

The Devil's River News

Volume 121 • Issue 26

SONORA, TEXAS

Thursday, July 9, 2009

GRAND OPENING

Nicholson's Meat Company



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Harvesting the Future: Rainwater Preserves the Ranching Legacy



By Ben D. Taylor

If you look close enough you will see that no achievement for any rancher is written in a bank account, pulled out of the earth by a derrick, or harvested from livestock. A rancher's legacy is not left to be spoken by historians, because the land they cared for speaks loudly enough for those that are willing to listen. When all becomes dust, nothing will remain to tell their story but the rocks, grass, and earth. When listened to by the right ears, each of those elements can speak more loudly than a freight train. That is the burden and blessing of any ranching enterprise, and it is with that spirit of land stewardship that Diana Condra initiated an innovative system of rainwater harvesting.

Diana got the idea to start harvesting rainwater from Menard County Extension Agent Billy Kniffen, "I was doing my pesticide license requirements and I got the idea from Billy". Kniffen started with rainwater harvesting while he

worked as an extension agent in Hays County. "We set up the Extension office in Hays county to harvest rainwater just as a demonstration, but the interest grew so much that most of my time was spent working with people setting up these systems". His passion for this type of conservation carried over into his next job in Menard County where he built a house that relies almost exclusively on rainwater. The major setback to initiating this type of system in cities is that the state legislature has not authorized rainwater for

barn, to a carport." The formula to calculate the amount of rainwater that can be captured is 6 tenths of a gallon X square footage of the foundation X inches of rain. That means that a 1300 square foot home can harvest 784 gallons of water with a one inch rainfall (approximately 552 gallons for a single-wide trailer house). Given that the average annual rainfall for Sonora is around 25 inches, that means in one year that house has the potential to harvest over 19,000 gallons of water (14,000 gallons for

gutters and PVC pipe. She commented that, "the slope of the roof doesn't matter as much as the surface area available to capture water", but she was quick to add that "You

taking our water rights. There is a sense of freedom to independence".

At the end of the day, Diana is not driven by a need to leave a mark on land for her



Diana Condra takes a first hand approach to water harvesting on her ranch, from the construction of storage tanks to personally removing brush.



The 3,000 gallon storage tank serves as the backbone to the Condrarosa's water harvesting system.

potable use (i.e. cooking and drinking), but there is no additional regulation limiting its use within a municipality.

While Kniffen's water harvesting is directed to his personal use, Diana's system is designed to supply water to her livestock. "All of our barns and buildings were built before we even thought about rainwater harvesting, but we have been able to use the existing infrastructure. Anything with a roof can work. From a

the trailer house). With her more extensive system of collection tanks, Diana was able to harvest almost 40,000 gallons of water after a 3 inch rain. "We have enough water on hand that we feel like we can water 100 head of cattle all summer without ever having to turn a pump on", she commented.

Her system is a simple design consisting of 3,000 gallon storage tanks, heavy duty

don't have to have a large system to collect rainwater. I have a little Tierra Cotta rain barrel at the house that has opened my mind more than the 3,000 gallon tanks. We got .06 inches of rain and it filled up 45 gallons. That flushes a lot of commodes."

Implementing this system of water conservation has given Diana an extra sense of independence as she no longer has to rely solely on well water for her livestock, "I want to be self sufficient with this ranch. I don't want to have to rely on anything but my own ability and hard work. Water rights are going to continue to become a bigger issue. It's going to grow more confrontational over the years, and to be honest, we don't have the votes to keep big cities from

own sake. In our conversation she spoke a lot about her grandchildren and I was reminded by a Somalian proverb I once heard, "We do not inherit the land from our parents, we are only borrowing it from our children and our grandchildren".

The phrase I used earlier in this article, "when all turns to dust" does not apply to Diana and the Condrarosa Ranch, because the formation of dust relies exclusively on the absence of water. "Water is power, water is life when it gets down to it. Our forefathers harvested it and conserved it. Italy almost uses it exclusively for their water use. This is not a new idea, and it has been proven to work. So, in my mind there is no reason why we can't implement it".

City Tackles Water Problems: A Proactive Approach and Quick Response

By Ben D. Taylor



In a continuing effort to follow the mandate of our cities need of a new water infrastructure, city employees began laying a new waterline on Cornell Street. The specific purpose of this line is to better supply the school (specifically to increase the water options for fire suppression), but the option remains open to add residential needs to this line (pictured left). The addition of this line by city employees—rather than using an engineering firm—saves the city almost \$12,000 according to city manager Dean Carrell.

In an unrelated incident our current aged waterlines suffered an impressive line break Tuesday, June 30 when the 8 inch main line under East Second Street ruptured. The city employees were on hand in a matter of minutes and were able to repair the damage (bottom left and right).



Pictures by Ben D. Taylor

Sonora PD Makes Drug Bust

On the morning of Tuesday, July 7th, 2009, Officers of the Sonora Police Department, Sutton County Sheriff's Office, and Texas Department of Public Safety executed a search and arrest warrant at a local residence in Sonora, Texas, which led to the arrest of 25 year old Moises Galindo, Jr. and 22 year old Alexis Eduardo Lopez for the second degree felony offense of Manufacture and Delivery of a controlled substance.

Subsequent search led to the recovery of contraband believed to be controlled substances, marijuana, and drug paraphernalia. Further investigation continues which may lead to further arrests.

The Lions Club Inducts New Member



New inductee Wilson Stokes with Pete Bradley, 1st Vice President on his rt. and President Frank Wamble on his left.

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

Senior Center Activities
Thur. July 9- Summer crafts, need ideas and volunteers
Fri. July 10- Happy Birthday *Amelia Ramos*
Mon. July 13- Happy Birthday *Nancy Johnson*, Bingo
Tues. July 14- CEAP Energy Asst. Program
 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Wed. July 15- SCP w/Lisa, Training in San Angelo
 Happy Birthday *Doris Grantland*,
Jean Humphreys

Senior Center Menu
Thur. July 9- Baked fish, baked tater tots, lima beans, cornbread, sliced strawberries and milk
Fri. July 10- Soft tacos w/cheese, pinto beans, tossed salad, corn w/peppers, mixed fruit w/cantaloupe
Mon. July 13- BBQ beef on a bun, baked French fries, baby carrots, coleslaw, peaches w/topping
Tues. July 14- Baked chicken, scalloped potatoes, sliced beets, bread pudding w/raisins and milk
Wed. July 15- Beef & noodles w/gravy, peas, tossed salad, banana pudding 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).

