

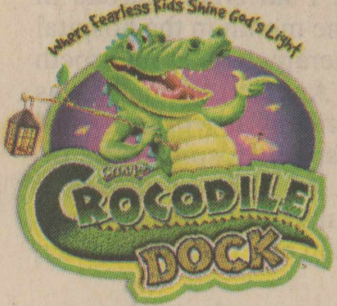
The Devil's River News

Volume 121 • Issue 25

SONORA, TEXAS

Thursday, June 18, 2009

Vacation Bible School



Page 2

The Lions Roar



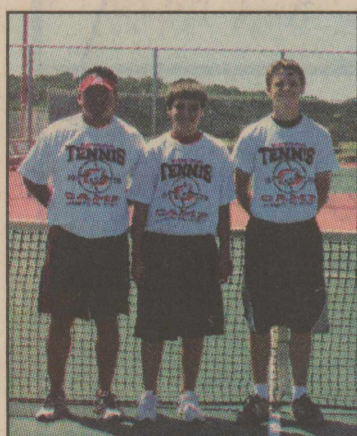
Page 3

Sonora Judging Teams Shine at Roundup



Page 5

Tennis Camp



Page 8

Page Index

- Page 2...Church
- Page 3...FYI
- Page 4...Toy Drive
- Page 5...Oil and Ag
- Page 6...Kellys Komer
- Page 7...Classifieds
- Page 8... Sports

Polocek Honored



L to R: Cathy Polocek Huber, April and Mike Polocek, & Susan Hall-Keep Sonora Beautiful Coordinator.

By Susan Hall

The Keep Texas Beautiful organization presented its first-ever posthumous award at the state conference last week to Virgil Polocek.

The room was full of tears as Virgil's children, son Mike and daughter Cathy, took the stage to receive the O.P. Schnabel Senior Citizen Award in their father's honor.

Virgil was a vital part of Keep Sonora Beautiful from its beginning. Virgil did not just "talk the talk", he "walked the walk". He gave financially. He helped mow and pull weeds to beautify Sonora. Virgil was very active in working to get our recycling facility going here in Sonora, even taking a road trip to neighbor-

ing communities to see their different recycling facilities. Keep Sonora Beautiful was very proud to have Virgil Polocek's support.

O.P. Schnabel—for whom the award is named—was a man who, like Virgil, inspired leadership and commitment to the cause of a cleaner, more beautiful community,

state, and nation. Schnabel's clean-up crusade began in the 1940s and has reached far beyond the borders of Texas.

Also honored at the Keep Texas Beautiful awards ceremony was Sutton County 4-H, for their litter prevention and beautification efforts.

School Board Meets: Rental Agreements Discussed

By Nancy Glasscock

During the school board meeting on Monday, June 8th, the board members had a lengthy discussion regarding a stricter district-owned housing rental agreement.

All members were in agreement that the rent should increase a long with the pet deposit. One member, Tommy Van Winkle stated he would like to see pets not allowed in district-owned housing after having to repair extensive damage in one apartment last summer.

Board President Tryon Fields stated after being employed in the district for three years, a school employee who is living in district-owned housing and "wants to stay in Sonora needs to invest in our community." He also stated that although district-owned housing is a "necessary evil," it is

a "good way to attract young teachers."

When the new lease agreement is finalized and approved at the next regular meeting, the maximum number of years

the district's depository for the next two years. The Student Extra-Curricular Insurance provider for 2009-2010 will remain Texas Kids First with a bid of \$41,000.

for auxiliary personnel. This item had been discussed in Closed Session.

During the special meeting that was conducted on May 25th, the



Photo by Nancy Glasscock

Demolition of the old Field House began in earnest as site preparation for construction of a new facility begins.

tenants will be allowed to live in the housing will be stipulated. There will be more specific information to report after the next meeting when the final version of the new rental agreement is approved.

In other new business on the agenda, the board members unanimously approved The Bank and Trust to remain as

No action was taken to consider a new sound and lighting system for the high school. The bid wasn't received at the administration office in time for the board meeting. This agenda item will be placed on next month's agenda.

After the board reconvened in Open Session, there was no action taken on a pay increase

following professional personnel were offered employment with the district: Jennifer Crum, Kathleen Freeman, Ervey Hernandez, Maria Rae Lune, Blake Weston, and Rachel Yourgalite.

If all goes as scheduled, by the time this article is

published, the old field house should be pushed down and hauled away and a construction area fence erected for safety purposes according to Darrell Johnson, site manager. Foundation prep site work will begin after demolition ends.

The next regularly scheduled Sonora ISD Board Meeting will be held July 13 at 5:30 PM.

SCUWD Update

Submitted by SCUWD Board of Directors

Our Sutton County Underground Water District (SCUWD) has been fortunate to maintain an active, dedicated team over the years. Our district has collected data on a regular basis for both water quality and water levels around Sutton County since the late 1980's. The district has long been recognized as one of the most "involved" single districts in the state.

Gretta Ramsdell recently retired as manager of the SCUWD. During her three years of service, Gretta really "got with the program". It was unusual for a relatively new manager to have been accepted and respected so quickly by her peer around the state. As compliments flowed to our board of directors for Gretta's enthusiasm, attention to details, and reaching out to other districts, she was always acknowledging the strong support of the districts team players.

Iris Garza has the longest tenure as part time accounting and has really helped with the continuity of service over the years. Tom Payton in the adjoining Soil Conservation office has always been ready to help. Ray Glasscock got our water mapping software program installed when he was on the staff with Cindy Cawley and Virgil Polocek. Ray is still very interested in the community and helps fine-tune some of the data. Cindy is now a director on the Eldorado water board. Her experience will continue to help the region.

