 2005

Fees will be WAIVED for three (3) trips to the trash collection site, for customers who pay a monthly trash collection bill to the City of Sonora. A current utility bill must be presented.

Customers who make more than three (3) trips or do not pay a monthly trash collection fee will be charged the following.

Minimum	\$5.00
Over 100 pounds	\$0.05 a pound

ITEMS THAT WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED:

1. Oil Filters
2. Petroleum products and by-products
3. Explosive Materials
4. Medical Waste
5. Liquid Waste
6. Appliances that have not had freon removed

This project is being performed as part of the settlement of an enforcement action brought by TCEQ.

Broncos Punch Mason

by Ray Glasscock

The Broncos entered the game with Mason with determination written all over their faces. The Broncos needed to beat the Punchers to both even the district series and to maintain any hope of making the playoffs. The Punchers had easily defeated the Broncos when they played in Mason earlier in their January meeting.

The game couldn't have started better. Brett McDaniel easily won the opening tip off. Clint Cearley brought the ball over half court. His first of several assists went to McDaniel in the paint for an easy opening basket. The next time down the court, a kick out pass to McDaniel who buried a three for an early five-point lead. The first quarter belonged to the Broncos as they ran a very disciplined offense with crisp passing that allowed Evan Gulley, Craig Leonard, McDaniel, Cearley, and Steven Duhon to score 19 points. The Punchers helped out with numerous fouls. The Broncos were in the bonus with 46 seconds left in the first quarter. Mason's top scorer, Michael McLeod, got into early foul trouble and spent most of the first half on the bench.

The second quarter also had balanced scoring from the Broncos. There were three outstanding plays in the first half. The Punchers tried a full court press. Just as he had thrown the

deep post to Anthony Longoria in football, Cearley threw an inbound pass the length of the court to a streaking Steven Duhon for an easy basket. After Cearley came down with a defensive rebound, he threw another full court pass to McDaniel. McDaniel leaped to catch the pass, landed on both feet, and immediately finished the play with a short jumper for the basket. Three times this season, McDaniel has had break-away lay ups only to be called for charging. After a defensive rebound, McDaniel took the ball the length of the floor. There were three Punchers all around him. Instead of going for a standard lay up, he came to a complete stop in the paint and shot the two-point jumper for the basket over the shorter Punchers. The Broncos shot 66 percent from the line in the first half. The score at the half was 32 to 21.

The Broncos would have an undefeated season if we could just exclude the third quarter like a teacher who drops the lowest test score. The Broncos once again struggled in the third as they only scored seven points. Thankfully, the Bronco defense held the Punchers to only eight points.

The fourth quarter provided a tremendous amount of excitement for the fans. The Punchers had their best quarter and scored 20 points while the Broncos

scored 17. The final quarter would not have been as exciting if the Broncos could have hit their free throws. Their free throw percentage in the second half dropped to 50 percent. Austin Wagoner was fouled and the Mason coach received a technical foul. But missed free throws prevented a potential six point swing. However, Gulley caught a full court inbound pass from Cearley for an easy two points against the Puncher full court press. With the clock in the Broncos' favor, the Broncos executed a back-breaking play three times. Leonard and Dustin Creek passed the ball to each other near center court. Cearley broke to the middle near the top of the key. Once he had the ball, he penetrated the three-second zone and dished to a wide open McDaniel for easy baskets. Cearley's assists allowed McDaniel to score ten points in the final quarter to keep the lead for the Broncos. The Broncos finished the game without ever being behind: 56 to 49 was the final score. The Broncos are now 8-5 in District 2-2A play.

SCORING: McDaniel FG 19 FT 5 of 8 Total 24; Cearley FG 10 FT 5 of 8 Total 15; Leonard FG 3 FT 1 of 2 Total 4; Gulley FG 4 FT 2 of 2 Total 6; Smith FT 1 of 2 Total 1; S. Duhon FG 2 FT 2 of 2 Total 4; Wagoner FT 2 of 5 Total 2.

