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## 39355 I'HE Devil's River NEWS

Since 1890

### Volume 117 • Issue 31

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### SONORA, TEXAS

### Thursday, August 4, 2005

## **Bank robber returned to Sonora**

On Thursday, July 21, 2005, investigating charge of Aggravated Robbery in Sonora. officers Texas Ranger Brooks Long and Sonora Police Bryn Humphrey traveled to Florida to interview a suspect relating to the robbery of the First National Bank of Sonora.

Florida authorities, on a warrant from Sutton County, located and arrested Willie Odell, Jr., for Aggravated Robbery.

Investigating officers from Texas interviewed suspect, Odell, Jr., in Florida. Odell waved extradition and was transported back to

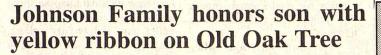
Sonora on the warrant. Odell is now in the Sutton County jail on a

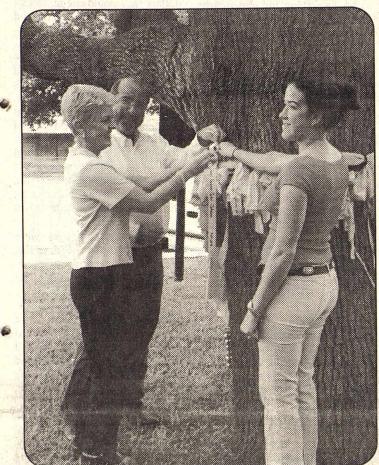
Harold Easley, second suspect, is in custody

in Florida ina penal institution on another charge, and is awaiting extradition proceedings to be returned to Texas at a later date, to face the charges of Aggravated Robbery in Sonora.

Thanks to the investigators from the Texas Rangers, Sonora Police Department and the Sutton County Sheriff's Department, as well as other agencies and witnesses assisting in this investigation, these two suspects were identified and charged.

### 2005 Miss Sutton County Queen Contestants page 4





Dr. Greg, Becky and Jazen Johnson tie up a ribbon for 2nd Lt. Steer Saddling James Prescott Carter Johnson.

### Sonora "Recognized" school district

The Texas Education Agency annual academic ratings have been released and Sonora ISD was one of 168 districts in Texas that was a Recognized" district.

Each year the TEA gives the ratings, based mostly on standardized tests students take called the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills, or TAKS. High school completion and middle school dropout figures also are factored into the equation. Math and science test performances in fifth, eighth and 10th grades are also included in the evaluations.

Only 10 schools in the state were rated "Exemplary" and there were 913 that were received an "Acceptable" rating. There were 45 districts that were given "Unacceptable" rat-

Sonora is the largest district "Recognized" rating, putting SISD in the top 15% of the state.

**Entries Open** 

Mutton Bustin' babies and horse ridin' ladies to open Friday night of Outlaw Pro Rodeo

#### by Storie Sharp The Sonora Outlaw Pro

Rodeo fun began Friday, July 29, 2005, at the Sutton County Arena. If you missed it, you missed 10 little cowboys and cowgirls bearing down and giving it their all in the 2005 Outlaw Mutton Bustin' preliminary round.

Christopher Amador, Grady Bush, Thomas Cruz, Hailey Galindo, Mike Owen Galindo, Gage Hernandez, Willie B. Muñoz, Bailey Sykes, Adrian Trevino and Trinity Zook took their turns on the wild and wooly muttons, provided by T-Half Circle Ranch.

The little "wool riders" held on with ropes, spurs, and/or sheer muscle, vying for the longest time and a chance to return to perform in the Friday night performance of the Sonora Outlaw Pro Rodeo on August 12, 2005.

When the dust cleared and the sheep were all back in the pen, the Sonora Outlaw Pro Rodeo committee decided that everyone did such a good job that all the little riders should come back for the rodeo.

You won't want to miss the opening of Friday night's perf, when two groups of five riders are turned out and the rider that holds on the longest is the winner. Mutton Bustin' sponsors, Sonora Contractors, Inc., Patterson UTI and Duke Energy Field Services have provided a brand-new pair of boots and, new this year, a "Wool Riders

Outlaw Pro Rodeo Mutton Bustin'. See more Mutton Busters page 5 Only" champion belt buckle for the winner. Prizes will also be awarded to the second place

rider. Making their Sonora debut Friday night in the Outlaw Pro Rodeo will be the San Angelo Stock Show & Rodeo Ambassador Team. The San Angelo Stock Show & Rodeo

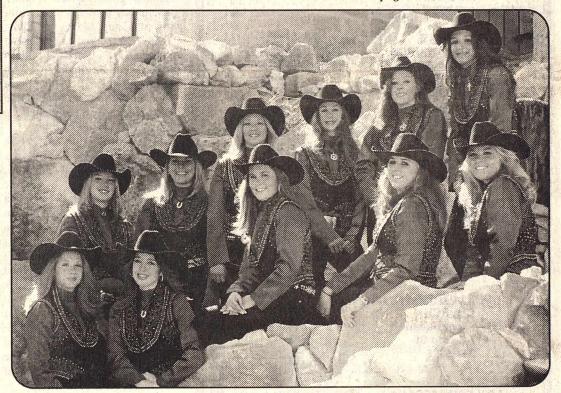
Association has a profound impact on the youth of San Angelo and the Concho Valley and orginally began the Ambassador program to assist with opening ceremonies during the annual PRCA rodeo.

Photo by Bonnie Lou Campbell

Thomas Cruz of Ozona, sponsored by Multi-Chem, showed

that he was here to win, riding for 13.80 seconds in Friday's

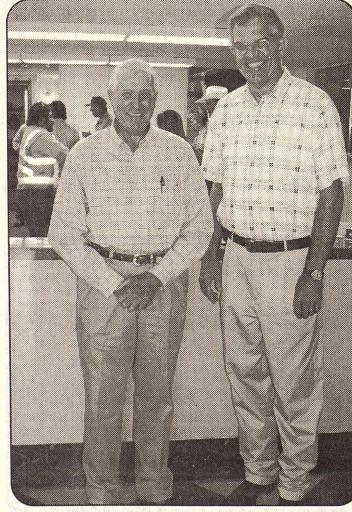
See Busters and Ambassadors page 6



The proud parents of 2nd Lt. James Prescott Carter Johnson, along with his sister Jazen Johnson tied a Yellow Ribbon on July 27, 2005, at 8:30 a.m. The 2nd Lt. is awaiting orders in Georgia to be shipped to Afghanistan. We would like to thank all family and friends for coming out and supporting the Johnson family during this time. We wish 2nd Lt. James Prescott Carter Johnson a safe trip over and may he come home quickly and safely. May God bless the family and him during his time over seas.

The Friends of Historic Sonora Main Street Program would like to thank the following businesses for their time and contributions to our military personnel: Sutton County, Devil's River News, Chamber of Commerce, KHOS Radio, and the City of Sonora.

### Sonora says thanks for service, welcomes new City Manager



10

A special party at City Hall on Friday, July 29 gave Sonora an opportunity to say thanks to Doyle Morgan (left) for stepping in as Interim City Manager and welcome Jim Polonis (right) as the new City Manager. Special words of appreciation and gifts were shared with Morgan for all that he did during his time of service and everyone gave Polonis a hearty "Sonora" welcome. If you haven't had a chance to meet the new manager, Mr. Polonis you can visit him at City Hall.

Sonora Outlaw Pro Rodeo is taking entries for the steer saddling event to be held during the rodeo on Friday, August 12th and Saturday, August 13th, 2005. First place cash prize will be awarded to the winning team. Three people have to catch a wild steer, get a rope on him, saddle him, and ride him across a designated line in the arena.

Strict entry rules will be enforced this year. If you are interested in entering or would like more information, contact Storie at 325-387-2507.

2006 San Angelo Stock Show & Rodeo Ambassador Team: Klaye Ellis, J'Lee Boatright, Lindsey Conn, Jessica Wesson, Carmen Herrera, Marisha Bailey, Kyann Kothman, Misty Preston, Bailey Saunders, Kyla Turney and Tori Trobridge. The team is chaired by Jo Ann Carr, with Leanne Weaver and Donna Hudson, co-chairs.

### **County Ropers to return** in Outlaw Pro Rodeo

The 2005 Outlaw Team Roping Challenge on Saturday, July 30, 2005 set the stage for 12 teams that will make their runs for the money during the Sonora Outlaw Pro Rodeo.

The day started with the Roping, annual jackpot team roping, open to #9 and #13 ropers.

There were 52 teams in the #9, putting \$1,768 in pot to be won.

The 1st Go-round Winners were: Laramie Hall/ Bob Bruce

with 9.44 .

Average winners were: 1. Laramie Hall/Bob Bruce 43.51 on 3

2. Charles Barber/Bubba Crain 52.60 on 3

Johnny Van Court/Richard Green 30.73 on

Doug Brice/Bob Johnson, Eldorado 32.33 on 2 In the #13 Roping there

were 33 teams, with \$1,122 in pot

First Go-round winners were Casey Gattis/Dean Martin 8.31.

Average Winners were:

1. Casey Gattis/ Dean Martin 26.36 on 3 2. Mack Altizer/Eddie

Rudasill 29.64 on 3 3. Laramie Hall/Sterling

Price 29.93 on 3. County The Team sponsored by Consuelo Ranch, was held after the jackpot, with local, surrounding county and sponsor ropers racing for a chance at the Broken Arrow champion belt buckle to be awarded Saturday night during the rodeo.

The open draw pot, ended up with 225 teams and \$9,000 in thepot

Go-round The first Winners Johnny were Whitworth/Chuck Lambert 7.0

Ropers returning Thursday, Friday and Saturday of the rodeo will be: Saturday

1. Mack Altizer & Kelly Jones 16.57 on 2 2. Johnny Whitworth &

Chuck Lambert 21.96 on 2 3. Tony Churchill & Juan Hernandez 22.54 on 2

See Roping page 8



The Bank & Trust recognizes the Sonora Firefighters Association with a \$1,000 donation.

### **Bank & Trust recognizes Sonora Firefighters Association**

The Bank & Trust proudly recognized the Sonora Firefighters Association with a \$1,000 donation on July 28, 2005. The donation was made in recognition of this association's continued commitment to this area especially during the recent rash of grass fires in and around Sonora and Sutton County.

'We would like to express our appreciation to the Sonora Volunteer Fire Department for all they do for the people of Sonora and Sutton County. I recently had the opportunity to work with them fighting fire in eastern Sutton County and my hat's off to them. They provide a tremendous service to our community and we are honored to be able to support them for their efforts to keep us all safe," said Brady Johnson, President of The Bank & Trust.

### Lighthouse **Community Church**

A place for returning Prodigals and recovering Pharisees 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 preservice access to quality healthcare for generations to come. Please consider the Sutton County Health Foundation, P.O. Box 18, Sonora, TX 76950. All contribution 100% tax deductible.

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### Notes of Appreciation

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#### To the citizens of Sonora, Texas,

Your warm welcome, thoughtfulness, friendly gesture and wishes of success at the welcome reception at City Hall Friday, July 29, 2005, are greatly appreciated.

My wife, Lorraine, and I thank you for coming by to make us feel part of the family here in Sonora, Texas.