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

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MEMBER 2009
TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

Obituaries

David Virgen Beserra
 Sonora-Our beloved brother, father, and grandfather, David Virgen Beserra of 45 years went with the Lord on June 27, 2009 after an accident at his work at H&B Water Haulers. He was born Feb. 5, 1964. David was preceded in death by his parents Zaragosa and Emelia V. Beserra. Survivors include his daughter Crystal Beserra, two sons David Beserra, Jr. and Michael Beserra, four grandchildren Enequina, Kaylynn, Juan Claudio, and Brandon, his wife Lupe Torres Beserra, all of Del Rio, and his best friend Cici of Grape Creek. He is also survived by sisters Anna and husband Daniel Martinez of Grape Creek, Lupe and husband Manuel Garcia of Sonora, Isabell Guzman of Grape Creek, and Emily Lugo of Grape Creek, his brother Zaragosa and wife Irma Beserra of Big Spring, and many nieces and nephews. We are going to miss you and the joyful memories you left us, but we will always have you in our hearts! "For none of us lives to himself, and no one dies to himself. For if we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. Therefore, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and rose again, that He might be the Lord of both the dead and the living." Romans 14:7-9. Pallbearers were Alfredo Luna, Jr., Zadrian McGee, Erik McGee, Mario Torres, and George Torres. Funeral services were Friday, July 3, 2009 in Kerbow Funeral Home Chapel. Burial followed in Sonora Cemetery.

Betty Jean Stewart

 Graveside services for Betty Jean Stewart, age 67, of Blanket were held at 10:00 a.m. Friday, May 8, 2009, at the Rock Church Cemetery and Rvc. Jim Looby officiated. Mrs. Stewart passed away Tuesday night, May 5, in her own home. Betty was born Feb. 6, 1942, in Brownwood, Texas. She was the daughter of the late Albert and Bessie (Hamrick) Funderburg. She was married to Sammie J. Stewart on Dec. 23, 1961, in Brownwood. They retired to Blanket in 1993. Betty was a member of the Order of the Eastern Star and of the First Baptist Church in Blanket. Survivors include her husband, Sammie J. Stewart of Blanket; sons, Allen Stewart and wife Tammi, of Comanche and Gregory Stewart and wife, Andria, of Early; grandchildren, Bianca Stewart, Sammie J. Stewart II, Kayla Stewart, and Colton Stewart; sister Bobbie Beal and husband, Leon, of Early and sister-in-law Claudia Funderburg of Brownwood; and many aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews and cousins. She was preceded in death by her parents; brother, Allen Funderburg; and sister, Dorothy Farris. In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorials be made to the Corinne T. Smith Animal Shelter.

Aureliano R. Luna
 Sonora- Aureliano R. Luna, 79 of Sonora passed away Sunday, July 5, 2009 at his home. Funeral services were Tuesday, July 7, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. in St. Ann's Catholic Church in Sonora. Burial followed in Sonora Cemetery. Survivors include wife Antonia Luna of Sonora, sons Ubaldo Luna and Rojelio Luna of Sonora, and Aureliano Luna, Jr. of Ozona, daughter Angelica Castro of Sonora, brothers Cruz R. Luna, Hilberto Luna, Ramiro Luna, Juan Luna, all of Eagle Pass, Tx., Victor Luna of San Antonio, Ricardo Luna of Del Rio, and Hector Luna of Mexico, sisters Carmela Montalvo of Del Rio, Rosa Rodriguez of Morelos, Mexico, and Lupe Escobedo of Eagle Pass.

You're Invited to an Open House
 Guadalupe Garza, Toby & Juanita Hurley,
 Joe & Deb Garza, Grandchildren and
 Great Grandchildren of

Natalia Garza Mitchell
 (from Belle Fourche, South Dakota)

Invite you to join us as we celebrate her
85th Birthday
 on August 15, 2009
 At the Sutton County Steakhouse, Sonora, Texas

OPEN HOUSE 5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
 Everyone Welcome
 No gifts please, your presence will be her gift.

First United Methodist Church
Ray Wells, Pastor

Tuesdays @ Noon
 Downtown Lions Club

Sundays 9:45 a.m. Sunday School
 10:55 a.m. Worship
 6:00 p.m. Bible Study

Hamburger Supper
 5:00 p.m. Sunday, July 12, 2009

201 NW Water (325)387-2466

Thank You Note

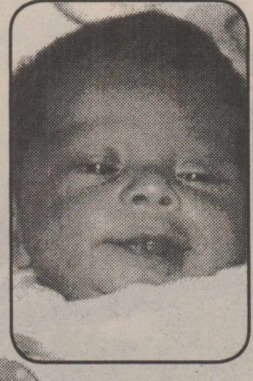
To all our wonderful friends,
 My family and I would like to thank you for your well wishes, cards, calls, and most important your prayers during the birth of Josiah and our extended stay in the hospital. We appreciate all the darling gifts that we will use for washing, drying, dressing, sleeping, diapering, playing and feeding.
 God Bless,
 Victoria and Josiah E. Robles
 Estrada Family

Josiah Emmanuel Robles
 Born
 June 15, 2009 at 5:24 p.m.
 5 lbs. 12 oz. 18 1/2 in. long

Proud Mommy
 Victoria Robles

Thank You for giving us a precious grandson,


Love,
 Mom & Dad



Cole and Heather Cearley
 are proud to announce
 the birth of their little girl

Lynden Cole Cearley
 Lynden was born at 11:44 a.m. Thursday, June 4, 2009, at Bay Area Medical Center in Corpus Christi, Texas. She weighed 7 pounds, 2 ounces.

The maternal grandparents are Jane Rushing, of Sonora, and Jack Lawson, of Odessa.
 The paternal grandparents are Rick and Maray Cearley, of Sonora, and Mike McMillon, of Corpus Christi.
 The great grandparents are George and Martha Wallace, of Sonora, Don and Mary Lawson, of Odessa, Steve and Frances Tackel, of Sonora, David and Betty Cearley, of Heflin, Louisiana, Hoot and Norma Conner, of Lakeside, California, Lou McMillon, of Mission, Texas, and Ben and Lenora Pool, of Sonora.
 Lynden also has a handful of very proud aunts and uncles.



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.

Happy Birthday!