7th Grade Lady Colts end season with win in Big Lake

by Coach Jennings

The 7th grade Lady Colts finished a great season with a win over Reagan Co. The Colts started slowly but came on strong to beat Reagan Co. 31-10. The Ladies were led on scoring by Cassie Krieg's 14. Also scoring were Maraya Dunn-9, Bianca Trevino - 4, and Amy Hernandez - 4. Other members of the 7th grade A team were Bethany Berry, Monica Sanchez, Alyssa Favila, Ashley Brown, Brittany Hernandez, Meredith Earwood, Alyssa Vela, Victoria Castillo, and Sara Gillit. These ladies finished the season with 13 wins and only 2 losses. In district play they were 9 and 1. They won third place in the Wall tournament and first place in the Llano tournament against mostly 3A schools.

Joshua Frank Esquivel

Was welcomed home by big sister Amber Celeste and proud parents Frank and Belinda Esquivel. He was born at Angelo Community Hospital on January 20, 2005 at 9:28 a.m. He weighed 7 lbs. and 3 ozs. and was 19.5" long. Joshua was also welcomed home by Uncle Armando Robles and Aunt Jessica Mayorga. Maternal Grandparents are Juan Sanchez and Linda Robles. Paternal Grandparents are Robert and Gina Cervantez and Gabriel Esquivel. Great-Grandmothers are Isidora Ramirez and Frances Reyna.



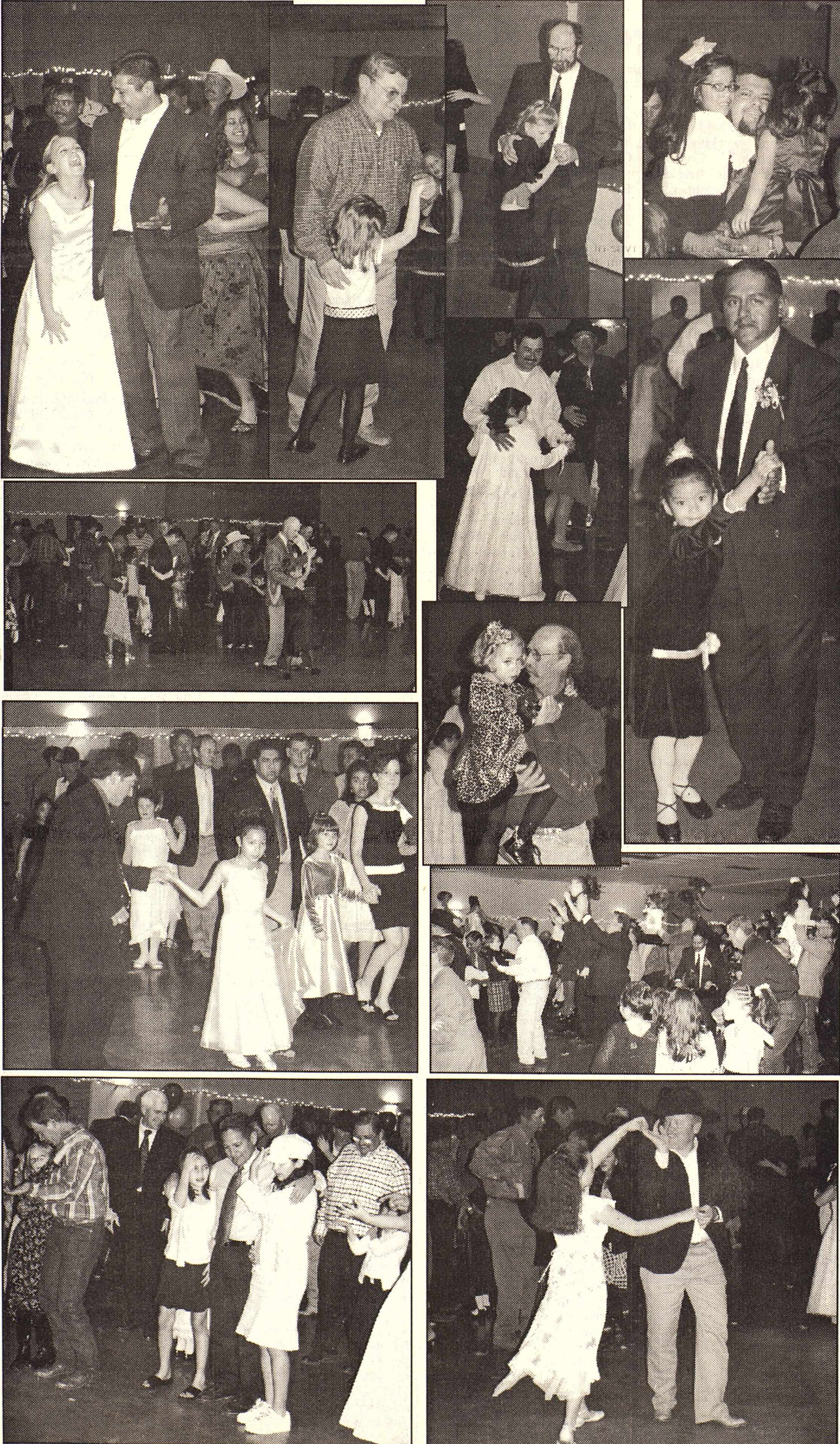
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F.Y.I.
 Relay for Life Team Captain meeting, Thursday, February 24, 2005, 5:30 p.m. First National Bank. FMI call Storie at 387-2507.