Trent McClendon followed Virgil as Gretta's assistant. In short order, they were able to install several automated rain gauges close by several of our monitor wells. When Trent moved over to his airport project, Gretta and Iris kept right on going, until Jim Polonis became the new team specialist. He added a new vision to the position.

When Jim Cusenbary retired as a board member last fall, Diana Condra became the director. Diana also took Cusenbary's position as our delegate (with Gretta) to the weather modification-cloud seeding board for our West Texas area. This winter, Ralph Mayer, announced that he would step down from the board as a director after 12 years of service. Robert Sol Mayer replaced him in the spring election. Jim and Ralph, your years of service have been greatly appreciated.

Thanks again, Gretta, for a job well done in juggling numerous activities and staff development. One of the projects was the completion of the first two stages of the Sutton County water recharge study. Thanks for having the office in good shape for Jim Polonis to take over as the new district manager this spring. We are pleased with the smooth transition. Jim and Gary Hardgrave have really hit the ground running!

The district looks forward to continue working with taxpayers, land owners, well service firms, the City of Sonora, the Sutton County Court, the RRC, real estate brokers, and any new legislation.

SCUWD Board of Directors: Bob Brockman-President, Dean Dermody, Diana Condra, Robert Sol Mayer, an Joe David Ross.

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

Senior Center Activities

Thur. June 18- Cooking w/Kelly Nutrition Ed. @ noon.
Fri. June 19- Honor our "Senior" Father's @ noon.
Mon. June 22- Bingo
Tues. June 23- Happy Birthday *Maria Quiroz*
Wed. June 24- Happy Birthday *Kathie Jenkins*

Senior Center Menu

Thur. June 18- Meatloaf w/tomatoes, blackeyed peas, glazed carrots, bread, melon salad and milk
Fri. June 19- Beef/cheese enchiladas, pinto beans, coleslaw, fruit salad and milk
Mon. June 22- Hamburger on a bun, tomatoes, onions, lettuce, baked French Fries, carrot salad, apples and milk
Tues. June 23- Pork chops w/gravy, diced potatoes, peas/carrots, wheat rolls, tossed salad, peach cobbler and milk
Wed. June 24- Sweet & sour chicken, rice, stir-fried veggies, cookies 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 \$2.00; \$5.00 for under 60 and all other meals-to-go).

Death Notice

Inocencia "Mary" Ynguanzo

Inocencia "Mary" Ynguanzo passed away Friday, June 12, 2009. Services were Monday, June 15, 2009, at Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church.

Obituary

Jack Burch

Jack Burch passed away on June 16, 2009, at 7:45 a.m. in Ardmore, Oklahoma. Jack was a caver from Oklahoma, who saw the Mayfield Cave for the first time in 1956. His vision was to develop and preserve the cavern for future generations. Development started in 1959 and the Caverns of Sonora was opened to the public July 16, 1960. Preceded in death by son Lee Burch and wife Margaret Burch. Graveside services are pending with Kerbow Funeral Home in Sonora, Texas.

Thank You Note

To the Wonderful Citizens of Sutton County,
 I owe each of you a dept of gratitude for the concern you showed toward me during my recent accident.
 This is what living in Sutton County is all about: people helping people.
 I especially would like to thank our wonderful employees, the Jordan Hillards, and our very good neighbor, Bob Brockman for coming over and helping.
 From the Sutton County EMS Department to the Sutton County Sheriff's Department, you were all superb.

Thank you,
 John Wade

A great big heartfelt Thank You to all of Sonora,
 We often hear that Sonora is a great community. Armando and I recently learned how true that statement is. We feel truly blessed to live in a community such as Sonora where someone comes out and lends a helping hand during a time of need. This year had been an especially difficult one for us with increasing medical bills for both of us. I suffered a stroke in November of 2008 and spent most of the month in the hospital in San Angelo. I received outpatient therapy here at Hudspeth and West Texas Rehab Center in San Angelo. Armando was involved in a one-vehicle rollover accident at work in April 2009, and while being treated at Hudspeth Hospital, was diagnosed with renal cancer and had his left kidney removed at Angelo Community Hospital. We would like to thank everyone in the community who contributed in one form or another, making our fundraiser meal a success.

We are so grateful and there are not enough words to express our gratitude to everyone that bought tickets for the meal and especially to our friends, family, and everyone that helped organize the benefit, to those that sold tickets. We would also like to thank everyone who helped out at B&H Catering on Sunday, June 7, 2009, with plate preparation and everything else. We send a BIG special thank you to Benita and Harold Martinez for cooking all the food. Irene Dominguez (God bless you sister) for all your hard work selling tickets for the benefit. Thank you and God bless you all. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

Armando and Teri Dominguez

Thank you, thank you, may God bless each and every one who bought tickets to benefit my daughter Vicky Muniz and granddaughter, especially Luis Perez, Jr. and Victor & Diane Virgen.

Lots of Thanks,
 Albino & Anna Yruegas from Ozona, TX

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY, PAPA



*WE LOVE YOU,
 Michael, Jennifer,
 Sierra, & Ivan Galindo*

Happy Father's Day, Daddy!