July 9
 Standley Anderson, Braxton Snyder, Jimmy Powers, Jason Jacoby, James Elliott, Alexis Gaytan

July 10
 Brian Petty, Mark Warden

July 11
 Clair Higdon, Ethan Morriss, Bernice Samaniego, Madison Wolfe, Paul Stephens, Madeline Higdon, Hunter Webb

July 12
 Kaylynn Perez, Joseph Hopkins, Katrina Hernandez, Zed Snodgrass

July 13
 Sandra Zargoza, Rhonda Gulley, Netza Estrada, Baldo Castaneda, Jr.

July 14
 Mattye Davenport, Cyndy Allen, Richard Hurt, Ramon Estrada, Jackilyn Sykes

July 15
 Rudy Ramos, Rebecca Law

Scout Troop 993 Visits Sonora



Submitted:

As our Scoutmaster, Manuel Tobias and his wife, Nelda, along with the assistance of the Lions Club, prepared for the arrival of Sonora's July 4th guests from Houston, We had hoped for a typical display of patriotism by our citizens. To tell the truth, not too many flags were flying. On Rt. 277 you can always count on the Comfort Inn, The Bank and Trust, Rushin-Lube and Nicholson's Meat Company, our new friends and local business from Mertzong, and Dollar General. Oak Street was great: the Mata family, the Hill and Mesa families, along with Sutton County and our schools have the spirit. Many others also had their pride showing, but space does not permit me to mention all by name. But, needless to say, we need to do better. Our troops are at war, our economic and quality of life is threatened. The spirit of our past generations must be rekindled. Let's try harder!

Now I almost forgot our guests. Our scouting family hosted twenty eight scouts and their leaders from Troop 993 from the west side of Houston as they journeyed to their scout camp around Fort Davis. They spent the night at Sonora's Boy and Girl Scout huts, dined with Harold and B & H barbeque on a great meal and toured the Caverns of Sonora on Sunday. I was proud to brief this fine group of young men and future leaders on the great city of Sonora and bid them God's speed. They were led by Scout Masters Ed Brennan, William Cullom and Ken Johnson and four more adult leaders.

F.Y.I.

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.

Due to conflicts, the next regular meeting of the Sonora ISD Board of Trustees has been changed to Monday, July 20.

The Game Dinner Meetings will be held on 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 5:00 p.m. in the Reception Hall of The Church of the Good Shepherd, 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.

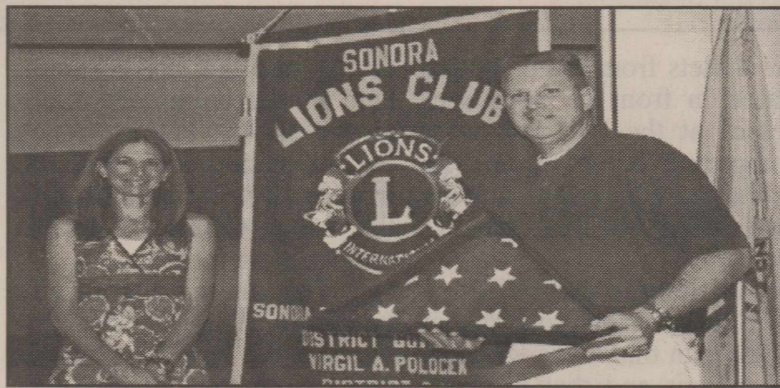


Member FDIC
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Sonora, Texas 76950
325-387-3861



Member FDIC
229 Hwy 277 N
Sonora, Texas 76950
325-387-2593

The Lions Roar



Virgil Poloczek's son and daughter receiving the flag that flew over our National Capitol in their Father's honor.

At our last meeting our club had the distinct honor of remembering our beloved Lion and friend, Virgil Ammon Poloczek. We had a flag flown in Virgil's honor over our Nation's Capitol on May 9, 2009, the 86th anniversary of the founding of the Sonora Lion's Club. In attendance for the remembrance of this great citizen of Sonora were Virgil's children, son Michael and daughter Cathy, Frank Wamble, President of the Sonora's Lions Club, presented our nation's colors to Michael and Cathy as a reminder of Virgil's service to our community. Planning has begun for the hamburger supper welcoming teachers back to school the Wounded Warrior Roping, and the Annual Lion's Auction on October 27. Mark your calendars.

Grand Opening



The grand opening for Nicholson's Meat Co. and Retail Store was held Thursday, July 2, 2009. Back Row (L to R) Cindy Fields, Donna Garrett (Executive Director of the Sonora Chamber of Commerce), Allyse Edmondson, Tibba Edmondson (Administrative Assistant of the Sonora Chamber of Commerce), Miss Sutton County Stephani Morriss, Cindy Colbath, Katy Harrell, Pam Payton, JoAnn Hernandez, Front Row (L to R) Owners Lee and Danita Walston along with their grandson Gage Walston, and son Brandon and wife Brandi Walston. Welcome to Sonora. We are happy to have you.

The Video Store

New Releases • Tues. July 7
802 Crockett • 387-3710

~Knowing~
~Unborn~
~Push~

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

Gifts Galore & More Everetts Pharmacy

417 N. Hwy 277
(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!

SONORA SERVICE DIRECTORY

<p style="text-align: center;">Allison Well Service 325-446-2382 <i>All your pump and windmill needs.</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Goldline Mechanic Service Ronnie Wipff/Owner 325-277-1834</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">B&H Catering Harold & Benita Martinez 207 W. Chestnut 387-2528 or 206-1268 Hrs. 7:00 a.m. - 6:30 p.m. BBQ Plates, Daily Specials, Breakfast Tacos and Catering. <i>Dine-In or Carry-Out!</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Knox Floor Covering Carpet-Vinyl-Tile 392-2180 201 Ave I Ozona, TX</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Big C Automotive 501 S. Crockett Sonora, Texas 76950 325-387-5167</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Mungia's Southwest Heating and Cooling Anthony Mungia 325-387-COOL (2665) 325-650-4631 Lic.# or 325-206-0809 TACL27988E</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Brewer Refrigeration Lic. #TACLBO12114C Ice Machines Sales-Service-Rentals <i>We sell & service Deer Coolers & Freezers</i> 325-835-2141 Mobile 450-2793</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Rafter W Feed 201 Cedar 387-3042 Your local Acco, Purina and Sure Fed Feed Dealer</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Karen Burris, L.M.T. <i>Licensed Massage Therapist 6 Years Experience</i> Main Street Salon 206 E. Main St. Sonora, Tx. 76950 325-277-3807 <i>Mind*Body*Spirit</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Cody Schenkel Welding Sonora, TX Metal Buildings, Carports, Corrals & Barns 325-226-3548</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Carl J. Cahill, Inc. OILFIELD CONTRACTOR (325) 387-2524 Sonora, TX</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Sonora Air Cooled Engines & Equipment Rentals 507 N. Crockett Ave. Sonora, TX 76950 325-387-3400 Skid Steers w/ Drill, Backhoe, Ditchwitch, Chain Saws, Trimmers/mowers</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Charles Howard Construction, Inc. Oilfield Contractor Asphalt & Concrete Construction email: chowardconst@sonorax.net phone: (325) 387-3093 fax: (325) 387-5543 mobile: (325) 206-0497</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Triple R Fencing David Reyes Specializing in all types of fencing: Cedar Clearing (830) 683-7629, or 683-7371, (830) 234-7403</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Tom Davidson Attorney at Law <i>Specializing in Criminal Law Free Advice & Referrals</i> 325-632-2000</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Ol' Sonora Trading Co. 121 Hwy 277 N. 325-387-5507</p> <p style="text-align: center;">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</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Baby Selections TJ & Pam Thorp Cole & Heather Cearley</p>

