

The Devil's River News

75¢

Serving Sutton County Since 1890

Volume 119 • Issue 50

SONORA, TEXAS

Thursday, December 13, 2007

Early Deadlines

The Devil's River News will publish two issues during the holiday season – December 27th and January 4th. To allow our staff to spend the Christmas and New Year's holidays with their families, we have set early deadlines for both of those weekly issues.

The advertising and copy deadlines for the December 27th issue will be **5:00 p.m. Thursday, December 19th**. Any and all advertising and/or copy for the January 4, 2008 issue should be received by our offices before **5:00 p.m. December 27, 2007**.

If it is more convenient to send information to our offices via e-mail, you may send advertising copy to sales@sonoratr.net and editorial copy to editor@sonoratr.net.



Photo by Becky McAngus

Maritza Garcia, Michael Chavez and Michael Gonzalez have been selected to lead members of St. Ann's Catholic Church in the annual celebration known as Las Posadas.

Las Posadas Recall Holy Pilgrims' Journey

by Becky McAngus

There is pure joy in their voices as they practice the refrain, "Enter, holy pilgrims. Come into our humble dwelling and our hearts. The night is one of joy for, here beneath our roof, we shelter the mother of God." Beginning this Sunday, December 16th, the congregation of St. Ann's Catholic Church will perform the traditional observance of "Las Posadas". A religious observance marking Mary and Joseph's quest for lodging in Bethlehem prior to the birth of Jesus, the posadas recall their pilgrimage in song.

"We love the posadas," said Brenda Sanchez, whose mother was an organizer of the traditional ceremony in Sonora: "It is one of the most cherished traditions of our church."

Sanchez explained that members of the congregation will gather for a rosario (rosary) and then form a candlelight procession, led by Michael Gonzalez carrying a nacimiento (crèche) including the figures of Mary and Joseph. The gathering travels door to door singing "villancios" their request for "posada" or shelter, in the inn.

The pilgrims, portrayed by Michael Chavez, as Joseph, and Maritza Garcia, as Mary, go to several homes and meet two or three

Continued on Page 7



Photo by Becky McAngus

Christmas carols filled the air in downtown Sonora last week as the Friends of Historic Sonora Main Street Program and the Sonora Chamber of Commerce teamed up with area churches and local restaurants to celebrate the Christmas season with a fiesta of fun, food and family. Additional photographs from the celebration are on page 10.

SISD Board Meets

Superintendent's Performance Evaluated

by Becky McAngus

The Board of Directors of the Sonora Independent School District convened in executive session Monday evening to discuss personnel matters, specifically to evaluate the job performance of the superintendent of schools, Doug Bawcom. Bawcom has recently come under fire for a grading policy dispute that has drawn the attention of parents and dramatically increased public attendance at the board's monthly meetings. The superintendent's contract was renewed last year for a three-year term, and is set to expire in June of 2010. The board will discuss extension of the superintendent's contract and a possible pay raise at their January meeting.

During Monday night's public meeting, members of the board expressed their displeasure regarding the transcription of minutes from the November 12th meeting. At that public meeting, the district's grading policy and the superintendent's grading "philosophy" were discussed. Tammy Favila noted that the minutes of the meeting did not accurately reflect the discussion of board members. "None of us (board members) were quoted, except Mrs. Jennings" she said. She also noted that the minutes, as presented, reflected only the superintendent's opinions. "There is a whole page of what you said, Doug, and nothing about what we said," she remarked.

"I'd like (the minutes) to show, on the record, our direction to you to talk to the teachers," Favila said. She instructed the superintendent to "go back to the tape and put in the minutes what you heard me say." She said the minutes, as presented, were inaccurate and deceiving. Scott Jacoby also remarked that he wanted the minutes corrected to reflect his questions regarding the submission of the matter to a site-based committee. Barbara Jennings

Continued on Page 7

Commissioners Hear Request For Paving City Streets

by Becky McAngus

A request for paving by Sonora City Manager Jim Polonis was tabled by the Sutton County Commissioners Court on Monday. Polonis was present to formally request a proposal from the county for paving work involved in the city's sewer system replacement. He informed the commissioners that, as part of a pre-planning meeting, he recently approached county road and bridge superintendent Oscar Jimenez to get an estimate for the costs the city could expect to pay.

Polonis said whoever the city hires will need to have a milling machine to dig trenches in the streets and then, once the lines have been installed, will need to install chip seal over the top of the trenches. After the installation of pipelines and manholes, the city will re-pave its streets.

Sutton County Judge Carla Garner informed Polonis that, normally, requests for information of this type are done by approaching the county administration, not a department head. She further stated that the county is, by statute, responsible for 383 miles of roadway in the county. Her concern, she stated, was that the city did not provide a schedule for the performance of the job. "We can't give you a price unless we have a schedule," she remarked.

A number of streets will be trenched to make way for improvements to the city's sewer infrastructure, and the timing and scope of the project is presently under review by the city's engineers. Polonis said the city will have prioritized projects, to repair those areas of the infrastructure that have been identified as the worst in the city.

Continued on page 8



Photo by Becky McAngus

St. Ann's Catholic Church celebrates the journey of the Holy Pilgrims into Bethlehem by reenactment of the posadas nightly, through Christmas Eve. Pictured above are many of those who are participating this year, including (left to right front) Lourdes Garcia, Yolanda Maldonado, Benita Martinez, Brenda Sanchez and grandson Joseph Ivan Abrego, Fr. Mike Dinto, Michael Gonzalez, Elvia Samaniego, Anabelia Samaniego, (back, left to right) Berto Maldonado, Tabitha Abrego, Refugio Martinez, Delia Samaniego, Adelita Alvarez, Maria Elena Porras, Adolph Alvarez, Cecelia Sanchez, Maritza Garcia, Michael Chavez, Maria Carrasco, and Irene Dominguez.



Photo by Becky McAngus

Watercolorist Hosts One-Woman Show

Sonorans turned out to participate in art last week as watercolorist Barbara Earwood held a one-woman retrospective and sale at the Historic Mercantile Building. Pictured above with her great-grandchildren, Colton and Maci Belk, Mrs. Earwood was the toast of the town as art lovers viewed and purchased her artwork. Additional photos of the art show and sale are inside this edition of The Devil's River News.

Safe Place

Narcotics Anonymous
Lighthouse Community Church
Tuesday 7:30 - 8:30 P.M.

Lighthouse Community Church

Church
 CAN A LOVE RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD
Be Real, Personal & Practical?
 THE ANSWER IS YES!
1705 N. Crockett

Senior Center Activities

- Fri. Dec. 14 - Happy Birthday, Tive Chavez
- Sun. Dec. 16 - Happy Birthday, Bernice Hearn
- Mon. Dec. 17 - Christmas Bingo - City Council 4:00 p.m.
- Tues. Dec. 18 - Happy Birthday Teresa Vasquez
- Wed. Dec. 19 - Van to San Angelo - Medicals
Call Lilia for reservations
- Thurs. Dec. 20 - B-day party for December Babies @Noon!

Senior Center Menu

- Fri. Dec. 14 - Beef Stew w/ vegetables, Peas, Milk, Cornbread, Peaches, and Chocolate Pudding.
- Mon. Dec. 17 - Hamburger on Bun, Lettuce, Tomato, Onions, French fries, Carrot salad, Fruit cocktail, and Milk.
- Tues. Dec. 18 - Chicken Strips, with Gravy, Pinto Beans, Macaroni and Cheese, Cornbread, Milk, and Cobbler.
- Wed. Dec. 19 - Polish Sausage, Baked Potatoes, Green Beans, Blushing pears, Rolls and Milk.
- Thurs. Dec. 20 - Baked Chicken, Fried Rice, Roll, Zucchini Squash with Tomato, Juice, Jell-O with fruit, and 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).



Sonora Church Directory

- | | |
|--|--|
| Primera Iglesia Bautista
504 Santa Clara
387-2035 | Church of Christ
304 N. Water
387-3190 |
| The Church of the Good Shepherd Presbyterian
319 E. Mulberry
387-2616 | First Baptist Church
11E. Oak
387-3190 |
| Lighthouse Community Church
1705 N. Crockett
387-9100 | St. John's Episcopal Church
404 E Poplar
387-2955 |
| Pentecostal Calvary Temple United
509 Amistad
387-5266 | First United Methodist Church
201 N. Water
387-2466 |
| St Ann's Catholic Church
229 W. Plum
387-2278 | Templo Jerusalem Asamblea De Dios
306 W 4th St
387-5713 |
| Jehovah's Witness
310 St. Ann's St
387-5658/387-5518 | Hope Lutheran Church
417 E. 2nd. St
387-5366 |

Brought to you by:
Kerbow Funeral Home
 387-2266



Photo by Becky McAngus
 Brady Johnson, Anita Hudson, Larry Finklea and Cathy Ball enjoy Barbara Earwood's watercolor show and sale at the Historic Mercantile Building in downtown Sonora. Mrs. Earwood's one-woman art show occurred two days after the building's grand opening.