The Sonora Downtown Lions Club, chartered in 1928, wants to remind the community that the annual Broom Sale will be held at City Hall and the U.S. Post Office on March 22, 2005. If you need a new broom or cleaning supplies make plans now to attend and pick up all your Spring Cleaning utensils, while supporting the Downtown Lions Club. The sale will be from 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Lost Wednesday, February 2, probably at the cemetery: Holland silver spur pin with gold and diamond running M brand. A gift from my Grandmother. Cash Reward. Call (325)387-2970.

Sutton County Critter Gitter Calling Contest - 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 -FMI call Paul Martinez at (325)650-0221 or (325)206-1722.

Big Lake Spring Bluegrass Festival, March 10-12, 2005, Batten Family, Star Canyon, Hickory Hill, Vern Young, Concho Grass. FMI call Alan at 325-650-1150.

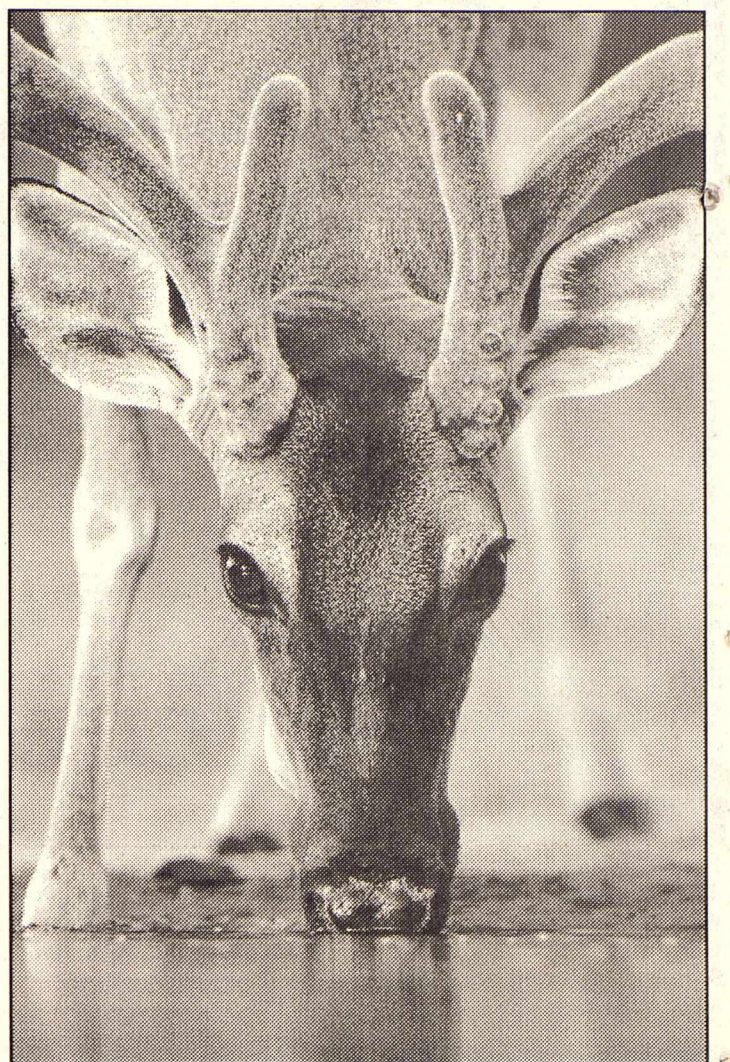
The Lillian M. Hudspeth Memorial Hospital Auxiliary is selling tickets for a six month individual membership to the Health and Wellness Center scheduled to open in April 2005 (a \$180 value). The new facility will offer aquatic therapy, water and ground aerobics as well as a fully equipped exercise facility 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.