Best Regards,

Jim Polonis, City Manager, Sonora

I would like to say thank-you to Dr. Gregory Johnson and all the nurses and staff who were there for me when I was taken sick to the Emergency Room on July 14, 2005, and for taking such good care of me. I also want to thank friends and family for their visits, phone calls, flowers, cards, and food while I was in the hospital and recovering at home. Again, thank you to all and God Bless each and every one of you.

Jovita and Gilbert Muñoz

### **Obituaries** Ralph James Finklea, Jr.

Ralph James Finklea, Jr., 81, son of Ralph Finklea and Nellie McShan Finklea died of Acute **Respiratory Distress Syndrome** on July 20, 2005, in Austin. Texas. He was born on September 12, 1923, in West Columbia, Texas. He attended school in many different towns n Texas because his father was n oilfield worker who became uperintendent of the Humble Exxon) camp later in laymondville, Texas. He gradated from high school in Alice here he became an Eagle cout.

Ralph attended Texas A&M niversity one semester but ransferred to the University of exas because there were no irls. He joined Sigma Phi Epsilon Fraternity and the Army pecialized Training Program ASTP) in order to further his ducation. He was assigned to ast Texas State Teacher ollege in Commerce, Texas, where he met his future wife nne Butler. After about a year nd a half the army pulled its tudents out of college and sent alph's group to the Infantry where they received basic trainng at Camp Maxey in Paris, exas. He served as first scout fantry Regiment, 99th Division which held the north uldge for which it received the residential Unit Citation.

047. Going back to UT he Sonora, Texas; and niece, joined the ROTC and became a 2nd Lt., while his wife taught third grade at the original Palm Elementary School on East 1st Street in Austin. When the Korean conflict started he joined the 169th T Amphibious Truck Company from Austin which unloaded supplies for radar installations in Greenland, Labradorer and Newfoundland in 1950-51. They lost only one "duck" in the choppy waters of the North Atlantic Ocean. During his life Ralph wore many hats: a loving father to their two children Peter Dwight and April Lea, a school bus driver, an elementary school teacher, view school



Sonora, Texas, along with his wife a charter member of Church of the Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church in Sonora, Texas, and a Presbytery representative to the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church U.S. in Huntington, West Virginia.

Ralph earned his Masters degree from UT and spent his last years in the field of education serving as principal of Travis Heights Elementary School in Austin which became a Sixth Grade Center with eighteen sections. Here he formed many lasting friendships. His career helped many children. He was well-read, funny, and kind. He will be greatly missed.

Survivors include Anne the 3rd Battalion 395th Finklea, his loving wife of 58 years; beloved children, Peter Finklea of Oakland, California houlder during the Battle of the and April Finklea Beckerley and husband John of Austin; brother, Lawrence Finklea and wife Returning from service in Jodie of Sonora, Texas; WII, he married Anne Butler nephews, Bill Finklea of New Commerce, Texas, June 15, York City and Larry Finklea of

#### The Devil's River News • Thursday, August 4, 2005

### Thank-you

The Sonora Outlaw Pro Rodeo committee would like to say "hats off" to all the volunteers who helped with the 2005 Outlaw Mutton Bustin' on Friday, July 29, and the Outlaw Team Roping Challenge on Saturday. No event is possible without the efforts and support of many people who donate their time and talents, working together for a successful result.

We would also like to thank the sponsors, riders, ropers, and spectators who made both events possible, and fun. We look forward to working with, and seeing you all at the Sonora Outlaw Pro Rodeo August 10-13.

Again, thank you.

## Tales by Tumbleweed Smith Saying things you wish you hadn't

Tumbleweed Smith recently spent six days in Dallas attending a training class for a

computer program I use. The instructor was an audio engineer who has produced some award-winning albums for well-known singers like Faith Hill and the Dixie Chicks.

He told anecdote after anecdote about his experiences working on music row in Nashville. His hometown is a small city in Mississippi. When he was presented a platinum record for work he did for the Dixie Chicks, the newspaper in his hometown ran a story about his recognition. He, of course, was extremely proud of his plaque.

Now it was about this time (March 2003) that one of the Dixie Chicks made some harsh remarks while performing in London. Natalie Maines got political and criticized President Bush for planning a war in Iraq.

She said she was "ashamed the President of the United States is from Texas."

I'm sure she wishes she had counted to ten before making that statement. Reaction was almost immediate. People called the Chicks unpatriotic. Country stations pulled the Chicks from their playlists. Several stations had "Chicken Tosses" and invited listeners to throw their Chicks CD's in trash dumps. O

The news story about my instructor's platinum award made statewide news in Mississippi and even crossed the border into Alabama.

In the midst of all the unfavorable publicity about the Dixie Chicks, a Birmingham

August 8 - Bingo - after lunch

radio station called my instructor (I'll call him Bruce) and actually wanted him to donate his plaque for a Dixie Chick bashing. It seems the radio station wanted to make a target of the platinum award and let people shoot at it. The station had already started announcing details of the shoot. For ten dollars, they would let people shoot at the platinum record with a pellet gun. For twenty dollars, they could use a 22. For fifty dollars they could use a .38 caliber pistol. For two thousand dollars they could use a 12gauge shotgun. The radio station person told Bruce the promotion already had 50 thousand dollars pledged. He was shocked at the station's request and told the person calling that the platinum record he received was for work he did on the session and it meant a lot to him and of course he would not donate it to the station. He did tell the station the place where the plaques were available for sale.

When the comments were made in London, the Chicks had the number one country album, "Home," and the number one single, "Travelin'Soldier."

Bruce said at the Sony studios in Nashville where the Chicks recorded, the flower bed in front of the building was full of Dixie Chick CD's people had thrown away. He also said the Chicks went from performing in packed houses of 25,000 to barely filling up a venue with 5,000 seats. I haven't heard much about the chicks lately, but I understand they're coming out with a Spanish Polka Album. Chances are it'll be non-political.



#### Brought to you by:

**Kerbow Funeral Home** 387-2266

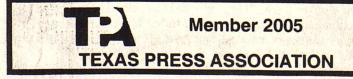


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Any erroneous reflection upon the character, standing or reputation of any person, firm, or corporation which appears in the columns of this paper will be corrected upon due notice given to the Editor of this publication. The views expressed in submitted articles are not necessarily the views of the staff.



#### **Alicia Farias Elguezabal**

Alicia Farias Elguezabal, 67. died Wednesday, July 27. 2005. in a San Angelo hospital. Services were at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday. July 30, at St. Ann's Catholic Church, with burial in Sonora Cemetery.

Survivors include her husband Juan Elguezabal of Sonora: sons Adolfo Elguezabal of Miles and Cesar Elguezabal of Odessa: daughter Miriam Elguezabal of Sonora: brother Pomposo Farias of Houston: and sister Osbalia Farias Cardena of Monterrey. Mexico.

Marsha Cardwell and husband James and their children, Margo Caldwell and McCurdy Cardwell of Austin.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Faith Presbyterian Church, 1314 E. Oltorf, Austin, Texas, 78704 or the American Heart Association.

A memorial service will be held at Faith Presbyterian Church on Friday, August 5th at 10:00 a.m. followed by a remembrance reception. Family members will gather for a private burial at Forest Oaks. Arrangements by Wilke-Clay-Fish Funeral Home. You may memorials principal, www.wcfish.com.

August 10 - Oven baked chicken, scalloped potatoes, sliced beets, roll, bread pudding w/raisins, milk August 11 - Beef/noodles w/gravy, peas, rolls, tossed salad w/ tomatoes, banana pudding, milk

August 12 - Chicken fajita salad w/ cheese, lettuce & tomatoes, macaroni salad, pie, crackers, milk

**Senior Center News** 

August 9 - Blood pressure checks w/ TDH, 11:00 a.m.

August 11 - Crafts... Budget workshop 6 p.m. City Hall.

**Senior Center Menu** 

August 8 - BBQ beef on bun, baked French fries, baby

August 9 - Ham w/pineapple, roll, macaroni & cheese,

August 12 - Kooking w/ Kelly! Nutrition Ed - noon

August 13 - Sutton Co. Days Parade - 9:00 a.m.

carrots, coleslaw, peaches w/topping, milk

pears, pineapple upside down cake, milk

celebrate Beto/Alda 58 yr. anniversary.

August 10 - Join us at lunch for cake and punch to

Mon. - Fri 8:30 A.M. - 4:30 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.\*

### **Community Calendar**

August 7 Queen Candidate Style Show & Luncheon Civic Center - 12:00 Noon

August 8

Sonora ISD School Board Meeting

5:30 p.m. - Admin. Bldg.

Member FDIC

August 8 County Commissioners Court 9:00 a.m. - Courthouse Annex

August 10-11 Sonora Outlaw Pro Rodeo Slack Performance 5:00 p.m.

The Community Calendar is made possible by :

August 12-13 Outlaw Pro Rodeo Performances 7:30 p.m.

Sutton County Days Festivities Friday: 2:00 - 5:00 p.m. Sat.: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.



229 Hwy 277 N . 387-2593

Letters To The Editor Policy

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Thursday, August 4, 2005 • The Devil's River News

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

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Memorials received: Lawrence and Jodi Finklea for Buddy Brown, Anne de Berry and Polly Nettleton

Rosie Jones for Nick Shurley and Allie Halbert Askew

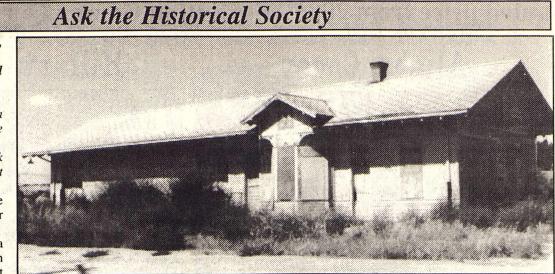
Q. I saw your old Santa Fe Depot; how did the train ever get to it in that location?

A. It didn't! The Sonora Santa Fe Depot was built in 1930 near where the current Sonora Police Department building stands at the intersections of Water and 3rd Streets. It was brought here as a complete kit, with all the lumber, screws, nails, windows, fixtures and even paint, on a train and put together on site.

"The Devil's River News," June 27, 1930 states: Daily train service between San Angelo and Sonora will be inaugurated on the new Santa Fe branch July 1, 1930, with a mixed train going to Sonora and returning each day of the week except Sunday. The southbound train will leave San Angelo at 9:15 a.m., arrive at Christoval at 10:15, at Eldorado at 11:25, and at Sonora at 12:25. The return trip will begin at 1:30, arriving at Eldorado at 2:50, at Christoval at 4:15 and at San Angelo at 5:30.

Passenger fare from San Angelo to Christoval will be 68 cents, to Eldorado, \$1.61 and to Sonora \$2.40. Besides the regular stations, blind sidings have been made at Byrne on the Sims ranch between San Angelo and Christoval, and at Hulldale between Christoval and Eldorado. Agents and stations to which they have been assigned are E. F. Minor, Christoval; R. T. Whitehead, Eldorado and P. J. Taylor, Sonora.

Note: There was a spur that ran from the Sonora Depot through an area behind the wool house and across the draw to the cattle pens south of town. The railroad had planned to someday build an extension to Del Rio. In 1932 the I.C.C. denied the application of the Del Rio and Northern Railway Co. for permission to build a 130 mile line from Sonora through Del Rio, to Quemado in the Maverick County irrigation project. They were quoted as saying, "no great public convenience would be served to justify at this time construction of the proposed line." The ruling prevented any establishment of a north-south trade route by rail, through Sonora.