Letter to the Editor

On Saturday, November 17th, my family and I had the good fortune to experience first-hand the blessings we celebrate at Thanksgiving each year. This time, however, Thanksgiving and its blessings came a few days early in the form of a benefit roping at the Consuelo Ranch outside Sonora.

Doug and Suzanne Huddleston of the Consuelo Ranch were instrumental in organizing the event. This is only one of several things they have done to benefit people and groups in the Sonora area, and I know that your community appreciates them. Along with the Huddlestons, there were many others within the community who offered their services and/or labor to prepare the arena for the roping. Some of these people did not even know me, but were willing to contribute, and I celebrate each who helped.

Again, more blessing for which to give thanks; on the day of the roping, my family and I were blessed with the outpouring of support for me by those who came to participate in the roping or to help work the event. Prayers, hugs, and good thoughts were expressed throughout the day ... even from those I did not know. God's blessing poured out on our day of fun through no one getting hurt; the sun shining warmly, and wonderful food, riding, and fellowship. I thank all who attended the roping and contributed in each facet.

We sometimes tend to take our friends for granted. Further, we sometimes forget that kind, supportive people are all around us, just waiting to help us if allowed. During this month of celebration, may each of us look for the kindness in people and, in turn, show our kindness to others. I know that they will appreciate it as much as I do.

Thank you, friends in and around Sonora, for your love, support, and financial aid.

Maisy Walker
 Marble Falls, TX



Pre-need funeral insurance and monument sales
 Contact:
 Glen Love
 Kerbow Funeral Home
 325-387-2266

Dr. Rico Forlano

Forlano Chiropractic
 Family Health Center
 (325) 853-3331
 Box 633
 418 Hwy. 277 S.
 Eldorado, Texas 76936

Looking Over the List

I have been adding names to the list for several weeks. Whenever I found a quiet moment or a quiet place, which can be hard to do sometimes, I would add someone special to the list. Once they were on the list I would start thinking about what they would enjoy, or could use or needed. It brought a sense of joy and warmth to my heart when I thought of that person and the special gift I might get for them. I love the people on that list very much and they are extremely important to me. Not only do I think of that special gift I can get for them, but I very much look forward to those moments we can spend together.

I am also reminded of how much God loves us (very much) and how we are in His heart and mind. I do not think there is anything more precious than a special relationship we share with somebody. It can be with a wife, child, family member, friend or whoever. God wants to have that special relationship with us. There is one problem; sin has separated us from God, (Romans 3:23). God provided a way for that fellowship to be restored or made anew, (Ephesians 2:4-10). He did it with a special gift that was sent just for us, (John 3:16). It was His very own Son Jesus Christ, (1 John 4:9&10). See you in Church next Sunday. Brother J

Correction

The Sonora Middle School Library held a Bookfair on December 10th. The bookfair was not held at the elementary library, as was reported in last week's issue of The Devil's River News. We apologize for any confusion our reporting may have caused.

You are invited to a
CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT & COMMUNION SERVICE
 Church of the Good Shepherd Presbyterian
 Pastor, Lewis Allen
 December 24th at 6:00 p.m.



In Loving Memory of
Mandie Castilleja

You Will Always Be In My Heart

Love
Grandma

Dec. 11, 2006
Dec. 11, 2007



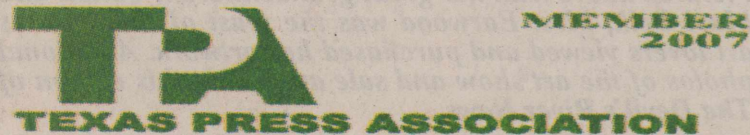
"You know I'm here when you feel the sun on your face, know that it is me looking down on you, blessing you with my grace. When it rains, it is me crying tears for you, for you have shed enough for me. So, cry no more, for I am still with you. Feel the wind brush across your cheek, it is me kissing you. And always know I'll be there watching over you, for all of you, I have left behind. I can't wait to meet you in the end, but not right now. You have a long ways to go until I see you again. I love you all forever, even in the end."
 By Amber Banks

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



Happy Birthday

December 13
 Scottie Moore, Charlotte Luna

December 15
 Dawn Cahill, Edward James Antunez

December 16
 Aaluya Castillo, Shannon Rushing

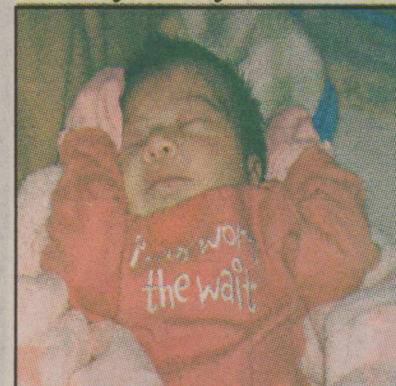
December 17
 Esmey Ramon

December 18
 Armando Dominguez

December 19
 Nonie Gonzalez, Colton Moore, Jana Harris

Miriam & Edmundo Garcia along with Marcos F. Morin Jr. would like to welcome their new baby sister...

Emily Jazlynn Morin



6 lbs. 14oz. & 19 inches
Thursday, December 6, 2007
in San Angelo at 9:39 A.M.

Parents:
 Elizabeth & Marcos F. Morin Sr.

Grandparents:
 Felix & Elizabeth Villa
 Tomas & Juanita Gomez



Historical Society

ASK THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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

We would like to start the column today by extending our heartfelt thanks to the children in the Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts and other volunteers who helped to clean, rake leaves and mow the grass on the Miers Home Complex this week. We so appreciate these young people taking time from their busy schedules to help us out. The work they did was wonderful!

Q. Do you have any articles on Mr. Binyon drilling wells in this area?

A. In the November 16, 1934 issue of "The Devil's River News," there is the following article:

Plodding horses, "Power" used for first well drilling on Devil's River Draws. Only a foot or two a day was made back in the 1880's when B. L. Binyon drilled what he says was the first well on either of the Devil's River draws through the Sonora country.

Mr. Binyon was living in Rankin in 1934 and visiting his daughter, Mrs. Louis Roueche and family. In a reminiscent mood he visited the NEWS office and told of his early life in Sonora.

The well, known as the "old Hammond Well," was on Turkey Roost Draw near the Taylor pasture, west of town. Six months, (and they were long ones Mr. Binyon indicated), were needed to drill the 165-foot depth. At 31 feet the drill hung and had to be dug and blasted out.

The only power was that "developed" by plodding horses. Horses, however, need water - even as do humans - and water was just what they didn't have. Six barrels of the precious fluid was hauled each day from Beaver Lake, 40 miles away. Four horses were used for this work.

The well was drilled on the north side of a hill. No reckoning had been made of wind problems and when the wind was from the south no water was available.

In January 1886, Mr. Binyon says, he killed the last buffalo in this country. It was at the well. Deer, Mr. Binyon stated, were so thick sometimes at the well that it was difficult to round up the saddle horses.

When Mr. Binyon, who will be 74 on December 30th, came here in 1886 from Fort Worth and Callahan County this section was a part of Tom Green Territory. Jurisdiction of this section was vested in Kimble County.

Mr. Binyon was one who

contributed to the building of the Masonic Hall building when it was located in Wentworth, 4 miles from here. (Note, it was later moved to Sonora by horse teams on rollers then torn down when the current lodge was built.)

About 1900, Mr. Binyon says he paid \$100, "in horses," to a man to move his home to Ozona. It was moved in two days and was the first house there. A saloon, operating in a long tent, and a store run by Mr. F. M. Boykin, were the only business places.

Mr. Binyon was born in Anderson County, about nine miles from Tennessee Colony, Texas, which derived its name from the fact that Tennessee people seeking a new home in the west settled there. He was a ranchman in this section until 1918, when he moved to San Angelo. He has lived in Rankin for several years.

Sutton County Historical Society note: Benton L. Binyon (1861-1935) and Emma P. Binyon (1871-1935) are buried in the Fairmount Cemetery in San Angelo. It is good that "The Devil's River News," recorded so many stories like this one in the 1930's. They have preserved a lot of the early history of our county.

In the same issue we found the following from a sermon by the Rev. Frank Nixon of the Baptist Church. "War brings nothing good and does cost in a great many ways, among the most important of which is human suffering. The terrible horrors of war are certainly not Christian. The need of the world today, as a step toward world peace, is a spirit of righteousness rather than one of greed."

Severo Chavez and Gilberto Castillo of Sonora attended the LULAC convention in San Antonio. Colonel Tuttle addressed them concerning the work of the Boy Scouts of America.

Also in this issue: Credit for creation of a timely and interesting window display which is attracting attention this week goes to Preston Prater of the E. F. Vander Stucken Co. Against a background of colorful sumac, Mr. Prater has built an outdoor scene featuring his firm's merchandise for outdoor workers and hunters. At one side of the display a tent, with a lantern for lighting, has been set up. The campfire, graced by a black pot, has glowing "embers" and partially burned wood.

