

# THE Devil's River News

50¢

Since 1890

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SONORA, TEXAS

Thursday, December 29, 2005

## The year in review

### Top News Stories for 2005

From the tragedies of Hurricane Katrina and the South Asia earthquake to the triumphs of Space Shuttle Discovery and the elections in Iraq, the year 2005 spanned disaster and success. Take a look back at some of the top stories from a tumultuous 12 months.

#### January

**Tsunami aftermath** - In the weeks after the December 26, 2004, Indian Ocean tsunami, relief efforts continue as residents try to rebuild lives, homes and livelihoods. The tsunami killed an estimated 179,000 people and destroyed entire towns and villages.

**Former Presidents to Lead Aid Drive** (Jan. 3): President Bush calls on George H. W. Bush and Bill Clinton to lead a nationwide charity campaign to raise funds for victims of Dec. 2004's devastating tsunami.

**Abu Ghraib Abuser Convicted** (Jan. 13): U.S. Army reservist Charles Graner found guilty by a military jury of abusing prisoners at the Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq. (Jan. 14): Jury sentences Graner to serve 10 years in a military prison.

**President Bush Begins Second Term** (Jan. 20): President Bush takes his second oath of office, outlining in his inaugural address a U.S. policy "with the ultimate goal of ending tyranny in our world." His approval rating plummets throughout the year, however, as he tries to shake such troubles as rising energy prices and waning support for the war in Iraq.

**Senate Confirms Rice** (Jan. 26): Senate votes, 85-13, to confirm Condoleezza Rice as secretary of state. She's the first black woman to hold the position.

**European Spacecraft Lands on Saturn Moon** (Jan. 14): Photos of Titan sent back to Earth by craft Huygens reveal rocky surface and lakes of what astronomers think are frozen gases.

**Largest Passenger Plane Launched** (Jan. 18): The prototype of the Airbus A380 debuts in France. The plane is seven stories high and can seat 555 passengers.

**Cancer Top Killer in U.S.** (Jan. 19): Replaces heart disease as No. 1 cause of death for people ages 85 and under. Number of deaths from both, however, have fallen.

**Elections in Iraq** (Jan. 30): Amid attacks and threats of violence, Iraqis cast their ballots in the first free election the country has seen in a half-century. Iraqis elect a transitional National Assembly, one of the first steps on the path to a permanent government by 2006.

#### February

**Bush Delivers State of the Union** (Feb. 2): President discusses his proposed reform of the Social Security system as well as the fight against terrorism and his commitment to remaining in Iraq until a stable democracy has been established.

**Senate Confirms New Attorney General** (Feb. 3): In a tighter vote than anticipated, Senate approves, 60-36, Alberto Gonzales, former counsel to President Bush, as the country's first Hispanic attorney general.

**Sept. 11 Report Critical of FAA** (Feb. 9): Previously released report, which was kept classified, indicates that the Federal Aviation Administration had received warnings before the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks about plans by al-Qaeda and Osama bin Laden to hijack airplanes and conduct suicide bombings.

**Cost of Medicare Drug Plan Rises** (Feb. 9): Prescription drug benefit, initially estimated to cost \$400 billion over 10 years, now projected to top \$724 billion.

**North Korea Admits to Having Nuclear Weapons** (Feb. 10): First time country makes formal declaration. Also says it will not engage in disarmament talks.

**Counting Complete in Iraqi Elections** (Feb. 13): Alliance of Shiites, United Iraqi Alliance, wins 48% of the vote, giving it 149 out of 275 seats in the National Assembly. Alliance of Kurds takes 75 seats, while group headed by Prime Minister Ayad Allawi wins 40 seats.

**Bush Requests Additional Funds** (Feb. 14): Asks Congress for \$81.9 billion for current-year expenses, including operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, tsunami aid, and new benefits for families of troops killed in combat.

**Missile Defense System Fails Again** (Feb. 14): The latest test of the strategic missile defense sys-

tem, or National Missile Defense Security Secretary (Feb. 15): Michael Chertoff unanimously approved to succeed Tom Ridge.

**Task Force Criticizes Education Law** (Feb. 23): Report by bipartisan group of state legislators says No Child Left Behind Act is unconstitutional and its requirements thwart school-improvement programs under way in many states.

**Professional Hockey Season Canceled** (Feb. 16): As National Hockey League owners and players fail to reach a deal on salary cap for players, Commissioner Gary Bettman formally cancels the season.

#### March

**Martha Stewart released** (Mar. 4) - Martha Stewart is released after serving a five-month term for lying and obstructing justice in a 2001 stock sale. She spends the next five months confined to her home, wearing an electronic ankle bracelet, and is currently serving a two-year probation term.

**Congress Intervenes in Case of Brain-Damaged Woman** (March 20): The House and Senate vote to allow a federal court to rule whether the feeding tube should be reinserted into the mouth of Terri Schiavo, a woman who has been in a persistent vegetative state for 15 years. (March 22): Federal judge James Whittemore refuses to order that the feeding tube be reinserted. (March 23): A federal appeals court upholds Whittemore's decision. (March 24): The U.S. Supreme Court declines the case. (March 31): Schiavo dies, 13 days after her feeding tube was removed.

**Baseball Players Testify at Hearings** (March 17): Ten players, including home-run kings Mark McGwire and Sammy Sosa, appear before the House Government Reform Committee to answer questions on steroid use in major league baseball.

**Indonesia Hit by Earthquake** (March 29): Temblor, with a magnitude of 8.7, strikes the island of Nias. Residents, fearing another deadly tsunami, flee for higher ground. Hundreds are killed.

#### April

**Pope John Paul II Dies** (April 2): John Paul, the first Polish pope and the first non-Italian pope since 1522, dies after a long struggle with Parkinson's disease. (April 19): Conclave of cardinals selects Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger of Germany as the new pope. He will call himself Benedict the 16th. Prince Charles remarries (April 8): British prince marries longtime lover Camilla Parker Bowles.

#### May

**Insurgents Continue Series of Attacks** (May 1): At least 35 Iraqis die in bombings in Mosul and Baghdad. Insurgent attacks have intensified since formation of new government in late April. (May 9): In the biggest U.S. offensive in months, marines attack insurgents in western Iraq, killing about 100 of them. (May 11): Nearly 80 people are killed in attacks in three cities. (May 31): Violence during the month claims 80 Americans and about 800 Iraqis.

**Army Reservist Pleads Guilty in Abu Ghraib Abuse Scandal** (May 2): Pfc. Lynndie England, the woman shown in several photos with naked Iraqi prisoners, pleads guilty to seven criminal counts.

**Pentagon Recommends Extensive Base Closings** (May 13): About 800 military bases, offices, and installations would be closed in vast restructuring. Job losses estimated at 26,000.

**"Deep Throat" Reveals Himself** (May 31): In an interview to be published in Vanity Fair, W. Mark Felt, a former top FBI official, admits to being the anonymous source who leaked information to the Washington Post about the White House's involvement in the 1972 Watergate break-in.

#### June

**Bush Defends War in Iraq** (June 28): In nationally televised speech on the first anniversary of the transfer of sovereignty to Iraqis, Bush says the mounting loss of American and Iraqi lives "is worth it, and it is vital to the future security of our country."

**Senate Passes Energy Bill** (June 28): Votes, 85-12, for legis-

See Year in Review page 2



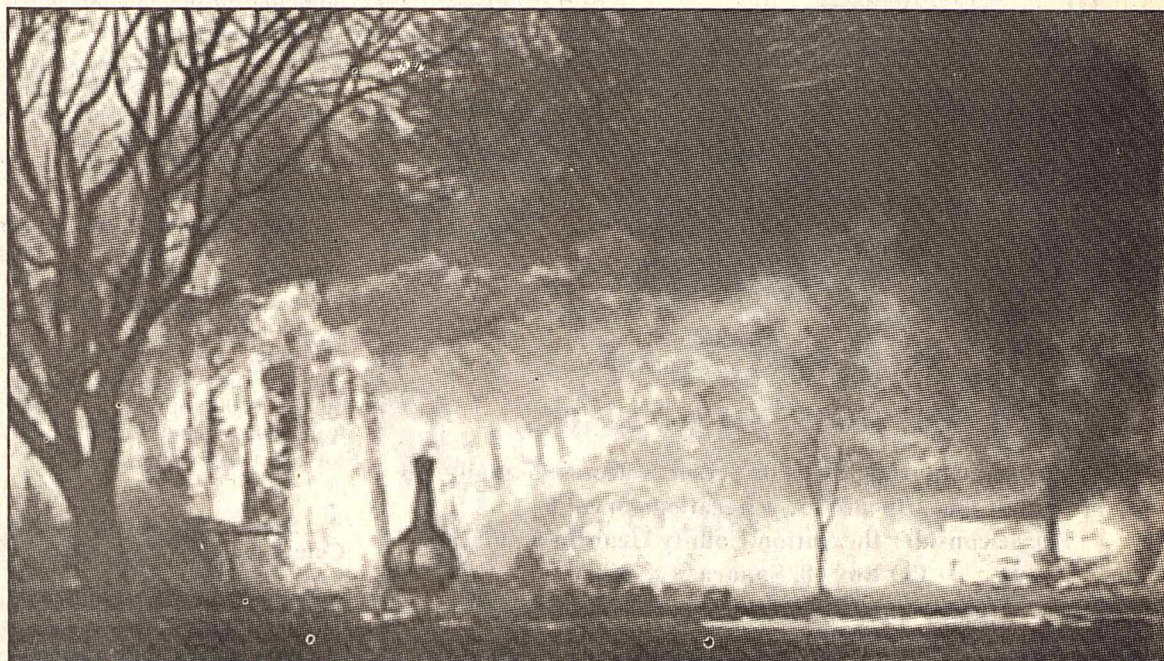
## Please Bring in the New Year safely!

### Wildfires erupt statewide, winds continue to fan flames

#### Sutton County continues Burn Ban and Firework Restrictions

Firefighters battled blazes across the state over the Christmas holiday. These weekend wildfires claimed homes and other structures, forced an evacuation of part of the city of Hamilton, resulted in a serious injury to a firefighter responding to a wildfire, and charred thousands of acres. Carelessness with outdoor burning was the primary culprit in the fire outbreak.

During the period from December 23-26, Texas Forest Service crews responded to 136 wildfires that burned an estimated 11,669 acres, with some fires still not fully contained Tuesday morning. The largest of the weekend blazes was the 3,000-acre XO Ranch fire in Palo Pinto County. Local fire departments battled many other blazes without state assistance during the period, but accurate numbers and damage estimates for these fires aren't readily available. Regional



A mobile home sits completely engulfed in flames in Texas, Tuesday, Dec. 27, 2005. Grass fires driven by gusty wind damaged several homes in Oklahoma and threatened others in North Texas on Tuesday.

fire coordinators with the Texas Forest Service reported that many departments made multiple runs each day over the weekend.

State fire risk assessment leaders warn that dangerous weather conditions are likely to continue for some time. A Red Flag Warning, the highest fire danger alert

issued by the National Weather Service, was in effect for most of north Texas Tuesday. Even without the windy weather, though, officials warn that extremely dry vegetation will ignite easily and burn readily, with fast-moving grass fires likely during windy conditions.

The combination of high winds,

low humidity and extremely dry fuels combined to set the stage for dangerous wildfires, and carelessness with outdoor fire use provided the sparks that ignited many of the blazes, said Tom Spencer, state fire risk assessment coordinator with

See Burn Ban page 4

### Warmer-than-average 2005 for U.S.

#### A look back at the weather this year

Dec. 15, 2005 — After a record-breaking hurricane season, blistering heat waves, lingering drought and a crippling Northeast blizzard, 2005 is ending as a warm year in the United States. It will come close to the all-time high global annual average temperature, based on preliminary data gathered by scientists at the NOAA National Climatic Data Center in Asheville, N.C.