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

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Letter to the Editor

Yes, Sheriff Elijah S. Briant is long dead, and he was the head sheriff when William Richard Carver and a portion of the Wild Bunch came to Sonora to rob the First National Bank on April, 2 1901.

In an article, on July 2, 2009, Future Rooted in Past In Sweet Home Sonora by Justin Zamudio, it is stated,

"In The Old Sonora Ice House Ranch Museum...Even the gun Briant used to kill Carver is on display."

Briant did not fire the fatal bullet that was ruled responsible for the death of Carver.

At the autopsy the two doctors that had treated Carver, Drs. Midkiff and Taylor, removed

the bullets from the body and stated in front of many witnesses at the Old Jail, after comparing bullets from J.L. Davis and E.S. Briant, that the fatal bullet was fired by J.L. Davis.

The Sutton County Historical Society is the proud owner of the gun that was owned by J.L. Davis and that fired the fatal bullet. It is on display in our Old Sonora Ice House Ranch Museum. The gun was donated by a direct descendant of J.L. Davis and we have proven provenance. We have the records from Colt on manufacture and sale of the gun and family signed statements. We also have a drawer full of records on William Richard Carver, including his

family tree that are currently held by the compilers, Richard and Jo-Ann Palmer. When they finish notations on all the material it will be donated to the Sutton County Historical society in their name.

The gun we display was bought in 1900 after J.L. Davis bent the barrel on his old gun saving the life of Elijah Briant. They were in a domestic dispute and Briant was shot. Davis knew the family well and didn't want to kill so he hit the person, who shot Davis, over the head and bent the barrel of his gun. I bet he made quite a dent in the perpetrator's drunken head. That is the reason the Davis gun that fired the fatal shot was purchased in 1900.

The Sutton County Historical Society worked long and hard to compile the true history of William Richard Carver, called Will when he worked locally in his early years and also the family history of J.L. Davis. Mr. and Mrs. Palmer traveled from Missouri, to Wilson County, Texas and into Arizona and as far north as Montana collecting material on Carver and met with many members of the Davis family here and in other states. The society paid for none of this research and it was done for love of community and a desire to see our history properly and correctly recorded.

Elijah S. Briant did have a gun and it still exists and is owned by Bill Stewart, not the society. Bill can verify my statement that he has the gun that wounded Carver not the gun that fired the fatal shot. He has been around Sutton County a lot longer than me and can verify conversations with people who were working for the county when the shooting took place.

We sincerely hope that this will end the incorrect statements on who killed William Richard Carver and what gun is showcased in our museum.

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

---Editors Note---

We appreciate the vigilance that the Palmer's have demonstrated towards preserving our town's great history, and thank them for clarification on this matter. We were allowed permission to run this article by its author (Justin Zamudio, staff writer for the Standard Times), and I still believe that he did Sonora a great justice in writing this piece. I would like to thank both Justin and Jo-Ann for their contribution to this publication.

Ben D. Taylor
Editor

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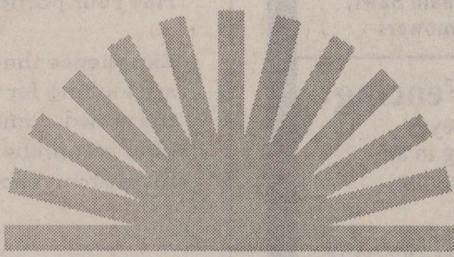
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Customer Service champion



Guy Colbath and Donna Garrett

Sonora's Customer Service Champion winner for the month of June is Guy Colbath. Mr. Colbath has been the owner of Napa Auto Parts since April 2007. Several nominations were submitted for him from our mystery shoppers. All agree he goes above and beyond his "behind the counter" customer service to make sure his customer's needs are met. When asked what he loves about Sonora, he replied, "the small-town community feel where everyone knows everyone and when we do something for someone, it comes back ten-fold." Congratulations, Guy, for a job well done.

Mr. Colbath received an award certificate and a \$100.00 gift card from the program sponsors: Sonora Chamber of Commerce and Sonora Economic Development Corporation. All business owners and employees who are in contact with the public are eligible to win. Contact sponsors for more information. The next customer service training will be offered in late summer or early fall and will be announced soon.

Oil & Agribusiness

July Is A Busy Month For Gardeners

By Pascual Hernandez, Sutton County Agricultural Extension Agent



July is here, and it's hot! But there are still chores to be done in the garden. So for those of you who are so inclined, here are some things to consider. Breath easy, I've kept the list rather short.

Planting: Tomato transplants can be planted now for fall gardens. The best varieties are Surefire, Celebrity, Heatwave, 444 and cherry types. Transplants must be acclimated to the sun in order to prevent sunscald from occurring. Warm season grasses can still be planted but an abundant amount of water will be necessary until the grass is established.

Pruning: Mow lawns once a week and be sure blades are sharp. Remove dead, diseased, and damaged branches from trees and shrubs.

Fertility: Apply iron sulfate to plants that are showing yellow leaves with green veins. Keep iron sulfate or other iron products off of sidewalks and houses.

Be on the Lookout: Spider

mites are most common in hot weather. Look for tan speckles on lower leaves. Plants may turn brown and crisp where severe infestations occur. Control with a miticide.

Chinch bugs in St. Augustine grass will cause dried areas in sunny parts on the lawn. Chinch bugs are black and white with white diamonds on their wings.

White grub worms will show up 6 weeks after the major June beetle flight. Be on the look out for these damaging insects in the lawn and flower beds. Treat only if there are 5-7 grubs per square foot of soil.