Over the tent entrance is the deer hunter's red cap. Several rifles as well as boots, jackets and caps are displayed. A "moon," autumn tinged in color, may be seen at the rear of the camp scene adding a final touch to a cleverly ex-



Stockmen in the Stockman's Paradise have long worked to develop top-producing goats and sheep. Pictured above are several ranchers from the area, including Leo Richardson of Iraan in the white jacket at left. Pat Rose of Val Verde County is fourth from left. Readers, please help the Historical Society attach names to these images. If you know the identities of any of the men in the above photograph, please contact Jo-Ann at (325) 387-5084.

ecuted window.

We find that meals at the Hotel McDonald were only 50 cents and that at the White Beauty Parlor you could get a shampoo and set for 50 cents and a lady's or children's haircut for 25 cents. E. F. Vander Stucken Co. was selling Dromedary Dixie Mix, (a fruit cake mixture, add 1 egg and liquid and bake in the pan given free, and you have 1 1/4 pounds of delicious fruit cake). La Vista Theater was showing Shirley Temple in "Baby, Takes a Bow," and Mae West in "Belle of the Nineties."

I have had a lot of requests to run some more prices from the "good old days." Piggly Wiggly sold Armour's Star hams for 23 cents a pound. They had Mission Sugar Peas for 15 cents for a #2 can, Green Gage Plums 33 cents a gallon can, Oysters were two 5 oz. cans for 25 cents, Heinze bread and butter Pickles by the quart for 33 cents, Bright and Early coffee, a 3 lb package with free glasses, for 83 cents, Ma Brown Grape Jam in a 4 lb. jar for 65 cents and in a small jar for 15 cents. Falfurrias sweet cream butter was 35 cents a pound, Crystal Sugar Cured Bacon was 35 cents a pound, Weiners 14 cents a pound, Idaho Spuds #1 10 pounds for 21 cents, large celery stalks were 12 cents, green beans were 8 cents a pound, bananas were 15 cents a dozen, bell peppers were 8 cents a pound, mustard greens in extra large bunches were 4 cents and Delicious apples sold for 19 cents a dozen. Gold Crown Flour was \$1.89 for a 48 lb. bag and 97 cents for a 24 lb. bag.

At the City Variety Store you could buy 36 inch broadcloth for 12 cents a yard in your choice of 14 colors with thread on sale for 4 cents. Ly-sol was selling for 15 cents a bottle, Pebecco Tooth Paste for 34 cents. 32 piece dinner sets were selling for \$3.20 and an alarm clock for 84 cents with a 1 year guarantee. White dinner plates, or a cup and saucer,

mail them to schs@sonoratx.net Our phone number is 325-387-5084 and the offices are open Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday mornings only.

the country was in the middle of a depression.

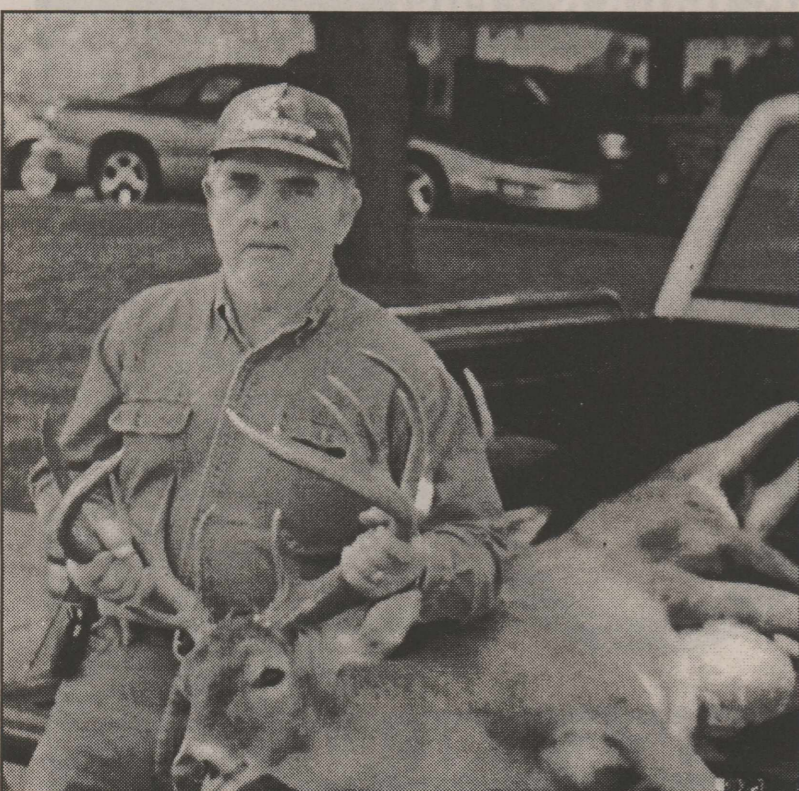
If you have any questions concerning Sutton County history send them to "Ask the Historical Society," P.O. Box 885, Sonora, TX 76950 or e-

mail them to schs@sonoratx.net Our phone number is 325-387-5084 and the offices are open Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday mornings only.

ITS ALL ABOUT HIM



The Big Buck



John Brown of Corsicana recently bagged this 19-point buck on a ranch on the east end of the county. The buck scored 173.03 on the Boone and Crockett scale.

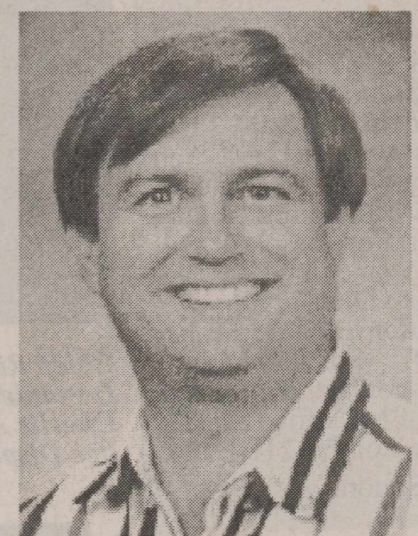
Three physicians to serve Sonora Medical Clinic

Reflecting its commitment to provide a continuity of quality medical care to Sonora and Sutton County, the Sonora Medical Clinic is pleased to announce it has secured the services of three physicians.

Bradly Bundrant, M.D. began practice at the Sonora Medical Clinic in November. Dr. Bundrant earned his medical degree at Texas Tech Health Sciences Center in Lubbock and served his family practice residency at the Texas Tech Health Sciences Center in El Paso.

Dr. Bundrant will staff the Sonora Medical Clinic through May, 2008, when the clinic will welcome Doctors Mark and Kristy Edwards. Both physicians earned their medical degrees at the Texas Tech Health Sciences Center in Lubbock and did their family practice residencies at the Valley Baptist Medical Center in Harlingen, Texas.

In addition to family medicine, Dr. Mark Edwards will offer colonoscopies and Dr. Kristy Edwards will provide wound care and a variety of women's services.



Dr. Bradly Bundrant
301 Hudspeth, Suite B
(325) 387-7911

**SONORA
MEDICAL
CLINIC**



Open Monday-Friday
8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Walk-ins welcome
Nosotros hablamos español.

CHAMBER CHATTER

Debra and Mike Hobbs' Mercantile Building on Main Street, celebrated its Grand Opening on Monday, December 3rd, with an open house. The festivities began at 4:00 p.m., with a ribbon cutting ceremony hosted by the Sonora Chamber of Commerce. The celebration then moved inside where Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus greeted everyone. A tour of the newly renovated facility and office spaces was enjoyed by various members of the Sonora business community, friends and interested citizens. Delicious refreshments prepared by the Mercantile on Main Restaurant were stupendous and the live entertainment off the balcony added to the Christmas spirit. We are so excited to have the following businesses: The Mercantile on Main, West Texas Magnesium, JayAdd Contracting, Mariposa Homes, Joe McGuffin, Ben and Lenora Pool, Stacy Fisher, Everett Michael Enterprises, Rio Diablo Resources and The Mercan-

tile Garden. Thank you, Mike and Debra, for all the hard work you have done to make it a place with great character, the sort of place where any business would love to be located.

Congratulations and appreciation to all who brought the Christmas play and meal to downtown Sonora. What another great performance of holiday cheer to our town! All the volunteers and performers did a terrific job, and huge thanks from the community go to them. We also appreciate the extra hard work the commit-

tee, consisting of Linda Love, Jane Rushing, Greta Ramsdell, Brenda and Tabby Sanchez, Ann Kay, and all the churches put towards the program.

Thank you to the following businesses or individuals for sponsoring our monthly Chamber of Commerce luncheons since May: Susan Hall, First National Bank, Ryon West (Champion Technologies), Highmount Exploration and Production, The Bank and Trust, and Carla Smith.

After reading Becky's arti-

cle in the DRN about submitting your family tradition, it occurred to me that if you don't have a Christmas tradition, what a good time to start one with your kids. It will be something they look forward to every year as they are growing up, and will remember with fondness all their grown-up years.

My tradition with my two girls was that we would make rolled sugar cookies the week after Thanksgiving. And we had lots of Christmas Cookie cutters. When they were baked, I would wrap and store them in the freezer, and the day they got out of school for Christmas vacation, I would spend the morning filling small bowls with many colors of icing, raisins, chocolate chips, cinnamon red hots, colored sugars, sprinkles, etc. I would prepare the kitchen table as a work-place.