#### Drought, Rainfall and Snow

The 2004-2005 winter was a season of contrasts for the West, with excessive rainfall in the Southwest and severe drought in the Northwest. A parade of winter Pacific storms triggered severe flooding and devastating landslides in southern California and brought the second-wettest winter on record to the Southwest region. Record and near-record snowpack levels, which were widespread across the Southwest by early spring, eased drought in a region where it had persisted for five years. Meanwhile, drought conditions worsened in the Pacific Northwest and northern Rockies in early 2005 and snowpack in much of the region was at record low levels at the end of winter. However, above average precipitation in subsequent months led to improving drought conditions in much of the region.

During spring, the drought focus shifted to the Midwest and southern Plains. Severe dryness persisted across parts of northern Illinois, with Chicago and Rockford recording their driest March-November on record. Drought disasters were declared in all or parts of Arkansas, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Texas and Wisconsin. Drier-than-average conditions contributed to an active wildfire season that burned more than 8.5 million acres in 2005 — 4.5 million acres consumed in Alaska alone, based on preliminary data from the National Interagency Fire Center. This exceeds the old record set in 2000 for acreage burned in a wildfire season for the United States as a whole. At the end of November, 18 percent of the contiguous United States was in moderate-to-extreme drought based on a widely used measure of drought (the Palmer Drought Index) in contrast to six percent at the end of November last

year.

Rainfall across West Central Texas Cooperative Observer stations during the period of January through November of this year varied from about 12 inches to just over 30 inches. Areas receiving over 30 inches of rain were scattered across the region. In typical Texas manner, this year's rainfall was irregular.

While 30 inches of rain over West Central Texas is generous, it is important to note that a large portion of the rain occurred in a single month. Periods of thunderstorms and heavy rain during the month of August produced flooding across many parts of the area. The average monthly rainfall for August reported from all co-op stations was 6.43 inches. Co-op stations across the Big Country reported as much as 12 inches of rain for the month. Others across the Concho Valley and Heartland reported over 10 inches of rain. At least one Big Country co-op station received half of its total rainfall (Jan. through Nov.) during August.

At least 17 stations across the Big country, Concho Valley and Heartland received one-third of their total rainfall during August. May was also a wet month. The average monthly rainfall reported from all co-op stations during May was 4.32 inches.

As you might expect, West Central Texas experienced some dry months during 2005. From mid October through November, many areas across West Central Texas did not receive measurable precipitations.

Looking at the coop stations reporting rainfall during November, the average amount was 0.06 of an inch. At least 31 stations across the region reported no measurable rainfall during the month. In addition, the months of April and September were very dry. The Coop station reports indicated that the average rainfall across West Central Texas for April and September was 0.20 of an inch and 0.30 of an inch, respectively.

The recent dry period experienced across all of

See Weather page 3



#### Martha Love Martin wants to serve as Justice of the Peace

After careful consideration, I, Martha Love Martin, will seek the office of Justice of the Peace for Sutton county. I am a native of Sutton County and know many of the families that make this county their home.

After thirty years in education, I now desire to serve the county as Justice of the Peace. Your support of my candidacy in the March 7, Republican Primary would be greatly appreciated.

The Primary Filing Deadline for Major Parties is January 2, 2006. Early voting for the Democratic and Republican Primaries begin February 21, 2006; Early voting ends March 3, and the Primary is held March 7, 2006.

### Governors approve change in postage rates

#### New rates go into effect January 8

WASHINGTON - The Governors of the U.S. Postal Service today voted to accept the Postal Rate Commission's recommendations to increase most postal rates and fees by approximately 5.4 percent across-the-board to take effect January 8.

This rate increase - the first since 2002 - is needed to fulfill the requirement of a federal law passed in 2003. That law requires the Postal Service to establish a \$3.1 billion escrow account, with use of the funds to be determined by Congress at a later date. Without this federal mandate, it would not have been necessary to raise rates in 2006.

Among the rate adjustments, the single-piece rate for First-Class Mail will increase from 37 cents to 39 cents, and the postcard rate will increase by one cent to 24 cents. The Board of Governors of the Postal Service set January 8, 2006, as the effective date for the changes.

Jim Miller, Chairman of the Postal Service's Board of Governors, said: "The Governors take this action mindful of our obligation to assure the financial integrity of the nation's postal system. These increases will allow the Postal Service to meet the obligation established by Congress to place funds in escrow in 2006."

The Commission's Recommended Decision came after a proceeding in which most of the participants signed a settlement agreement adopting the Postal Service's uniform, across-the-board increase proposals. The settlement shortened to six months the Commission's administrative review, which normally takes ten months.

International rates, which are determined separately from domestic prices, will be adjusted to coincide with the domestic rate changes. International rates have not been adjusted since January 2001.

For a chart on selected rates, please see page 4



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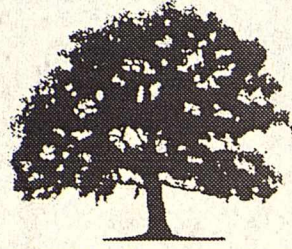
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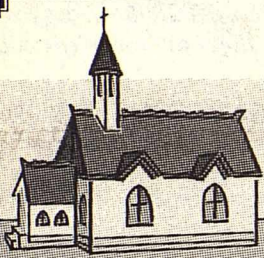
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**Sonora Church Directory**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>Primera Iglesia Bautista</b><br>504 Santa Clara<br>387-2035                     | <b>Church of Christ</b><br>304 N. Water<br>387-3190                    |
| <b>The Church of the Good Shepherd Presbyterian</b><br>319 E. Mulberry<br>387-2616 | <b>First Baptist Church</b><br>111 E. Oak<br>387-2951                  |
| <b>Lighthouse Community Church</b><br>1705 N. Crockett<br>387-9100                 | <b>St. John's Episcopal Church</b><br>404 E Poplar<br>387-2955         |
| <b>Pentecostal Calvary Temple United</b><br>509 Amistad<br>387-5266                | <b>First United Methodist Church</b><br>201 N. Water<br>387-2466       |
| <b>St. Ann's Catholic Church</b><br>229 W. Plum<br>387-2278                        | <b>Templo Jerusalem Asamblea De Dios</b><br>306 W. 4th St.<br>387-5713 |
| <b>Jehovah's Witness</b><br>310 St. Ann's St.<br>387-5658/387-5518                 | <b>Hope Lutheran Church</b><br>417 E. 2nd St.<br>387-5366              |

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**The year in review from page 1**

lation that calls for \$14 billion in tax incentives for the production of renewable energy sources, energy conservation, and alternative transportation fuels. Also offers tax breaks to consumers who buy efficient appliances and hybrid cars.

**Bush Calls for Overhaul of Intelligence Agencies** (June 29): Following the recommendation of a presidential commission reviewing the new intelligence law that created the position of director of national intelligence, Bush creates a national security division at the FBI.

**TIME to Hand Over Reporter's Notes** (June 30): Magazine to surrender notes from interviews with confidential sources taken by reporter Matthew Cooper for a story about Valerie Plame, a covert CIA operative whose identity was revealed in 2003 by columnist Robert Novak.

**SEC Chief Announces Resignation** (June 1): William Donaldson, chairman of the Security and Exchange Commission, steps down amid criticism that he was too tough in enforcing regulations. (June 2): President Bush nominates California congressman Christopher Cox to replace Donaldson.

**Pop Singer Cleared of Molestation Charges** (June 13): A California jury acquits Michael Jackson of 10 charges, including molesting a child, conspiracy, and providing alcohol to minors.

**Schiavo Autopsy Results Released** (June 15): Examination finds that Terri Schiavo's brain had deteriorated to half normal size and no treatment could have helped her. Autopsy also reveals no evidence of abuse.

**Tyco Chief Convicted** (June 17): L. Dennis Kozlowski, former chief executive of Tyco, and Mark Swartz, the company's former chief financial officer, found guilty of fraud, conspiracy, and grand larceny. They bilked the company out of \$600 million in a stock-fraud scheme and used the money for personal purposes.

**Spacecraft Crashes into Comet** (July 4): After a 6-month 83-million-mile journey, NASA's Deep Impact hits comet named Tempel 1. Scientists will examine pieces of the comet and photos of the collision.

**London to Host 2012 Olympics** (July 6): City chosen over Paris as the site of the summer games. It will be the third time London has hosted the Olympics.

**Reporter Jailed for Refusing to Testify** (July 6): Judith Miller of the New York Times is sent to a Washington, DC, prison when she fails to comply with a court order to answer questions before a grand jury about confidential sources she interviewed while researching the disclosure of a CIA operative's identity.

**Bombs Explode in London** (July 7): Four coordinated terrorist attacks on the city's subway and bus systems during rush hour kill 52 people, including the attackers, and wound more than 700. Violence coincides with Group of Eight summit meeting of world's wealthiest nations. (July 13): British Home Secretary Charles Clarke says the bombings were carried out by British Muslims. (July 21): Terrorists attempt another attack on London's transit system. Bombs on three subway trains and a bus fail to explode. Explosives discovered when detonators go off, causing loud cracking sounds. (July 27): Police arrest Yasin Hassan Omar, a 24-year-old Somali man, who they think was involved in the July 21st attempted bombings. (July 29): London police arrest four other suspects in the July 21 bombing attempt. A fifth suspect is arrested in Rome, Italy.

**Supreme Court Justice Retires** (July 1): Sandra Day O'Connor, the first woman on the U.S. Supreme Court, announces her retirement. She served on the Court for 24 years.

**Court Rules Abortion Ban Is Unconstitutional** (July 8): Federal appeals court upholds lower court decision that Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act is unlawful because it fails to make an exception to the law for women whose health would be in jeopardy without the late-term procedure.

**Bush Adviser Named as Secret Source** (July 10): Newsweek magazine's website reports that in a 2003 background interview, Karl Rove strongly implied to TIME magazine reporter Matthew Cooper that Valerie Plame Wilson was a covert CIA operative. (July 18): In his first statement on the issue, Bush says, "If someone committed a crime, they will no longer work in my administration."

**Senate Approves Spend-**

**ing Plan for Homeland Security** (July 14): Senate approves, 96-1, \$31.9 billion for the agency. Plan reduces funding for transit security to \$50 million from \$100 million.

**Shuttle Problems Continue** (July 26): Discovery launches from Cape Canaveral, Florida, for a 121/2-day mission to the International Space Station. A piece of foam insulation breaks off from the shuttle's external fuel tank. (July 27): NASA announces it will ground the shuttle fleet.

**Scientists Discover Potential Tenth Planet** (July 29): Astronomers at the California Institute of Technology find rocky, icy planet that's larger than Pluto and about nine billion miles away from the Sun.

**August**  
**OIL PRICES:** Crude oil prices hit an all-time peak of almost \$71 a barrel in August before subsiding. Costly gasoline prompted some motorists to rethink their driving habits.

**Shuttle Lands Safely** (Aug. 9): Discovery returns to Earth after a 14-day mission. Landing moved to Edwards Air Force Base in California because of bad weather in Florida. Mission included the first-ever spacewalk to remove a piece of material sticking out of the shuttle's skin.

**The Gaza withdrawal** (Aug. 14): At the stroke of midnight, Israel officially begins its historic pullout from Gaza, ending 38 years of occupation. As part of Israel's "disengagement" plan, most residents leave peacefully, but there are emotional and occasionally violent scenes as forces remove families and protesters. U.S. and international diplomacy has since focused on ensuring the Gaza withdrawal paves the way for further steps toward a comprehensive peace between Israelis and Palestinians.

**U.S. Ships Attacked in Jordan** (Aug. 19): Rockets fired at two U.S. Navy ships, the Kearsarge and the Ashland, docked in Aqaba. No U.S. casualties, but a Jordanian soldier is killed. (Aug. 22): Jordanian officials arrest Muhammad Hassan al-Sihli in connection with the bombing and acknowledge that Iraqi insurgents were involved in the attack.