Abandoned depot before restoration.

sengers, supplies and stock. J. M. VanderStucken shipped the first sheep and cattle to leave Sonora by rail to Fort Worth. But better roads were being built all the time and better cars so people stopped riding to San Angelo by train. In 1956 Pinke Taylor sold the last passenger tickets to San Angelo to a group of ladies who rode the train that day just for fun. With more and more cattle being shipped in large trucks, the railroad could no longer operate a profitable line to Sonora and so in 1977 the Santa Fe Depot was closed and the trains no longer came to Sonora. In 1978 the tracks were ripped up.

The Depot sat empty and forlorn for many years. Finally in 1982 the City of Sonora was able to obtain a deed to the property and building from the railroad. The Chamber of Commerce negotiated for a while to get the building but negotiations fell through. People wanted Water street reopened where the Depot stood and brought pressure on the City of Sonora to move the Depot. In July and August of 1983 sealed bids were asked for on the Depot. On August 11, 1983, Jerry and Nancy Johnson had their bid on the building accepted and they moved it to the west side of Sonora, across the street from where the Civic Center now stands.

In 1986 Jerry and Nancy Johnson decided to sell the building. To prevent it from leaving town, Joseph and Mabel VanderStucken asked Alvis Johnson to head a committee to raise funds to buy the Depot an move it behind the Miers Home Museum on the Sutton County Historical Society property. \$17,000 was raised to move the Depot and Joseph and Mabel VanderStucken paid the note on the building at the bank to purchase the building and donated it to the Sutton County Historical Society. They would generously support the society all their lives. In 1987 Patricia Johnson raised \$2,600 and supervised the window and

freight doors restoration and between 1987 and 1989 she raised, through donations, \$12,000 more but this still wasn't enough money to do the roof let alone save the whole building. A committee consisting of Sawyer, Mabel Eddie VanderStucken, James Trainer and Bill Stewart worked to obtain a grant from the Cauthorn Memorial Charitable Trust to restore the building. Through their efforts and the generous support of the Cauthorn Memorial Charitable Trust the Sutton County Historical Society was able to save the building and add an amphitheater and separate restroom facilities.

The grounds are now rented out for weddings, parties, etc. and the income goes toward a small part of the upkeep of the facilities. Much more money and many more volunteers are going to be needed if we are ever going to get the building scraped, sanded, and completely and properly primed and repainted.

We currently allow the grounds to be used by the Ministerial Alliance for Easter Services and, if they wish, Christmas activities. The Sutton County Library children are allowed to use the grounds for their Easter egg hunt, outdoor reading sessions and special programs for the children. The Boy Scouts and the Girl Scouts use the amphitheater for ceremonies . The outside of the grounds are also used by Head Start, the Lions Club welcome to teachers and school tours. All these activities are allowed free of charge if they book their date of use ahead of time. We do charge for use of the inside of the building to all organizations except the Lions Club. Our one

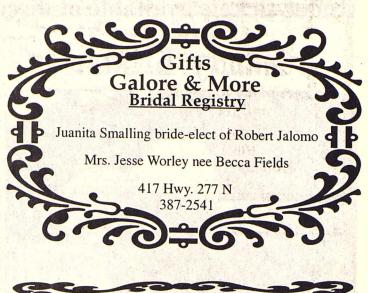
cally for this purpose.

The Sutton County Historical Society is a non-profit organization. We are not a part of the county or city. Our newly elected officers are Rose Mary Whitehead Jones, President; Marvin Shurley, Vice President; JoAnn Hernandez, Treasurer; Jo-Ann Palmer, Secretary. Starting in the fall you will be seeing a lot of work done on the grounds of the society and at the old ice house.

We will be finally installing the new beautiful outside lighting and plugs on the grounds and doing grading work and hopefully putting in new windows at the old ice house. It takes a lot of time, money, volunteers and work raising money to get anything done. If you would care to donate to any of these projects, please let us know.

Now I have a request of all our readers. We need rocks, mostly flatter rocks to landscape the hill along the side of the old ice house and to build retaining walls along the back and at the bottom of the grounds. Every time you come into town, try to put about 6 rocks in the back of your truck and drop them off along the mowed side of the garage behind the ice house. If everyone co-operates we will soon have enough rocks to build the retaining walls and landscape the side of the building. If you don't bring rocks, don't complain that the work isn't done yet.

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@sonoratx.net. You may call us at the office at 307 Oak Street or stop in to rent the John & Mildred Cauthorn Memorial Building/Old Depot. Our phone number is 387-5084. We already have a rental booked for June of next year so don't wait too long to make your reservation or you might find the date you want has already been taken.



Page 3

### **Tedford Jewelry Bridal Registry** Erin Payton bride-elect of Joe Smart Sarah Ball bride-elect of Daniel Sebeck **Carrie Neely bride-elect of Charles Coke** 107 NW Concho • 387-3839





Congratulations on your promotion, Lieutenant Eric Galindo

The trains coming out of Sonora daily carried mail, pas-

Highlights

**Texas Press Association** 

Perry called special sessions to

solve school finance in late June

quarterbacks across Texas pre-

dicted failure, and they've

only a mild interest in the affairs

of the state Legislature, it had

become plain in the spring that

House members, senators, the

governor and the comptroller

could not or would not agree on

school districts sued the state

contending that the system vio-

lated the state Constitution by

not providing equal educational

opportunities. State District

Judge John Dietz agreed, but

Attorney General Greg Abbott

appealed on behalf of the state.

has been deliberating on the

state's appeal since July 6,

arguably making further consid-

eration of the issue by the

Legislature a waste of time until

to satisfy the disparate needs of

their constituent school districts,

have been unable to build a con-

sensus on "recapture" levels -

better known as "Robin Hood."

graduated formula seems to

show that it takes more than

sliding scales to balance wealthy

and poor school districts so all

children have a fair shot at get-

ting a competitive K-through-12

Why legislation keeps fail-

House members, struggling

This inability to settle on a

the court rules.

ing

The Texas Supreme Court

Last year, more than 300

After all, to Texans with

guessed correctly, so far.

the numbers or a plan.

AUSTIN - When Gov. Rick

**By Ed Sterling** 

requirement of these groups is that all the grounds be left clean and free of all trash etc.

Community Service Workers and volunteers decorate all our grounds with Christmas Lights every year. These lights are paid for out of donations to the society specifi-

### No surprise: House kills school finance, property tax legislation

education. **State Capital** 

Plus, there has been no general agreement among lawmakers on:

· How much to decrease property taxes.

· How much money is enough to bring Texas schools up to the national average on dollars per student and teacher and again in late July, armchair pay, or even if Texas should base its goals on national averages.

• How (or whether) to shift the tax burden by tinkering with sales tax rates.

· How (or whether) to apply business franchise taxes.

Republicans Enough crossed over and voted with Democrats to kill the school finance and property tax reformbills on July 26, with some members voting apparently in resentment over Speaker Tom Craddick's refusal to allow any debate on a long list of amendments

House must originate money bills

Article 3 Section 33 of the Texas Constitution says all revenue-raising bills shall originate in the House. With the killing of House Bill 3, the House must decide whether to resurrect another version of the property tax reform bill.

But such a bill would have to be substantially different from the dead bill so as not to violate Article 3 Section 34, which says "After a bill has been considered and defeated by either house of the Legislature, no bill containing the same substance, shall be passed into a law during the same session. ..."

So, all the governor has to do to reinitiate the whole process is adjourn the present session and then call a third spe-

cial session - if he thinks calling lawmakers back to Austin will. put them in a better mood to compromise.

Pay hike vote made in the open

House members broke with tradition by voting on the record instead of by voice vote to raise their own pay, by virtue of the link between judicial pay and legislator pay.

Twenty of the House's 150 members voted against the pay raise. Here are their names, party labels and home cites:

Doc Anderson, R-Waco: Todd Baxter, R-Austin; Dan Branch, R-Dallas; Lon Burnam. D-Fort Worth: Norma Chavez. D-El Paso: Robby Cook. D-Eagle Lake: Frank Corte, R-San

#### HappyBirthday

#### August 4

Cindy Bonner, Mauro Santana, Jr., Mary Kyle Johnson, Bianca &: Blanca Lozano, Gina DeCordova, Beverly Brown, Alfredo Ozuna, Sarah Black

#### August 5

Kyla Turney, Bethany Berry, Wesley Brown, Sonny Samaniego, Jessi Wesson, Carlos Ramirez, Jr., Maribel Perez, Catherine: Herrera

#### August 6

Daniel Gonzales, Kathy Hearn, Wendy Morrow, Jeni Thorp, Bill Dempsey, Margaret Martinez

#### August 7

Tressa Esparza, Bailey Joe Pennington, Kodi Ann Davis, Delma: Torres, Steve Reyna, Pete Martinez, Leroy Brown, Steve Vickers August 8

Marty Parks, Laura Word, Faye Cox, Leslie Gamez, Judy Edmondson, Mike Lopez, Jr., Hugo Cardona, Betty Lawlis, Jesus Noriega, Lupe Jimenez

#### August 9

Moe Mogford, Pooh Garza, Trapper Valliant, Isabel Guerra, Joe: Edmondson

#### August 10

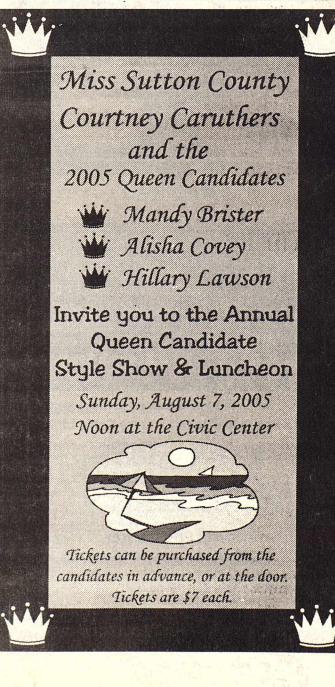
Kylie Love, Brea Hughes, Clayton Parks, Cody Snyder, Amy Mata, Javier Weingart, Crispen Lira, Alberico Capuchina, Jesse: Galvan, Hileria Romo

Antonio; Joe Crabb, R-Kingwood; Dawnna Dukes, D-Austin; Gary Elkins, R-Houston; Pete Gallego, D-Alpine; Harvey Hilderbran, R-Kerrville; Scott Hochberg, D-Houston; Mark Homer, D-Paris; Chuck Hopson, D-Jacksonville; Lois Kolkhorst, R-Brenham; Tommy Merritt, R-Longview; Aaron Peña, D-Edinburg; Debbie Riddle, R-Houston; Allan Ritter, D-Nederland; Patrick Rose, D-Dripping Springs; Burt Solomons, R-Carrollton; Senfronia Thompson, D-Houston; Vicki Truitt, R-Southlake: Marc Veasey, D-Fort Worth: Mike Villarreal. D-San Antonio.

The governor has yet to sign it.

When you have found that career that you like, you have an obligation to keep challenging yourself to do your duties to the best of your ability. Set your goals as you go and continually climb that ladder, until you reach the ultimate. Because you know, Son, no dream is TOO BIG and nothing is ever impossible. We love you very much & are very proud of you.