They spent the entire afternoon decorating cookies, some to

eat, some to save for our Christmas, and some to give to friends and relatives. Lots of loving fun was enjoyed by all. Best of all my daughters are keeping the cooking making tradition with their children.

With less than two weeks left until Christmas, please remember to shop Sonora. You

might just be surprised what you can find. A co-worker was looking for a video game for her children and had looked everywhere, out of town, internet and all the typical stores that carry the games and behold it was at a local store in Sonora, just around the corner from her, and it was a lower price.

Gifts Galore & More Everett's Pharmacy

417 N. Hwy 277 • (325) 387-5871

Bridal Registry

Megan Fitzgerald bride~elect Burke Headrick
Dani Barker bride~elect Chance Dillard
Lynzie Custer bride~elect Jake Trainer
Mrs. Stetson Hall~nee Mary Armstrong

F.Y.I.

4-H Stock Show Exhibitors are reminded that a **Sheep and Goat Clinic** will be held Sunday, December 16th, from 4:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. at 4-H Langford Barns.

The Regular City Council Meeting date has been changed to Monday, December 17, 2007 at 4:00 p.m. in Council Chambers at City Hall, 201 E. Main Street. The public is invited to attend.

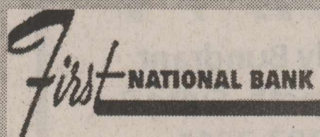
The Sutton County Commissioners Court has enacted a **Burn Ban**, prohibiting all outdoor burning until further notice.

The Sonora Ministerial Alliance, assisted by the Sonora High School Student Council, will be delivering Christmas food baskets to residents of Sonora on December 15th.

Sutton County 4-H & First National Bank of Sonora are hosting a coat drive. Please bring new/used coats to the bank for kids and adults. For more information please contact Shanna Petty, at 387-3861, or Kelly Thorp at 387-3604.

Interested in Emergency Medical Medicine? Sutton County EMS and BSA are looking for youths between 14 and 20 years of age to participate in a local Emergency Medical Exploring Post. Exploring's purpose is to provide experiences to help young people mature and to prepare them to become responsible and caring adults in a certain career. For more information, please contact: Roberta Tanguma 325-277-7189

Sutton County EMS will hold an **EMT class** beginning January 7th and conclude April 16th, 2008. Classes will be held on Mondays and Wednesdays at the EMS training facility. The cost for the class will be \$125 and includes the textbook. Deadline for pre-registration is December 28, 2007. For more information contact the Sutton County EMS office at 387-5132 or stop by 211 E. 3rd Street, Sonora.



P.O. Box 798, Sonora Texas 76950
325-387-3861



Member FDIC
229 Hwy 277 N
387-2593



Ruben Samaniego, Sonora's Firefighter of the Year, is congratulated by Fire Chief Rick Cearley.

SVFD Honors One of Its Own As It Celebrates the Season

by Jacqui Thomas,
S.V.F.D. Reporter

As families arrived at the fire hall Saturday evening, the children's most-asked question was, "When's Santa coming?" The evening's other question: Who will be Firefighter of the Year? Although fire department members voted for Firefighter of the Year when they elected officers for 2008, results of the final vote is a secret kept by the most recent recipients of the award until its announcement at the Christmas party.

After a festive and delicious dinner, Patrick Campbell was recognized for twenty years of service to the community as a firefighter. Chief Rick Cearley then called Ruben Samaniego to the fore, presenting him to the department and its guests as Firefighter of the Year for 2007.

Firefighter of the year is an honor and a great compliment. It is awarded to the Department member who is seen by fellow firefighters as one who can be counted on at all times and in all circumstances. Now in his eleventh year as a member of Sonora's fire department, Ruben can be counted on for everything from firefighting, driving, and vehicle extrication expertise to truck and building maintenance. Congratulations, Ruben.

Then the fire siren, once used to call firefighters to service and now used to announce Santa's arrival, answered that other question, the one the children were asking. The evening ended with both children and adults sitting with Santa, receiving gifts and assuring Santa that they'd behave themselves for the rest of the season.



Chief Rick Cearley, as Santa's helper, juggles a gift and Destanie Alewine, granddaughter of firefighters Alta and Charlie Alewine, as Lexie Martin, daughter of Sheriff's Office Dispatcher Kate Martin, receives a gift from Santa.



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Thursday, December 20, 2007
At The Bank & Trust
3:00pm - 5:00pm

Santa will be there!



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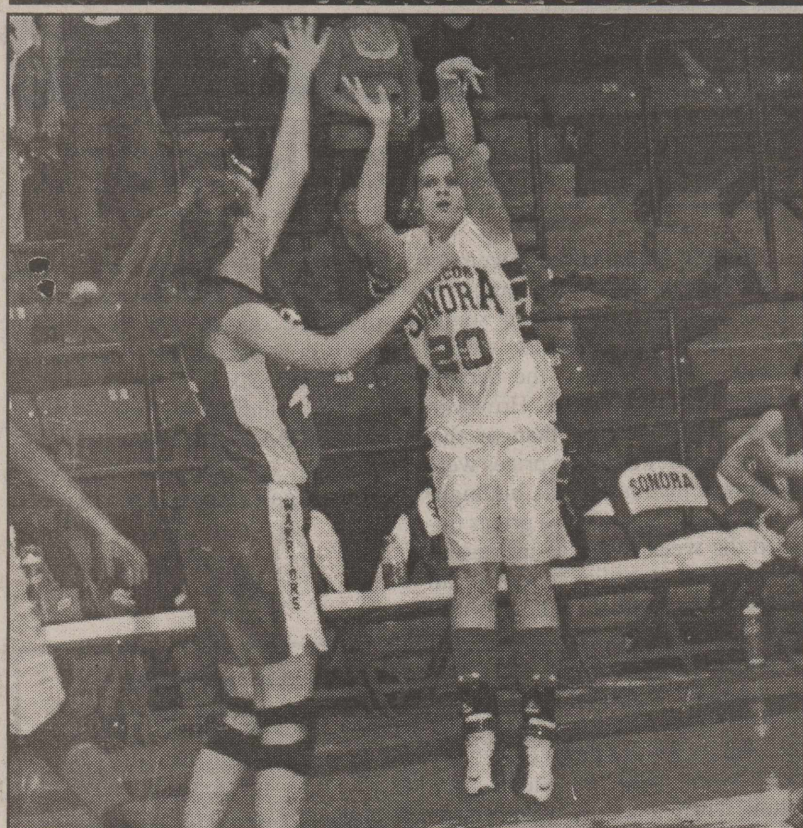


Photo by Ray Glasscock
Sonora High School Lady Broncos continue to excel as basketball season rolls onward. Above, Jessica Snyder goes up for two against Ingram.

Broncos Named to All-District Teams

Eleven Broncos have received district 8-AA football district honors, with senior Michael Jenkins named to the first team at both tight end and defensive end. Also receiving first-team honors were Edward Garcia, senior, offensive line; Aaron Gaytan, senior, defensive tackle;

and Isaac Quiroz, junior, utility. Senior Morgan Martinez and sophomore Will Anderson were both named to the second team as running backs. Also named to the second team were Riley Sanchez, senior, inside linebacker; and Dustin Neff, sophomore, inside linebacker. Ju-

nior Alberto Tovar Jr. and sophomore Cash Jennings received honorable mention for their defensive play and Fidel Acevedo, a senior, was recognized for his offensive play.

Sutton County Library Lists New Books

The following are new books available now at the Sutton County Library:

1. Water for Elephants, by Sara Gruen
2. Radio City Rockettes, by James Porto
3. Louder Than Words, by Jenny McCarthy
4. Forever, by Karen Kingsbury
5. Home to Holly Springs, by Jan Karon
6. Pandora's Daughter, by Iris Johansen
7. The Bone Garden, by Tess Gerritsen
8. The Choice, by Nicholas Sparks
9. Amazing Grace, by Danielle Steele
10. Playing for Pizza, by John Grisham
11. Run, by Ann Patchett
12. A Lick of Frost, by Laurell K. Hamilton
13. Shoot Him If He Runs, by Stuart Woods

14. Malice, by Robert Tanenbaum
15. Dark of the Moon, by John Sandford
16. Protect and Defend, by Richard North Patterson
17. Third Degree, by Greg Iles
18. Lord John and The Brotherhood of the Blade, by Diana Gabaldon
19. Between Sundays, by Karen Kingsbury
20. The Chase, by Clive Cussler
21. Where Angels Go, by Debbie Macomber
22. Dream Dictionary, by Tony Crisp
23. 10,000 Dreams Interpreted, by Pamela Ball
24. Dream Decoder, by Joules Taylot
25. Superior Deception, by Matthew Williams

26. Means to an End, by Michael Hachey
27. The Flying Wagon, by T.J. Parnham
28. Evening Star, by Carolyn Brown
29. Serenade, by Ilsa Mayr
30. Everything but the Groom, by Holly Jacobs
31. In Perfect Harmony, by Alayne Adams
32. Star Crossed, by Jane McBride Choate
33. The Romany Heiress, by Nikki Poppen
34. Lone Survivor, by V.S. Meszaros

Main Street Traffic

by Ann Kay

Christmas on Main Street was a great success! The evening started with Mayor Gloria Lopez wishing the community a wonderful Christmas. Then the fourth grade choir, led by Chasy Duncan, started the evening off with a Christmas melody that warmed the hearts of each person listening. We would like to thank the 4th grade choir and Mrs. Duncan. Next, Jane Rushing and the Lighthouse Community, Good Shepherd Presbyterian, First Methodist, St. Ann's Catholic Church, St. John's Episcopal, and First Baptist Church Choir continued the evening, singing Christmas favorites that we all love to hear during this special season. We would like to send a special note of appreciation to all the churches and the members who helped with the choir and the costumes for the play.

