

The Devil's River News

Volume 121 • Issue 28

SONORA, TEXAS

Thursday, July 23, 2009

Texas Drought Losses Reach \$3.6 Billion

Adventuresome



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COLLEGE STATION – Lack of rainfall and record triple-digit temperatures have scorched crops and rangeland throughout parts of Texas causing drought losses to reach \$3.6 billion, Texas AgriLife Extension Service economists reported Monday.

By the end of the year, losses could exceed \$4.1 billion, the loss estimated in Texas in 2006, if sufficient rainfall

isn't received to revive crops and forage, economists said.

Total crop losses this year are estimated at \$2.6 billion and livestock, another \$974 million since November 2008.

"Extreme or exceptional drought conditions for the second year in a row and prolonged weather with over 100 degree temperatures have devastated agricultural crops and livestock operations, especial-

ly in Central and South Texas," said Dr. Carl Anderson, AgriLife Extension economist and professor emeritus.

"This area covers about 40 percent of Texas. With the exception of Northeast Texas, the Trans Pecos and the Southern Panhandle areas, the entire state is suffering from lack of sufficient rain for more than a year."

Dr. Travis Miller, AgriL-

ife Extension agronomist and a member of the Governor's Texas Drought Preparedness Council, said the drought is not only impacting major agricultural operations, but also water supplies "for more than 30 percent of the State of Texas."

"Most dryland crops in South and Central Texas, the Gulf Coast and the Rio Grande Valley are either ze-

roed-out (total loss) or will yield a small fraction of their normal yields," he said.

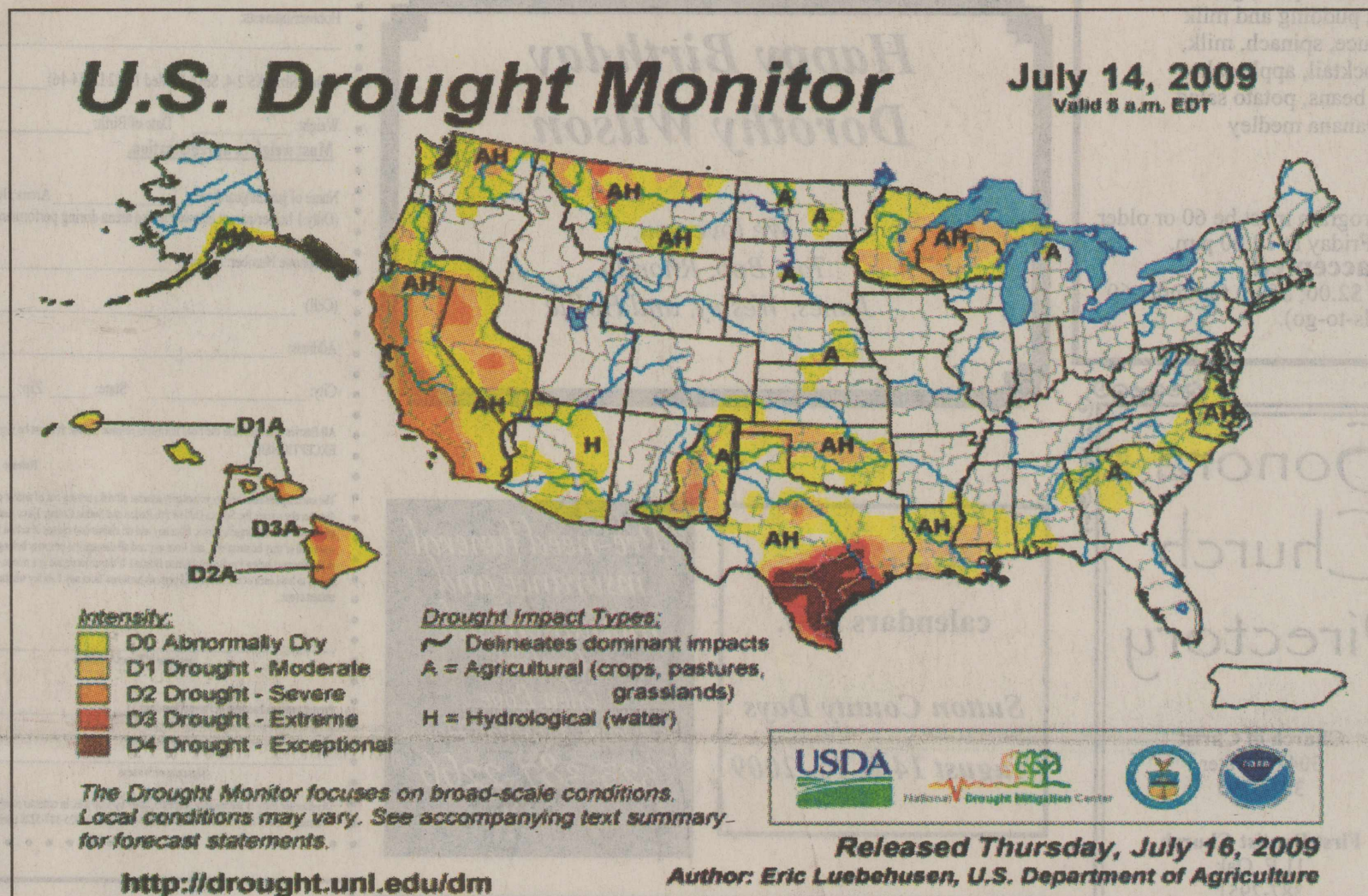
"The impact of this drought - the losses and associated wildfires - are devastating to Texas farmers and ranchers," Agriculture Commissioner Todd Staples said. "Intensive management and planning are essential during these extremely difficult times. It is because of this dire situation that last week I made a second request to USDA urging immediate action for assistance. I am committed to seeing that Texas producers, who work from sun-up to sun-down, to provide us with the most abundant and affordable food supply in the world, get the assistance they need during these trying times."