A New Way Narcotics Anonymous will meet every Monday & Friday in the Chapel at Lillian M. Hudspeth Hospital from 8:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. FMI call 387-5656.

Up on Eaton Hill
Big bucks for big bucks

by Delyse Jaeger
 Move over Boone & Crockett 'cause they are baggin' 'em for the South Texas Shootout and it is open season on any creature that can be caught between the cross hairs of a camera lens. The South Texas Shootout is a unique and highly successful wildlife photography contest held throughout the eight counties that comprise the southern most tip of Texas. The Shootout originated through the visionary efforts of people with deep conviction and concern for the future of wildlife in Texas. The wildlife photo contest is the primary fundraising event for The Valley Land Fund, a non profit organization whose mission is "to preserve, enhance and expand the native wildlife habitat of the Rio Grande Valley through education, land ownership and the creation of economic incentives for preservation." Because over 90% of wildlife habitat is privately held, this is best accomplished through "sound economic incentives for private landowners to protect and enhance the diversity of habitats."



Photographer Derrick Hamrick, Landowner Las Colmenas Ranch, Margaret & Robert McAllen

Conservation is the motivation, adding monetary value to wildlife is the means, and the success and overflow of benefits has surpassed all expectations. The "Shootout" partners private landowners with photographers who compete in a number of categories and share equally in the prize money. 2006 will mark the seventh competition which began in 1994 and is held every other year. In the contest's first year, only five ranches of 100 acres or more participated, with landowners totaling about 50,000 acres. The past three contests saw 60 large ranches and 43 small tracts participate. Total land entered in each of the three competitions was more than 1,000,000 acres. Last years top team garnered \$30,000.00 of the total \$152,000.00 payout, the highest award amount of any wildlife photography contest in the world. (Competition is in the works though, and close to home - read on!)

Several divisions including amateur and youth are part of the contest and anyone can enter. Small businesses and corporations also participate through sponsorships and receive the benefit of extensive exposure, use of some of the fabulous photographs, and the general economic rewards the contest brings to the region. A traveling exhibit, showcasing the winning photos is made available to sponsors for display at their places of business.

The contest has spurred close friendships between many photographers and landowners, raised awareness and appreciation of local wildlife for both the landowners and the general public, and become quite a social event.

The Valley Land Fund publishes an extraordinarily beautiful commemorative book of photographs following each contest. Just in time for Christmas, the books are hot gift items. Out of print editions are in high demand and have sold for up to \$400.00. As a direct result of the photography contest, landowners have discovered that photographers are willing to pay for access to their land year-round and a new industry has sprung up. Numerous ranches have increased diversification of land use to include photo blinds and feeding practices tailored to a photographers needs. Currently, the going rate for use of a well devised photo blind is from 100.00 and 125.00 per day.