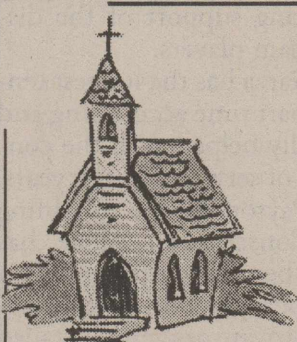


*We love you,
 Jennifer, Sierra,
 Mikey & Ivan Galindo*

Happy Father's Day, Dad

*Love,
 Your son Hollis*

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
11 E. Oak
387-2951 |
| 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

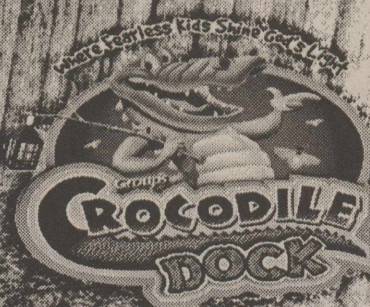
Happy Father's Day!
 From The Devil's River News Staff!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Sponsored by the Episcopal, Presbyterian, and First United Methodist Church

JUNE 22-26
PRE-K THROUGH 6TH GRADE
AT THE METHODIST CHURCH
9:00 A.M.-12:00 P.M.

REGISTRATION BEGINS
8:30 A.M.
MONDAY, JUNE 22



The Devil's River News

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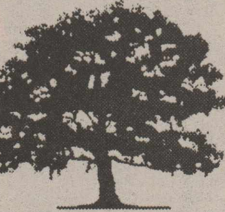
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MEMBER 2009
TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

SUTTON COUNTY HEALTH FOUNDATION



Your memorial gift helps preserve access to quality health care for generations to come.
 Please consider the Sutton County Health Foundation,
 PO Box 18, Sonora, TX 76950.
 All contributions are 100% tax deductible.

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
 201 NW WATER (325)387-2466

Picnic lunch
 May 17



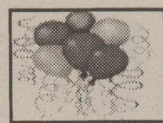
Youth Group
 Call for info.

Sundays
 9:00 a.m. Breakfast
Last Sunday of each month
 9:45 a.m. Sunday School
 10:55 a.m. Worship
 (Nursery provided from 9:30 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.)

Tuesdays
 Noon
 Downtown Lions Club

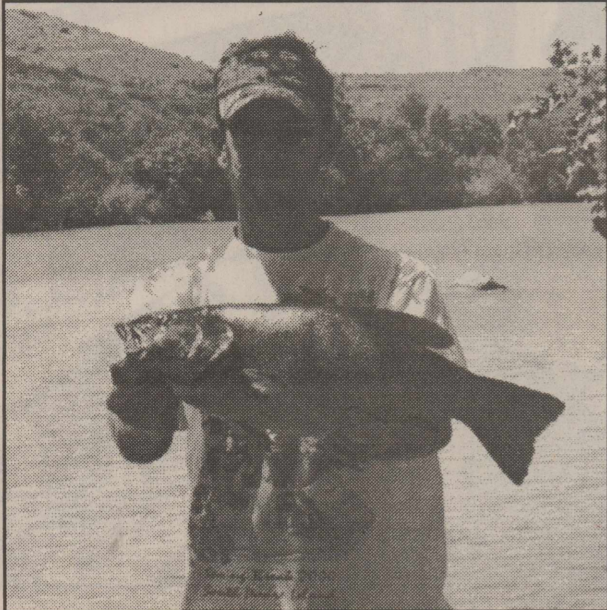
Wednesdays
 5:00 p.m.
 Choir Practice
 6:00 p.m.
 Beth Moore

Happy Birthday!



- June 18**
 Harold Luna, Patsy Velez, Bill Bacon,
 Brett Cypert, Freddy Virgen, Efrain Lopez
- June 19**
 Brandon Velez, Kate Martin, Becky Lumberras,
 Zare Santana, Gunter Pennington, Sandra Mesa
- June 20**
 Jan Northcott, Tony Renfro, Maria Elena Espinosa,
 Jordan Anderson, Michelle Anderson, Gerry Ingham
- June 21**
 Morgan Smith, Callie Allison Moore, Justin Bentay
- June 22**
 Virgil Burge, Brandon McGavock, Pam Munn
- June 23**
 Milton Black III, Manuel Patlan,
 Charlie Johnson, Bryan Reyes
- June 24**
 Koda Armke, Hunter Hughes, DJ Luna,
 Miguel Villanueva III, Greg Fierro,
 Donny Yocham, Jr., Mickey Sanchez, Madison Webb

Fish Tales



Sonora resident David Fisher landed this small-mouth bass on the Devil's River on Memorial Day weekend with TJ Thorp. This bass weighed just under 7.25 pounds and David was fishing with a frog lure.

Share your Fish Tales with us.

Email Lynn at sales@sonoratx.net or give us a call at 325-387-2507

F.Y.I.

Going away party for Preston & Linda Love @ the Sutton County Steak House, June 23, 2009 at 5:30 p.m., come and go.

Softball girls: Just a reminder-the awards and swimming party is June 22, 2009, from 6:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Cost will be \$5 per person to swim and have pizza. Please pay Donna Garrett the \$5 and she will get the pizzas and sodas for the party. You can drop it off at the Sonora Chamber Office with Tibba; just leave your name with the money for your swim bracelet.

Lions Club Youth Camps. The Lions Camp for the disabled (July 26-August 1) and children with diabetes (July 19-25) is now taking applications for their summer camp to be held in Kerrville. These camps are free of charge for those that qualify. Anybody interested in these camps can contact Col. Pete Bradley at 325-387-6282.