It's the hottest, driest summer on record over a large portion of the state, but especially in the central, south and southwest regions, said Jose Pena, AgriLife Extension economist in Uvalde.

"Rainfall in a large part of South Texas has been less than 4 inches since the start of this year," he said.

"Range and pasture conditions are in poor or only fair conditions over more than 85 percent of Texas," Pena said. "The water supply for livestock and wildlife is diminish-

Continued on Page 6



Sales Tax Revenues Down Dramatically Unemployment Rises Sharply

By Nancy Glasscock

The state's most recent monthly sales tax revenues dropped 11.2 percent from a year ago, the latest sign that "the recession is infecting Texas" according to Susan Combs, Texas' State Comptroller. The \$1.57 billion dollars that Texas collected in June, which reflects sales for May, is off from the \$1.77 billion collected in the same month in 2008.

Sonora and Sutton County are faring worse than the majority of the cities and counties in the entire state of Texas. The figures are posted on the Texas comptroller's website: <http://www.window.state.tx.us/tax-info/allocsum/citycnty.html>

2008 was a booming year for Sutton County and Sonora. Sales tax revenues distributed were at an all-time high. In July 2008, the city received a check for \$109,965 from the Comptroller's office. This month, the city only received \$45,401 - a drop of 58.71%.

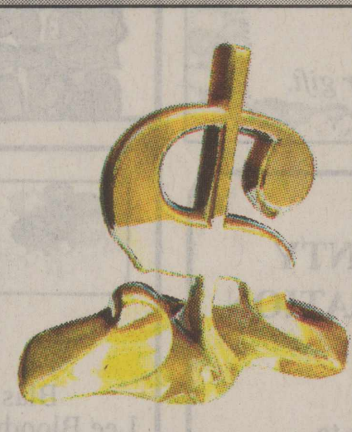
For the first seven months of this calendar year, Sonora's sales tax revenue is down \$343,446 or 40.28% less than last year at this time.

Sonora collects 1.75% on top of the state's 6.25% sales tax for a total of 8.0%. Of the 1.75%, one-half percent goes

to the Sonora Economic Development Corporation. This became effective in 1998 after this sales tax funding was approved by Sonora citizens.

Effective 1 October 2006, one-quarter percent began being collected for the city's street maintenance and repair fund. The other one percent is the city's sales tax rate which along with property taxes and other fees is used to fund the City of Sonora's General Fund.

The Texas Workforce Commission released the June 2009 unemployment figures this week. I wish I could report that Sutton County's unemployment rate has dropped since the May report that moved the county over the seven percent mark, but I can't. More people are now out of work at a 7.5% rate for June compared with 2.1% in June of 2008.



Sutton County Unemployment Rates		
Month	2008	2009
Jan	2.1%	2.9%
Feb	1.9%	3.2%
Mar	1.9%	4.5%
Apr	1.6%	5.4%
May	1.9%	7.3%
Jun	2.1%	7.5%

Sonora Ice

10 U All-Stars Travel to Lubbock



L to R: Coach Paul Ramsdell, Coach Donna Garrett, McKenzie Murphy, Nydia Rodriguez, Tyler Hampton, Elizabeth Bean, Darby Ramsdell, Kelisha Alvarado, Coach Albert Alvarado front row: Sky McGuffin, Kristin Garrett, Hailey Guerra, Jessica Paredes, Delaney Ramsdell, Catharen Zook

Submitted by: Donna Garrett

Sonora 10 U All-Stars worked hard all summer long, practicing in the heat and getting prepared to travel to Lubbock to the West Texas All Star Tournament, July 16 - 19th. The girls took on teams from Amarillo, San Angelo, Brownfield and Andrews and played well especially in the late game from 12:30 p.m. to 2:00 a.m. Thank you, girls, for never giving up and al-

ways giving your best on the field. We would like to say thank you to the parents for committing so much of your summer to this team!! We hope all the girls continue to play and enjoy the sport! A special thank you to John and Evelyn Zook for providing snacks and drinks for the team. Also thanks goes to Terrie Alvarado for keeping our books straight, and also for working

with Cindy Paredes in getting flip flops, and socks for the girls and for keeping us organized!!! Thank you Greta for keeping the girls line up in the dugout!