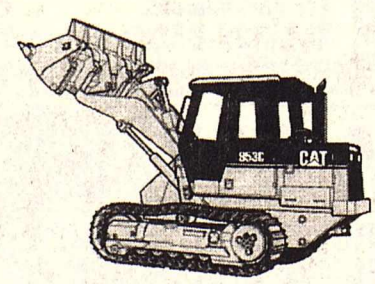
Could this be another "If you build it, they will come!"? The future looks bright for the nature and wildlife photo industry. Two other contests have also been born out of the success of the South Texas Shootout along with the upcoming, first of its kind: ICF Pro-Tour of Nature Photography. This contest is the flagship event of the organization: Images for Conservation Fund and it is coming to an area near YOU. Dedicated to habitat conservation for all of North America, the ICF has partnered with local agencies in the Texas Hill Country to bring an all professional championship world tour of nature photography to our next door neighbors. With a target awards total of \$200,000.00 and twenty of the

world's top nature photographers already onboard, this contest promises to attract significant local, regional, and national attention as well as participation. Unfortunately, Sutton county is not included in the contest area, however both Edwards and Kimble counties are. The landowner's application deadline to be considered for participation is April 1, 2005. Only twenty ranches will be chosen to partner with the worlds top nature photographers for a chance to produce an award-winning portfolio of the extraordinary wildlife that is found in the Texas Hill Country Region. For more information, contact Sam Mason, Executive Director of ICF, at (956) 381-1264 and visit the ICF website at www.imagesforconservation.org. To learn more about the Valley Land Fund South Texas Shootout and view the winning photographs from past contests, visit www.valleylandfund.com.

Photographing nature as a family activity is gaining popularity and Eaton Hill is the perfect spot to try out your new digital and introduce your children to the thrill of wildlife photography. Here are some hints from the pros: Try to take your subject at eye level in early morning or late evening light. Hit the trails!

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

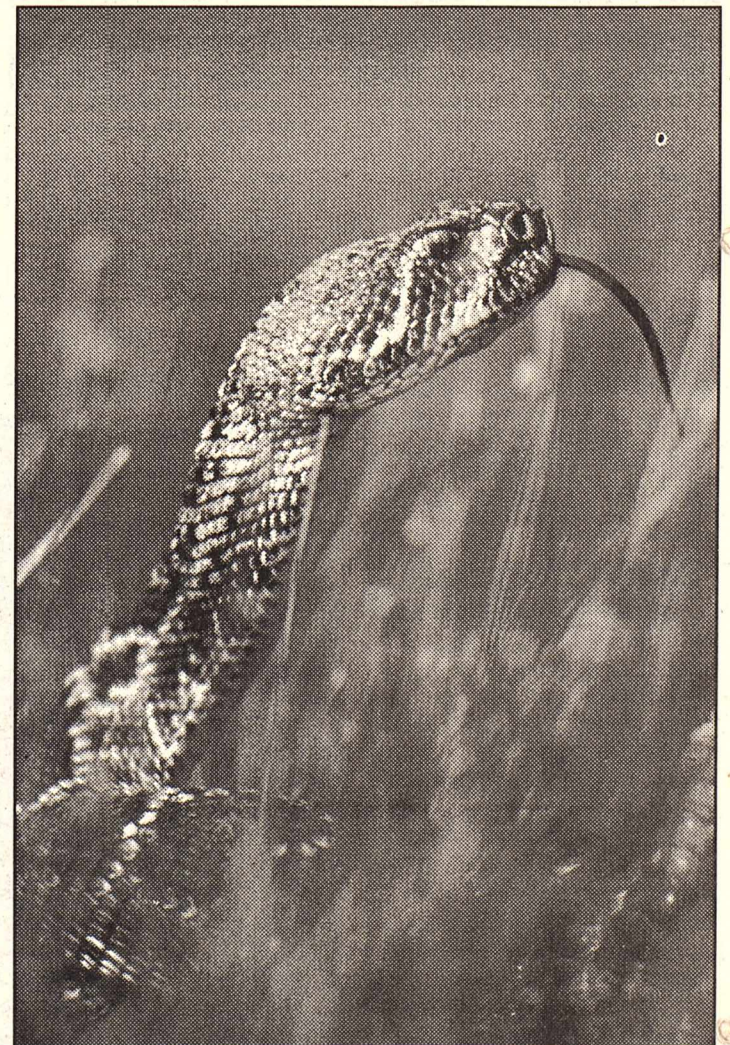
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Western Diamondback photographed by Larry Ditto & Greg Lasley at the Bud & Jimmy Payne ranch.