The Game Dinner Meetings will be held on July 17, Sept. 8, and Nov. 3, 2009. Anyone interested that would like to participate in the preparations and the event are welcome to attend. All meetings will be held at Fire Dept. meeting room at 6:30 p.m.

Reunion for Graduating Classes 1984, 1985, 1986, August 15, 2009, 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. @ Bill & Judy Webster's home, 115 Manor St. For more info, visit www.sonorahighalumni.com.

Sutton County Friends of NRA will be holding their 2nd Annual Auction/Banquet event on Saturday, September 19, 2009. Donations and auction items are being sought for this event. If you would like to be an active participant or would like to donate, please contact Tonya Brown @ 325-387-3861 or 325-387-5929. A pre-event raffle will begin April 2009. A gun safe and 5 firearms will be raffled with one winner taking all!

The 144th Narcotics Anonymous Group meets every Saturday at 10:00 a.m. in the Reception Hall of The Church of the Good Shepard, 319 N.E. Mulberry. FMI, call 387-4941 or 450-8922.

Rent the Depot!

For more information please call 387-5084. Tues. & Thurs. 8:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.

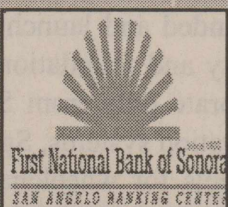
The Sutton County Historical Society Ranch Museum is looking for a pair of handmade boots, made by Ramirez Boot Shop in Sonora, Texas, to display in the museum.

Fundraiser for Liberty Park Veteran's Memorial Wall-Buy a permanently engraved brick for the new sidewalks at Liberty Park. We are raising money for the engraving of the names to go on the Memorial Wall. 4x8 brick \$35.00, 8x8 brick \$60.00, 12x12 \$150.00-with logos. Pick up forms at The Bank & Trust or at City Hall.

Liberty Park Veterans Memorial Wall-Submit a veteran's name to be engraved on the wall. Include the name of the veteran, branch of service, submitted by, mailing address. Veterans must be residents or former residents of Sonora or Sutton County. Mail to: Liberty Park Veterans Wall, PO Box 824, Sonora, TX 76950. You can also pick up a form at The Bank & Trust or City Hall.

Sonora High School Alumni - Register at www.sonorahighalumni.com. For more information log on to sonoraalum@aol.com.

Fellow Friends and Co-Workers. A trust fund has been set up at the First National Bank of Sonora. Anyone interested in making a donation (Tax Deductible) to Roy J. while he is recovering from his accident can do so by cash or check. Make checks payable to Sutton County Community Trust, and on the memo line write: Roy J Eisenbach Jr. Drop payments off at the bank or give them to Pat Day or Randy Sparks. Thank you very much.



Member FDIC
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Sonora, Texas 76950
325-387-3861



Member FDIC
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Sonora, Texas 76950
325-387-2593

Congratulations!

Ben has a new baby brother!



Beau Thomlinson Blackbird

Born: May 26, 2009 9:25 am

7 lbs 1 oz 19 inches

Very Proud and Blessed Parents:

Chelsea and Brian Blackbird

Gifts Galore & More
Everetts Pharmacy

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(325) 387-5871

Bridal Registry

Lanna Smith~bride elect~Clayton Hubbard
Michele Morgan~bride elect~ Swade Draper
Logan Grissom~bride elect~Brady Lock

Great Gift Selections Available!

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Anthony Mungia
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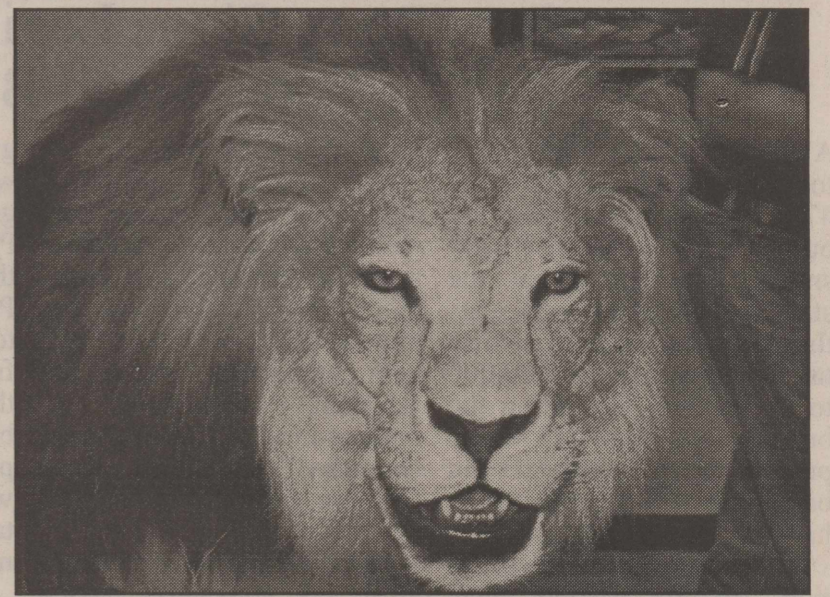
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(830) 234-7403

Tom Davidson
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325-632-2000



The Lions Roar

The Lions Club awarded four \$1000 scholarships to the following distinguished citizens of the class of 2009: Savannah Leonard, Reynaldo Gaytan, Steven Pacheco, and Samantha Tidwell.

Our program this week featured the Lions Leader Dog Program presented by Brigitte Rogers. This worthy program provides leader dog training and dogs to seeing impaired candidates.