Thanks again from Coach Ramsdell, Coach Garrett and Coach Alvarado for giving us the opportunity to coach your children!!

Calling All State Champs!

The Standard-Times will be writing a feature article on the five Sonora State Champion Football Teams in their football edition next month. If you were a member or coach of any of these teams (1966, 1968, 1970, 1971 or 2000) please be at Bronco Stadium at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, July 25 for a group photo and "story swap".

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 23- Birthday cake for July birthdays
 Fri. July 24- Happy Birthday *Dorothy Baker*
 Mon. July 27- Happy Birthday *Demetrio Castro*, bingo
 Tues. July 28- Happy Birthday *Elfida Martinez*
 Wed. July 29- Exercise w/video

Senior Center Menu

Thur. July 23- Frito pie w/cheese, spinach, tossed salad w/cROUTONS, cookies and milk
 Fri. July 24- Chicken fajita salad w/cheese, tomato, lettuce, macaroni salad, crackers and milk
 Mon. July 27- Polynesian chicken, sweet peas, golden salad, wheat bread, vanilla pudding and milk
 Tues. July 28- Spaghetti w/meat sauce, spinach, milk, garlic bread, fruit cocktail, apple cake
 Wed. July 29- BBQ chicken, pinto beans, potato salad, cornbread, apricot/banana medley

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).

Thank You Notes

We would like to thank all our friends and family for their phone calls, cards, food, memorials, flowers, visits and prayers.

Also, thank you to Dr. Pajestka and his staff, Hospice of San Angelo, Joyce Chalk, and Lisa Galindo for all their help and assistance during Jack's illness. Also, thank you to the Hospice support ladies Judy Martin, Terry Surrige, and Jenny Sue Trainer. We truly appreciate all the support shown to our family during this time.

Benice Hearn, Jack Jr., Judy and Family;
 Hoot, Kathy and Family;
 Wayland, Betty and Family;
 Doris Hearn

To everybody that joined us at the baby shower for Conrad and Kathy Galindo,

We would like to thank everybody for their attendance and beautiful gifts. The baby will undoubtedly look beautiful in her clothes and be kept warm all winter in the beautiful blankets we received. We appreciate the cash gifts; they bought the baby necessities. Thank you again for the toys, clothes, accessories, shoes, blankets, picture frames, diapers, wipes, bath supplies, and pretty cards with words of wisdom.

Thankful and grateful,
 Conrad and Kathy Galindo

**Happy Birthday
 Dorothy Wilson**

We love you,
 Tom Bob, Rhonda,
 James, Wesley, and Hollie

**WANTED:
 Little Cowboys & Cowgirls**

It is Mutton Bustin' time! Little wranglers between the ages of 4 and 7, weighing less than 55 pounds, come and apply to win prizes such as boots, spurs, ropes and buckles. All participants receive an adorable 2009 Mutton Bustin T-shirt. The preliminary round begins at 7:00 p.m. on August 8th, 2009, after the Sutton County Roping is completed. Little cowboys and cowgirls will hold on tight to a mutton, and the wrangler with the longest time wins. The top six scores will progress on to compete at the Outlaw Pro Rodeo on Friday, August 14, 2009. All participants making it back to the final round will receive free entry into the rodeo and a youth rope. Entry forms can be picked up at Sonora Chamber of Commerce or Indian Creek Logistics, Inc. offices. Deadline is August 5, 2009. So come out and join the fun!

2009 Sonora Outlaw Pro Rodeo Kid's Mutton Bustin' Entry Form

The preliminary Kid's Mutton Bustin' will be held Saturday August 8, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. The top 6 contestants will return for finals in the Friday, August 14, 2009 Sonora Outlaw Pro Rodeo. It is open to any child between the ages of 4 and 7, weighing 55 pounds or less. Entry fee is \$10 per child. Each Mutton Bustin' finalist receives free entry into the Friday night performance of the Sonora Outlaw Pro Rodeo. The overall Mutton Bustin' winner will receive a buckle, 2nd place will receive a gift certificate for a pair of boots, 3rd place will receive a pair of spurs. All top 6 places to receive a youth rope!

- Notes:
 1. A helmet is required and will be provided.
 2. Each child may have ONE helper/parent in the arena.
 3. SODA reserves the right to refuse any entry.