Aphids on oaks, pecans, crape myrtles and other trees are a problem creating honeydew. First try a high pressure spray of water before applying chemicals. Use a registered, general insecticide.

For additional information or details, give us a call at the County Extension Office.

SAN ANTONIO – Lawns throughout the Lone Star State are dead and dying. While drought is the main suspect, other forces may be at work, according to Texas AgriLife experts.

“Chinch bugs thrive in hot, dry weather and feed primarily on St. Augustine grass, but can also damage Bermuda and zoysia grass, although this is rare,” said Molly Keck, integrated pest management specialist with the Texas AgriLife Extension Service in Bexar County. “They prefer areas of the lawn that absorb the most heat, like where the grass meets the walkway, driveway or foundation of the house.”

Chinch bugs are thought to insert a toxin that kills the grass while they suck out its juices. They feed on stems and nodes near the base of the plant, leaving brown patches that will continue to grow larger if left untreated. Damage to lawns has been extensive throughout Texas due to the extended drought which has created ideal conditions for the pest to feed and proliferate.

Grown chinch bugs are typically about 0.2 inch long. Adults are black with white

wings showing a triangular black mark; immature bugs are wingless and bright to burnt orange with a light-colored horizontal band across their back.

Keck said chinch bug damage often looks like fungal damage – dead grass with a “halo” of yellow grass surrounding the dead spot – so it’s important to try and find out if they’re present.

One way to check for the pests, she said, is to take an empty can with both ends open, a piece of PVC pipe or other cylinder and work it into the soil so it will hold water in an area of the lawn where the grass is yellowing.

“Fill the can with water and after about 10 minutes you should see chinch bugs floating to the top,” Keck said.

Lawns infested with chinch bugs can be treated using an insecticide that’s labeled for use on the pests, she said.

Some ways of managing lawns to reduce the possibility of chinch bugs include aerating the turf and applying a layer of top dressing, as well as not over- or under-watering, according to other AgriLife Extension experts.

Grub worms also are active during the summer months and into early fall, and their damage is often confused with that caused by chinch bugs, said Dr. James Reinert, an entomologist with Texas AgriLife Research in Dallas.

Reinert said grubs are white, C-shaped, wormlike creatures with three sets of legs and are the larvae of beetles that take flight in May or June, usually following a storm.

“Grubs are one of the biggest problems in lawns throughout Texas,” he said. “While chinch bugs feed on the surface of grasses, grubs feed on the root system. If grubs are present, the grass will pull up easily because the anchorage of the plant to the soil has been cut off at the roots.”

Without roots to take up moisture and plant nutrients, the grass will brown and die and appear to be under drought stress, Reinert said. Grass damaged by white grubs can be pulled up easily or even

rolled up like a carpet, while grass under drought stress remains anchored to the soil and cannot be easily pulled up, even though it is turning yellow or brown.

Dead or dying grass roots will be black or brown, while healthy roots are white, he added.

What’s killing the great lawns of Texas?

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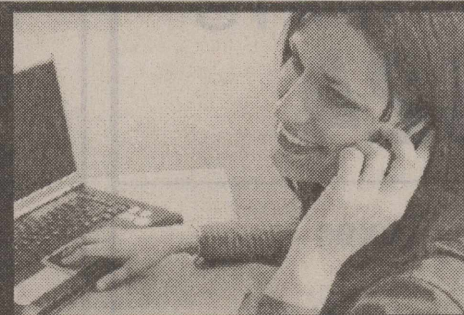


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Pictured: Elizabeth Bean, Karter Burnham, Gavin Boggs, Bill Johnson and Quinn Burnham

Sonora Youth Raise Money for Iraqi Children of War

Submitted
Some enterprising youths made \$168 selling lemonade, brownies and Rice Krispies treats on Wednesday, July 1. The money will be used to help cover the expense of shipping for the Iraqi children of war toy drive.

Chamber Chatter

Submitted by: Donna Garrett

Dress up your little cowgirls and cowboys!

The Little Mr. and Little Miss Sutton County contest will be held during Sutton County Days on Saturday, August 15th at the Sutton County Park. Dress up your little cowgirls, cowboys, prince, and princesses and enter them in the Little Mr. and Little Miss Sutton County contest. As in the past the contestants will enter at the Sonora Chamber of Commerce by answering a few simple and fun questions and submit a picture. Jody Luttrell has graciously accepted once again to interview the contestants. Mitzi Friend will be in charge of the parade. For more information you may contact the Sonora Chamber of Commerce at 325-387-2880 or stop by and see Tibba or Donna at 205 Hwy 277 N. Look for more information on our website at www.sonoratx-chamber.com

Keep Sonora Beautiful



Jansen and Juanita McBride, Juanita Gomez
Keep Sonora Beautiful, residential landscaping of the month,
813 E. 2nd Street

Keep Sonora Beautiful's (KSB) Mission is to empower the residents of Sonora to take greater responsibility for improving our communities environment. This will be accomplished through litter prevention, beautification and community improvement, and the minimization of solid waste. That is a tall order to try to accomplish for such a small community, but it is slowly being accomplished. This past month, KSB has implemented The "RESIDENCE" Yard of The Month. This award will be given out each month to a residence within the City Limits that has a well maintained, groomed yard. The landscape / zeroscape, enhances the property; this includes decorations for a holiday that could help enhance the yard, therefore the eye appeal is increased, causing the yard to win the award. Trailers and manufactured homes are included in this competition as long as they have a yard that is maintained. The city will be divided into four sections that were determined by the garbage route. KSB will pick a resident from a specific section at a time; thus each section will have a winner three times each year. Sonora's Code Officer, Juanita Gomez, will be taking pictures of these homes for KSB to judge. Please feel free to email Juanita with any suggestions of your choices at code@sonoratx.net. We look forward to placing this sign in all the yards in Sonora. Let's Keep Sonora Beautiful!

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Tuesday - El Rancho Grande

1 Guizo Burrito topped with Chile con Queso, 1 Crispy Beef Taco,
1 Cheese Enchilada served with Spanish Rice and Refried Beans

Wednesday - Chicken Fried Steak or Chicken Fried Steak Ranchero

Chicken Fried Steak served with Country Gravy, your choice of Mashed Potatoes or French Fries, Buttered Corn, and Texas Toast. Or Chicken Fried Steak Ranchero topped with Spicy Ranchero Sauce served with Refried Beans, French Fries and Flour Tortillas.