Preparation continues for feeding the participants of the National Wool Show here in Sonora on Thursday, June 18, 2009. They will feast on Harold Martinez's fine cuisine. While you're at it; stop by Harold's B&H Catering Service next to our market for a sample. Come join us!

We always welcome new member applications. Just call 387-2672 and ask for Frank Wamble.

The Video Store

New Releases • Tues. June 16

802 Crockett • 387-3710

~Cell 2~

~Madea Goes to Jail~

Store Hours:

Monday - Saturday, 10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.; 2:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Sunday: 1:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Locally Owned and Operated by:
Patrick and Butch Campbell

The Mercantile Garden

232 E. Main Street
325-387-9000

Bridal Selections Available
for

Lanna Smith ♥ Clayton Hubbard
Swade Draper ♥ Michele Morgan

It's A Party!

Honoring Preston & Linda Love
Sutton County Steak House
Tuesday, June 23, 2009

5:30 p.m.

Come, Party, Eat,
Drink & Make A Memory
Sonora Loves
The Loves

Guess Where These Ladies Are Going...
To The Good-Bye Party!



Ol' Sonora Trading Co.

121 Hwy 277 N. 325-387-5507

Bridal Selections

Logan Grissom~bride elect~Brady Lock
Margie Becknell~bride elect~ Paul Maloney
Michele Morgan~bride elect~Swade Draper
Lanna Smith~bride elect~Clayton Hubbard

Baby Selections

TJ & Pam Thorp
Cole & Heather Cearley

Gov. Perry Signs Legislation to Cut Taxes for Texas Small Business Owners

AUSTIN – Gov. Rick Perry today signed House Bill (HB) 4765 which lowers the tax burden for more than 40,000 small businesses across the state. The bill more than triples the small business franchise tax exemption from \$300,000 to \$1 million. Revisiting the business franchise tax was a priority the governor laid out before the 81st Legislature in his State of the State address.

“As a result of this legislation, roughly 40,000 small businesses across Texas will be able to hang onto more of their dollars and plow them back into their businesses in the form of new hires and new equipment,” said Gov. Perry.

“There aren’t many states that could extend a tax cut to small businesses in these tough economic times - I am

proud that Texas has.”

“Thousands of businesses now know that because they won’t have to pay franchise taxes for the next few years, they can instead spend that money bolstering their business operations which are essential components to maintaining our strong state economy,” said Rep. René Oliveira, author of the legislation.

HB 4765 modifies the franchise tax legislation passed by lawmakers in 2006, which was determined to have a disproportionate impact on small businesses making between the original \$300,000 revenue cap and \$1 million per year.

“This legislation represents a significant tax reduction on small businesses and I’m glad these companies now have

greater opportunity to hire workers instead of pay the government,” said Sen. Dan Patrick, the Senate sponsor of the bill. “I am honored Gov. Perry would travel to Houston from day one in his State of the State address to today has been instrumental in this bill’s passage, and I am excited that we can come together to cut taxes in this uncertain economic environment.”

By providing approximately 40,000 small businesses with a tax cut, Texas continues to be an attractive place to start or relocate a business, live and raise a family. Texas’ low taxes, reasonable and predictable regulatory climate, fair tort system and a balanced budget with more than \$9 billion in the state’s Rainy Day

Fund all contribute the state’s economic prosperity and competitive edge. Texas is home to more Fortune 500 companies than any other state and ranked as the number one exporting state in the nation for the seventh year in a row. The Lone Star State has been lauded as the top state for business by numerous publications and business executives and most recently was ranked The Best State for Business by *Directorship Magazine*, June/July 2009.

HB 4765 takes effect on Jan. 1, 2010. For more information about the 81st Legislative Session, please visit www.governor.state.tx.us or <http://www.legis.state.tx.us/Home.aspx>.

Toy Drive



Submitted by Stacy Fisher

There is no greater joy in life than to bring joy and happiness to a child. For very selfish reasons we love it...it makes us, the provider, feel great. The three best days of the year for me as a mother are Madalyn’s birthday, Weston’s birthday, and Christmas. On each of those days I get to see what pure joy looks like, and it makes my heart soar. Yes, children are materialistic, but they are still too young to know any better, and we enjoy feeding that need. Things big and little make them happy, even if they are insignificant to an adult.

For this reason, we want to bring Sonora together to help injured children in Iraq. A high school friend, Jennifer (Stroud) Durgeat, e-mailed many people in response to a request that many had sent: 5 What can we send you to make this easier? Staff Sergeant Durgeat serves her country proudly in the Air Force and has adequate facilities provided during her stay at Joint Base Balad, Iraq. In order to make the most of her tour of duty, she and her friends have decided to volunteer at a local hospital in the Children’s Ward. She has asked that we send small toys, school supplies, etc. for them to take to the Iraqi children. SSgt Durgeat said she wants to show up bearing gifts and Sonora can help answer her request.

My curiosity led me to ask several questions, many which could not be answered due to safety concerns for the military. There was one question she could answer though. What type of injuries do these children suffer from? The answer was heart wrenching and painful to hear. Jennifer stated “Anything from missing limbs, to shrapnel wounds from explosives...I mean it’s a war zone...and these children are injured in combat, either the result of crossfire, or from being used against us (the United States) by their own people as weapons.”