The inviting aroma of Mexican food in the air enticed attendees to Lone Star Collision where La Mexicana and Sutton County Steakhouse and many volunteers were working together to make the evening special with enchiladas, beans, rice, and sopapias. Steve Lynn and his crew from Lone Star Collision graciously opened the doors to the show room floor for us to be able to serve the community indoors. The volunteers were organized by Tabby Sanchez-Abrego and Clara James and we appreciate their help. We would like to express our gratitude to Claire James, Janice Black, Charlene, Terry, Dani Barker, Kati Haby, Kason Haby, Kimberly Latham, Sandy Espinosa, Becky Covington, Maura Weingart, Sutton County Steakhouse crew, Patty Prather, and La Mexicana Restaurant crew. Thank you!

The tribute to the soldiers was done by Peter Bradley and Matthew Young. We would like to say a big thank you to both for reminding us how lucky we are to be Americans. Peter has a great talent and we are lucky to have him in our community.

How the Grouch Found Christmas was one of the highlights of the evening. This beautiful play was performed by the children of our community. It warmed our spirits and filled our hearts with Christmas joy.

The play would not have happened if all these folks didn't work long and hard to give you the performance of the year, and we would like to give them a big Thank You. The actors were: Felicia Farley, Lane Cahill, Carson Cahill, Mary Kyle Johnson, Stevie Smith, Sterling Smith, Holly Sparks, Delaney Ramsdell, Darby Ramsdell, Kristen Garrett, Cip Tobias, Katherine Ann Bean, Elizabeth Bea, Mia Smith, Misae Smith, Delilah Lopez, Evan Shannon, Rebeckah Owen, Hunter Hughes, Alejandro Aranda, Alexa Sykes, Madison Wolfe, Justina McGuffin, Jeremy Doran, Straton Rushing, Garrett Jager, Halle Dalton, Kenley Young, Lenora Pool, Carla Smith, Steve Smith, Rachel Johnson, Sheriff Joe Fincher, and Janelle Sparks. We would like to express a special note of appreciation to Beverly Smith, Jane Rushing, and Linda Love for directing the play. The music was by Ed Newton, Paul Stephan, Trey Rushing, Tommy Arnwine, and Ann Carol. A big thank you to stage hands Todd Munn (Todd Munn Hot Shot Service),

Shane Love, Sanchez Welding & Construction, Trey Rushing, Ben Pool, Preston Love, City of Sonora, Jim Polonis, Jim Kay, Matt Young, Marlyn Young, Dylan Castillo, Adkins Septic, Iris Brady, Jody Luttrell (MC), Mr. Sutton County Levi Garrett, Little Miss Sutton County Kodi Davis, Miss Sutton County Laura Martin, (Power Lights) Mike Glover, Karen Fincher, Eddy Smith, Mallory Rousselet, & Bill Hodges (KHOS Radio), Becky McAngus (Devil's River News), KLST Channel 8, Donna Garrett, Gretta & Paul Ramsdell, Pastor T. Wayne Price, Pastor Don Longoria, Youth Director David Dunlap, Lisa Karnes, Jan Stephans, Rachel Duran, Terry Surrridge, Patti Rainer, First National Bank of Sonora (donated paper goods), The Bank & Trust of Sonora (donated paper goods), Team Graphic, Everetts Furniture Emporium, Mercantile Building, all the parents of the children, and the pinata by Ruben & Nelda Yorba.

Friends of Historic Sonora Main Street Program would like to express our appreciation to Johnny Solis and Carlos Gallegos for decorating the Bank Vault Park, Welcome to Sonora Planter Box, and the Sutton County Courthouse. When you think of Christmas, and spreading the spirit of Christmas, you think of the beautiful job Johnny and Carlos do each Christmas.

Lady Broncos Basketball

- DEC14-15
ELDORADO JV
TOURNAMENT
T.B.A.
- DEC-17
REAGAN CO. HOME
6:00
- DEC-18
OZONA HOME
5:00 6:30
- DEC-21
LLANO AWAY
4:00 5:30
- DEC 27-29
REAGAN CO TOURNAMENT
T.B.A.
- JAN-4
BLANCO*
HOME
5:00 6:30 8:00
- JAN-8
COMFORT*
AWAY
5:00 6:30 8:00
- JAN-11
JUNCTION*
AWAY
5:00 6:30 8:00



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Happy 1st Birthday Hollis

We love you
Daddy, Mommy, Grandma,
Grandpa Gary, Grandma Lesa,
Auntie Danielle,
Uncle Boomer & the rest
of your family

Sonora Elementary Menu

December 17-21

Breakfast

Cereal and assorted juice offered with every breakfast

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| Mon.- Muffin | Thur.- Biscuit w/Sausage |
| Tues.- Cinnamon Toast | Fri. - Yogurt |
| Wed.- Pancake Wrap | |

Lunch

Milk offered with every lunch

- | |
|---|
| Mon.- Baked Chicken, Mac & Cheese, Salad, and Peaches |
| Tues.- Steak Fingers, Mashed Potatoes & Gravy, Peas, Roll, and Applesauce |
| Wed.- Hot Dog w/Chili, Green Beans, Chips, and Orange-Pineapple Salad |
| Thurs.- Chicken Enchiladas, Rice, Beans, and Mixed Fruit |
| Fri.- Pizza, Corn, Salad, and Pudding |

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Team Graphics

Please Place All Embroidery and Monogram Orders By December 14th for Christmas Delivery.

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Fresh Oysters 2 lb. qts.	LA Frozen Crawfish Tails 1 lb. pack
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- Harry Potter - Order of the Phoenix -
- High School Musical II-
- For Love of a Dog-

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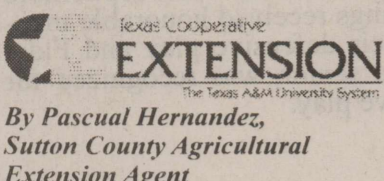
STEREO SURROUND SOUND IN ALL AUDITORIUMS

◆ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS (PG) 1:15pm 2:05pm 4:15pm 5:05pm 7:15pm 8:05pm 10:05pm 10:55pm	◆ENCHANTED (PG) 1:05pm 4:05pm 7:05pm 9:55pm
◆I AM LEGEND (PG-13) 1:00pm 1:30pm 1:45pm 4:00pm 4:30pm 4:45pm 7:00pm 7:30pm 7:45pm 9:50pm 10:20pm 10:35pm	◆FRED CLAU (PG) 1:35pm 4:35pm 7:35pm 10:25pm
◆THE PERFECT HOLIDAY (PG) 2:00pm 5:00pm 8:00pm 10:50pm	◆NO COUNTRY FOR OLD MEN (R) 1:25pm 4:25pm 7:25pm 10:15pm
◆AUGUST RUSH (PG) 1:20pm 4:20pm 7:20pm 10:10pm	◆THE GOLDEN COMPASS (PG-13) 1:10pm 1:50pm 4:10pm 4:50pm 7:10pm 7:50pm 10:00pm 10:40pm
◆AWAKE (R) 1:40pm 4:40pm 7:40pm 10:30pm	◆THIS CHRISTMAS (PG-13) 1:55pm 4:55pm 7:55pm 10:45pm

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Oil & Agribusiness

Selecting Pecan Trees Requires Some Thought



By Pascual Hernandez, Sutton County Agricultural Extension Agent

If you are thinking about planting a pecan tree in your landscape, there are some things to consider...

lined and can cross-pollinate with trees up to 1/4 mile away. If inadequate pollination is probable...

are very small but have high-quality kernels. The trees begin to bear in 5 to 6 years and tend to bear well annually...

unattractive tree if not well managed. Nuts/lb - 43. Choctaw is a good yard tree because of its beautiful foliage...

TDA Market Report

For the week ending December 8, 2007, cash feeder steer prices at Texas auctions were down somewhat from the previous week's average...

cattle prices are for 500-600 pound medium and large #1 steers. Futures prices are quoted for the nearest month contract on the last trading day of the week.