**Hurricane Causes Catastrophic Damage** (Aug. 29): Hurricane Katrina, a category 4 storm, pounds Gulf Coast. Harrison County, Miss., hit particularly hard. More than 80 people are killed and millions lose power. (Aug. 30): New Orleans, which was spared the full force of the hurricane when the storm moved east, suffers calamitous damage as levees break, submerging about 80% of the city. The Pentagon sends six U.S. Navy ships and eight rescue teams to the Gulf Coast to help in the relief effort. Looting is rampant. (Aug. 31): Death toll in New Orleans is feared to be in the thousands. Officials call the devastation the worst natural disaster in U.S. history.

**September**  
**New Orleans Descends into Chaos** (Sept. 1): Lawlessness and anger prevail as millions are left homeless and displaced as a result of Hurricane Katrina and broken levees. Federal, state, and local officials are harshly criticized for failing to act quickly and decisively. Thousands of people are stranded for days without food or water at the city's Convention Center, while thousands of others arrive at Houston's Astrodome for temporary shelter. Damage estimated at well over \$200 billion. (Sept. 2): Attempting to quell criticism of his administration's response to the crisis, President Bush visits New Orleans and other parts of the Gulf Coast. More than 220,000 refugees from the hurricane take refuge in Houston. (Sept. 3): President Bush signs \$10.5 billion emergency aid package for the region. (Sept. 5): Officials restart pumps to begin removing water from New Orleans. (Sept. 6): New Orleans mayor Ray Nagin issues an evacuation order for the 5,000 to 10,000 people who have remained in the city. (Sept. 9): President Bush removes embattled FEMA director Michael Brown from relief effort in New Orleans. (Sept. 12): Michael Brown resigns and is replaced by David Paulison. (Sept. 13): President Bush takes responsibility for flaws in the federal government's response to Hurricane Katrina. (Sept. 15): In a nationally televised address, Bush promises to rebuild New Orleans and help victims with rebuilding, housing, and job training.

**Chief Justice Rehnquist Dies** (Sept. 3): William H. Rehnquist, who served on the U.S. Supreme Court for 33 years, 19 of them as chief justice, dies after battle with thyroid cancer. He was 80. Death leaves two vacancies on the Court. (Sept. 5): President Bush nomi-

nates John Roberts, who was selected to replace retiring justice Sandra Day O'Connor, for chief justice of the Court. (Sept. 7): More than 1,000 mourners attend Rehnquist's funeral.

**California Legalizes Same-Sex Marriage** (Sept. 6): State legislators approve law that defines marriage as a union of "two persons." (Sept. 7): Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger says he will veto the bill.

**U.S. and Iraqi Troops Launch Offensive** (Sept. 10): About 11,000 soldiers attack insurgents in the northern city of Tal Afar. (Sept. 11): Insurgents leave the city.

**Suicide Bombers Wreak Havoc on Baghdad** (Sept. 14): About 150 people die and 500 are wounded in a series of coordinated attacks. Al-Qaeda in Mesopotamia claims responsibility.

**Afghanistan Holds Elections** (Sept. 18): Voters choose from about 5,800 candidates in the country's first democratic parliamentary elections in more than 25 years. Turnout low, at about 50%.

**Hurricane Rita Causes Devastation** (Sept. 23): Wind-swept waves caused by category 3 storm flood parts of New Orleans and breach another levee. Two dozen elderly people die when their bus bursts into flames as they evacuate suburban Houston. (Sept. 24): Rita hits the Gulf Coast, causing widespread flooding. Damage estimated at \$6 billion.

**Senate Leader Under Investigation** (Sept. 23): Securities and Exchange Commission announces it has begun investigating Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist for an alleged insider trading scandal. In June, Frist sold stock in his family's hospital company, HCA, Inc., just before its share price fell sharply.

**Private in Abu Ghraib Abuse Scandal Convicted** (Sept. 26): Private Lynndie England found guilty of conspiracy to maltreat prisoners, four counts of maltreatment, and one count of committing an indecent act. (Sept. 27): England is sentenced to three years in prison.

**Former FEMA Chief Testifies** (Sept. 27): Michael Brown tells a Congressional committee that he warned the White House and his boss, Secretary of Homeland Security Michael Chertoff, that Hurricane Katrina would likely cause catastrophic damage. He blames the inept response on Louisiana governor Kathleen Babineaux Blanco.

**DeLay Indicted by Texas Grand Jury** (Sept. 28): House majority leader is accused of conspiring to violate state's election laws. He steps aside from his leadership position, and House Republicans name Roy Blunt as DeLay's replacement.

**Reporter Released from Jail** (Sept. 29): New York Times reporter Judith Miller freed after serving about 12 weeks in prison for refusing to comply with a court order to answer questions before a grand jury about confidential sources she interviewed while researching the disclosure of a CIA operative's identity. Miller says the source, I. Lewis Libby, Vice President Cheney's chief of staff, gave her permission to testify.

**NASA Releases Plan for Moon Visit** (Sept. 19): Michael Griffin, administrator of the agency, outlines \$104 billion plan to have astronauts land on Moon by 2018.

**October**  
**Earthquake Devastates Pakistan** (Oct. 8): Approximately 54,000 people die when a magnitude 7.6 tremor rocks Pakistani-controlled part of Kashmir. About 800 die in India. The United Nations estimates that more than 2.5 million are homeless.

**Iraqis Vote on Constitution** (Oct. 15): Millions of Iraqi voters head to the polls to vote on a constitution. Participation of Sunnis is mixed. (Oct. 25): Electoral commission reports that constitution has passed, with 79% of voters supporting it. But it failed by more than a two-thirds majority in two Sunni-dominated provinces and by less than a two-thirds majority in a third, making the victory a narrow one. Turnout among Sunnis is high.

**Hussein Trial Begins** (Oct. 19): Former Iraqi president pleads not guilty to charges related to the killing of 143 people in the town of DuJail, Iraq, in 1982. Seven others also on trial.

**U.S. Deaths in Iraq Reach Solemn Milestone** (Oct. 25): Number of deaths of U.S. soldiers fighting in Iraq reaches 2,000. The figure represents the number of fatalities since the war began in

March 2003.

**Bush Nominates Woman for Supreme Court** (Oct. 3): President selects Harriet Miers, White House counsel, to replace Justice Sandra Day O'Connor. Miers, who is a longtime friend of President Bush, has never been a judge. Nomination coincides with opening of Supreme Court, with new Chief Justice John Roberts. (Oct. 27): After facing weeks of blistering criticism from both Democrats and Republicans about her qualifications, Miers withdraws her nomination.

**DeLay Indicted Again** (Oct. 3): For the second time in a week, the House majority leader is accused of violating state's election laws. While the earlier indictment was for conspiracy, this one is for money-laundering, a more serious charge. Both indictments are for the same alleged offense.

**House Passes Law Protecting Gun Industry** (Oct. 20): Votes, 283-144, in favor of legislation that shields gun makers and dealers from liability lawsuits.

**DeLay Booked in Houston** (Oct. 20): Representative Tom DeLay is fingerprinted and photographed as a result of indictments that charge him with conspiracy and money laundering. He is freed on a \$10,000 bond.

**November**  
**Hussein Returns to Court** (Nov. 28): After a 40-day recess, trial of former Iraqi president resumes.

**Bush Outlines Plan for Iraq** (Nov. 30): President unveils his vision for victory in Iraq and rejects calls by Democrats and some Republicans for a timetable for withdrawal. "Pulling our troops out before they've achieved their purpose is not a plan for victory."

**Tornado Kills Dozens** (Nov. 6): At least 24 people die in a tornado that rips across southwestern Indiana and northern Kentucky.

**Democrats Prevail in Gubernatorial Elections** (Nov. 8): Sen. Jon Corzine takes the New Jersey race over Republican opponent Douglas Forrester, and Virginia Democrat Timothy Kaine defeats Republican Jerry Kilgore. Many observers interpret results to be a reaction to dissatisfaction with President Bush's recent performance.

**Major League Baseball to Change Drug Rules** (Nov. 15): Players association agrees to suspend players who fail a test for steroids 50 games for the first offense, 100 games for the second, and for life for a third failure.

**December**  
**First Witnesses Testify in Hussein Trial** (Dec. 5): Witnesses in trial of former Iraqi president detail horrifying examples of torture.

**Iraq Holds Parliamentary Elections** (Dec. 15): As many as 11 million Iraqis turn out to select their first permanent Parliament since the overthrow of Saddam Hussein. More than 7,000 Parliamentary candidates from 300 parties are seeking to fill the 275 seats in Parliament. Violence is minimal. (Dec. 19): Religious Shiites take early lead, according to preliminary figures released by election officials.

**Sept. 11 Commission Gives Government Poor Report** (Dec. 5): The 9/11 Public Discourse Project reports that the country is "alarmingly vulnerable to terrorist strikes...Many obvious steps that the American people assume have been completed have not been. Our leadership is distracted."

**Air Marshals Kill a Passenger** (Dec. 7): Rigoberto Alpizar, an American from Florida, is shot at Miami International Airport after he said he had a bomb. Authorities did not find a bomb. Alpizar's wife said he was mentally ill.

**House Renews Patriot Act** (Dec. 14): Votes, 251-174, in favor of extending the controversial legislation that extends the government's surveillance powers.

**President Authorized Spying on Americans** (Dec. 15): New York Times reports that in 2002, Bush signed a presidential order to allow the National Security Agency to conduct surveillance on Americans suspected of being connected to terrorist activity without warrants. (Dec. 17): President Bush confirms that he did initiate the policy and has no plans to rescind it.

**Senate Blocks Extension of Patriot Act** (Dec. 16): Senate Republicans fail to win enough votes to break a filibuster. Opponents say the bill that extended 16 provisions of the act did not adequately protect civil liberties.

**Letters to the Editor Policy**

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## Ask the Historical Society

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

We would like to begin our column by expressing our sincere appreciation to all those who work at Newkirk Electric. They did a wonderful job on the new entry lights and the new lights on the grounds of the Miers Home Complex. Those renting the John & Mildred Cauthorn Memorial Building will greatly enjoy the lights and plugs for many years to come. Again thanks for a job well done.

We would also like to thank all of our young workers who have been diligently spreading the new top soil on the grounds. They tried so hard to finish before the holidays but we still have a little left to finish. In the Spring we will put new grass on the areas where the new dirt has been spread and the grounds will be much smoother and much prettier. Thanks all of you, so much, for your hard work.

Q. What do you know about the shooting of Oscar Drennan?

A. A lot more than I would like to know. This story was told to me by many men and women that were in their late 80's and 90's when I interviewed them at the nursing home when I first came to Sutton County, one person was born just after 1900. I also spoke with many elderly Mexican-American residents, one who was the oldest in Sonora, and they verified the version told by the people in the nursing home.

The posse didn't scour the Devil's River country as the following article states according to all the people I interviewed. They pretty much felt that Gregorio Diaz, even though he was a Mexican, was justified in his "matter of honor." The Drennan family was very upset by the apathy of the local posse. They felt they didn't try hard enough to catch the murderer of their father and got the Sheriff to put another posse together and go out searching again. Of course they couldn't pick up a trail after all that time. Mike Murphy and some prominent men concocted a not quite totally accurate article in the paper to protect the pregnant wife and family of Mr. Drennan. They all liked her and didn't want her to be hurt by the truth. Too many people knew the real story, prominent men who weren't afraid to tell the truth to me over 70 years later. These men were in their teens when this happened but remembered the incident well. These men felt that if Diaz had been an

Anglo there would have never been an arrest or trial over the incident and that they would have done the same thing in his place.