Mom, Grandpa, Grandma, and Tia Carmen

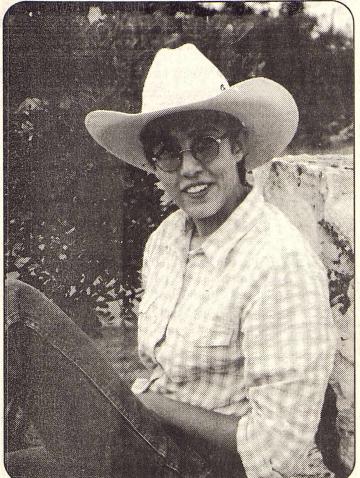


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The Devil's River News • Thursday, August 4, 2005

Rodeo tickets available at discounted price from 2005 Miss Sutton County Queen Contestants

### Mandy Brister



Mandy Irene Brister is the daughter of Cliff and Danine Brister. She is a senior at Sonora High School.

Mandy is active in FFA, 4-H, Cross Country, basketball, band and track. Her honors and awards include NHS, Area II FFA officer, Voting Delegate for Texas at the National FFA Convention in Kentucky, Miss Congeniality of Sutton County 2004. Her hobbies and interests include hunting, fishing, hanging out with friends and family, and anything to do with the FFA.

Mandy's future plans are to attend Tarleton State University and major in Agriculture.

When asked what she liked best about Sonora, she answered "I really love Sonora, it's a real quite town" and "it is hard to improve on what you already have."

Mandy said she would like to represent Sutton County because she has lived here all her life and "it would be an honor to represent the place I call home."

Mandy is sponsored by First National Bank, JMC Transport Services and Sutton County Steakhouse.

Alisha Covey



Alisha Covey is the daughter of Bo Covey. She is a senior at Sonora High School.

Alisha is active in tennis, U.I.L, and is president of the Bronco Spirit Crew, . Her honors and awards include NHS, and English III award, and her hobbies and interests include chilling with her friends, playing tennis and bugging her dad!

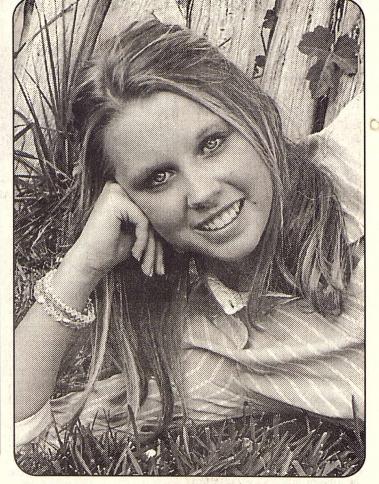
Alisha's future plans are to attend Tarleton State University and major in Speech-pathology.

When asked what she liked best about Sonora, she answered "I like Sonora because it is small and you know everyone. You always see someone you know," and "the thing that I think would make Sonora a better place to live would be if it had more activities for kids and teenagers to do in the community."

Alisha said she would like to represent Sutton County because she has lived her all here life, and she has not found a better town in Texas she would want to live in.

Alisha is sponsored by Multi-Chem, Rosie's Cafe and Schlumberger.

Hillary Lawson



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Hillary Lawson is the daughter of Jane Rushing and Jack Lawson. She is a senior at Sonora High School.

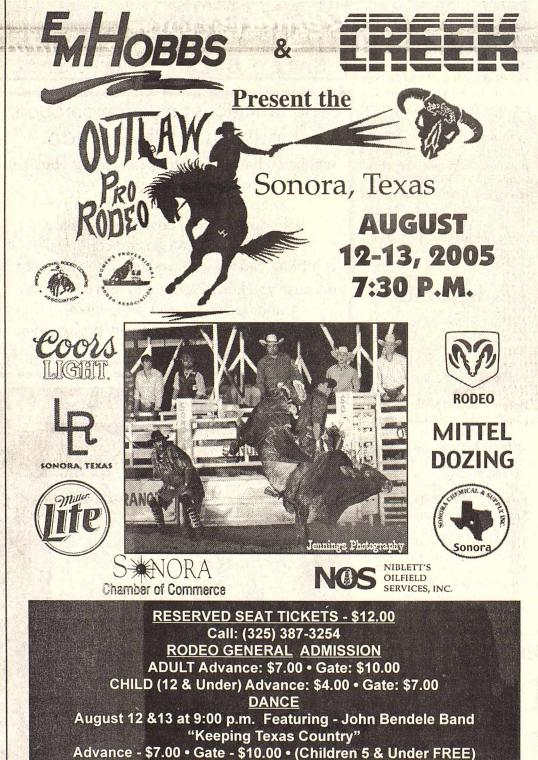
Hillary is active in PALS, football and basketball manager, Faith Seekers youth group, and the Spanish Club. Her honors and awards include Freshman Homecoming Duchess, Fall Festival Queen Contestant, Junior Class officer, Lions Club Queen contestant, President of Peppermint Ball.

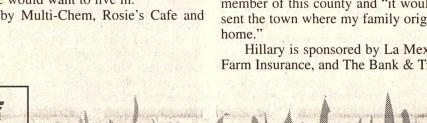
Hillary's hobbies and interests include spending time with family and friends, going to church, talking on the phone and working at Teaff's. She plans to attend Texas Tech University and pursue a career in nursing.

When asked what she liked best about Sonora, she answered "the friendly people," and what one thing would make Sonora a better place to live would be "to have more activities to bring the community together."

Hillary said she would be honored to hold the title of Miss Sutton County because she is a 5th generation family member of this county and "it would be a pleasure to represent the town where my family originated and where we call

Hillary is sponsored by La Mexicana, Sam Dillard/State Farm Insurance, and The Bank & Trust.





Page 4

SPECIAL PERFORMANCES Tickets Available ONLY at the Gate: Adult \$5.00 • Child (12 & Under) \$3.00

Wednesday, August 10 . 5:00 p.m. Steer Roping - 3 complete go-rounds

Thursday, August 11th • 8:30 a.m. Calf Roping • Steer Wrestling Team Roping • PWRA Breakaway

Thursday August 11th • 5:00 p.m. WPRA Barrel Racing • Calf Roping Steer Wrestling • Team Roping **PWRA Breakaway** Special Section of Bull Riding

Friday, August 12th • 8:30 a.m. WPRA Barrel Racing • PWRA Breakaway

> Friday, August 12th • 7:30 p.m. Full Rodeo Performance Kids Mutton Bustin' Team Roping Steer Saddling

Saturday, August 21st • 7:30 p.m. Full Rodeo Performance Crowning of Miss Sutton County Team Roping • Steer Saddling

**ADVANCE TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM** SUTTON COUNTY QUEEN CANDIDATES & SPONSORS

Arts & Craft Booths Devil's River Dancers Little Mr. & Miss Sutton County Contest Pony Rides \*Live Music\* Kids Rides Biscuits O' Brian (book signing) Dee Ora Masonic Lodge Scholarship Fundraiser Dinner Food Booths & Lots Of Fun

Presented By:

Patterson UTI Drilling Co. LP

Mealth & Wellness SNORA

Enclose: A Close warm

Thursday, August 4, 2005 • The Devil's River News

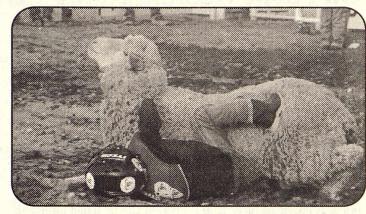
## Outlaw Pro Rodeo Mutton Bustin' Round 1



First out, Christopher Amador goes 5.76 seconds!



First little lady of the night, Hailey Galindo, smiles big before hugging that smelly mutton with all her might and hangs on for 5.21 seconds.

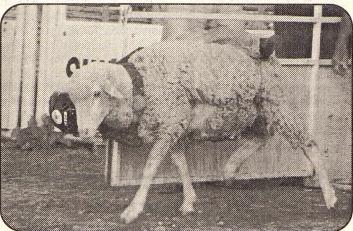


Takin' the easy way off; just make him lay down.Willie B. Muñoz rode his mutton for 3.14 seconds.





Bearin' down, Grady Bush hangs on for 4.04 seconds.

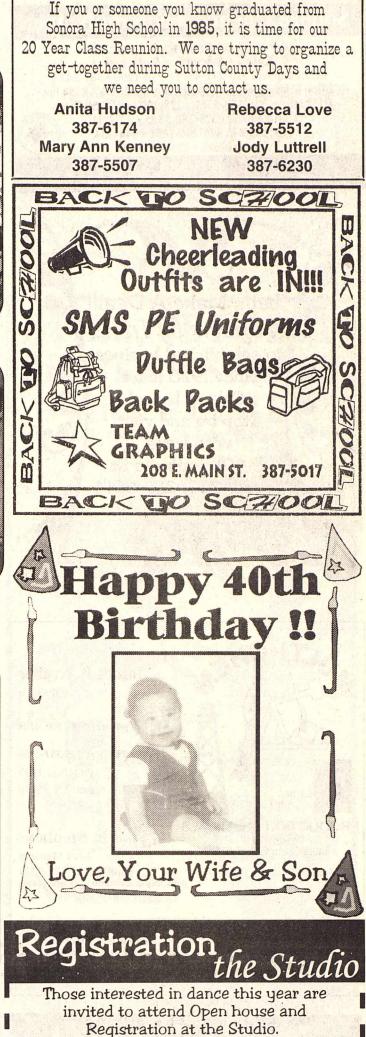


Riding from a different angle; maybe Mikey Owen Galindo watched his grandpa and uncles too long and was trying to "steer-dog" his mutton! He still held on for 2.72



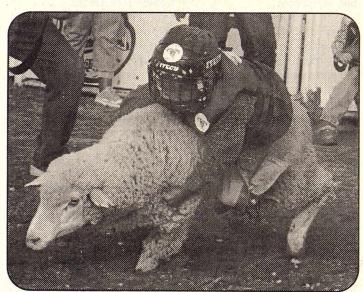
Bailey Sykes put his head down and held on tight for 3.23 seconds.





Page 5

Adrian Trevino took the hard way off, but only after holding on for 3.43 seconds



Gage Hernandez was last but not least, turning in a 4.39 second ride.

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Trinity Zook shows them that girls can do anything boys can do, riding for 2.07 seconds.

Don't miss all the 2005 Mutton Busters at the Sonora Outlaw Pro Rodeo, Friday, August 12, 2005. Tickets on sale from any Miss Sutton County Queen Contestant.

Making residents smile is the job we love the most! "We are caring for you and your loved ones as one of own family members!"



Current openings for men and women. Contact Anita Jones, RN, Director of Nursing for a tour or come any time for a visit. 325.853.2507 Ext 138. wonderful year of dance. Those dancers who register on Sunday, and pay their first month, will be eligible for one of the 2 drawings for dance shoes.

Please come and help me bring in another

#### When: Sunday, August 14, 2005 Where: the Studio, 216 E. Main Time: 2:00- 4:00 (come and go)

\*Refreshments will be served. Please bring the future student, so we can be introduced.\* \*Registration fee is \$15 per student. The fee is for a t-shirt.\* 2-3 years \$30.00 (Ballet) 4 & older \$40.00 (Ballet, Tap, Jazz) 2 or more per household \$60.00

If you can not make it, please call 226-3370 and I will be glad to meet you at the Studio and sign up your dancer.