Rig Report As of December 7, 2007

- SUTTON 1 HIGHMOUNT E&P/HDQ 9550' JACK W BROWN -WA- #5 DW PATTERSON DRILLING/A 39 11/27/07 11 DRLG AHEAD... SCHLEICHER 1 DOMINION OK TX E&P 8900' PARMER -30- #3 DW PATTERSON DRILLING/A 742 12/21/07 ASSIGNED... CROCKETT 1 HARRISON INTERESTS 10500' JOHN W HENDERSON III -K- #72 FT HEART LAND DRILLING 8 12/01/07 7 DRLG AHEAD... TERRELL 1 ENCORE OPERATING LP 15000' GOODE ESTATE #6 DW NABORS DRILLING (O) 641 11/07/07 31 DRLG AHEAD... EDWARDS 1 NEWFIELD EXPLORATION 15500' WHITEHEAD -85- GAS UNIT -1- #H PATTERSON DRILLING/A 471 12/06/07 2 DRLG AHEAD... VAL VERDE 1 WINN EXPLORATION CO 14500' BENCOMO -75- #1 DW NABORS DRILLING (O) 294 09/23/07 76 DRLG AHEAD

Sutton County UWCD Urges Management of Water Resources

by Greta S. Ramsdell

This year has generally brought more rainfall and lower temperatures than the past several years. Just because we have been blessed with more rainfall this year is no reason to abandon efficient use and conservation of groundwater supplies.

ant of the land receiving the discharge. The inefficient use of water may also be considered waste. The Water District promotes the wise use of water through outdoor conservation practices.

With only 1% of the earth's water usable, it is very important not to waste water. In fact, the Sutton County Underground Water Conservation District has a rule which addresses waste. Waste is defined as any one or more of the following:

When watering is necessary, water lawns with large water droplet sprinklers. Use soaker hoses and mulch around trees shrubbery and flower beds. To further conserve water, leaky faucets should be repaired...

- the withdrawal of underground water from an underground water reservoir at a rate and in an amount that causes or threatens to cause intrusion into the reservoir of water unsuitable for agricultural, gardening, domestic, or stock raising purposes; the flowing or producing of wells from an underground water reservoir if the water produced is not used for a beneficial purpose; the escape of underground water from an underground water reservoir to any other reservoir that does not contain underground water; the pollution or harmful alteration of underground water in an underground water reservoir by salt water, other deleterious matter admitted from another stratum, or from the surface of the ground; willfully or negligently causing, suffering, or permitting underground water to escape into any river, creek, natural watercourse, depression, lake, reservoir, drain, sewer, street, highway, road, or road ditch, or onto any land other than that of the owner of the well; or groundwater pumped for irrigation that escapes as irrigation tailwater onto land other than that of the owner of the well unless permission has been granted by the occu-

Table with Texas Cash Markets and Futures Markets sections, listing prices for Feeder Steers, Fed Cattle, Slaughter Lambs, Slaughter Goats, Cotton, Grain Sorghum, Wheat, Corn, Oranges, Feeder Cattle, and Finished Cattle.

- Junction Stockyards Market Report 12/10/2007 Sheep & Goats Market Report Total receipts, 2047 head. Kids 2-4 lower. Nannies 2-5 higher. with thin nannies selling steady. Billies steady to 4 higher. Other classes steady. Sheep: #1 Spring Lambs 50-70 lbs .98-1.12 #1 Spring Lambs 70-90 lbs .90-1.07 #1 Old Crop Lambs 50-70 lbs NA #1 Old Crop Lambs 70-90 lbs NA Fat Ewes - .35-.45 Thin Ewes - .12-.28 Bucks - .28-.40 Baby Tooth Ewes - .60-.72 Solid Mouth Ewes - .37-.48 Ewe & Lamb Pairs- no test Goats: Baby Tooth Angora Stocker Nannies- .45-.52 Solid Mouth Angora Stocker Nannies - NA Stocker Angora Muttons - .50-.70 Angora Kids - NA Angora Kids Shorn 1.05-1.14 Weighing Angoras-Shorn (Thin) - .17-.27 Weighing Angoras-Shorn (Fat) Nannies - .35-.40 Stocker Spanish Nannies .60-.80 Fat Spanish Nannies .40-.52 Fat Spanish Muttons & Billies .78-1.04 mutt. .90-1.10 Fat Yearlings - 1.05-1.15 Fat Spanish Kids -1.10-1.16 Small Kids- 1.02-1.20 Thin Kids - .92-1.05 Spanish Nanny & Kid pairs NA

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Superintendent Evaluation -----Continued from page 1

agreed that the minutes from the November 12th meeting were inaccurate. "This is the first time I've ever seen them done like this," she said.

Superintendent Bawcom informed the board that, if they want to be quoted verbatim, they must indicate such when making their remarks in the public meeting. "If you want (your remarks) to be verbatim, you must indicate by stating the words "for the record," he said.

The board instructed Bawcom to have the minutes corrected to reflect the concerns voiced at the November 12th meeting. Favila said, "We want you to quote us verbatim, and to quote Mr. Bawcom's response, as well. We asked if you (Bawcom) could talk to your teachers, and (you) agreed to do that. We want the minutes to reflect the direction the board gave to you in order to stop this nonsense," she said.

Later in the meeting, the board reviewed the proposed local policy update that directs school district policy as it relates to staff, students, absences and grading. "This is our one chance to make it legal and make it clear," Barbara Jennings told the board. She suggested that the board adopt a grading policy that would assess a penalty for work turned in late completed under the supervision of anyone other than the teacher of that course. "We want to give the teacher the right to count off for late work, and to give the teacher the discretion to work with students who may need extra help," Jennings said.

The board instructed the superintendent to review their suggested changes with Kathy London, who drew up the policy revisions, and to have her present the revised policy in its entirety for approval by the board at the January meeting.

In other business, after a lengthy discussion regarding costs and phasing, the school board agreed to adopt the conceptual facilities master plan for expansion and upgrading of athletic facilities at Bronco Stadium. Board member Tammy Favila said she is concerned that, although she has been a proponent of the construction of a girl's locker room at the football field, she has heard there is a staph infection in the boys' locker room. "The taxpayers understand how important it is for the girls to have a place to dress, but we don't want the boys to be in an unsafe place." She urged the board to proceed with construction of the boys' locker rooms as Phase I of the project.

Scott Jacoby told the board that he is of the opinion that the proposed 21,000 square foot multipurpose building is a "luxury we don't need. When we started this, we were looking at the tennis courts and locker rooms, and it (the project) has grown into this," he stated. Jacoby has previously voiced his concern regarding the financing of the project.

Superintendent Bawcom, addressing the board's concerns, stated that the cost of the project must be negotiated at the onset. The architectural firm has not given the board a firm estimate for the construction drawings; rather, they have indicated that the cost of the drawings will be a percentage of the project. The board directed Bawcom to have the architect present at the January 14, 2008 meeting to discuss costs, before proceeding with construction drawings for Phases I and II of the eight to twelve-million dollar project.

The superintendent reviewed with the board the payment schedule for upgrades at the elementary campus. The \$7.5 million bond issue was approved by voters and funded in September 2002 for a 10-year payout at 3.37 percent interest. As of August 31, 2008, the district has paid \$4,863,016.58 on the bond, and still owes \$4,100,978.16 as of the end of this school year. When paid in full, the district will have paid \$8,963,994.74 over the ten-year period. Diane Jacoby, the district's business manager, informed the board that, in order to take advantage of the low interest rate and the short payout, the debt cannot be paid early.

The Sutton County Tax Appraisal District reported that \$750,175.25 of the 2008 ad valorem tax has been collected as of December 1st. The total tax roll for the district is \$14,623,751. The majority of taxes are collected during the months of December and January.

The school district has a balance of \$14,516,600.70 in TEXPOOL investments. This money is earning 4.7144 percent interest. The business manager reported that the current school district fund balances are \$12,147,539.79, with \$8,071,507.78 in designated funds. The board approved the designation of the remaining \$4,076,032 in school district funds.

Following the public meeting, the board went into executive session to evaluate the superintendent's job performance. No action was taken in the executive session.

Las Posadas Marks Journey -----Continued from Page 1

"landlords" who refuse to let them enter. They move ever onward, to another house, another door, another landlord. Finally, after several verses of song asking for posada and several verses of refusal, the pilgrims' journey ends when those indoors sing the welcoming refrain. The pilgrims are admitted to a home where they celebrate with Christmas carols, read Holy Scripture and feast on tamales, hot chocolate, bunuelos and empanadas (cakes and cookies).

On Christmas Eve, "Noche Buena", the posada ceremony changes as, at the conclusion of the procession and rosary, the figure of the Christ child is placed in a bed of straw in the crèche. "Lo acuestan," the ceremony of placing the child in the manger, is followed by "adorandolo" the greeting of the people who touch or kiss the figure of the child and a rosary giving thanks for the birth of the Savior.

The celebration of Christmas does not stop, or even begin on Christmas Day. Beginning December 3rd, the church celebrates the birthday of Mary "Novenario", with rosarios. "Matachines", dances honoring Mary, are held from the day the rosarios begin until her birthday on December 12th.

December 28th is the Day of the Holy Innocents, (the day King Herod ordered all male infants to be slaughtered in hopes that one of them would be the Christ child). Today, this day has evolved into an "April Fool's Day" of sorts, where youngsters and those young at heart play practical jokes. New Year's Eve is celebrated with a "Misa de Gallo" (Midnight Mass) where the congregation prays for blessings in the New Year and gives thanks for the one left behind.