With this in mind, Cindy Colbath and I are coordinating a Children’s Ward Toy Drive in Sonora for the next several weeks, and shipping the supplies overseas to distribute to those children. The First National Bank, Chamber of Commerce, and the Bank & Trust have graciously donated their space as drop-off locations from June 10 through July 10. SSgt Jennifer Durgeat has asked that we send small toys, school supplies, and art supplies for the injured Iraqi children. We may not get to personally see the appreciation in the child’s eyes when they receive a new toy, but we will know in our hearts what we did to help them in their desperate time of need.

If you have any questions or would like to help with shipping expenses, please feel free to contact Stacy Fisher at stacey_fox25@hotmail.com or 226-4453.

Experimental Art on Display at The Caverns



The Trickster Project will be installed at Sonora Caverns June 18-20, 2009

Duane McDiarmid, an experimental artist and professor of art at Ohio University, has brought The Trickster Project to our area.

McDiarmid will place The Trickster Project in the landscape for several days, on the public lands across the USA southwest—The Caverns of Sonora is hosting the project June 18-20.

The Trickster Project re-incarnates and technologically updates in response to the Trickster mythologies common to most cultures. The artist has attempted to create a roving meeting place wherein participants may enjoy an ice cream treat in remote desert locations and engage in discourse with others happening upon the Trickster during its wanderings, via impromptu ice-cream socials in unlikely locales or via computer blogs that appear both on Trickster’s onboard interface and on the internet.

The Trickster Project has been funded and launched with the support of a number of university and foundation grants and through the generosity of corporate gifts from Sundancer-maker of solar supported refrigeration systems, Spinerger-maker of state-of-the-art racing wheels for wheelchairs and bikes, Invacare-a medical supply company, and the dedicated work of a team of engineers and artists coordinated by project initiator Duane McDiarmid.

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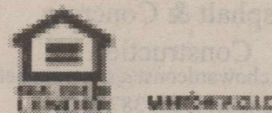
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Oil & Agribusiness

Why Conduct Coggins Testing in Horses?

By Pascual Hernandez,
Sutton County Agricultural
Extension Agent



Many horse owners are familiar with Coggins testing, but are unfamiliar with the disease the test detects. In order to better understand why Coggins testing is so important, let's examine the disease: equine infectious anemia (EIA). By the way, the name comes from Dr. Leroy Coggins, the veterinarian who developed the test in the 1970's.

EIA is a viral disease that affects the horse's immune system and other organ systems. It is a blood-borne disease and is usually transmitted from horse to horse via biting insects like horse and deer flies and mosquitoes. People can also spread the disease by using a contaminated needle on multiple horses. Also called Swamp Fever, EIA can

occur wherever there is a vector to transmit it.

Signs and symptoms can include any of the following: fever, depression, decreased appetite, fatigue or reduced stamina, rapid breathing, sweating, rapid weight loss, bloodshot eyes with watery discharge, swelling of the legs, lower chest, and abdomen, weakness characterized by wobbly or rolling gait, pale or yellowish mucous membranes, irregular heartbeat and/or weak pulse, colic, and abortion in mares. This list of signs and symptoms is extensive, however, horses infected with EIA may not show any of them.

Horses infected with EIA can be in any of three stages: active, chronic, or carrier-

only. The active state is characterized by active virus replication which causes damage to immune and other organ systems. Clinical signs are apparent during this stage.

The chronic state includes bouts of virus activity during which clinical signs present combined with times of remission, or an absence of clinical signs. In the carrier-only state, the horse has an absence of clinical signs, but can still infect other horses. Because the range of signs and symptoms vary so much from horse to horse, EIA is often difficult to diagnose, thus it is critical to have your horse tested for the disease at least once a year. The Coggins test checks for Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA) antibodies in the horse's

blood. Blood samples must be sent to a state approved laboratory.

Once infected, a horse becomes a life-long carrier of the disease. Because EIA has no effective treatment or cure, and there is no vaccine to prevent it, only 2 options exist for horses who test positive for the disease: lifelong quarantine in a screened stall or euthanasia.

As you can see, a diagnosis of EIA is a serious problem for both the horse and horse owner. Coggins testing ensures that any carriers of the virus are removed from the general horse population, thus lowering the incidence of the disease. For more information, contact your veterinarian.

Horse sense is the thing a horse has which keeps it from betting on people.

-W.C. Fields

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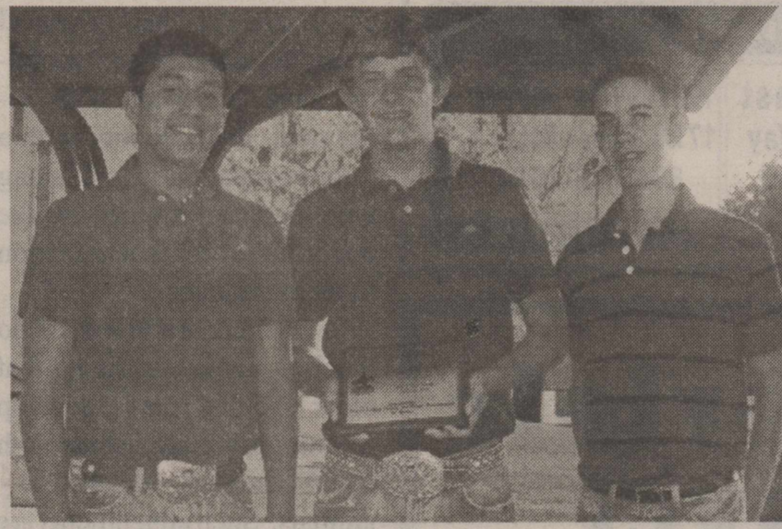
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Sonora Judging Teams Shine at Roundup



The Mohair Judging Team was 3rd at the state competition held at the 4-H Roundup June 9-12, 2009 (picture: Serena Allison, Coach Tammy Fisher, Chelsey Lou Campbell, Zachary Leonard. Not pictured: coach Hanna Blessing)



The Range Evaluation Team finished 4th (picture: Paul Faz, Bailey Joe Pennington, Sterling Hall).