### Life In The Country It Doesn't Get Any Better

If you are purchasing 5 acres or 50,000 acres for your life in the country, you need a lending specialist who knows the area and knows how to help you arrange a financing package tailored to fit your individual needs. You will find that specialist at Southwest Texas ACA.

> Farm and Ranch Loans Rural Home Loans Livestock Loans Operating Loans

Improvement Loans Rural Homesite Loans Equipment Loans Ag-Business Loan



Contact Jack Smith, 221 N. E. Main, Sonora, TX 325-387-2777 - 800-663-2846 www.swtaca.com

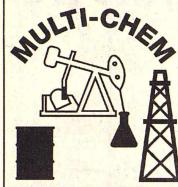
Offices - Sonora, Devine, Edinburg, Hondo, Laredo, Marfa, Pleasanton, San Antonio, Uvalde

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(325) 387-6023 • FAX 387-2237 • 1-877-533-5500 Toll Free

"Let's Make A Deal!!" Flowers by Irene, an established business since 1976 is for Sale or Lease! Stop by and visit with Irene @ 308 Railroad St. or call (325) 387-3914 for more information.



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Sonora Office: 325-387-2585 P.O. Box 1377 Sonora, TX 76950

Paul E. Stephens Area Manager Mobile: 325-277-0321 paul\_stephens@multi-chemgroup.com

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To provide unparalleled technical expertise and superior local service to our customers, through cost-effective applications of customized specialty chemicals.

# Junction Livestock

### FSA extends County Committeee nomination deadline

Individuals may nominate themselves or others as a candi-

date. In addition, eligible candi-

dates can be nominated by com-

munity-based and other organi-

zations in the county before the

close of the nomination period.

are open to all eligible candi-

dates and voters without regard

to race, color, religion, nation

origin, age, sex, marital status

or disability. The nomination form (FSA-669A) is available

at the county office and online at http://www.fsa.usda.gov/pas

mind several important dates

regarding the upcoming county

committee elections. Producers

can request, fill out and submit

nomination forms up to Aug.

15, 2005. Ballots will be mailed

to eligible voters by Nov. 4,

2005. The deadline to return

ballots is Dec. 5, 2005. Elected

committee members and alter-

nates take office on Jan. 1,

Producers should keep in

/publications/elections/.

Nominations and elections

(Eldorado, TX) - August 1, 2005 -- Schleicher/Sutton/Val Verde County farmers have an extra two weeks to decide if they would like to serve on the Farm Service Agency County Committee or nominate one of their neighbors to run for elec-According to, Jan tion. FSA County Wanoreck, Executive Director, the county committee nomination period has been extended to Aug. 15 in order to ensure producers have sufficient time to nominate candidates.

"The extension will give agency personnel, communitybased groups, farmer organizations and others more time to continue their outreach efforts," Wanoreck said.

The FSA county committee applies its judgment and knowledge to make decisions on county price-support loan eligibility, establishment of allotments and yields, conservation programs, disaster programs, employment and other federal farm program-related issues.

### Busters and Ambassadors from page 1

2006.

Through the years, the Ambassadors have become an integral part of the Association, assisting with the annual Roping Fiesta, rodeo parade, Sonrisas Special Rodeo, premium sale promotions, mutton bustin', junior barrel and Lil' Princess competitions. A first this year was the Ambassador Junior Clinic held this summer as a community service project, allowing a chance for the Ambassadors to interact, instruct, and assist young riders.

The Ambassadors are a crowd favorite, demonstrating their excellent horsemanship skills while performing their fast paced drills and grand opening ceremonies during all of the rodeo performances. The team is comprised of eleven young ladies (a six person performance team with five alternates) that represent the full spectrum of the Concho Valley, including Sonora's own Kyla Turney.

The 2006 team has the most rookies ever, with seven new member for the upcoming season. The girls, ranging in age from 13 to 19 years, hard work and dedication to practicing all year to hone their skills and keep their mounts in top condition, while performing at events throughout the state only serve to reflect the true quality of the team members.

The Ambassadors will perform Friday and Saturday night during the Grand Entry of the Sonora Outlaw Pro Rodeo

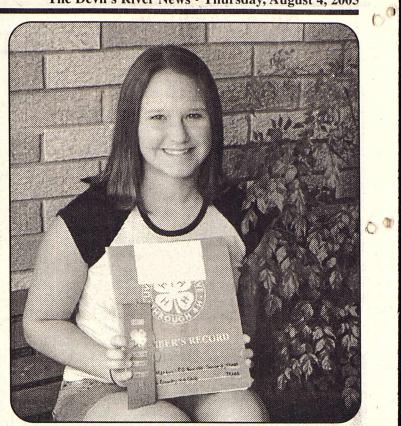
# Bonilla protects private property owners

#### - Introduces Eminent Domain Legislation -



home or business to benefit other individuals. My legislation will force governments to think twice before abusing emi-

#### The Devil's River News • Thursday, August 4, 2005



### Martin finishes second with record book entry

Sutton County 4-Her Laura Martin. Laura recently competed in the District 10 4-H record book contest held in Helotes.

Laura competed in the Senior Goat category and placed second out of the entire district.

Congratulations for a job well done!

### **Time To Apply For Drawings On Public Hunting Lands**

AUSTIN, Texas — With 9. the fall hunting season looming on the horizon, now's the time 65 to apply for drawn public hunts. For over 50 years, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department has been offering quality, affordable hunting experiences hu through the special drawings for hunts offered through the department's Public Hunting Program.

During the upcoming hunting seasons, more than 5,000 hunters will be selected through random computer drawings allowing access to some of the state's high-quality managed wildlife habitat. Wildlife management areas, state parks and leased private property will be offering quality supervised hunts for white-tailed deer, mule deer, exotics, feral hog and spring turkey.

Through an application process, hunters can select from among 24 different hunt categories and choose a preferred hunt date and location from 67 hunt areas stretching across the state. There's even a provision for hunting buddies to apply as a group— in some cases four hunters can apply together on one application. Free youth-only hunt categories are available to hunters who are between the ages of 8-16 at the time of application. All hunt positions are randomly selected in a computer drawing from all correctly completed entries received by the specified deadline. There are also some unique guided hunt opportunities on Mason Mountain Wildlife Management Area, including hunts for waterbuck, whitetailed deer, scimitar-horned oryx and gemsbok.

Last year TPWD received 65,179 applications for the 6,199 positions offered in special drawn hunt categories.

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Application booklets are currently being mailed to hunters who applied for hunts by Special Permit last year. The booklets also are available at TPWD law enforcement offices. Information about drawings for hunts by special permit can be found on-line or by calling toll free (800) 792-1112.

In addition to the special drawn hunts, hunters can enter for the opportunity to win one or more of TPWD's Big Time Texas Hunts exciting hunt packages.

The BTTH program offers some of the finest guided hunts in the state. Proceeds from BTTH pay for wildlife conservation work and additional public hunting opportunities in Texas. Last year TPWD received 80,599 entries in the BTTH drawings.

### Auction, Inc.



Tuesday, August 9, 2005 The sale begins at 11:00 a.m.

Sheep and Goat Sales Monday 10:00 a.m

#### Cattle Sales Tuesday 11:00

Office 325-446-3378 Jock Dutton • Owner P.O. Box 151 • Junction, TX 76849 Junction Livestock Auction Where your friendship is cherished and your business is appreciated! Representative Henry Bonilla (R-TX-23) has issued a strong response to the U.S.

Supreme Court's split decision on eminent domain.

Bonilla has introduced bipartisan legislation that will penalize eminent domain abuses. Bonilla's legislation is in response to a June 2005 U.S. Supreme Court ruling that allows governments to use eminent domain to take away private property. Governments can then transfer the private property to someone else for their private gain. Bonilla believes this decision turns the concepts of eminent domain and private property rights "on their head."

"The Supreme Court's eminent domain ruling places the American Dream in jeopardy. Governments should not be able to take away a person's

Members, you are invited... Members, you are invited... Electric Cooperative, Inc. 60<sup>th</sup> Annual Membership Meeting Membership Meeting Tuesday, August 9, 2005 Schleicher County Courthouse Lawn Eldorado. Texas -PROGRAM-7:00 p.m. Barbecue for members and their guests. 8:00 p.m. Business session begins. nent domain," said Bonilla.

The Strengthening the Ownership of Private Property (STOPP) Act, HR 3405, will prevent governments from taking property from one private party and giving it to another private party. When abuses occur, the STOPP Act will prevent localities and states from receiving federal economic assistance on ALL economic development projects, not just those upon which abuses occur. Furthermore, the legislation will make state and local governments subject to the Uniform Relocation Act, which provides fair market value and moving expenses for citizens relocated by abuses.

"The most important difference between my legislation and others offered is that we are penalizing ALL economic development projects, not just those upon which abuses occur. By subjecting all projects to penalties, we are removing a loophole that localities can exploit by playing a funding 'shell game' with projects," said Bonilla.

Bonilla's STOPP Act is cosponsored by more than 19 Members of Congress from both sides of the political aisle, including Rep. Bob Goodlatte (R-VA), Chairman of the Agriculture Committee, which will be the lead committee for Bonilla's eminent domain legislation.

"The STOPP Act is a comprehensive piece of legislation that will correct a far-reaching decision with horrific consequences," said Bonilla. "This legislation is for the average citizen who is trying to pursue the American way of life."

Bonilla is a long-time advocate of private property rights. He represents one of the largest districts in the nation, which includes more than 700 miles of the Texas-Mexico border. Bonilla currently serves a Chairman of the Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee. Hunters who have been drawn in the special permit hunts are not required to use a tag off their hunting license on white-tailed or mule deer that are taken. The hunters will be issued the free TPWD Legal Deer Tag at the area when they bring their harvested animal to the check station. This will allow the public hunters additional opportunity to use their license tags.

The application fee for adult applicants in most of the public hunt drawings is \$3 per adult person on the application. Guided hunts and private lands hunts cost \$10 per adult person on the application. Successfully drawn hunters pay for a Special Permit (\$75-125 in most cases) for a one-to-four-day hunt. A Special Permit fee does not apply to hunts for pronghorn antelope, guided hunts at Mason Mountain Wildlife Management Area and on private land.

The application deadline for alligator hunts is Aug. 2. For pronghorn antelope hunts on the Rita Blanca National Grasslands north of Dalhart, the deadline is Aug. 18. Bow hunters also have until Aug. 18 to apply for special drawn public archery hunts. Entries for the general (gun) season deer hunts must be received by Sept. This year's BTTH line-up offers the following hunt pack-ages:

\* Texas Grand Slam — one winner experiences a series of four separate hunts for desert bighorn sheep, white-tailed deer, mule deer, and pronghorn antelope.

\* Texas Exotic Safari two winners get to hunt a choice of African plains antelope species.

\* Texas Whitetail Bonanza — 10 winners receive a highquality 3-5 day white-tailed deer hunt.

\* Texas Premium Buck Hunt — one winner gets the chance to hunt trophy mature white-tailed deer.

\* Texas Waterfowl Adventure — one winner receives a coastal prairie goose hunt and East Texas and coastal duck hunts.

\* Texas Big Time Bird Hunt — quality quail, pheasant, dove and turkey hunts in some of the best places Texas has to offer.