So, don't call me and tell me the article isn't correct and I don't know local history and what really happened. I've already heard all the local lore on this and don't care to hear it again. Historians say that once three people, who were alive at the time, tell you what they say is a correct version of an old historical event you should take note of their stories as they are usually the true version.

The following is the story that was written and reprinted in the San Angelo Standard of March 22, 1916:

A posse of men, headed by B.W. Hutcherson of Sonora, Sheriff of Sutton County, is today scouring the Devil's River country in search of Gregorio Diaz, a Mexican, who early Thursday night shot Oscar Drennan to death on the H.P. "Buster" Allison ranch, nine miles north of Sonora on the San Angelo-Sonora road. Drennan died instantly, shot through the neck with a repeating rifle at close range. He was a stockman and former deputy sheriff of Sutton County.

Full details of the killing did not reach San Angelo until almost noon Friday. A telephone message stated that Sutton County people were much aroused over the murder and that several well organized parties engaged in the man hunt.

Drennan and two Mexicans were employed this week in building fences on the Allison ranch. They were camped near the road on the plateau over which the highway leads north out of Devil's River canyon. The three men were at supper Thursday evening when a Mexican, identified as Gregorio Diaz, drove up in a buggy. He was invited to participate in the meal and accepted.

With supper over, Drennan and the three Mexicans lounged about the camp fire, talking. It is said that the conversation drifted into joking whereupon Diaz took offense at some remark. Saying nothing, he walked over to his buggy, took out his rifle and returning opened fire on Drennan at close range. The first bullet struck the ranchman, breaking his neck.

Diaz, it is said, threatened to kill the other two Mexicans if they did not leave the scene immediately. The pair needed no urging and fled to the hills. One of the men, whose name was not learned from Sonora this morning,

went immediately to a nearby ranch house, told what had happened and telephoned to officers at Sonora. The other Mexican, who had been helping Drennan, disappeared and had not been located at noon Friday. He is not implicated in the killing, from what can be learned, and officers believe he is hiding out, fearing Diaz on account of the threat he made and also afraid of citizens who might think that he had a hand in the shooting.

It was nine o'clock before officers reached the scene of the murder. Drennan was lying on the ground where he had fallen and beside him near a pool of blood was a note that had been written by Diaz and which, reports say, stated that the Mexican had killed Drennan to "protect his honor." Diaz had at one time worked for Drennan. The note although scribbled in the semi-darkness gave no indication that it had been written under excitement or in haste.

Drennan's body reached Sonora about midnight and after being prepared for burial was taken to the home, where the wife and four children were prostrate with grief at the sudden death of their protector. The funeral was conducted in Sonora Friday afternoon about four o'clock under the auspices of the Masons, of which order Drennan for years had been a member.

Even though some tried to find Diaz for many years, he was never arrested and charged with the murder of Oscar Drennan. Some of the now deceased people I had spoken to say that they felt he had fled to Mexico and never returned to Sonora. Shortly later his wife quietly disappeared from Sonora and no one knows for sure what happened to the couple. One who had seen the note stated it was well written and did not look like something that had been scribbled at the scene.

I just report what has been said and don't make judgements. I have told you what I know of an old incident in Sutton County.

*The Depot may be rented between Dec. 20 and Jan 7 by calling JoAnn Hernandez at The Bank & Trust. Rick and I are on vacation and wish you all a Happy New Year! We will resume answering questions in the 2006 when we return.*

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Free ornament with purchase over \$10.00.  
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Sonora, Texas  
(325) 387-5871

Jessica and Mike Smittle  
of Frisco, Texas  
proudly announce the birth of  
**Carter Preston**  
December 8, 2005  
at 6:13 p.m.  
9 lbs. 2 oz. 20 in.  
Proud Grandparents are  
Mr. & Mrs. Alex Flores of Sonora and  
Mr. & Mrs. Jesse Ortiz of Ozona

## Open government, Internet posting laws go into effect Jan. 1

### State Capital Highlights

Texas Press Association

By Ed Sterling

AUSTIN - Most of the new laws passed by the Texas Legislature last session went into effect Sept. 1, but a dozen or so will take effect Jan. 1.

Two of those new laws stand out because of their educational and civic nature.

The first - written and carried through the legislative process as S.B. 286 by Sen. Jeff Wentworth, R-San Antonio - requires local, regional and statewide elected and appointed office holders, and certain others who handle citizen requests for public information, to take at least two hours of open government training.

Officials in office before Jan. 1 will have one year to complete the required training. Officials who are elected or appointed after Jan. 1 will have only 90 days to complete the required training, according to Attorney General Greg Abbott.

The training consists of a one-hour course on the Texas Open Meetings Act and a one-

hour course on the Texas Public Information Act. Public access to the training videos is available online at [www.oag.state.tx.us](http://www.oag.state.tx.us).

**Internet posting requirement**

Also effective Jan. 1, a new law will heighten public awareness of and access to the political process via the Internet.

S.B. 1133 by Juan "Chuy" Hinojosa, D-McAllen, requires governmental bodies to post notice of open meetings on their official Web sites (if they have one).

The law also requires the posting of a complete meeting agenda, along with the meeting notice.

Governmental bodies that must comply include:

- Economic development corporations;
- Municipalities;
- Counties;
- School districts; and
- Junior colleges or junior college districts.

In 2005 and previous years, governmental bodies were required to post notices of their open meetings in a place convenient to the public, which was interpreted as attaching a sheet of paper to a bulletin board, an office window or a courthouse door. Now the Internet must be considered "a place con-

venient to the public."

**High-speed Internet to spread**

Many more Texans will become much more aware of the Legislature's successful effort to deregulate the communications industry in 2005 with the advent of broadband over powerlines, or simply, "BPL" in 2006. Energy company TXU and CURRENT Communications announced plans to make "broadband" available to some 2 million residents and businesses in or near the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex.

For voice, video and high-speed Internet access via existing powerlines, subscribers will use a special adapter that plugs into a standard electrical outlet. Transmission speeds are said to be much faster than through fiber optics cable.

BPL is expected to compete with other industries offering a conduit for communications, news and entertainment.

TXU Electric Delivery and CURRENT expect to begin deploying the BPL network in the coming year.

**Tobacco pact aimed at kids**

Filling station/convenience stores operating in Texas under the Conoco, Phillips 66 and "76"

trademarks must work harder to stop young Texans who try to purchase cigarettes and other tobacco products. ConocoPhillips reached a court agreement with Texas and 39 other states to stop marketing and selling tobacco products and paraphernalia to minors.

Among requirements detailed in the agreement are employee training, compliance checks, warning signs and the adoption of methods to prevent the use of fake identification cards.

Attorney General Abbott has worked Texas into similar agreements with 7-Eleven, Wal-Mart, BP Amoco, Walgreens and Exxon Mobil.

**UT loses bid to run Los Alamos**

The University of Texas at Austin and Lockheed submitted a bid to take over as operator of the National Nuclear Laboratory in the mountains of New Mexico, but lost Dec. 21 to the University of California and Bechtel National Inc. The contract was worth an estimated \$2 billion a year for seven years, with an option for up to 20 years.

## Weather from page 1

West Central Texas has caused fire risk potential to increase to high levels. Many countries across the area had established county-wide burn bans. Agricultural impacts include poor conditions of rangelands and pastures causing an increase in supplemental feeding of livestock. The Texas Crop and Weather Report also indicated that small grain conditions were poor and some wheat has been lost because of dry soil. (Jason Johnson, Hydrologist)

### Tropical Cyclones and Hurricanes

The 2005 Atlantic hurricane season set several records. There were 26 named storms (storms with sustained winds of at least 39 miles per hour). In addition, there were an unprecedented 14 hurricanes, of which seven were major hurricanes (Category 3 or better on the Saffir-Simpson Scale). Three category 5 storms (sustained winds of 156 miles per hour or more) formed in the Atlantic Basin for the first time in a single season (Katrina, Rita and Wilma). Four major hurricanes and three tropical storms made landfall in the U.S., with an eighth storm (Ophelia) brushing the North Carolina coast. Tropical cyclone activity was near to below average in the Eastern Pacific and Western North Pacific basins through early December.

### 2005 Records

Twenty-six named storms formed during the 2005 season. This is the most named storms in a single season, breaking the old record of 21 named storms set in 1933.

Fourteen hurricanes formed during the 2005 season. This is the most hurricanes in a single season, breaking the old record of 12 hurricanes set in 1969.

Seven major (Category 3 or high on the Saffir-Simpson scale) hurricanes formed during the 2005 season. This ties the season record for major hurricanes, first set in 1950.

Three Category 5 hurricanes formed during the 2005 season (Katrina, Rita, and Wilma). This is the most Category 5 hurricanes recorded in a single season, breaking the old record of two category 5 hurricanes set in 1960 and 1961.

Seven named storms made United States landfall during 2005 (Arlene, Cindy, Dennis, Katrina, Rita, Tammy and Wilma). This puts the 2005 season in a tie for second place for landfalling storms behind the 1916 and 2004 seasons where eight named storms made landfall. An eighth storm brushed the coast of North Carolina in 2005, but did not make an official landfall.

The 2005 season was the most destructive for United States landfalling storms, largely due to Hurricane Katrina. Damage estimates for the 2005 season are over \$100 billion dollars.

Katrina became the most destructive storm on record with an estimated \$50 billion dollars in insured damage. This shatters the old record of approximately \$25 billion dollars (normalized to 2005 dollars) in insured damage set by Hurricane Andrew (1992).

The Old Farmer's Almanac predicts the following for 2006: ... through March will be wetter than normal, with near-normal temperatures. The coldest periods will occur in early and late December and mid- and late January. Snowfall will be greater than normal across the north, with snow or ice likely in early and late December, mid- to late January, and early February.

April and May will be much drier than normal, with near-normal temperatures in April and slightly above-normal temperatures in May.

The summer will be relatively cool, with temperatures three degrees below normal, on average, in the north and one degree below normal in the south. The hottest periods will occur in mid- and late July and late August.

September will be cooler and wetter than normal, with a hurricane threat in the first third of the month. Temperatures in October will be near normal, on average, with above-normal rainfall in the north and below-normal rainfall in the south.

Will the weather be to your liking? Yes or no, maybe so; if not, just wait a minute... it will change.