On "Little Christmas" or "Dia de Reyes Magos," (Three Kings

Day) each January 6th, the children place their shoes under their beds or next to the window in order to receive small gifts. After the evening meal, adults and their friends share a "Rosca de Reyes", a large donut-shaped sweet bread loaf into which is baked one or two small plastic figurines of "el nino", the Christ child. Traditionally, a person whose slice of rosca contains a figurine, is expected to invite all of those sharing the rosca to a party on February 2nd, "Dia de la Candelaria," or Candelmas Day. On that day, the figure of the Christ child is picked up out of the manger, ropon (clothing) for the nino is placed on the figurine and the nacimiento is put away until the following year.

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Submitted By:
Kelly L Thorp, MS
 County Extension Agent-
 Family and Consumer
 Sciences, Texas Cooperative
 Extension- Sutton County

Decking the halls carelessly can lead to a memorable holiday season but not necessarily for happy reasons. That's why safety should come first during this festive season, said a Texas Cooperative Extension expert.

When decorating for the holidays, make the first step be ladder safety, said Janie Harris, extension housing and environment specialist. And then follow these steps:

- Inspect the ladder to make sure it is well maintained, clean and intact. Make sure the spreaders (the devices on the sides that hold step ladders open) function properly and never climb on a ladder that is slippery or shaky.
- Plant the base of the ladder on a firm, level surface. Spreaders should be open and locked before the ladder is used.
- When climbing up and down, face the ladder, keep the body centered between the sides and have one hand and one foot on the rung at the same time. Don't carry equipment when climbing; instead have someone hand it to you or wear a tool belt.
- When on the ladder, keep weight evenly distributed; don't overextend your reach.
- Don't attempt to move a ladder while standing on it. Clear the ladder of people and equipment before moving it.
- Don't stand on the ladder's bucket shelf - that is not de-

signed to hold people.

- Read and follow manufacturer's guidelines and warning labels on the ladder itself. And make sure you've picked the right kind of ladder, Harris advised.
- "Task determines which type ladder as well as the material the ladder should be made of," she said. "If the ladder will be used near electrical sources, use a wooden or fiberglass ladder to reduce the possibility of electric shock." Be aware of other electrical hazards to holiday decorating, she advised. Don't forget to check electric plugs, cords and outlets before hanging lights and other decorations. Replace any damaged plugs or cords to reduce the danger of fire or shock.

When it comes to safe holiday decorating, Harris recommended these tips from the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission:

- If buying an artificial tree, choose one that is fire resistant.

- When decorating with a fresh tree, reduce the risk of fire by placing it away from sources of heat such as fireplaces or radiators. Trim the trunk and keep it in water and out of high traffic pathways.
- Use flame-resistant decorations on the tree and child-friendly ornaments such as plastic icicles and non-breakable balls.
- When using holiday lights - both indoor and outdoor - look for those that have an independent laboratory's certification for safety. Make sure each set of lights, whether old or new, has no broken sockets, frayed wires or loose connections. Any damaged light sets

should be thrown away.

- Plug in no more than three standard-sized light strings to any one electrical extension cord.
- To prevent a fire hazard, turn off all holiday lights, including those on the tree, before going to bed or leaving the house.
- Do not use electric lights on a metal tree.
- Keep green branches, papers and other holiday decorations away from fireplaces and other sources of heat.
- Do not burn wrapping paper in a fireplace - that could cause a flash fire.
- Don't put candles where they can easily tip over and never use lighted candles to

decorate trees.

Above all, use common sense when it comes to safety during the holidays, Harris advised. The festive decorations can also be safety hazards if not used with care and caution.

For more holiday safety hints from the Consumer Product Safety Commission, visit the Web at <http://www.cpsc.gov/> and click on the link to CPSC Publications.

For more information on other health and safety issues, visit Extension's Family and Consumer Sciences Web site at <http://fcs.tamu.edu/> Source: Janie Harris - Extension Housing and Environment Specialist

"For somehow, not only at Christmas, but all the long year through, the joy that you give to others is the joy that comes back to you."

John Greenleaf Whittier

Commissioners -----Continued from page 1

Mr. Jimenez told the commissioners that he feels it would be better for the city to hire an outside contractor for the job.

"I just feel that this could cause a problem for the county, if we have paving projects on tap and we are already committed to work for the city," Jimenez said. The county's paving plant is only operational two months each year, and all of the county's paving work is scheduled for that time.

In other business, the commissioners discussed the cost of court-appointed attorneys paid out of the county budget. Commissioner John Wade requested information on a bill in the amount of \$3,432.20 for a San Angelo attorney, which was presented for payment. Judge Garner assured Commissioner Wade that the bill was for 11 months of work on a district court case. District Judge Pedro Gomez, Garner said, reviews each of the bills and "conscientiously checks the hours billed" by court-appointed attorneys. The county pays \$80 per hour to court appointed attorneys. Sutton County has budgeted \$90,000 for this expense for 2008.

Judge Garner told the commissioners that the court-appointed attorney program is mandated by the State of Texas, which reimburses a percentage of the expenditures based on a formula. "We have a revolving list of attorneys who participate in the program - most of them are from San Angelo," she said. Persons who are arrested and charged with a crime in Sutton County who cannot afford an attorney request appointment through Judge Garner or through Justice of the Peace John K. Wilson. The state has established financial criteria for persons to qualify for the program.

Justice of the Peace John K. Wilson told the commissioners his office is still collecting on cases filed in 1997, 1998 and 1999. During the month of November, he said, his office collected \$85,563.22 in fines and fees. Of that amount Sutton County will retain \$44,346.31, the state will collect \$32,772.96

and the collection agency received \$5,299.95. During November, his office received 725 traffic cases, was the magistrate for 1 case, held one inquest, and issued five arrest warrants and one emergency protective order.

The Sutton County EMS reported 29 ambulance runs for the month of November. Oscar Jimenez reported that his crews are working on a water heater leak at the civic center. County Attorney David Wallace reported the collection of \$852.80 in hot checks for the month. The district clerk reported the collection of \$19,311.88 from district court for November and payment of bond forfeitures in the amount

of \$12,500. The clerk collected \$10,398 in fines and fees along with \$3,176 for copies of legal documents.

The commissioners voted unanimously to institute a fireworks ban for Sutton County. This ban was aimed at prohibiting bottle rockets, which could potentially cause damage to roofs or neighboring property. "At this time Sutton County Meets the Texas Forest Service drought index," Judge Garner explained. "If we enact the ban and the county goes off the drought index, then this action will be void."

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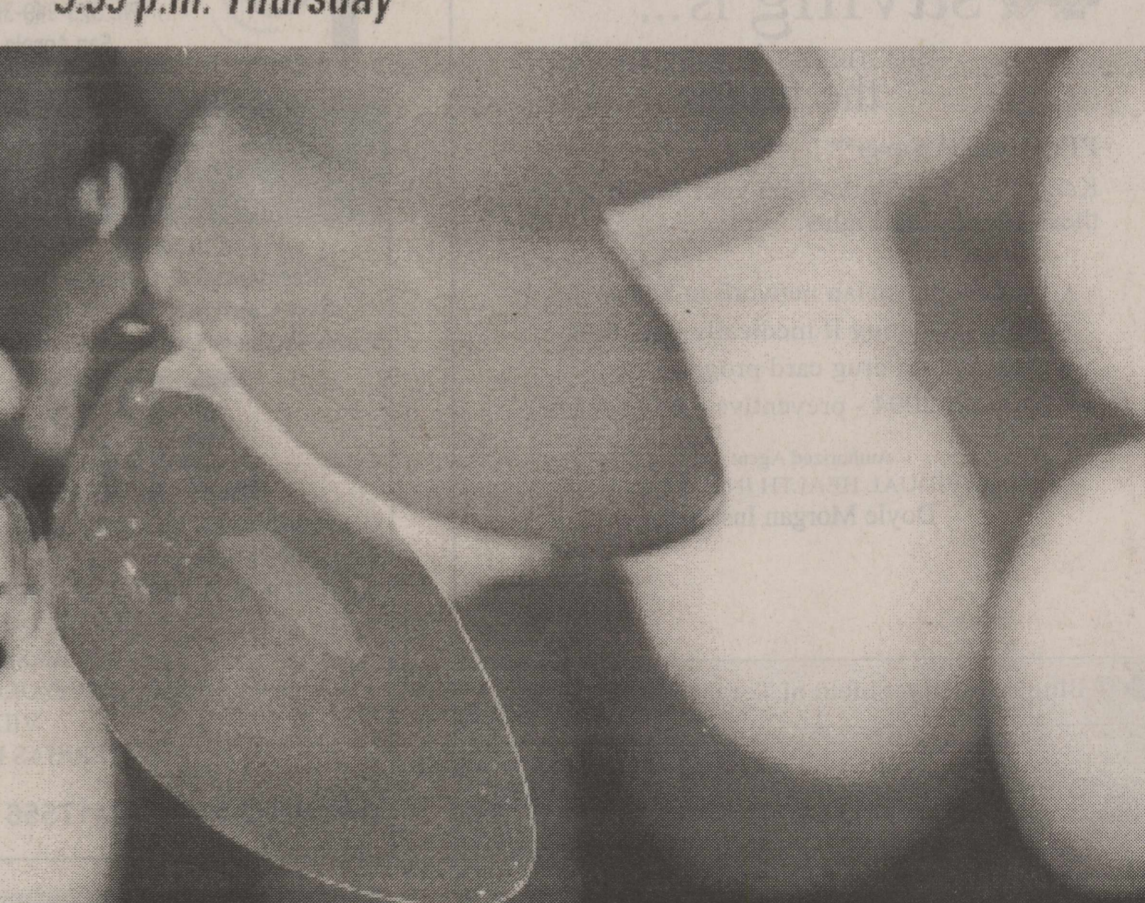
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Lighting up the holidays.