\* Texas Gator Hunt — a rare experience for a 3-day alligator hunt on a State Wildlife Management Area.

All Big Time Texas Hunts packages include food, lodging and a hunting guide. Some packages, such as the Texas Grand Slam and Texas Exotic Safari provide taxidermy of harvested game. For each BTTH hunt package, the winner can bring along one or more guests, and in some cases guests may also hunt or enjoy other benefits—see the Web site or brochure for details.

Entries for the BTTH hunt packages are still only \$10 and hunters can purchase them at any license vendor location or with a credit card online or by phone at (800) 895-4248. Participants must be age 18 or older to enter and may apply as many times as they like. The deadline to apply in the BTTH drawings for 2005-06 is midnight Nov. 5.

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Thursday, August 4, 2005 • The Devil's River News

### Oil & Agribusiness

### Sutton County 4-H Forecast Order state validation tags today

Attention Sutton County 4-H and Sonora FFA members who will show lambs and meat goats at any of the major livestock shows in 2006. Please call the Extension Office at 387-3101 to order your state validation tags. The tags are \$6 each until August 18th. After that date they will be \$10 each. If you know a 1st year 4-H or FFA family who plans to feed lambs and/or meat goats and who may not know about the requirement of state validation in order to exhibit at the majors, please pass this information to them.

New 4-H Year! The new 4-H year begins September 1st. Remember that eligible 4-H age is 9-18 of that date. The exception is age 8 AND in the 3rd grade. However, ages 5-8 are eligible as Clover Buds, but may not take part in competition. As you fill out your enrollment forms, identify your interests so that projects can be developed. Interested students will be able to fill out the green enrollment cards at the regular club meetings or at the County Extension Office.

Officer training is planned for August 18 at 2:00 p.m. New officers please make plans to attend.

School is right around the corner, if you need help finding goats or lambs for the upcoming season, contact Pascual Hernandez at the Extension Office and he will help.

4-H Food and Nutrition

It's time to begin getting ready for the 4-H Food and Nutrition Project. Leaders and volunteers are needed, contact the Extension Office if you are interested.

### **Range Condition vs. Forage Condition**



#### by Pascual Hernandez, Sutton County Extension Agent -Agriculture

It was getting dry on us and now it's rained some and we're seeing hints of green. Invariably, the question of range condition or forage condition comes up after periods of rainfall. But before one can answer, we must ask ourselves another question, "How does range condition differ from forage condition?"

The terms range condition and forage condition are often used interchangeably, although their meanings differ greatly. Range condition is the current ecological condition (as determined by species composition) of range as compared to its ecological potential. Forage condition relates to aspects such as the quantity of forage available and its nutritional qualities (protein, energy, minerals and palatability). Range condition changes gradually over a period of years. Forage condition can change in a few days.

Why is range condition important? As range condition

time and the diet quantity and quality available to the grazing animal.

Overall plant production and stability of a range site improves as range condition improves because shallow-rooted plants (annuals or sod-forming perennials) are replaced by deeper-rooted, perennial bunch grasses. This species shift creates better overall soil hydrologic conditions. Rainfall infiltration rates increase while evaporation and soil erosion decrease. These factors along with more efficient use of water within the soil profile by deeper-rooted plants results in greater forage production and stability.

Improved livestock production depends on higher range condition classes. Livestock are selective grazers. With higher condition classes, grazing animals can select from a greater diversity of plant species, thus maintaining a more optimum plane of nutrition. Diet quality levels will also vary less from season to season and year to year as compared to lower range condition classes.

So let's hope that these rains have enhanced plant vigor and improved forage condition. In a later edition, we'll discuss



Mandy Brister at Buckskin Brigade

### Brister and Reyes participate in Wildlife Leadership Camp

Stasney's Cook Ranch, Albany, TX – BRYAN REYES AND MANDY BRISTER of SONORA participated in the North Texas Buckskin Brigade at the Stasney's Cook Ranch in Albany, Texas in mid-July. They were among thirty high school students who took part in this award-winning leadership development program.

The Texas Brigades' mission is to empower high school youth with the necessary skills and knowledge in wildlife and fisheries, habitat conservation, land and water stewardship, team building, communication, and leadership to become ambassadors for conservation in order to ensure a sustained wildlife and fisheries legacy for future generations.

There are six Brigade camps being held this summer; two Buckskin Brigades, two Bobwhite Brigades, the Feathered Forces (which focuses on quail and turkey), and the Bass Brigade.

Participants must be between 13 and 17 years of age, have a 'B' average, and submit a complete application for consideration. Applications may be downloaded off of the website, www.texasbrigades.org, and are due in April.

For more information, contact Helen Holdsworth, Executive Director, at 800-TEX-WILD or 210-826-2904, ext 120 or via email at h\_Holdsworth@texas-wildlife.org.



Brian Reyes at Buckskin Brigade

Livestock Health workshop planned for





### You can have it ALL!

Page 7

improves, the number of different plant species growing on a specific range site usually increases. Greater species diversity improves both the stability of the plant community over

Patterson Drilling.

Drilling.

how range condition is improved. For similar and related information, visit the Sutton County Extension website at http://sutton-co.tamu.edu.

**Rig Locations as of** 

July 29, 2005

Dominion; 9400' Duke Wilson - #40 - 15,

#### August

The Sutton County Extension Office is planning several educational opportunities for ranchers and land owners. Some that are scheduled currently are:

Livestock Health Workshop - August 25th -Topics will include drug research in sheep & goats; animal ID; parasite monitoring; BSE update; Top 10 toxic plants of the area; etc. This program, offered by Sutton, Schleicher, and Crockett counties, will be at 9 a.m. in the Ozona Community Center. 2.5 C.E.U's will be available for those with a pesticide applicator license. Wildlife Health Seminar -

Wildlife Health Seminar -September 22 - Topics will include the impact of anthrax on deer managment; Texas Wildlife Managment service; Texas Animal Health Compression update; and game laws & liability. This program, offered by the above, will be at 9 a.m. at the Sonora Civic Center. Call 387-3101 to register.

Horticulture programing this one requires response from anyone interested. Let the office know if you would prefer a landscape seminar or one on diagnosing plant problems. Based on response, plans will be made for the next program. You can also contact the office via e-mail, phernandez@tamu.edu.

West Nile Possible Even With Dry Weather

There's no summer vacation for mosquito-borne disease. Many people believe that mosquitoes are only a problem when there's lots of fresh standing water. However, some mosquitoes thrive in dry weather. The southern house mosquito is one of those. It's also the main cause for the West Nile virus in urban areas. Just like its name, the southern house mosquito likes to enter houses and feed on humans. Take the necessary precautions to prevent mosquitoes from entering your home. Get rid of any stagnant standing water in flower pots, rain gutters, and low-lying areas. Seal your home by keeping doors and windows closed when possible.

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New Samson Lone Star; 10000' Roy Valliant #1, Patterson Drilling.

Dominion; 8950' Randee Fawcett Trust - B - #17, Patterson

Sutton

New Dominion; 9500' Arco-Phillips #2308, Patterson Drilling. New Dominion; 8975' LR Hill-Valliant - A - #3, Patterson Drilling.

**New Dominon;** 8300' Edwin S Hill - Mayer Jr - LL - #6, Patterson Drilling.

New Dominon; 8150' Edwin S Hill - Mayer Jr - Z - #5, Patterson Drilling.

**New Dominion;** 8100' Shurley RR - 5 - #3, Patterson Drilling. **New Dominion;** 7050' Canyon Ranch #92-8S, Patterson Drilling.

New Dominon; 6500' Hunt-Powell - 84 - #1D, Patterson Drilling.

#### Crockett

Endeavor Energy; 13000' Hudspeth - 74 - #1, Big Dog Drilling. New Momentum Energy; 9650' Harris Ranch - 9P - #1, Patterson UTI/MIDLAN.

New Approach Operating; 9000' Bailey #414, Nabors Drilling. New Approach Operating; 9000' Addie Clayton #1007, Nabors Drilling.

New Chevron; 9000' Scheuber-Wilkins #54, Nabors Drilling. New Approach Operating; 9000' JR Bailey Estate - B - #414, Patterson Drilling.

**New MLC Operating;** 7000' Ruby State Unit #1, Adobe Drilling.

**Devon Energy**; 7000' CW Meadows - 6 - #5, Patterson Drilling. **FIML Natural Res.**; 4758' Cole #1358, Patterson Drilling. **Sigma Energy & EXP**; 2500' Sigma Meadows #1, Hinz Drilling.

#### Schleicher

**Approach Operating;** 9000' Rousselot #1301, Nabors Drilling. **New Approach Operating;** 9000' Rousselot #1503, Nabors Drilling.

Encana O&G; 8400'Shell Clayton #3, Patterson Drilling. O'Neill Properties; 6800' HJ Case - A - #6, Heart Land Drilling. New Leclair Operating; 5000' Kirk-L- #1, Heart Land Drilling. Terrell

Newfield; 15000' Poulter #3504, Patterson Drilling.

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



9

The Devil's River News • Thursday, August 4, 2005





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### Sutton County 4-H ends summer series



The horse project completed five playday events with the last held on Tuesday, July 26th at the Sutton County Arena. Lots of wonderful awards were presented to participants at the conclusion of event competition. Prizes included beautiful Maynard buckles, concho-covered breast collars and headstalls, saddle pads, rope halters, bell boots, cinch covers, and buckets filled with some useful horse products. It was just like Christmas in July!

Winners in the girl's peewee age division (8 and under) were: 1) Abby Nolen, 2) Alyssa Smith, 3) Sky Jennings, 4) Lisette Oritz, and 5) Audry Nolen. The boy's peewee division winners were: 1) Franklin Buchholz, 2) Jaydan Crain, and 3) Jarrett Jackson.

The girl's novice age division (9-11 years) was a very large group with a total of 14 contestants. Winners were: 1) McKenzie McAngus, 2) Zella Powers, 3) Macie Friess, 4) Stella Ingham, 5) Alex Lang, 6) Shawnda Price, 7) Hunter Jennings, and 8) Sunny Cate McCormick. Other prize winners were Avery Nolen, Abby Creek, Maddie Lang, Lexi Poindexter, and Lyndsey Robertson. Boys in this division finished in this order: 1) Owen Friess and 2) Dalton Buchholz.

Junior girls (12-15 years) placed as follows: 1) Steely Ingham, 2) Carli McAngus, 3) Kayley Eckert, 4) Shae'na Price, 5) Jadyn Poindexter, 6) Tracy Brenner, and 7) Serena Lee Allison. Winning the boy's division were: 1) Cash Jennings, 2) Dustin Neff, 3) Robert Buchholz, and 4) Ricky Samaniego.

Holly Ford was presented an award for the senior division, and Wyatt Lloyd received a prize for his participation in the lead-line division.

Another good season has come to an end, and the kids are all to be congratulated for their efforts. Once again, many thanks to the parents, volunteers, and donors who are responsible for the success of this program.