Texas Wine Linked to Fighting Cancer Growth

COLLEGE STATION - It's happy hour for Texas wineries.

Research now shows that wines produced in the Lone Star State share the anti-cancer traits known to exist in wines from other producing regions.

Extracts from two Texas red wines decreased cancer cell growth in a comparable magnitude as other wines previously studied, according to Dr. Susanne Talcott, Texas AgriLife Research food and nutrition scientist.

Her study, which concluded in May, showed decreased growth of colon and breast cancer cells treated with port and syrah (or shiraz) wine. It was the first such study of the health components of Texas wines, she said.

"These results could definitely be projected to all Texas wines containing similar amounts of bioactive compounds," Talcott said. "And this will be the basis for a continued intensive study of all the health benefits of wines made in this state."

Talcott presented her findings at the recent Texas Viticulture and Enology Research Symposium.

She said the findings suggest that people who consume regular, moderate amounts of Texas wine daily -- up to a glass and a half -- may profit from similar health benefits ascribed to wines from other regions.

"In general, studies show that wine may either prevent cells from mutating into cancer cells, or stop existing cancer cells from growing and causing them to die," Talcott

noted. The scientific reasons behind her findings don't exactly make easy party talk, so think of it this way: wines interact with a newly discovered class of molecules in cancer cells, called micro RNAs, a type of nucleic acid associated with chemical activities in a cell. Some of those micro RNAs are involved in causing cancer. Compounds in wine can go after these molecules like cops chasing criminals down a dark alley.

In general, cancer cells merrily proliferate unregulated until the wine compounds interact and "arrest" the cancer cells, causing them to die, Talcott explained.

The compounds also may work to prevent cancer, she said.

The study of the health aspects of Texas wines may

coincide with an anticipated continued rise in consumption, according to marketing analysts.

Total wine consumption increased in Texas by 1.25 percent in 2007, according to Natalia Kolyesnikova, at the Texas Wine Marketing Research Institute at Texas Tech University. In the U.S., wine consumption is expected to increase from 292.1 million to 321.5 million cases by 2012.

"If Texas follows this pattern, Texas wine consumption should expect to see similar growth patterns," Kolyesnikova reported.

Talcott now will begin a more intense study of the health components of Texas wines, including clinical trials and benefits on other ailments such as cardiovascular disease.

"We will not be short in

study participants," she noted.

She also plans a monthly news briefing on the health of Texas wines to the state's 177 wineries and is available to speak at events and wine tasting rooms to share information on health benefits of wines and specifically Texas wines with the public.

The Texas wine studies are part of a project funded by the Texas Department of Agriculture to improve the state's grapes and wine production and to promote consumption of Texas wines.

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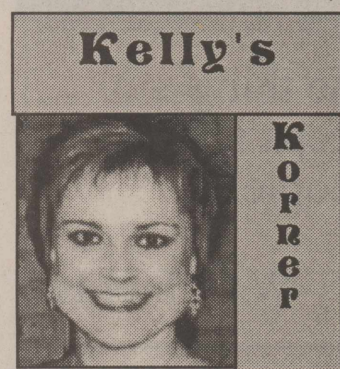
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Kelly L. Thorp, MS
 County Extension
 Agent- FCS
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Pets and Pet Therapy

Sometimes a kid's best friend is his dog; the same may hold true for older adults. In today's busy and unsettled world, the friendly wag of a dog's tail or the purr of a cat may be a welcomed change. Pets can provide unconditional love, support and companionship, especially to older adults who live alone, either in their own home or in a residential facility.

Animals can encourage

communication – even if it is a one-way conversation. They love for us to talk to them or show them affection and seem to respond to our needs and moods, almost as if they understand. Pets touch a person's inner self in ways that science does not yet understand. They need their owners to feed them, give them exercise and lots of affection, providing a purpose in our everyday lives.

Pets may provide many other services including mental and physical exercise, protection, additional eyes and ears, and a set of teeth to pick items up. There are even stories of a pet alerting his or her owner to a fire or other emergency, saving the owner's life.

Walking a dog is a great form of exercise, stroking a cat may reduce anxiety, and having any sort of pet focuses you

on something other than your own troubles. Some research suggests that pet ownership may do more than merely cheer you up; it has been associated with a reduced risk of clinical depression, estimated to affect over 6 million older adults annually. Studies have also found that pet owners were more physically active than those without pets. Pet owners were also better able to attend to their own activities of daily living, such as walking and bathing, among others, than those with no animals.

Loss of a beloved pet is difficult under any circumstances, but it can be particularly so for older adults, whose most consistent experience at this particular stage of life is loss. By now they have lost parents, spouses, siblings, children or close friends; their physical strength, stamina and mobility have lessened; with retirement, their identity with a prior occupation is lost, along with the usual routine and the opportunity for socialization in the workplace.

Feeling deprived of so much, it is not surprising that older adults may develop meaningful relationships with – and become so attached to – animals. Such attachments are significant and enduring and meet a whole range of physical and emotional needs.