As you begin using decorative lighting in and around your home this holiday season, AEP Texas reminds you to keep safety in mind. Check light strings for frayed cords, and use only UL-approved lights and extension cords. Remember not to overload circuits, and remind children not to touch lights or outlets. And on behalf of all of us here at AEP Texas, please enjoy a safe, bright holiday season with your family and friends. AEP Texas is there, always working for you.

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For more information about electrical safety, visit AEPTexas.com

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The Devil's River News

Classified Ads

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Employment

Hiring All Positions. Mi Familia restaurant hiring all positions. 605 S. Crockett Ave. 325-387-2940.

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

Employment

Caregiver with experience in feed tubes, physical & speech therapy for 72 year old man that has had a stroke. Roosevelt, Texas call 325-392-3554.

Help Wanted-Counter Person. Bilingual preferred. Sales experience preferred. Apply at 501 S. Crockett or call 325-387-5167.

The City of Sonora is now accepting applications for a code officer. Benefits include vacation, sick leave, retirement, medical and dental insurance, etc. Applications may be picked up at City Hall, 201 E. Main, Sonora, Texas 76950, and should be returned to the City Secretary's Office. Additional information is available upon request. Applications accepted until position is filled. The City is an equal opportunity employer.

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

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Immediate Opening, Carrier wanted! Sign-On Bonus San Angelo Standard times seeking someone to deliver newspapers to houses in Sonora. Makes approximately \$1,400 working morning hours. 1-800-588-1884 ext 8291.

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For Rent 2 months free Bronco Mobile Home Estates, 2nd & 3rd month free on single & double wides. 1305 N. Crockett, Sonora. Call 387-2934 or 830-313-1060.

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Misc.

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For Sale

FOR SALE: 4 BR/2BA/FP doublewide mobile home. Corner lot, lots of trees, covered carport, fenced yard. 309 E. Warner, Eldorado. Call 277-0472 or 325-853-2431. Asking \$78,000.

Mesquite wood for sale. Call 325-206-1497.

1995 Chev. 4-Dr. 4x4 S-10 white-Blazer. Needs new block, but has new heads, intake manifold, new radiator, new alternator, K&N air filter. Has 5-33 inch tires with aluminum wheels. 4 inch suspension lift and 2 inch body lift, nerf bars, custom made bumper. Good condition inside and out. \$5,500 OBO call 226-5547 or 206-1609.

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1994 Chevy Suburban 140,000 mi. \$1,500.00. **1998 Chevy Cavalier** 87,000 mi. \$2,000.00. (325) 387-6064 after 5:00 p.m.

\$29,999 for only \$377.00 per month. 2008 16' x 72' 1152 sqft. Vinyl ext, shingle roof, strm windows/door. All appl. Deliv, set, A/C, vinyl skirting. Limit 2 per customer. Offer expires 12/31/07. Call 830-981-2430 FREE GAS RB135920 8.4% fixed, 120 months, 5% down.

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For Sale: 3 bedroom 2 bath home on large lot at 109 Draw St. Oliver West Call 830-889-9550 or 387-2797 - \$85,000.00.

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Public Notice

The City Council will hold a public hearing concerning the Sonora Industrial Development Corporation expending Section 4B sales tax funds for the following project: Proposed project to assist the Mercantile Garden, Inc., a new business specializing in antique and unique gifts and showcasing local artisans by offering consignment opportunities. Project will include granting \$30,000 for start-up costs and an additional \$20,000 to be provided over a two year period based on specific business growth requirements. The hearing will be held on Monday, December 17, 2007 at 4:00 p.m., at City Hall, 201 E. Main, Sonora, Texas. All citizens are invited to attend and provide the council with written or oral comments.

Notice is hereby given that the Sutton County Hospital District will receive bids for depository of the District's funds for the period commencing February 1, 2008, and ending January 31, 2010. Any banking organization qualifying under the laws of the State of Texas as a depository of municipal funds may submit a written application, sealed and marked, "Depository Bid". Such applications shall be received in the office of the Hospital District, Attention: Keith L. Butler, CEO, P.O. Box 455, 308 Hudspeth Avenue, Sonora, Texas 76950, no later than 2:00 p.m. on January 10, 2008. Applications will be opened and reviewed at this time. The Board of Directors will review and take action on the bids on January 14, 2008, at 6:00 p.m. The Directors reserve the right to accept the bid that offers the most favorable terms and conditions for handling of the Hospital District funds and shall have the right to reject any or all bids and to waive informalities.

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1301 Tayloe	\$75,000	
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101 Sawyer Ct.	\$122,000	
608 Allen Dr.	\$135,000	
502 S. Crockett (3 Houses)	\$139,900	
410 S. Crockett	\$140,000	
925 E. 2nd St.	\$147,500	Contract Pending
105 Draw St.	\$150,000	
107 Manor St.	\$159,500	Contract Pending
126 E. Castlehill Rd.	\$159,900	
102 Oakwood	\$185,000	
112 Edgemont Rd.	\$210,000	

Acreage & Lots

128 Deerwood Dr.	\$7000	
50 Acres - Sutton Co.	\$3000/Acre	
66.5 Acres - Sutton Co.	\$1850/Acre	Sold
Sutton County Estates-Lot 2, 20 Ac.	\$3500/Acre	
Sutton County Estates-Lot 5, 20 Ac.	\$3500/Acre	
Sutton County Estates-Lot 6, 21.87 Ac.	\$3500/Acre	
1553 Ac. w/home - Schleicher Co.	\$1395/Acre	Price Reduced
2235 Acres - Sutton Co.	\$1450/Acre	Price Reduced
320 Ac. w/home - Schleicher Co.	\$1495/Acre	
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210 E. Main St.	\$129,500	Contract Pending
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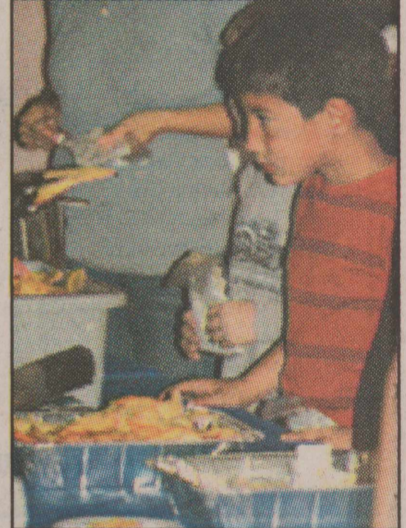
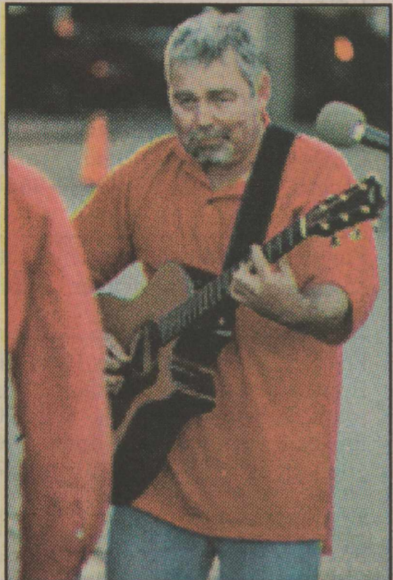
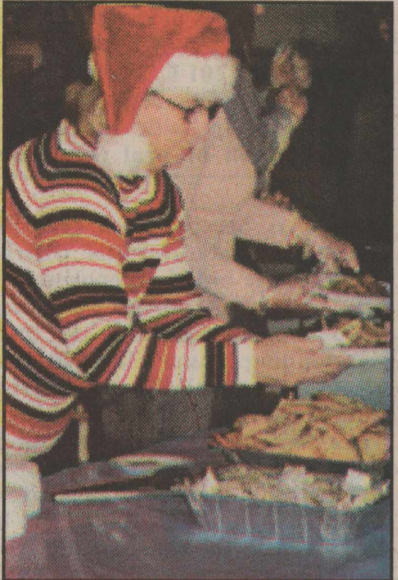
For more information about Pedernales Electric Cooperative please visit our website:
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Our Downtown Celebration



Photos by Becky McAngus

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