### Roping from page 1

\*\*8. Daniel Hernandez & Dean Martin 28.02 on 2 Friday

4. Johnny Van Court & Steve Duhon 23.06 on 2

5. Casey Gattis & Shannon Boyles 24.66 on 2 6. Rick Hunnicutt & Stanley James 25.86 on 2

Thursday 7. Mack Altizer & Steve

Duhon 25.87 on 2 9. Key Simon & Casey

Cordell 28.21 on 2 10. Key Simon & William

Renfro 29.70 on 2

11. Charles Barber & Jorge Escamilla 30.33 on 2 12. Dean Rutland & Jorge

Escamilla 31.05 on 2 Don't miss your chance to watch and cheer on some of your own as they rope for the title of Sutton County Champion Team Roper. For more information on any of the events, contact Sonora Chamber of Commerce at 325-387-2880 or The Devil's River News at 325-387-2507.

# **Perseid Meteor Shower**

#### by Paul Derrick

The annual Perseid meteor shower, usually one of the year's best, is just around the corner, and the Moon won't be much of a problem this year. The shower's actual peak is predicted for the afternoon of Aug. 12, but, since we don't see many meteors during daylight hours, we can expect two nights of increased activity --Thursday, Aug. 11 and Friday, Aug. 12.

When viewing meteor showers, location and timing are more important than equipment. For casual observing only one piece of equipment is recommended--a reclining. lawn chair.

Regarding location, light pollution is the key factor. The farther one is from urban and other interfering lights, the more meteors one will see, just as more stars will be seen. But those who must view from within a city shouldn't despair as brighter meteors can still be seen, to the same extent as can brighter stars and planets. And more meteors will be seen from an open area unobscured by trees or buildings. Meteor viewing is usually at its best during the inconvenient hours from midnight to dawn. And this is especially true for the Perseids as Perseus, the constellation from which the meteors appear to come, rises after midnight. And this year, the Moon produces "natural" light pollution until it sets shortly before midnight Aug. 11 and just after midnight the next night. So you'll need to stay up late (or get up early) for the best show. People often ask what direction they should look for meteors. Although Perseus rises in the northeast, meteors are likely to be seen in all parts of the sky. So the greatest number of meteors will probably be seen in the direction with the least light pollution which for most locations is overhead. Although the hours after midnight are not the best for

parties, viewing with friends can greatly enhance the experience. Since at its peak the shower is likely to produce no more than a meteor per minute, friends can help pass the time. As you visit and enjoy refreshments, keep looking upward, slowly panning the sky.

Sky Calendar.

\* Aug. 1 Mon.: Lammas, the cross-quarter day celebrating the middle of summer. \* 4 Thu.: The Moon is

\* 7 Sun. early evening: The crescent Moon is near Venus low in the west at dusk. \* 8 Mon.: The Moon is between Venus and Jupiter.

\* 9 Tue. evening: The Moon is below Jupiter. \* 12 Fri.: The Moon is at

1st quarter. \* 18 Thu. morning: Mercury is below Saturn near the eastern horizon an hour before sunrise with the Beehive cluster between them. \* 19 Fri.: August's full Moon is called the Green Corn Moon, Grain Moon and Fruit Moon. As this full Moon nearly coincides with perigee (when the Moon is nearest Earth), it will appear slightly larger than average. Naked-eye Planets. (The Sun, Moon and planets rise in the east and set in the west due to Earth's west-to-east rotation.) Venus is the brilliant "evening star" low in the west at dusk with Jupiter the next brightest starlike object higher in the southwest. Mars rises after midnight and is high in the southeast by morning. Stargazer appears every other week. Paul Derrick is an amateur astronomer who lives in Waco. Contact him at 918 N. 30th, Waco, 76707, (254) 753-6920 or pjderrick@aol.com. See the Stargazer Web site at stargazerpaul.com.

### Time for the Annual Questions on running a business to be answered in Sonora

Would you like to start a business but don't know where to begin? Maybe you have an existing business and would like to expand and promote your business, or require assistance with the techniques of customer service, bookkeeping, and human resource issues. Do you need assistance with marketing efforts in your community? We are here to help!

Ms. Lisa Michalewicz will visit the community of Sonora on Wednesday, August 10th to meet with economic development representatives, lenders, the chamber of commerce, and any small business owners who would like to visit with her.

Please call (325) 942-2098 to schedule an appointment with Lisa if you are interested in one-on-one confidential and FREE counseling services.

A Partnership Program with the U.S. Small Business Administration.

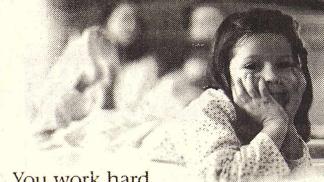
### Make the Most of Your **Medical Appointments**

Familier Kelly L Thorp and whe CEA-FCS e x a s Cooperative Extension

For some people, a visit to the hospital or physician's office can be a very

Submitted bib by: - this list, making sure that each item is addressed. By having this information ready, you will be able to maximize your time with your health provider. Your part of the visit with your health provider includes listening to his or her responses to your questions and concerns. Since

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stressful experience, a long drive may have been involved, almost certainly a long wait. By the time you actually see your health professional, you may forget to tell him or her something important. To ensure the best quality care for you or your loved one, take an active role in preparing for your health visits so that you may take full advantage of your time with the health professional.

Most people don't leave their house for the supermarket without a list of things to buy, right? A visit to your health professional should be no different. A suggestion for keeping this list might include purchasing a spiral bound notebook so that all your information is kept in the same place. Make a list of questions, comments and concerns before going to your health provider's office, leaving space to write down any instructions you might be given. Your list should address

• Your main reason for visiting your health provider • Your list of health con-

cerns and/or complaints, in order of importance • When did it start? What makes it better? What makes it worse? Your list of medications

Include dosages, why you take that medication and any side-effects you may be experiencing

During your visit you will be able to work your way down

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you left space under each one of your questions, comments or concerns, you should be able to write down the response from your health provider.

When you get home, you will be able to go over the instructions that your health provider gave you during the office visit. The time in between your office visits is also the time to begin making out your new list of questions, comments and concerns for your health provider. Your spiral bound notebook has now become your own health record!

Remember not to keep personal information in your notebook, such as your Social Security Number. This is for your protection in case your notebook is lost or stolen.

A spiral bound notebook will serve as an excellent personal health record. However, if you want something a little "official," more the Administration on Aging has a publication entitled "Personal Health Care Journal" which may help you "get organized" for your next visit with your health provider. You may download this journal or order a free copy from http://www.aoa.gov/press/publications/publications.asp.

For more information on preparing for a visit with your health provider, contact your local County Extension Agent at 387-3604.

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#### **Public Notice**

Sutton County Underground Water Conservation District Tuesday, August 9, 2005 9:00 a.m.

Sutton County UWCD Office 301 S. Crockett Ave.

Purpose: To receive public testimony on proposed water well application by John and Luther Creek located on 9.55 acres in Survey 54, Block B, Abstract 809, Cerificate No. 129, H.E. & W.T. RR Co. The proposed well is categorized as a permitted well which does not meet spacing requirements as per District Rules. The Board of Directors may consider an exemption to the spacing requirements for a permitted well after all landowners and well owners within one half mile of the proposed well site are notified and a public hearing is held. All interested parties invited.

#### **Garage Sale**

2 Family Garage Sale 205 Murphy. Clothes, baby items, misc. On Friday, August 5th, 8:00 a.m. - ?

Garage Sale 308 Edgemont on Friday, August 5th, 8:00 a.m. - ?

Multi-Famliy Garage Sale on Friday, August 5th, at 507 E. 2nd St. 8:00 a.m.- 6 p.m. Good school clothes, toys, furniture, and misc.

#### **For Sale**

House for sale: 3 Bedroom, 2 bath, 2 car garage, Brick, H/AC, fenced back yard, nice neighborhood. Call Jesse at 226-1133 or 387-3721.

30 City lots for sale in Eldorado. Established utility and city hook ups. \$2,000-\$3,000 each. Call 325-853-2711.

14x70 2 Bedroom, 2 bath Mobile Home for sale by owner. Owner will finance with good down payment. Asking \$18,000 serious inquires only. Call Nathan at (432)770-3497.

Hospital bed with side rails \$100 sewing machine in cabinet

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 reimburse-ment. 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.

Employment

DQ of Sonora now accepting applications for Maintenance Worker. Non-smoking, drug free environment. Drug test required. Apply in person today with Manager, Patti Lindaur.

RN's & LVN's Needed Reagan County Care Center Reagan Memorial Hospital Big Lake, TX

Full-time or part-time. Shift differential and travel reimbursement. Benefits available to full-time employees. Contact Nursing Director at 325-884-2561

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

The Sutton Co. Sheriff's Ofc. is now accepting applications for the position of Jailer. A thorough background investigation will be conducted and the chosen applicant will be required to attend a 2 week long jailer's school and must pass a state certification test. The position will include shift work and working alone in the jail. This position also includes a basic working knowledge of computers.

Sutton Co. provides employees paid vacation, sick leave, health insurance and retirement.

Sutton County is an EOE Applications may be obtained at the Sutton Co. Sheriff's Office, 309 N. E. Oak Street, Sonora, Texas, or by calling (325) 387-2288, through August 8, 2005, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Help Wanted: ARC Pressure

#### Employment

Help Wanted: Full time and part time. Weekends & Holidays. Apply in person or call The Caverns of Sonora at 325-387-3105 FMI.

Hiring Commerical Drivers: Current Class A CDL w/Haz Mat/Tanker? Want great pay and cash incentives. No 24hour call. Established Company looking to hire drivers. All applicants must pass drug/ alcohol test. Please call Justin (432) 339-0540 or 800-523-5566 ext.140

**Schleicher County Medical** 

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32 hours per week/Full Time Benefits. Spanish preferred, 24 hour on-site daycare. Competitive Salary/Paid Time Off. Working with: Dr. Day and Dr. Johnson. Health, Dental, Vision, and Life Options. Retirement Options. Dietz, Contact: Sharon Administrator 325.853.2507 Ext 101 Or e-mail to: sdietz@sccn2.net

#### **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.

DQ of Sonora is looking for day and night help. Full and part time positions available. Nonsmoking, drug free environment. Drug test required. Apply in person today with Manager, Patti Lindaur.

Rent

**RV Spaces for Rent:** Bills Paid, country living. \$250 a month. Please Call 387-2079

#### Weatherford UBS in Sonora, is looking to fill the following positions, one nitrogen tech, two air techs, and one shop

Employment

inventory clerk. Must be 18 years of age and have a valid drivers license. Must be able to pass DOT physical and drug screen and background check. Individuals must have a dependable truck and be readily available. Position will consist of operating membrane nitrogen units and air compression on drilling sites. Long hours and great benefits package included. Applications may be piked up at the Weatherford office at 3269 S. Service RD. in Sonora. (No phone calls please!)

Ranch Job Available: Need ranch worker. Couple preferred. Call: 387-3278

Cebridge Connections is a leader in the exciting Broadband industry. We are currently hiring an Installer Technician for the Sonora, TX area. Duties include: performing field technical work and responding to customer complaints. Performs installs, disconnects, and other technician duties. Qualifications: High School diploma or equivalent. Cebridge Connections benefits include medical insurance, 401 (k), vacation & sick leave, and paid holidays. Call 432-943-4335 for an application. EOE

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Welder. Taken from business in

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hours of July 22 or early hours

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faded to a light gray. Is sitting

on a home made single axle

trailer has no lights or license

plate. Please contact Dana at

325-853-2629 or 325-650-8988

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Rent

Mobile Home for Rent located on a nearby ranch CH/AC. No Children & No Pets. For more information call 325-387-3222.