Pets do not always have wagging tails and fur; they may be something like fish in an aquarium, or a canary. Research in this area shows that when an aquarium is full of fish, older adults may name the fish and seem to concentrate on one or two fish spe-

cifically. The presence of an aquarium, especially in a residential facility, may be soothing and offer a connection to the outside world in addition to serving as a catalyst for social relationships among fellow residents. Birds may provide the same type of social relationships when a group gathers around the bird cage. Birdsong has been shown to bring back positive memories about childhood and outside activities to many individuals.

Building on the relationship between humans and their pets, pet therapy is a burgeoning activity being practiced in hospitals, residential facilities and other establishments throughout the United States. Pet therapy uses a dog, cat or other animal as an integral part of medical treatment provided under a healthcare professional's supervision. Many health professionals assert that pet therapy animals provide educational, physical, cognitive and psychological benefits to patients of any age. Often, patients experience improved range of motion, an increased ability to focus and greater self-confidence.

When evaluating the effectiveness of pet therapy, the animals themselves need to be considered. It is important to realize that not all animals make good therapy pets. Pet therapy has an impact on the animals, too, and not all older adults like animals. For in-

stance, if someone brought their beloved pet snake in to a facility for therapy, it might not be very well-received.

Standards for what is required from a pet therapy animal vary from facility to facility. Check with facilities in your area, such as the local hospital, nursing home or assisted living facility to see if they have an active pet therapy program. Someone with the facility should be able to tell you what is required and provide you an opportunity to volunteer. If you are looking to start a pet therapy program and are seeking individuals who may be interested, contact your local chapter of the Humane Society.

It is important to note that these studies are not randomized clinical trials and so their results bear closer scrutiny and need to be replicated more rigorously. Over the past 60 years, clinical research on pet therapy has been inconclusive. Some researchers found no correlation between an animal's presence and improvement in the well-being of older adults. Others determined that animals could help lower blood pressure, reduce anxiety and relieve depression merely by being in the room.

Further research may provide clearer understanding of when pet ownership and pet therapy may be a helpful part of physical, mental and emotional therapy or just a friendly face to have around the house.

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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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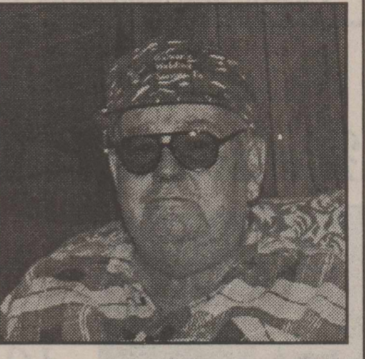
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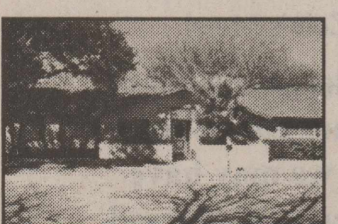
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Bronco Tennis Camp



L to R: Coach Mejia, Harley Johnson, and Jamie Braly Not pictured Younger Northcott



Top row, L to R: Phillip Stevens, Davis Jimenez, Delilah Aguero, Sterling Love, Hillary Borrego, Monica Traylor, Mario Oliden, (Bottom Row, L to R) Brittany Hernandez, Ashley Perez, Yari Guerrero, Marissa Prieto, Alyssa Favila. Not pictured Alyssa Vela, Ryan Garman, Selena Mesa, Aliana Castro, and Samantha Tidwell.

2009 Sonora Pony League

Against All Odds.....Sonora Pony League Dominates



Front Row (L to R): Davis Jimenez, Tyler Smith, Will Dutton, Edward Garza, Darien Lopez
Middle Row (L to R): Scott Gonzalez, Hagan Kennedy, Blake Esparza, Ryan San Miguel
Back Row (L to R): Manager Mark Samaniego, John Lopez IV, Head Coach John Lopez III, Coach Jock Dutton

On June 6-7, the Sonora Pony League Baseball Team traveled to McCamey to play in the Badger Tournament. The boys once again made a name for themselves by dominating all their opponents. They faced Fort Stockton in the first game, beating them 11-2. Although they were ready to face their next opponent, Mother Nature was not. The boys had to wait out a rain delay. Finally, after several hours of waiting, they were told that the games would resume on Sunday.

Sunday morning started off with another delay, with the fields being too wet to play. Finally around 11:30 the boys were able to begin playing. They faced off against an older Crane team, with John Lopez IV in the lead at the pitcher's mound. Ryan San Miguel got things started for the Broncos with a walk and a couple of stolen bases and then a wild pitch to bring him in. Crane hit a long drive to the left field fence and the batter was heading to 3rd when Will Dutton hummed the ball to his cut-off Davis Jimenez, who threw the ball to Blake Esparza on 3rd for the out. That was pretty much it for Crane. Sonora won the game 5-4. John had 10 strike-outs, 3 bases-on-balls, and 2 hit batters. The defense did a great job fielding the ball.

Their next game was against McCamey with Davis Jimenez on the mound for the Broncos. The first batter for the Badgers got on base due to an error and then was able to score. The Bronco defense did a great job backing Davis up. At the top of the 4th inning, John Lopez IV was brought into the game. He was able to hold McCamey by facing 3 batters and striking them all out. Going into the bottom of the 4th, the Broncos trailed 3-2. Ryan hit a sacrifice to bring in Scott Gonzalez for the tie. Edward Garza then came up to bat, hitting the ball to the 3rd baseman to bring in Tyler Smith and Will Dutton for the win with time expired, winning 5-3.

The Broncos walked away Champions once again . Way to go, Broncos!!!

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- Aesop

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