**Shape Up Sonora WEIGHT LOSS CHALLENGE 2006**

Originated in part from the concept of San Angelo's *Get Healthy Challenge*  
For more information go to [www.gethealthytexas.com](http://www.gethealthytexas.com)  
**Make Fitness a Priority**  
**January 9, 2006 - March 5, 2006**  
**Start up meeting: Thursday, January 5, 2006**  
**6:00 p.m. at The Health and Wellness Center**  
brought to you by  
**The Health & Wellness Center**  
LILLIAN M. HUDSPETH MEMORIAL HOSPITAL  
If you have any questions call Sarah at The Health and Wellness Center.  
387-BFIT (2348)



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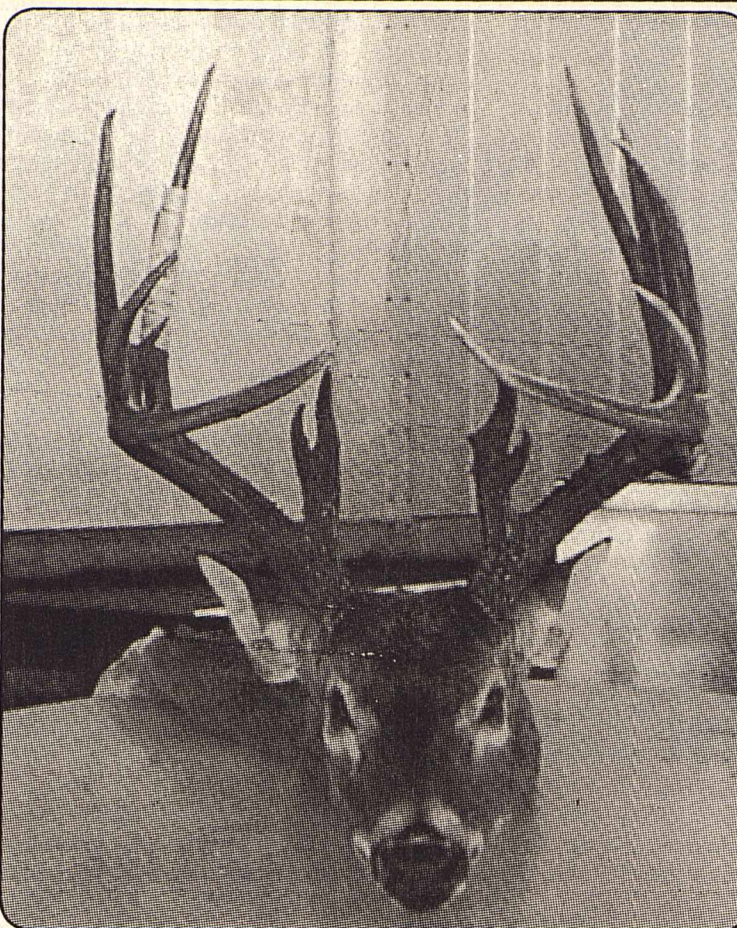


**Hawaiian** BLIZZARD OF THE MONTH

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**Who's Baggin' the Big Bucks?**



This 15 point buck was killed on the Schenkel ranch between Sonora & Rocksprings, Texas around November 19, 2005 by Billy Hurry of Pasadena, Texas. He Scored 163 & some change. If you haven't got your big one this year your time is almost out, hunting season ends January 1.

**Think Texas**

**Black-eyed Peas for Luck**

By Agriculture Commissioner Susan Combs

Call it superstition or call it tradition, but through the ages people have connected food to good fortune and prosperity in the New Year. Millions of people around the world wouldn't think of ringing in another year without eating certain foods that are said to bring good luck and prosperity.

The southern custom of eating black-eyed peas for luck is widespread in Texas. For some, that means a bowl of Texas Caviar, a relish of pickled black-eyed peas. For others, it's a whole meal of black-eyed peas flavored with ham hock. Another popular dish is the Hoppin' John, made of black-eyed peas and rice.

Black-eyed-peas are also called cowpeas or china beans. As a crop, they're drought tolerant, and are good for building nitrogen in the soil. And while their "lucky" properties have never been established, they are a good source of protein and soluble fiber. Black-eyed peas are also low in sodium and high in carbohydrates. A half-cup serving equals about 60 calories.

Texas families with southern roots never let the day pass without at least a spoonful of peas to improve their prospects for the months ahead. Many Texans give their friends gifts of black-eyed peas to ring in the New Year, and others serve peas for breakfast, such as omelets topped with black-eyed pea salsa. Whatever the case, black-eyed peas bring a lot of good taste - and maybe even a little luck - to holiday gatherings.

**Financial Aid Night**  
 Thursday, January 5, 2006  
 6:30 p.m.  
 Sonora High School  
 presented by Jim Glossbrenner of Panhandler-Plains Student Loan Center

Find out how to get started in the financial aid process.

- What kinds of financial aid are available
- Where and how to apply
- And much more

\$100 scholarships to be given away.  
 For more information, contact Kay Friess at the High School

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**Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!**

**WE WILL BE CLOSED ON DEC. 24TH AND WILL REOPEN JAN. 2ND, 2006**

**TEAM GRAPHICS**  
 208 E. MAIN ST.

**Burn Ban from page 1**

risk assessment coordinator with the Texas Forest Service. Fuels remain critically dry across much of the state and conditions don't look likely to improve for some time.

"Texas is in worse shape now from a fire-wise standpoint than it was back in February 1996 when a major wildfire siege erupted in Texas," declared Spencer. Fuels are drier and drought indices are much higher across most of the state than in 1996, when the first large-scale mobilization of out-of-state fire fighting resources in relatively recent history occurred. An indication of current severity, particularly in north Texas, is Dallas County, which is experiencing the fifth driest year in recorded history. By contrast, in 1996, Dallas County had only its 56th driest year.

The fire risk coordinator noted that out-of-state resources are once again being mobilized to the state to bolster the state's fire fighting arsenal. Personnel and equipment from Wisconsin and Tennessee are on their way to Texas, and additional fire fighting help is being requested.

"Public cooperation is desperately needed to prevent additional wildfires and associated destruction from occurring," stated Spencer. "Already, firefighters have been injured or killed while responding to wildfires, and homes, vehicles and natural resources have also been lost to the flames of wildfires."

Most wildfires during the recent spurt were caused by careless debris burning, but unsafe fireworks use, equipment sparks and improper disposal of smoking materials contributed to the total, according to Spencer.

**Burn bans have been in place in Sutton County since June 27.** Sutton joins 157 counties that currently have a Burn Ban in effect, and that number is expected to grow as well as on all National Forests and Grasslands in Texas. Along with burn bans, **aerial firework restrictions have been implemented in many counties, including Sutton.**

"It's important that everyone understand just how serious the threat of a wildfire is right now," said Sonora Volunteer Fire Department Chief, Rick Cearley.

New Year's Eve for many includes fireworks to mark the occasion. This year, however, the fire danger in the area is so severe that several types of fireworks are prohibited.

"We aren't trying to ruin anyone's fun, but it is important that everyone be extremely careful during this time," said Cearley.

**An order restricting the use of fireworks in unincorporated areas of Sutton County was put into place by the Sutton County Commissioners on June 27, 2005, at the same time as the Burn Ban was enforced. The restrictions include "skyrockets with sticks" and "missiles with fins". Fireworks that are not prohibited are common fireworks, small in size. Committing a fireworks offense is a Class C Misdemeanor and is punishable by a fine up to \$500.00. For complete ban and restrictions regulations contact the Sutton County Auditor or Judge's Office.**

**Governor Rick Perry Orders Response to Texas Wildfires**

AUSTIN -- Responding to wildfires breaking out across the state, Gov. Rick Perry today ordered the deployment of state firefighting assets and issued a statewide disaster declaration. State and local fire-fighters on Monday battled 73 wildfires across the state, mostly in central, north-central and northeast Texas. The wildfire threat level is expected to remain high for the next 30 days.

"To better ensure our ability to immediately respond to these fast-moving fires, I have ordered the deployment of Texas Army National Guard assets and requested assistance from the U.S. Forest Service," Perry said. "We are working hard from both the ground and the air to protect Texans and their homes and property."

- Specifically, the Governor has:
- Deployed four Texas Army National Guard helicopters,
  - Requested and received two single engine air tankers from the U.S. Forest Service, and
  - Requested and received two helicopters from the U.S. Forest Service.

The helicopters operate by "dipping" into lakes and other surface water and carrying "buckets" of water to suppress the fire from above; air tankers are used in areas where there is no available surface water.

The governor's disaster declaration activates the state emergency management plan and authorizes the deployment of any forces, equipment or supplies required for the response. The Governor's Division of Emergency Management is coordinating the state effort and the Texas Forest Service serves as the lead agency for the response. The Texas Department of Transportation has provided equipment and assistance and the Department of Public Safety is providing security at wildfire sites.

A persistent drought has blanketed the state since early summer. In combination with high winds and unseasonably warm temperatures, the weather pattern has created the most severe wildfire threat in five years. Thus far in December, 114 fires in 39 counties have burned approximately 10,000 acres. Burn bans—which are prohibitions against all outdoor burning—are in effect in 156 counties.

**Postal Rate Changes Chart**

Selected Rate Changes	Current	New
First-Class Letter (1 oz.)	37¢	39¢
First-Class Letter (2 oz.)	60¢	63¢
Postcard	23¢	24¢
Priority Mail (1 lb.)	\$3.85	\$4.05
Express Mail (1/2 lb)	\$13.65	\$14.40
Express Mail (2 lb)	\$17.85	\$18.80

Fee and Service Changes	Current	New
Certified Mail	\$2.30	\$2.40
Delivery Confirmation (Priority)	45¢	50¢
Delivery Confirmation (1st Class Parcels)	55¢	60¢
Return Receipt (Original Signature)	\$1.75	\$1.85
Return Receipt (Electronic)	\$1.30	\$1.35
Money Orders (up to \$500)	90¢	95¢


**School Lunch Menu • January 2-6**

**Breakfast**

Mon.-No School  
 Tues.- No School  
 Wed.- Fruit or juice  
 Thurs.-Pancakes, svrup, asst. juice  
 Fri.- Breakfast pizza, asst. juice  
 Milk and cereal offered with all breakfasts.

**Lunch**

Mon.- No school  
 Tues.- No School  
 Wed.- Corn dog/mustard, macaroni & cheese, green beans, peaches  
 Thurs.- Steak fingers, mashed potatoes/gravy, mixed vegetables, Jell-O  
 Fri.- Cheese burgers, lettuce/tomatoes, pickles, fries, cookie





# Sonora Middle School U.I.L. District Meet



Sonora Middle School students made a great showing at the UIL District Meet on November 14 in Wall.

Sonora's results were as follows:

**5th grade -- 2nd place overall**

**Art** -- Clarissa Hernandez 1st (tie), Rebekah Infante 4th (tie);

**Dictionary Skills** -- Emilce Hernandez 4th;

**Listening Skills** -- Paige Sykes 3rd, Abby Creek 4th; **Maps, Graphs, and Charts** -- Michael Sanchez 1st, Kevin Buitron 3rd;

**Music Memory** -- Emilce Hernandez 1st, Ryan Contreras 3rd, Whitley Hernandez 6th;

**Number Sense** -- Aaron Hinsley 1st, Jared Hinsley 2nd, Alonzo Hernandez 3rd;

**Social Studies** -- Stephen Dominguez 2nd;

**6th grade -- 5th place overall**

**Art** -- Phillip Stephens

2nd;

**Calculator** -- Zachary Leonard 2nd;

**Dictionary Skills** -- Delilah Aguero 5th;

**Maps, Graphs, and Charts** -- Garrett Smith 3rd (tie);

**Mathematics** -- Garret Smith 5th (tie), Selena Mesa 5th (tie);

**Music Memory** -- Evelyn Solis 4th;

**Number Sense** -- Bryce Smith 3rd, Word Hudson 4th, Alex Lang 6th;

**Oral Reading** -- Ana-Lesa Samaniego 5th;

**Spelling** -- Alex Lang 4th.

**7th grade -- 2nd place overall**

**Art** -- Dulce Acosta 1st (tie);

**Dictionary Skills** -- Shane Patlan 4th;

**Impromptu Speaking** --

Alex Galindo 1st;

**Mathematics** -- Valeria Buitron 5th;

**Modern Oratory** -- Bailey Joe Pennington 2nd, Colyer Dermody 3rd;

**Number Sense** -- Valeria Buitron 1st, Preston Lopez 5th, Alex Galindo 6th;

**Oral Reading** -- Chelsey Lou Campbell 6th;

**Ready Writing** -- Alex Galindo 1st, Bailey Joe Pennington 3rd;

**Science** -- Austin Slaugh 2nd, Baily Joe Pennington 6th;

**Spelling** -- Brooke Glosser 4th;

**Editorial Writing** -- Kash McGee 1st, Bailey Joe Pennington 5th;

**Spelling** -- Brooke Glosser 4th;

**Editorial Writing** -- Kash McGee 1st, Bailey Joe Pennington 6th;

**Social Studies** -- Austin Slaugh 5th

**8th grade -- 2nd place overall**

**Art** -- Brittany Dover 4th (tie);

**Calculator** -- Chacho Mesa

1st, Will Anderson 5th;

**Dictionary Skills** -- Mario

Oliden 4th;

**Maps, Graphs, and**

**Charts** -- Cash Jennings 5th;

**Mathematics** -- Cassie

Krieg 4th;

**Modern Oratory** -- Betha-

ny Berry 1st, Michael Stephens

5th;

**Number Sense** -- Michael

Stephens 1st, Mario Oliden

3rd;

**Ready Writing** -- Mario

Oliden 1st, Sterling Love 5th;

**Spelling** -- Alyssa Vela

5th, Christian Lujan 6th;

**Editorial Writing** -- Beth-

any Berry 3rd, Alicia Lowe

5th;

**Social Studies** -- Sterling

Love 6th (tie)

(Not pictured: 6th: Word

Hudson and Ana Lesa Sa-

maniego and 8th: Christian

Lujan.)