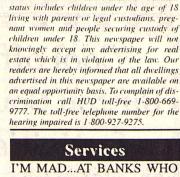
#### **Real Estate**

Looking for real estate agents in your town. Contact Roy or Lisa 1-800-880-0769

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

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Page 9

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Looking for someone to mow your lawn? Call Robert or Paul at 325-387-3318. If no answer

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with chair \$100. Please call 325-387-5917 for more information.

**Queen size Semi-Motion** water bed with frame. Asking \$250- Negotiable. For more information please call: 325-387-2354 or 325-206-0149.

#### Employment

Schleicher County Medical Center Nursing Home now hiring: CNA's 6:00 a.m. and 6 p.m. shifts Full and Part-Time, night and weekend differential pay. 24 hour on site daycare. Health, Dental, Vision, and Life options, retirement benefits and paid time off. Contact Anita Jones, RN, DON 325-853-2507 Ext. 138 or e-mail: stacyj@sccn2.net.

Schleicher County Medical Center hiring Part-Time RN. Impressive Benefits package, 24 hour on-site daycare, state of the art equipment, education opportunities, flexible scheduling, competitive salary, paid time off, highly skilled team. Contact: Vicki Farmer, BS, RN, DON @ 325-853-2507 Ext. 129 or e-mail resume to: stacyj@sccn2.net.

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Data, Inc. is seeking SLICK-LINE OPERATORS. Applicant's need clean driving record and be able to pass drug test. Computer skills required. Salary based on experience. Benefits include medical, dental and 401K. Call Jim Harrington at 325-206-0247 for appointment.

**Schleicher County Medical** Center Lab Manager

Must have: MT or CLS certification. Flexible schedule/On call schedule/On call pay/competitive salary.

Full Time Benefit Package: Health, Dental, Vision, and Life Options, on site child care, retirement options/paid time off.

Contact: Sharon Dietz, Administrator 325.853.2507 Ext 101 Or e-mail to: sdietz@sccn2.net

Help Wanted: Full time and part time. Apply at Mr. D's, 216 Hwy 277 N. from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday - Friday.

**Operators needed**: Maintainer, dozer, and loader operators. CDL required. Call Mittel Dozing 277-6883.

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is seeking





### **For Sale 304 Plum** \$110,000

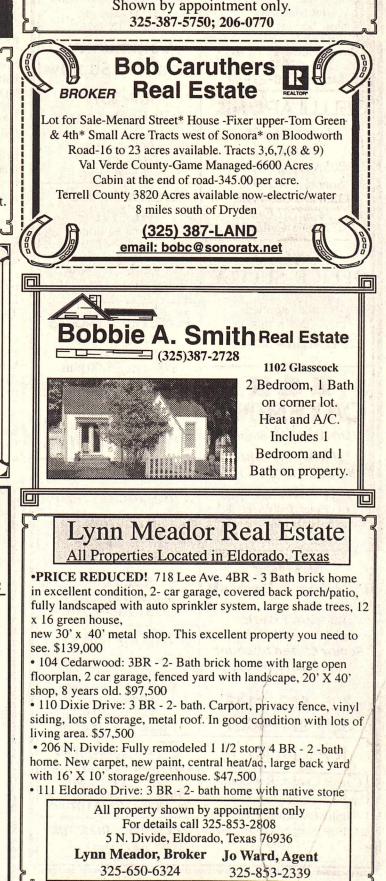
Fully remodeled with 2 bedrooms, 2 full baths, custom kitchen cabinets, refinished hardwood floors, new central heat/AC, fireplace, rock patio, covered porch, detached storage. Approximatley 1465 sq ft on approx 85' X 200'lot. Call Sharon Holman 325-387-7046







This elegant, 3 bedroom, 2 bath home is beautifully landscaped and located in a quite neighborhood. Interior amenities include vaulted ceilings, 2-sided wood burning fireplace, and a large master suite with garden tub. Enjoy the shaded patio, nestled with palm trees, near the above ground pool. All of these amenities are surrounded by a privacy fence. List Price \$92,500







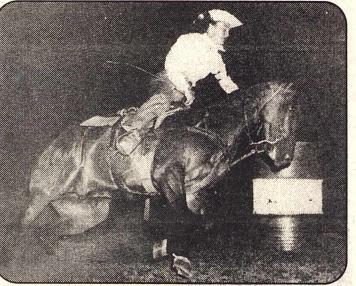
Cloggers shoot the bull in Eldorado, ready to raise redneck riot at Sutton County Days

West Texas Cloggers performed at the Eldorado Running of the Bull on July 30 and 31. Will they be performing at Sutton County Days as Redneck Women? Hell, yeah!!!

### Main Street Traffic **Friends of Historic Sonora Main** Street spotlights Hall of Fame cowgirl, Blance Altizer Smith

Submitted by: Friends of Historic Sonora Main Street Program Written by: Kristina Hernandez

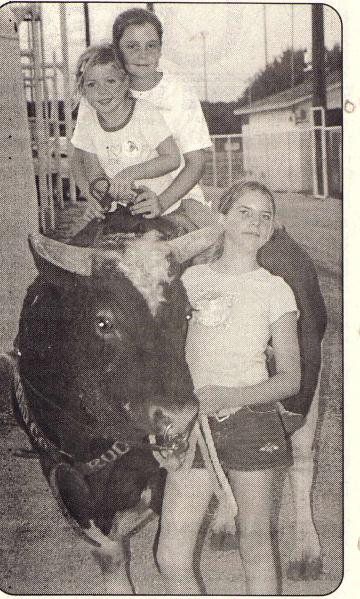
During the month of August the Friends of Historic Sonora Main Street Program will be having a spotlight exhibit honoring the rodeo stars in our community. These exhibits will be on display at the Bank & Trust and the First National Bank of Sonora during the Sutton County Days celebration. One of the honorees will be National Cowgirl Hall of Fame member, Blanche Altizer Smith. Blanche was born in Del Rio, Texas on July 16, 1928. She was the GRA Champion Team roper in 1950 and 1955 and the GRA Champion Calf roper in 1950. She also served as a director of the GRA for many years. In later years she helped with many junior rodeos and spent much of her time working with the Val Verde County 4-H club. In 1951 Blanche married Floyd "Bud" Smith. They had two sons Jim Smith, and Olin "Olie" Smith who is married to Carla Smith. Olie and Carla have twin girls named Sterling and Stevie. Blanche and her family lived on a ranch 68 miles northwest of Del Rio. Some of Blanche's rodeo outfits and rodeo equipment will be in the exhibit. Be sure you go by and take a look.



**Blanche Altizer Smith** FHSMS giving away golf bag, looking for Pioneer Family

The Devil's River News • Thursday, August 4, 2005

### **Chamber** Chatter Roundin' up fun for **Sutton County Days**



No Bull! Sutton County Days is sure to be a wild ride for all! Bad Company Rodeo and "Party Animal" (pictured above with Chelsey Lou, Dawsyn and Serena Lee) will ride into town on Wednesday, with rodeo fun all week. Sutton County Days activities kick off Friday, Aug. 12th.



#### by Ruthie Bounds, COC **Executive** Director

I probably sound like a broken record, but I still can't get over the generosity of the people and businesses in Sonora. We have such wonderful sponsors for Sutton County Days this year and are very grateful to our sponsors. Our Gold Sponsors this year are: The Health & Wellness Center at Lillian M. Hudspeth Memorial Hospital, Patterson -UTI Drilling Co. LP, Creek, Location Builders, and the

ones. Monte Jones AKA Biscuits O'Bryan will be autographing his book in the foyer of the Sutton County Civic Center from 10:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. Saturday, August 13th.

We will have many new rides and games for all the children at Sutton County Days. There will be a pony ride, petting zoo, rock climbing wall, mechanical bull, and all the slides and obstacle courses we usually have. The littlest ones will be able to capture a "duck" in the duck pond, and Mom & Dad will be able to sit comfortably and watch their children while they play. We are so excited about bringing all of



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#### by Ann Kay, FHSMS Manager

Summer has been a very busy time for the Friends of Historic Sonora Main Street Program. At the present we are having an extremely successful fundraiser. We are selling raffle tickets for a signed limited edition Titleist Golf Bag, with waterproof cover. There are not enough words to thank The Bank & Trust and First National Bank for their generous donation of the golf bag, allowing the Main Street Program to keep all the proceeds.

The proceeds will go into our general account, which allows us to do events and projects throughout the year. We would also like to thank all those who have purchased a ticket, and we wish you the best of luck this weekend, August 5-7, 2005, when the bag will be given to its lucky winners.

The other exciting news this week came from the Texas Historical Commission in Austin, Texas. Sutton County, along with 21 other counties, was awarded a \$50,000 Texas Heritage Trail/Pecos Trail grant for the next three years, to promote and advertise Sutton County along with the 21 other counties.

Now that we have been awarded the grant, we can strive to be on the board of directors, which will have representatives from all 22 counties and members from the Texas Historical Commission. The ultimate goal is to house the Pecos Trail office here in Sonora.

The Texas Heritage Trails Program is an initiative program designed to promote tourism to historical and cultural sites. The Program provides technical, financial and marketing assistance to heritage regions across Texas. The program received the Preserve America Presidential Award from the White House this spring/summer.

The FHSMS will also be spotlighting a Historical Pioneer fam-ily during Sutton County Days and all the month of August. The board will be making their decision soon so if you have an Outstanding Western Heritage Family in Sutton County, please let us know, 325-387-2448.

Sonora Chamber of Commerce. Notice that all these sponsors are local businesses except for Patterson and when they were contacted about being a sponsor again this year the response was "Sonora is so good to us, it would be our pleasure to sponsor this event." Well, we already knew that was true, but it is nice to know that other people recognize it.

We have many new things that will take place during Sutton County Days this year. One of the most exciting resulted from a phone call I received at the office last week from a dear old friend of Sonora. Monte Jones called the office and it was so wonderful to hear his voice sounding so strong. He was interested in doing a book signing for his book "Biscuits O'Bryan Storyteller". After visiting with him for several minutes we decided that a book signing during Sutton County Days would be the perfect time. Monte will get to see many of his old friends and hopefully make some new

these fun events to the people of Sonora.

The "Everybody Loves A Clown" parade will be held on Saturday morning at 9:00 a.m. The parade route will be from downtown Sonora to the Sutton County Arena. Line-up for the parade will begin at 8:30 a.m in downtown Sonora. You can pick up an entry form for the parade at the Sonora Chamber of Commerce Office & Welcome Center, there is no entry fee to participate in the parade and we welcome all We have already entries. received a lot of entries for the parade and are looking forward to it being the best ever.

All of the vendor booths will open on Friday afternoon this year and are allowed to stay open during the rodeo and dance for your shopping convenience. We are looking forward to Sutton County Days and hoping to have a great crowd. We have a wide variety of food vendors serving everything from hamburgers, Philly Steak sandwiches, fruit smoothies, breakfast burritos, fajitas, fresh lemonade, fresh fruit cups, roasted corn, funnel cakes, ice cream, snow cones and lots, lots more. It is shaping up to be a fun and wonderful weekend for everyone. Check at your local business for programs of events. These programs will have times listed for all the Outlaw Pro Rodeo performances and times and places for all the events that will take place next week. Get ready for a great time!!!