Thursday- El Capitan

1 Beef Burrito topped with Ranchero Sauce, 1 Beef and Bean Chalupa,
1 Cheese Enchilada served with Spanish Rice.

Friday- Jose's Special

2 Crispy Chicken Flautas, 1 cheese Enchilada,
1 Beef Taco served with Spanish Rice and Refried Beans



Book Wanted Bad Old Days

in and around Sutton County
1889-1939
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James Atz
53 Natchez Trail
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Little Miss and Little Mr. Sutton County 2009 Entry Form & Rules

1. A \$5.00 entry fee is required upon entry from each contestant.
2. The contestants must have turned (3) years of age and must not have turned six (6) prior to August 15, 2009.
3. Parent or guardian must be present throughout the contest.
4. Contestants must be a resident of Sutton County or be eligible to attend Sonora Schools.
5. Completed pre-entry forms must be returned by July 31, 2009 to the Sonora Chamber of Commerce Office at 205 Hwy 277 N or mailed to P.O. Box 1172, Sonora, TX 76950.
6. There will be no late or last minute entries accepted, so that all contestants may be pictured in the Devil's River News the week of the contest.
7. Bring a picture of the contestant to be put in the Devil's River News or email to sonco2@sonoratx.net.
8. Contest begins at 10:15 a.m. on Saturday, August 15, 2009 at the main entertainment stage at the Sutton County Park.
9. If the contestant wishes to sing, he or she may not have recorded accompaniment, but may play an instrument themselves.
10. All contestants should dress comfortably and appropriately for children their age.
11. All contestants are very much encouraged to participate in the Sutton County Days Parade to be held on Saturday morning at 9:00 a.m.
12. Entry forms will not be accepted without signatures.

Detach Here

Little Miss and Little Mr. Sutton County Entry Form

Name: _____

Parent's Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ Birth Date: _____

Favorite Food: _____

Favorite Toy: _____

Interests: _____

Girl or Boy (Circle One) \$5.00 Entry Fee Included _____

The Sonora Chamber of Commerce, the Sutton County Days Association, the County of Sutton or the City of Sonora will not be held responsible for any accidents.

Parent or guardian's Signature: _____ Date: _____

To insure your child's safety, we request the parents' presence throughout the contest. _____ (Initial)

For further information contact the Sonora Chamber of Commerce at 325-387-2880

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

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Sealed bids will be opened on July 27, 2009, at 9:00 a.m. at the regular meeting of Commissioners Court at the Sutton County Annex at which time bids will either be accepted or rejected. "Sealed Bids" must be delivered or mailed to Judge Carla Garner, Box 1212, Sonora, Texas 76950. For Specifications, please contact the County Road & Bridge Administrator, Oscar Jimenez, 325/387-3010 or 325/206-1883 or County Auditor, Maura Weingart, 325/387-5380.

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106 Oakwood	\$119,500	
112 Oakwood	\$119,500	New Listing
310 Brookside	\$122,500	
104 Oakwood	\$124,500	
1740 CR 243, Schleicher Co.(10acres)	\$153,500	
2553 PR 1152 (10.97 acres)	\$159,500	
5098 S US Hwy 277, (5acres)	\$172,000	Sale Pending
433 PR 2205 (10 acres)	\$182,500	
105 Sawyer Ct.	\$192,500	
301 W. Castlehill Rd.	\$195,000	
312 Edgemont Rd.	\$199,500	
114 Edgemont Rd.	\$350,000	

Commercial

606 Crockett	\$89,500
226 E. Main	\$110,000

Acreage & Lots

75 Acres-Sutton Co.	\$150,000
88.444 Acres - Sutton County	\$176,888
88.036 Acres - Schleicher Co.	\$125,000
84.838 Acres - Schleicher Co.	\$115,000
42.320 Acres - Sutton Co. Estates	\$2500/Acre
50.003 Acres - Sutton Co. Estates	\$2500/Acre
1332 Ac. w/lodge - Sutton Co.	\$1495/Acre

Western Heritage Builders, LLC

Craig L. Nolen
325-650-0219



102 Kings Court
(off 2nd Street)

- 2100 Liveable Square Feet
- 3 Bedroom/1 Office/2 Bath
- LR/DR/Breakfast Nook/Laundry Room
- Stone Fireplace
- Soaker Tub & Shower in Master Bath
- 12' Ceilings w/ Crown Molding
- Granite Counter Tops/Pantry
- Custom Gourmet Ventahood
- 20 YR Vertex Hot Water System
- Zone Heating and Cooling System
- Beautiful Lighting w/ Ceiling Fans Throughout
- Slate/Wood/Carpet Flooring

As you can see, this house has it all!
\$304,000

Sonora Office Supply

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Sonora, Texas 76950
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Office Hours:
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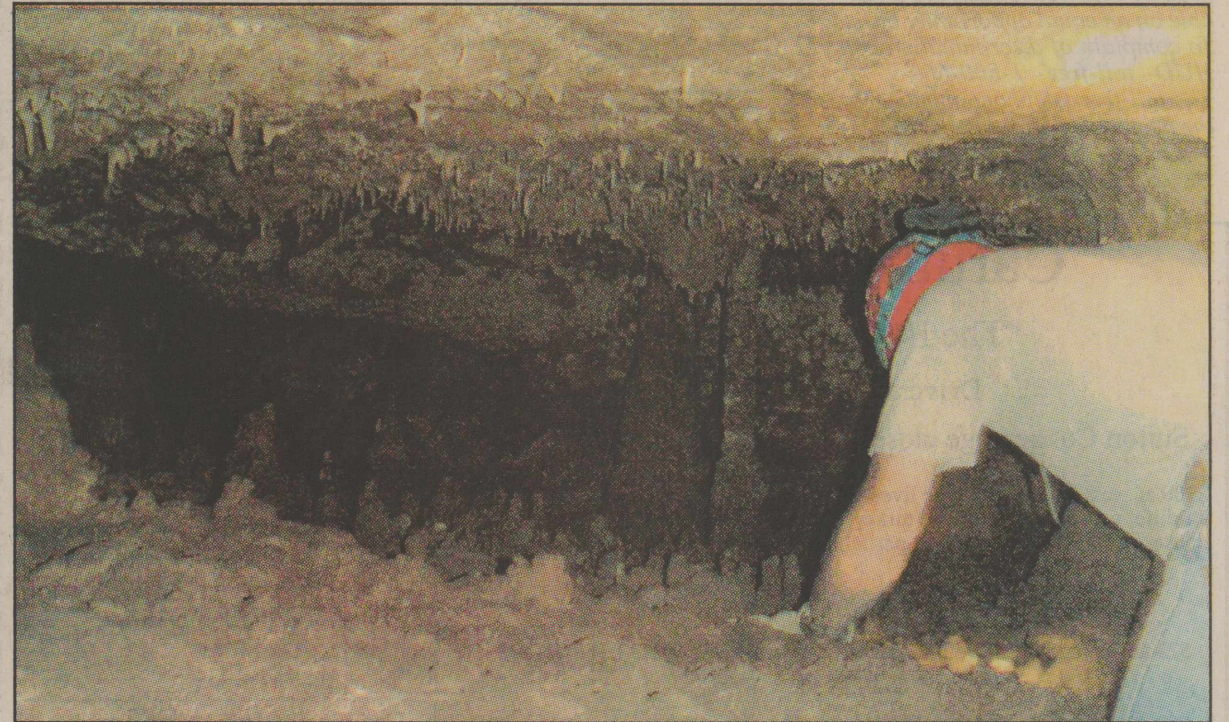
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All shipments come in on Wednesday afternoons.