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## San Angelo A&M Mothers' Club to Host Singing Cadets

submitted

The San Angelo Texas A&M University Mothers' Club is proud to host the Singing Cadets in concert on Thursday, January 12, 2006 at 7:30 p.m. at the First Baptist Church of San Angelo, 37 E. Harris. San Angelo is the 7th stop in the Singing Cadets Winter Tour. The 2006 tour includes the cities of Lufkin, Duncannon, Kaufman, Oklahoma City, Amarillo, Brownfield, San Angelo, and Midland. San Angelo Aggie Moms intend to make San Angelo the best and most memorable concert site of the 2006 tour!

The touring group consists of 54 young men who are from across Texas and the United States, and who pursue degrees in a broad variety of academic fields. The Singing Cadets have been appropriately named "The Voice of Aggieland," and it is their mission to represent Texas A&M University through music to each and every audience. A typical Singing Cadets concert includes patriotic, religious, Broadway and pop tunes, as well as Texas A&M school songs. The musical excellence of this group is unmatched and widely respected.

The Singing Cadets are under the direction of Mr. David Kipp. Mr. Kipp has directed the group for ten years, and has taken the group to more than 125 Texas communities, across the United States, and around the globe spreading the Spirit of Aggieland. Kipp is a native of Jasper, Texas and a graduate of Baylor University and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

The only woman to appear on stage with the group is accompanist, Condy Carter. Ms. Carter has been the accompanist for the Singing Cadets for seventeen years. Her personality and exceptional musical talent make her a perfect fit for a group like the Singing Cadets.

While in San Angelo, the Singing Cadets will have the opportunity to explore some local attractions and enjoy our unique city. The 54 singers will be housed with local host families during their stay, giving them additional opportunities to appreciate our area.

Sponsorships have allowed San Angelo Aggie Moms to offer the January 12 concert free of charge to our city. Donations will be accepted at the event. All funds received in excess of actual expenses will go into the scholarship fund. Currently, the San Angelo Aggie Moms support 85 area Texas A&M students. Over the last 5 years, twenty \$1,000 scholarships have been awarded. In 2006, the first endowed scholarship will be awarded.

For additional information, please contact Suzy Mears at 944-

### Senior Center Activities

- Fri. Dec. 30 - Center closed for New Year Holiday.
- Mon. Jan. 2 - Happy Birthday Gretta Smith - Center closed for Holiday!
- Tues. Jan. 3 - AAA Reports due!
- Wed. Jan. 4 - We need volunteers to deliver meals! Call or come by center - 387-5657 or 387-3941.
- Thurs. Jan. 5 - Happy Birthday Eulojia Samaniego
- Fri. Jan. 6 - Bingo after lunch!

### Senior Center Menu

- Fri. Dec. 30 - Center closed for New Year Holiday.
  - Mon. Jan. 2 - Center closed for Holiday!
  - Tues. Jan. 3 - Beef Stew w/veggies, green beans, pear half w/cottage cheese, cornbread, pudding, milk
  - Wed. Jan. 4 - Oven baked chicken, lima beans, broccoli, bread, chunky fruit cup, milk
  - Thurs. Jan. 5 - Baked ham, candied yams, green beans, carrot/raisin salad, roll, Jell-o w/fruit, milk
  - Fri. Jan. 6 - Beef tips, w/rice, carrots, cornbread, bananas w/strawberries, lemon pie, milk
- Participants in the senior nutrition program must be 60 or older.  
Meals are served Monday - Friday at 12:00 p.m.  
Donations are accepted (suggested donation for Seniors is \$1.50; \$4.00 for under 60 and all other meals-to-go)

## Fall Graduates Announced for Angelo State University

Angelo State University conferred degrees upon 308 students during 2005 Fall commencement exercises December 17 in San Angelo, Texas.

Areas of undergraduate academic study at ASU lead to the following degrees: Bachelor of Arts (B.A.), Bachelor of Business Administration (B.B.A.), Bachelor of Fine Arts (B.F.A.), Bachelor of General Studies (B.G.S.), Bachelor of Music (B.M.), Bachelor of Science (B.S.), Bachelor of Science Nursing (B.S.N.), Associate / Bachelor of Science Nursing (A.B.S.N.), and Associate in Applied Science (A.A.S.).

The following graduate degrees are offered: Master of Arts (M.A.), Master of Business Administration (M.B.A.), Master of Education (M.Ed.), Master of Physical Therapy (M.P.T.), Master of Professional Accountancy (M.P.Ac.), Master of Public Administration (M.P.A.), Master of Science (M.S.), and Master of Science in Nursing (M.S.N.).

The 2005 Fall graduates include the following from the Sonora area: Allison Arlene Benson, B.S., cum laude; Mark P. Cooper, B.M.; Stephanie Nicole Hard, B.A.; and Jared Scott Percifull, B.B.A.

**Attention Public-Emergency Care Attendant Course**  
Schleicher County Volunteer EMS will be having an Emergency Care Attendant Class beginning Jan. 5, 2006 and End Feb. 2, 2006, if you are interested in taking this class please contact the Schleicher County Volunteer EMS business office at 853-3456. The ECA Course Provides classroom and skills instruction in CPR, (cardio-pulmonary resuscitation, choking) bleeding and shock, bandaging, splinting, child birth, injury and illness care for infants, children and various other emergency subjects. Spaces are limited Please call soon!

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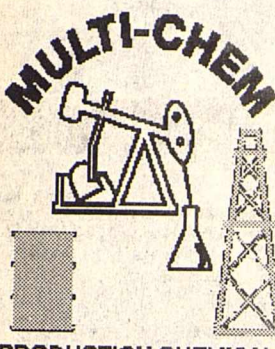
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**Elk to blaze Animal Identification Trail in Texas**

Elk being moved in Texas will sport a radio frequency identification (RFID) ear tag at the first of the year, as commissioners for the Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) have adopted regulations for tracking the animals for disease control, including chronic wasting disease (CWD), a fatal brain disorder. About 300 producers in the state own elk, which are classified as exotic livestock in Texas and are under the jurisdiction of the TAHC, the state's livestock and poultry health regulatory agency. Premises and animal identification and record keeping requirements will extend to all of the animals' movements in commerce.

"We worked closely with elk breeders associations, including the Exotic Wildlife Association, South Central Elk Breeders Association and the North American Elk Breeders, to develop the regulations adopted by the TAHC commissioners at their meeting December 6 in Austin," said Dr. Bob Hillman, executive director for the TAHC and Texas' state veterinarian. "The regulations were developed to enhance disease monitoring with minimal impact on marketing."

"Identification and record keeping requirements will be extremely useful for quickly tracing elk movements, if chronic wasting disease (CWD) or other diseases, such as brucellosis or tuberculosis are detected in the animals," he said. "Nationally, the implementation of animal identification for exotic livestock is 'way down the line,' but the Texas industry saw a need to be able to track elk movement now, so these animals will blaze the trail in the state for other species."

The regulations require elk owners to obtain a unique premises identification number for their ranches prior to importing the animals, moving them to market, slaughter, another ranch or onto other premises within the state. Furthermore, receiving sites within the state also are to be identified. Dr. Hillman said producers of all livestock species can easily obtain the unique seven-character premises identification number.

"Producers can go online, call us or request a paper application to obtain their premises identification number. The information collected will be accessed and used only by state and federal animal health officials for disease surveillance, control and eradication purposes," explained Dr. Hillman. Premises registration can be completed online at <http://www.tahc.state.tx.us> or by calling the TAHC at 1-800-550-8242.

"HB 1361, passed during the last legislative session, enables

the TAHC to develop an identification program consistent with the National Animal Identification System, and provides authority to charge a fee for the premises registration. Until 2005, the TAHC was one of the few state regulatory agencies that did not charge fees for services. An industry committee, after looking at many options, determined a \$10 per year fee for premises registration is the most equitable way to support TAHC programs," Dr. Hillman noted.

Under the elk regulations, the premises identification fee, to be paid biennially, also will be effective January 1, 2006, for elk producers who move their animals in Texas commerce. The fee will not be charged retroactively for premises registered prior to that date. However, as premises registration are renewed every two years, the \$10 per year fee will be applicable. Fees for premises registration for other livestock species are expected to be in effect in spring 2006. As of late December, about 4,500 of the state's 200,000 premises have been registered.

Texas producers must individually identify elk with a permanent, official electronic ear tag prior to moving them from their premises. A movement report then must be submitted to the TAHC within 24 hours, providing the owner's name, and the age, gender and individual identification device number for each animal moved, source of the animal and the premises identifications for the herd of origin and destination site. The producer is to maintain a copy of the records for at least five years.

"Pasture-to-pasture movement of elk can be allowed without the electronic ear tag, provided the producer owns both sites and has them under a single premises registration," explained Dr. Hillman. "However, the owner must first obtain a written permit from the TAHC and fulfill the reporting requirements."

The regulations urge producers to have elk tested for CWD when they die or are harvested. Deer and elk that exhibit clinical signs of CWD, such as emaciation, behavioral changes and excessive salivation always should be reported to the TAHC, so brain tissue can be collected and tested. Although the disease has been detected in several states in mule deer, white-tailed deer and elk, and in one instance, a moose, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) do not associate CWD with any known human health effects. More than 9,413 samples from free-ranging or captive deer and elk in Texas have been tested, with no CWD detected.

While mule deer and white-tailed deer also are susceptible to CWD, these animals come under separate identification and health regulations, explained Dr. Hillman. Mule deer in far west Texas and white-tailed deer statewide are classified as native wildlife, and to own them, producers must obtain a scientific breeder permit from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD), which has regulatory authority over these species. Scientific breeders must meet identification and testing requirements established by the TPWD.

"We cannot say we don't have CWD, if we don't monitor susceptible species and test for it," Dr. Hillman stressed. "If we do find CWD in Texas, appropriate action must be taken to control and eradicate the disease. Hunting, wildlife and exotic hoof stock are industries extremely important to the livelihood of Texas. It's only reasonable to take precautions to ensure these animals are healthy."

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 New Dominion; 8950' Mayer - 20A - #2, Patterson Drilling.  
 New Dominion; 8750' Edwin S Hill - Mayer Jr. - P - #4, Patterson Drilling.  
 New Dominion; 8500' Edwin S Hill - Mayer Jr. - BB - #2, Patterson Drilling.  
 New Dominion; 8300' Edwin S Mayer Jr - #1-3, Patterson Drilling.  
 New Mariner Energy; 8200' Mayer #4A, Lariat Services.  
 New Dominion; 8200' Mayer Ranch - Z - #24 - 3, Patterson Drilling.  
 New Dominion; 7470' Sawyer - 144 - #14, Patterson Drilling.  
 New KCS Resources; 7000' Genini #3713, Patterson Drilling.  
 Dominion; 6950' Canyon Ranch #2074S, Patterson Drilling.  
 New Dominion; 6650' Canyon Ranch - 126 - #13S, Patterson Drilling.

**Crockett**  
 New Henry Petroleum; 10800' University - 6 - Hannah - 26 - #3, Big Dog Drilling.  
 Clayton Williams; 10000' University - 26 - #1, Lariat Services.  
 New Harrison Interests; 10000' Joe Tom Davidson Jr - A - #46, Patterson Drilling.  
 Dominion; 9750' Joe Friend Estate Unit #2032 - B, Patterson Drilling.  
 New Pioneer Natural; 9650' Read - 1 - #5, Patterson Drilling.  
 New Approach Operating; 9000' Approach Bailey #406, Nabors Drilling.  
 New Approach Operating; 9000' 9000' Laufer #1303, Nabors Drilling.  
 New Encore Operating; 9000' JL Henderson Jr - B - #904, Patterson Drilling.  
 Approach Operating; 9000' JR Bailey - A - #516, Patterson Drilling.  
 New Dominion; 8250' Clayton - 2 #1, Patterson Drilling.  
 New Anadarko E&P; 8000' S Millsbaugh - 14 - #13, Patterson Drilling.  
 Bluegrass Energy Inc.; 7000' Simpson Canyon - 3027 - Unit #1, Adobe Drilling.  
 EOG Resources; 6200' Shannon Hospital - 2 - #2, Adobe Drilling.  
 New FIML Natural Res; 5500' Maggie Moore #6C, Patterson Drilling.

**Schleicher**  
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 New COG Operating; 7800' Brunton - 27 - #1, Patterson Drilling.  
 Discovery Operating; 7000' RL Henderson - A - #2, Heart Land Drilling.

**Terrell**  
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**It's Time to Think About Pruning Trees**

**Texas Cooperative EXTENSION**  
 submitted by Pascual Hernandez  
 Sutton County Extension Agent-Ag

This is the season when homeowners and others begin to think about pruning trees. Light pruning to remove a few small branches of trees can be done at any time of year. More extensive pruning should be done in late winter to early spring. There are three advantages to pruning at this time of the year. First, wound closure is most rapid if it's done just prior to when new shoots emerge. Second, there are few insects and disease spores to infest pruning cuts. Third, deciduous trees have dropped their leaves, so it's easier to see what you're pruning!

We should note that not every tree needs pruning. So, what are the primary reasons to prune? 1) To remove dead wood. 2) To shape the tree by removing low-hanging limbs, asymmetrical limbs, etc. 3) To remove narrow "v-shaped" limb crotches that are prone to split under a crop load or in ice or wind storms. This is essential in training young trees to develop into strong mature trees. 4) To thin out crowded, heavily shaded limbs and branches in order to allow more light into the trees. This is particularly critical to fruit and nut trees since branches that receive little sunlight will not form fruit buds. 5) To invigorate the growth rate of the branches that remain after pruning. This is important in stimulating older, low vigor fruit trees to produce fruit bearing shoots.

However, some get the urge to "top" landscape trees with the assumption that the trees will be better off. On the contrary, topping is one of the worst practices that can be employed against shade trees. Topping refers to cutting back branches to stubs and sometimes all the way to the trunk. This severely injures trees and sets them up for attack by diseases and insects.

Severe topping causes a proliferation of buds at the point where the branch was cut. Shoots then arise from these buds, forming a dense mat at the end of the branch. This dense growth is shallowly attached and subject to easy breakage by wind storms. This new mass of growth also puts a strain on a tree's root system since food reserves have to go to support it. Thus the tree's root system is weakened and overall vigor is reduced, making the tree more susceptible to attack from insects, diseases, and other environmental conditions. Unfortunately, many trees are senselessly topped rather than pruned.

Topping also reduces tree's life expectancy and therefore affects its value in the landscape. Knowledgeable appraisers will severely reduce the value of a topped tree. Good pruning practices will retain a tree's natural form and enable it to be a much greater asset to the landowner. Considering how long it takes a tree to reach full size, proper pruning care should be a top priority for the homeowner.

For additional information, visit the Sutton County Extension website at <http://sutton-co.tamu.edu>.

**Private Pesticide Applicator Certificates Expire Feb. 28**

AUSTIN —The Texas Department of Agriculture reminds private pesticide applicator certificate holders that their certificates will now be renewed Feb. 28 every five years rather than the original Dec. 31 expiration date.

TDA recently implemented a new licensing system and changed the expiration date to make the licensing process more efficient. Certificate holders, as well as any TDA license holders, should receive a renewal notice about a month before the license expires.

Applicators should report any mailing address changes to be sure to receive the renewal notice.

Private applicator certificates were issued prior to January 10, 1989. While they never expire, applicators must earn 15 continuing education credits, including two credits in laws and regulations and two credits in integrated pest management, prior to expiration of the license, to keep the certificate active.

If you need additional information, please contact TDA at (800) TELL-TDA.



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

**Public Notices**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Notice is hereby given that Sutton County is requesting bids for a service agreement for rental facility services for the following offices/buildings: Annex, Courthouse, EMS Building, Library, Civic Center and Sheriff/Jail. Sealed bids will be opened on January 9, 2006, at the Commissioners Court regular meeting at 9:00 a.m. at the Sutton County Annex meeting room. Sealed bids must be submitted to County Judge Garner, Box 1212, Sonora, Texas 76950. For further information, please contact Judge Carla Garner 325/387-2711 or County Auditor Maura Weingart, 325/387-5380.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

The Sutton County Commissioners Court is requesting bids for the County Depository. Bids must be submitted in compliance with Sections 116.021 and 116.023 of the Local government code. Sealed bids must be submitted to the county Judge on or before the Regular Meeting of the Sutton County Commissioners Court on February 13, 2006. The meeting is at 9:00 a.m. at the meeting room of the Sutton County Annex. For further information, please contact the Sutton County Judge at 387-2711 or the Sutton County Auditor at 387-5380.

**NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR FLUID INJECTION WELL PERMIT**

Jalon Operation Co., P.O. Box 1270, Midland, Texas 79702, is applying to the Railroad Commission of Texas for a permit to inject fluid into a formation which is productive of oil and gas.

The applicant proposes to inject fluid into the Sawyer (Strawn, North), Vanderstucken Well Number 22-2. The proposed injection well is located 10 Miles Southeast of Sonora in the Sawyer Strawn (North), in Sutton County. Fluid will be injected into strata in the subsurface depth interval from 5600 to 6200 feet.

LEGAL AUTHORITY: Chapter 27 of the Texas Water Code, as amended, Title 3 of the Texas Natural Resources Code, as amended, and the Statewide Rules of the Oil and Gas Division of the Railroad Commission of Texas.

Requests for a public hearing from persons who can show they are adversely affected, or requests for further information concerning any aspect of the application should be submitted in writing, within fifteen days of publication, to the Environmental Services Section, Oil and Gas Division, Railroad Commission of Texas, P.O. Box 12967, Capitol Station, Austin, Texas 78711 (Telephone 512/463-6792).

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**Employment**

**The Sonora Chamber of Commerce** is seeking a qualified individual to fill the role of **Executive Director** for the organization. The Executive Director is the chief executive and administrative officer of the Sonora Chamber of Commerce, responsible for the day-to-day activities of the Sonora Chamber of Commerce and will report to a 12-member board of directors. The position requires an individual with excellent communication and consensus building skills. The successful candidate will possess organizational skills as well as an ability to manage volunteers and paid staff.

Requirements: Experience in volunteer management is desirable. A bachelor's degree in Business, Management, Communications, or a related field is preferred, but not required. To apply, send resume and cover letter to: Sonora Chamber of Commerce, Attn: Selection Committee, P.O. Box 1172, Sonora, TX 76950

**ARC Pressure Data, Inc.** is seeking **Slackline Operators**. Experience is a plus but will train the right candidate. Applicants need to pass drug test and have a clean driving record. Salary based on experience. Benefits include medical, dental, and 401K. Call 325-206-2009 to schedule an appointment.

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**BJ Services** is currently taking applications for the position of **Dispatcher**. This is a shift position with alternating nights and days. Applicant must be familiar with computers and other electronic office equipment. Good typing and communications skills are necessary. Previous dispatching or Oilfield experience preferred but will train the right person. BJ Services offers a pleasant working environment, good pay and excellent benefits. Applications can be filled out at the BJ Services Office between 8:00 am - 5:00 pm Monday - Friday.

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**Days Inn Devil's River** is now accepting applications for the following positions: **Front Desk Clerks, Night Audit, Housekeeping.** No experience required; will train. Please apply in person @ 1312 N. Service Rd.

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- 110 Dixie Drive:** 3BR - 2 Bath frame home with vinyl siding, 1825 sq. ft., CH/CA, lots of storage, metal roof, privacy fence, good condition. \$57,500.00.
- 708 Lee Street:** 4 BR - 2 Bath frame home with steel siding, 1592 sq. ft., carpet, large lot w/fenced yard. \$50,000.00
- Old Merton Road:** 4 BR - 2 Bath home on large lot. 2186 sq. ft. Attractive hardwood floors, CH/CA, privacy fence, metal storage building. Excellent condition. \$98,000.00
- 307 Depot Street:** 3 BR - 2 Bath frame home on approx. 1.65 acres. City utilities, 1998 sq. ft., CH/CA, water well, carport, various out buildings and other improvements, large trees, privacy. \$105,000.00

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**Job Number:** 00-9234  
**Closing Date:** 01/09/06 at 5:00 p.m.  
**Salary:** \$9.92 - \$12.92 per Hour

**Minimum Requirements:** One (1) year experience in maintenance, construction or an equipment operation-related field. (Experience requirements may be satisfied by full-time experience or the pro rated part-time equivalent.) Must have or obtain within 60 calendar days from date of employment a Class A Commercial Driver License. In addition to the CDL employee must have or obtain within 90 calendar days of employment the X endorsement on their CDL. Must be able to report for duty within 30 minutes of notification on a 24 hour basis.

(The above is not a complete list of requirements or qualifications.) **A Completed Application is Required.** For additional information call Human Resources at 325-944-1501 or visit our web site at <http://www.dot.state.tx.us/>. An applicant needing an accommodation in order to apply for the above job may call Human Resources.