ADVENTURESOME



Keeping his head and back low to avoid disturbing the calcite formations, Francis Beecher of College Station explores a portion of the old Mayfield Caves on the Discovery Challenge tour. Francis came with his brother as a way to celebrate their college graduations.



Keeping the lead, Discovery Challenge tour guide Bill Sawyer shows how to navigate the labyrinth of passages with his expert skills and knowledge. Bill has been working at the caverns for 18 years.

Adventuresome: daring-willing or eager to participate in exciting or risky activities (Encarta Dictionary). The Adventuresome is a special section added to the Devil's River News for the summer. We hope you will use it as a guide to help you get out and explore the treasures around West Texas. Each issue we will explore a different park, nature area, historical site or travel destination within a day's drive and highlight the attractions and adventure to be found.



Climbing toward Signature Hall, Will Beecher scaled the side of the wall to make his ascent with guide Bill Sawyer spotting him.

**Caverns of Sonora-
Discovery Challenge**
Travel Time: 27 min.
Distance: 15 miles from Sonora

Story and Photos
by James Ricks

In the caverns, darkness and silence prevail. Think darkness, pitch black dampness with utter silence and tight dangerous spaces in an alien world far below the surface and the sunlight. This was an adventure unlike any I have embarked on yet.

As I descended the stairway into the caverns I wondered if I had any unknown fears of claustrophobe waiting to be discovered and the answer quickly came with the first challenge.

Right off the main trail there was an opening I had never noticed on my visits through the regular tour, just large enough to fit my shoulders through as I contorted my body in ways I have long forgotten it would move. Inching down a slope with nothing but a head lamp lighting the way, I ducked beneath small formations of stalactites into a pool of water and army crawled in the small openings navigating a maze looking for the headlight of the tour guide that would show the way out into the next opening large enough to stand in.

With just enough room to lift my head up and look forward I saw the light and found my way out through a tight opening in the rock, and no, I felt no panic or claustrophobic fear which would have cut this adventure short right at the start. It seemed like this first obstacle was a test of skill and ability letting our guide know just what we were prepared to handle-which seemed like anything.

I shared this adventure with our guide and two other guys visiting from Connecticut and College Station. We hiked the labyrinth of passages with different challenges at each turn, scaling the side of a cliff wall, inching through passages no larger than ourselves (and some that seemed smaller) and seeing signs of animal life that once visited the caverns in the years before the entrance was closed up by man.

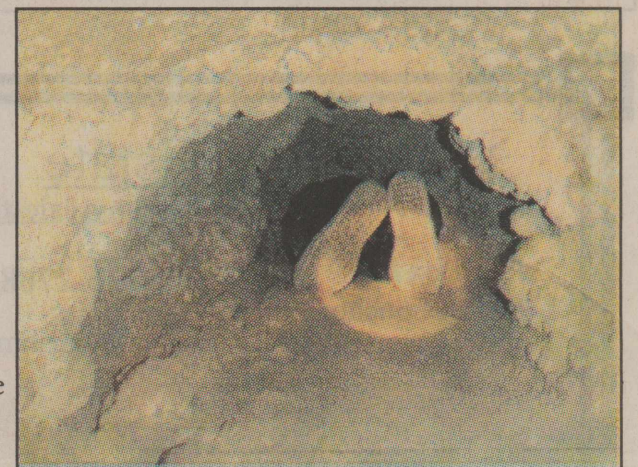
The guide explained formations and the creation of the caverns as we explored the underworld. It was hard not to smile down in those far reaches with the fun and adventure that we were having, that is, until I saw the last obstacle left in our tour-the fifty foot rappel into a dark pit with which held unknown challenges to our way out. We strapped on our gear and safety harnesses and I stepped out onto the uneven ledge to

begin the last descent, being told to just lean backwards and take a step. The fear and rush of adrenaline I expected to feel never came; rather I found it easy and exciting with all the previous challenges preparing me for this last step.

When all of us reached the bottom of the pit we climbed out and left the caverns following the normal tour route with the truly magnificent, complex speleothems all around us as we emerged squinty eyed and dirt covered from head to toe.

The Discovery Challenge Tour is guided by Bill Sawyer of the Caverns of Sonora, which provides the headlamps, knee pads, helmets, gloves, rappelling equipment and all the other gear you will need. The tour lasted about 4 hours and traverses over a mile of passages in 3 different levels of the caverns. The deepest reaches took us down 90 feet from the surface. Most of the exploring followed the dormant sections of the caverns but still contained formations and interesting sites to behold with the truly exciting and beautiful geology to be had on the regular tour route.

For more information on taking your own adventure contact the Caverns of Sonora by phone or visit their website online.



Without hardly any wiggle room, Will Beecher makes his way up a small incline off of the Right Hand Passage.

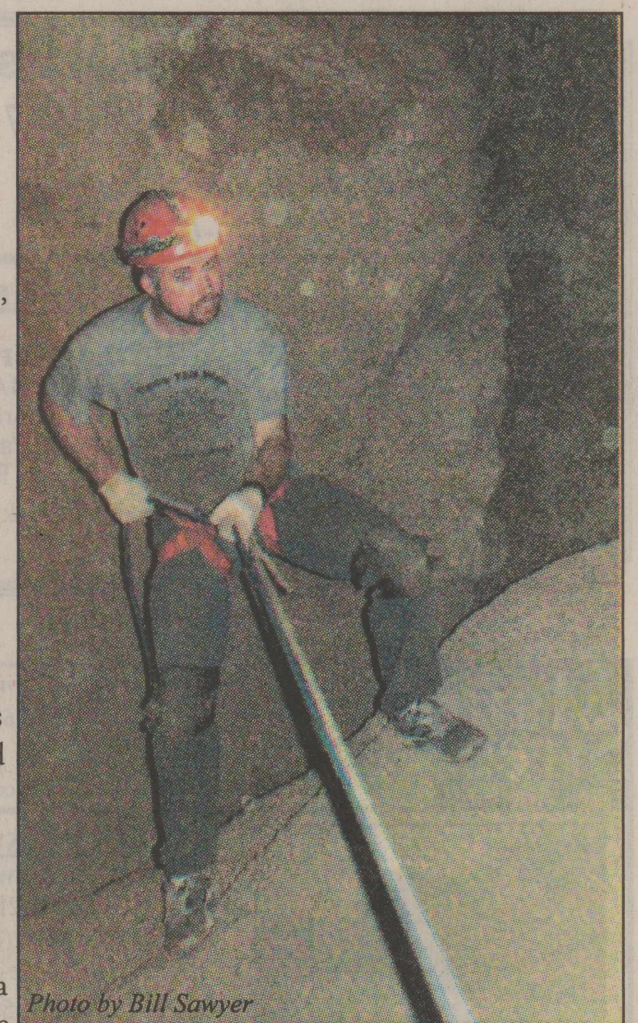
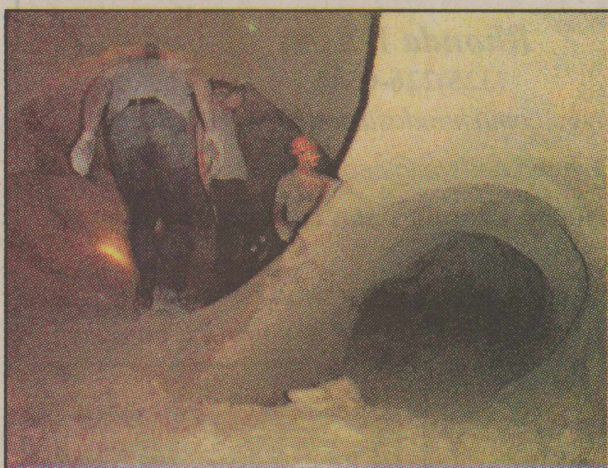


Photo by Bill Sawyer

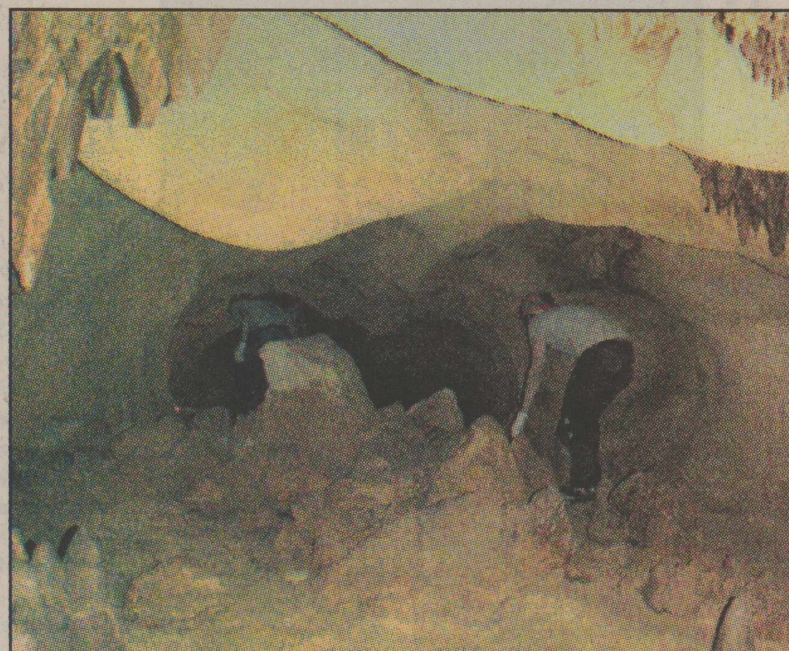
Making a quick descent, reporter James Ricks repels into the Devil's Pit after traversing through the Right Hand Passage.



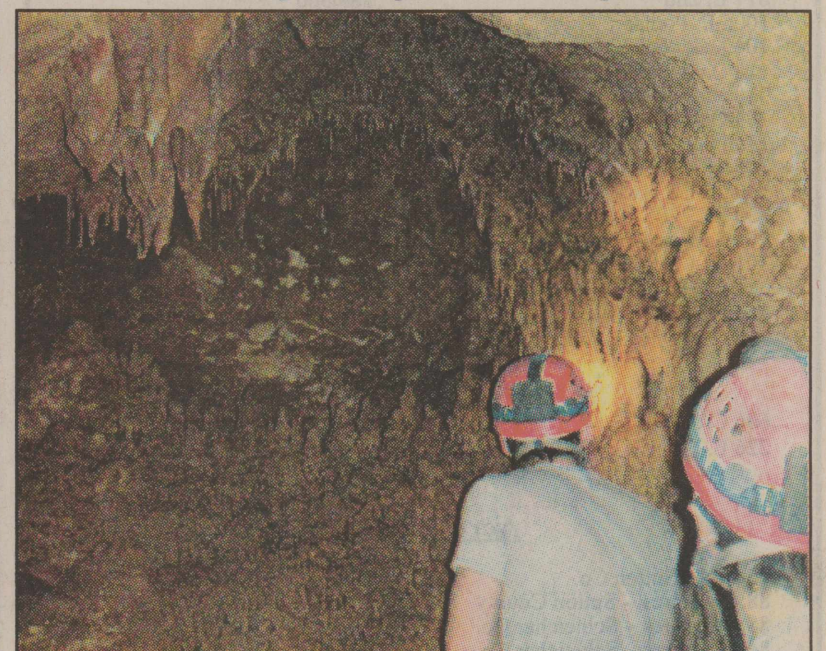
A group on the Discovery Challenge works their way through a larger opening to find the next challenge to explore.



In the deepest classroom of Sonora, guide Bill Sawyer explains how a calcite crust developed over the cave's ceiling and wall in a part of Signature Hall.



Climbing steadily upward, a group makes their way through a passage in search of a water pool that holds traces of the life that used to visit the caverns.



Stretching out in a larger hall of the cave, brothers Will and Francis Beecher take in the view of the stalactites and stalagmites forming an otherworldly view deep underground.