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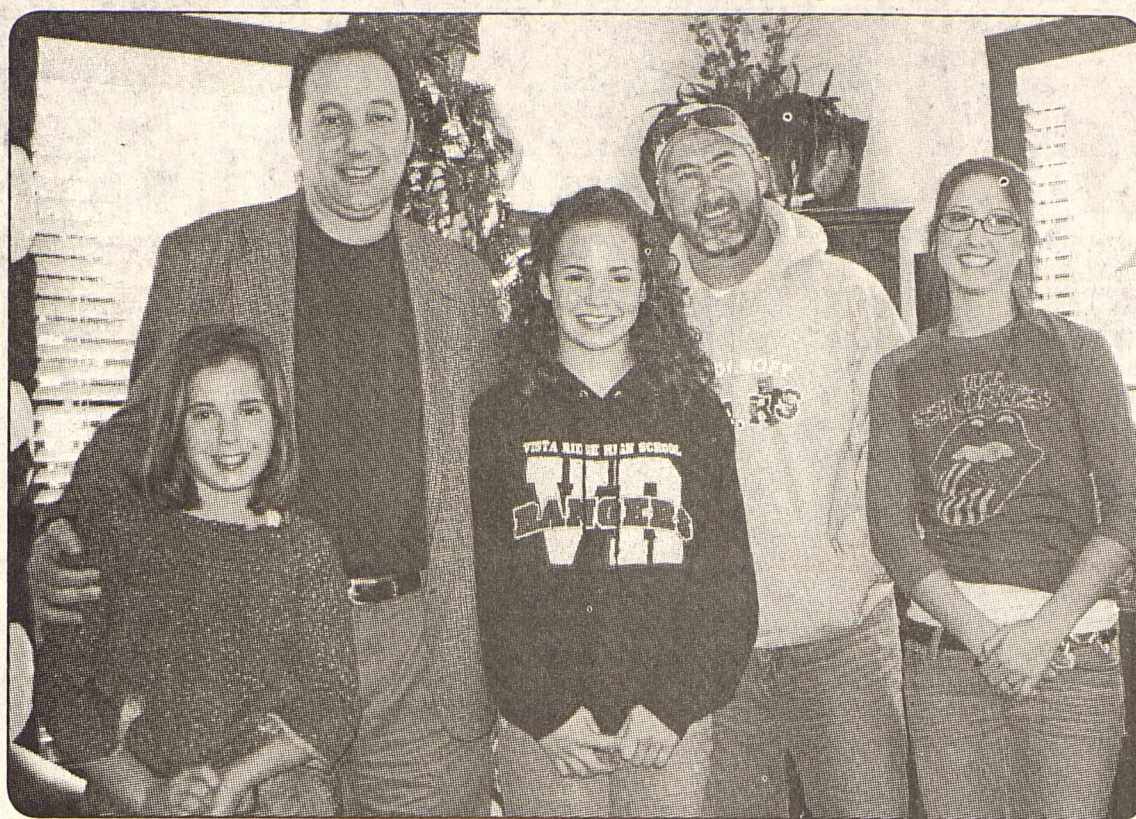
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♦ <b>RUMOR HAS IT</b> (PG-13) (11:10) 1:45 4:10 7:00 9:30	<b>CHRONICLES OF NARNIA</b> (PG) (11:30) 3:20 6:45 10:00
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♦ <b>MEMOIRS OF A GEISHA</b> (PG-13) 12:30 4:00 7:20 10:40	<b>CHRONICLES OF NARNIA</b> (PG) 12:40 4:20 7:35 10:45
♦ <b>WOLF CREEK</b> (R) (11:15) 1:50 4:50 7:30 10:10	<b>SYRIANA</b> (R) 6:55 9:55
<b>KING KONG</b> (PG-13) (10:30) 2:25 6:30 10:30	<b>HARRY POTTER AND THE GOBLET OF FIRE</b> (PG-13) (11:30) 3:30
<b>KING KONG</b> (PG-13) (10:50) 2:50 6:50 10:50	<b>CHICKEN LITTLE</b> 1:00 (G)

Showtimes Valid 12:30 - 4/05/2006  
(-) - Friday through Sunday only.

## A Longhorn 'Way' of thinking in Sonora



Craig Way and family visit Duray and Heather Smith for Christmas.

by Storie Sharp

It's not too often that you see a Longhorn roaming in the living room of a Sonora home. Especially when the Christmas tree is up and all the pretty holiday decorations adorn the room. But that is exactly what The Duray Smith Family had on Friday, December 23, 2005. No, not the four legged kind that could destroy the festive atmosphere with one toss of his long horns, but a true Longhorn just the same.

Longtime friend of the family, Craig Way, stopped by to pick up his oldest daughter who was visiting the Smith's, taking time to catch up on old times. The No. 2 "voice of the Texas Longhorns" and KVET radio talk show co-host was a neighbor of the Smith's in Austin, where their children became friends and the two men shared a love for sports.

The 2005 Longhorn Football season marked Way's fourth season as the play-by-play voice of the Longhorns after providing color analysis for his first 10 years in the booth.

Way, known throughout the state as an authority on Texas high school sports, joined the network 17 years ago. He serves as the sports director of Sports Radio 1300 The Zone and hosts a daily call-in show from 2-4 p.m. Way served as the studio anchor for UT football broadcasts from 1988-91.

Way has maintained an enthusiasm for high school football in Texas that is unsurpassed. He's covered the game for almost 20 years. And since getting KRLD in Dallas to expand their 10-minute Friday night high school scoreboard show to a full hour in the mid-Eighties, he has done more to promote high school football, and other high school sports, than perhaps any single person in the state's history.

Way's passion for sports goes well beyond high school football. He takes pride in seeing how much work of any kind he can cram into his schedule. His busy broadcasting schedule keeps him on the road most of the year, but he takes time to see as many non "Longhorn" games as possible, and now makes his career a family affair. His oldest son, he and his wife Laurie have two boys ages 16 and 6 and two girls ages 14 and 10, is now his "spotter" in the booth during the Longhorns broadcast. He also tries to make his girls' dance competition, soccer games or other activities as much as possible, but only takes two weeks off a year to return to his beach roots, turn off sports and turn on "family time". Asked if he played football, Way said not much, he realized he wasn't built for the sport, but his "gift of gab" kept him close to the game.

In high school he was assigned the sport's anchor position of the closed network television station at school, and the rest is history. Way became the premier high school sports broadcaster in the state in the Eighties and early Nineties. Way did the hour long high school football scoreboard show at KRLD for seven years, a program that drew listeners from across the state. He also acted as host for High School Extra, a statewide all-sports features program, for several years. That show, and college stints in Lubbock and Denton, helped familiarize Way with many of the nearly 1,200 schools in the state that play high school football. In an impromptu quiz of random schools across the state, Way correctly identified four out of six mascots, including the Post Antelopes and the Oakwood Panthers. He still does a weekly high school football game on KVET and football playoff and championship games on radio and television. Way also serves as host for High School Extra Live, Fox Sports Southwest's midnight-1am high school football highlight show on Friday nights.

As the Longhorns' football and basketball color man and the play-by-play man for UT's Lady Longhorns basketball team, Way could easily have left the high school game behind years ago. But ever since he saw his first Texas version of the game in Dallas in 1980, when he was "totally floored" by the spectacle, he has remained close to the sport and still carries an innocence and awe that weds him to the high school game.

Being the high school football specialist that he is we had to ask what he thought about 4-time All State Team pick from Sonora, Steven Duhon. Way said he had indeed watched Duhon's progress and was one of the voting members for the Associated Press that chose the All State Team. He said that Sonora stuck out this year because his buddy now called it home. Of course, he couldn't talk about the Broncos without mentioning the Renfro family and the State Champion team of 2000.

"Coach Herring did a remarkable job that year and had a great team to work with," commented Way. "I always like to see a small town team that works on extending a tradition and that team worked hard to regain that winning tradition in Sonora."

Way said he loves watching small town teams grow up together and share that deep down desire to succeed. He commented that teams like the upcoming Broncos (the boys that have played together since 7th grade or earlier) will be dangerous and will be one to watch.

This short visit in Sonora was a much enjoyed breather for Way, who is off and running this week in preparation for the Jan. 4 national championship when the No. 1 USC Trojans and No. 2 Texas Longhorns meet in the Granddaddy of Them All — the Rose Bowl — in Pasadena, Calif. With his regular talk show, coaches conferences and press conferences all week, Way won't have much time to enjoy his Christmas dinner. He said he was glad to be given the opportunity to take the two hour drive from Austin to Sonora to pick up his daughter, and he will miss watching the Rosebowl with the Smith Family, a tradition they started long ago... but he won't miss it enough to stay home and watch in Duray's "man room". He'll be calling the plays from the booth, when Texas and USC, the only two undefeated teams in the country this season, each posting a spotless 12-0 record through challenging schedules meet this weekend. Predictions for the big game?

"I've never really been good at them," said Way, "but I see it being a high scoring game, maybe 38-34, with a Longhorn victory of course." Who would have thought he would have chosen that way? The Smith's will be cheering the Longhorns on as well, (only their seats won't be quite as good?) Hook 'em Horns!

(Some of the above information was taken from "For the Love of the Game" *Doing Sports the Craig Way* by MIKE BUTTS)

On January 4, 2006 at 5:00 p.m. (PST) the Rose Bowl Game will host the BCS National Championship, between USC and Texas once again showcasing the best of collegiate football in "The Granddaddy of Them All." The Rose Bowl will be broadcast exclusively on ABC and on ESPN radio.



Longhorn announcers Craig Way (left) and Brian Jones, and Former Texas Longhorn radio announcer Bill Schoening (center). Schoening is now the play-by-play announcer for the San Antonio Spurs after 12 years of covering Longhorn sports.

## F.Y.I.

7th Annual Polar Bear Classic, sponsored by the Sonora High School Golf Team; Saturday, January 14, 2006 at the Sonora Golf Course; Tee Time: 12:30 p.m. (please sign up early). Entry fee: \$10.00 per person (any extra donations will be greatly appreciated.) Order of Play: 18 holes of Par 3 Golf (Scramble) ties broken with putt off. Sign up at the Pro Shop or call 387-3680; The Sonora Golf Course has waived green fees for all non members. In case of bad weather the Classic will be postponed until the next Saturday! Support your State Bound Golf Team.

The Nature Conservancy will host a day of open hiking Sunday, January 8, on the Davis Mountains Preserve. The gates open at 8 a.m. and the preserve closes at 3 p.m. After registering at the McIvor Conservation Center, participants will be given maps of trails with varying degrees of difficulty. Walk-ins okay, but reservations are recommended and participants should arrive early for best choice of trails. Owned and managed by The Nature Conservancy of Texas, the 32,000-acre Davis Mountains Preserve on Hwy. 118 near Fort Davis is a spectacular representative of a "sky island" ecology, providing home to animals and plants that live nowhere else in Texas and some found nowhere else on Earth. Call Crawford Marginot at (432) 426-2390, ext. 1 or email [cmarginot@tnc.org](mailto:cmarginot@tnc.org) for directions *Course banners are in*

*The Banner for the Courthouse are in at the Friends of Historic Sonora Main Street Office.* If you purchased a banner and would like to stop by and see them before they go up please go by the FHSMS Program Office. Thank you for all your support, you are why we are so successful. Happy Holidays. Jennifer Esparza

Sonora High School will be having a Financial Aid Night - Thursday, January 5, 2006 at 6:30 p.m. at Sonora High School, presented by Jim Glossbrenner of Panhandle-Plains Student Loan Center. Find out how to get started in the financial aide process. For more information contact Kay Friess at the High School.

## Happy Birthday

**December 29**  
Ruth Ramos, Donna Benson, Dean Dermody

**December 30**  
Blayze W. Sykes, Justin Northcott, Carol Pope, Rosalie Richardson, Marito Lira, Katelyn Trevino, Erica Olson, Jeannette Thompson, Mary Jean Sims

**December 31**  
Tina Covey, Raymundo Morales, Lupe Ramon, Patsy Samaniego, Nathan Longoria, Jerri Martin, Sheryl Strauch

**January 1**  
Shirley Hall, Dorothy Jimenez, Missy Longoria, Ana-Lesa Samaniego, Becky Collins, Amy Harris, Joe Michael Campos, Brianna Kesinger, Richard Gomez, Alma Trevino, Lize Contreras, Corey Smith

**January 2**  
Alec Morrow, Keith Hudson, Gretta Smith, Betty Lopez, Nick Pena, Michael Martinez

**January 3**  
Missy Longoria, Melissa Fisher, Mikey Owen, Camille Marshall, Lance Haynes, Armando Noriega, Norma Williams, Elyssa Prieto, Linda Samaniego, Diana Samaniego, Mickey Galindo

**January 4**  
Wylie Wagoner, Linda Neff, Ebot Flores, Katelyn Lipham, Xzavier Castilleja, Delaney Ramsdell, Heather Smith, Lorie Powers, Kallie Humphrey, Jennifer Creek, Cyndye Batchelor

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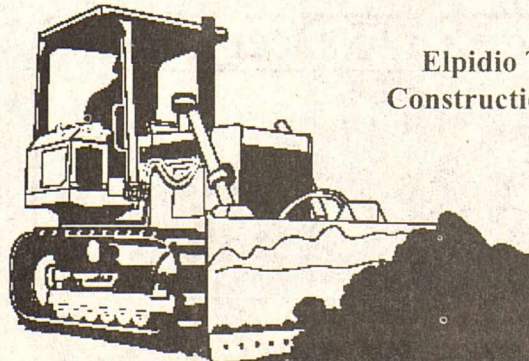
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