Name of Contestant: _____
 Hobbies/Interests: _____
 T-Shirt Size (XS 2-4, Sm 6-8, Med 10-12 Lg 14-16) _____
 Weight: _____ Date of Birth: _____ Age: _____
Must weigh in at registration.
 Name of parent/guardian: _____ Arena Helper: _____
 (Only 1 helper/parent allowed in the arena during performance)
 Telephone Number: (home) _____
 (Cell) _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____


All Entries must include the hold harmless release below. It must be signed by the parent/guardian of the entrant. NO EXCEPTIONS!!
 Release

The undersigned does hereby voluntarily assume all risks arising out of and/or connected with his or her participation in the below named event and does hereby release the Sonora Outlaw Pro Rodeo and Sutton County Days Association, the employees, agents, and/or officers, and all other persons associated with the organizations, from any and all claims and causes of action that may result from an injury to the undersigned which has been sustained or may be sustained, and from any and all damages to property belonging to the undersigned that may be a result of his or her participation in the Sonora Outlaw Pro Rodeo Mutton Bustin'. If the undersigned is a minor, the parent or guardian of said minor shall sign this release and hereby agrees to hold each of the above said persons harmless from any liability whatsoever to say minor arising out of his or her participation in the above named event.

Signature of Parent/Guardian _____ Date _____
 Printed name and address of Parent/Guardian: _____
 Signature of Witness _____ Date _____

Deadline for entry is Wednesday August 5, 2009 by 5:00 p.m. in order to receive a t-shirt. Turn in entry form to the Sonora Chamber of Commerce at 205 Hwy 277 N. FMI Call 325-387-2880 or 325-387-3220 (Bridget Wardlaw) Fax: 325-387-5337 or 325-387-3813

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

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Mark your calendars now.
Sutton County Days
 August 14 & 15, 2009

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

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.

2009 Eaton Hill Summer Nature Camp.
 The first ever nature camp to be held on the historical Eaton Hill!

Grades: 1st-3rd (as of Fall 2009) will be held 28 - 30 of July (9am-12 noon).

Grades: 4th-5th (as of Fall 2009) will be held 3 - 5 of August (9am-12 noon).

*****Limited Spaces Available*****

NOTE: Registration forms must be picked up and returned by **Thursday July 23** to the Eaton House (along with \$20 participant fee).

For more information please call the Eaton Hill Wildlife Sanctuary at (325)387-2615 anytime from 9-5p.m.

The Devil's River News

Established 1890
 228 E. Main Street, Sonora, Texas 76950
 Phone: (325)387-2507 • Fax (325)387-5691
 Published every Thursday
 USPS (155-920)

Publishing Owners: Ben D. Taylor, Sam C. Taylor
Editor: Ben D. Taylor
Office Manager/Billing: Ben D. Taylor
Advertising/Classifieds: Lynn Wipff
Internet Technician: Sam Taylor
Reporting/Photography/Typesetting: Staff
Guest Columnists: Kelly Thorp, Ray & Nancy Glasscock
 Delyse Jaeger, Pascual Hernandez, Susan Hall, Mary Ann Kay
Email: General Information: editor@sonoratx.net
 Advertising: sales@sonoratx.net


Copy and Ad Deadline: Monday 4:00 p.m.
 Subscriptions
 \$25 per year in county • \$32 per year out of Sutton County
 \$22 per year Senior Citizens (in and out of Sutton County)
 Second class postage paid at Sonora, Texas
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 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

201 NW Water (325)387-2466

Happy Birthday!

July 23
 Blas Solis, Armer Earwood, Jason Vitela III, Lee Bloodworth, Shelbi Johnson, Prissy Samaniego-Lira

July 24
 Robert Sol Mayer, Kenna Kinney, Veronica Garcia, Madison Webb

July 25
 Carolyn Samaniego, Beaver Perez, Stephen Dunn, Makenna Shaffer, Hector Ortiz, Sr., Lane Taylor, Nadine Johnson, Stephen Vickers, Marison Capuchina, Cathy Parks, Marcos Perez

July 26
 Blake Esparza, Bart Vermillion, Amilkar Hernandez, Blanca Virgen, Arnoldo Mendez

July 27
 Tanner Fields, W.A. Kinder, Scott Garrett, Anna Castro, Michael Castilleja, Dorothy Wilson

July 28
 Yates Cypert, Ronald Gonzales

July 29
 Rhonda Wilson, Chris Smith, Beatrice Arteaga

Fish Tales



Marty Gonzales caught this 42 pound catfish on June 28, 2009, in Junction, Texas. He caught this on a trot line that he had set out in the Llano River.

Share your Fish Tales with us.

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

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Bridal Registry

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

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Bridal Selections

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Mergie Becknell~bride elect~ Paul Maloney
Michele Morgan~bride elect~Swade Draper
Lanna Smith~bride elect~Clayton Hubbard

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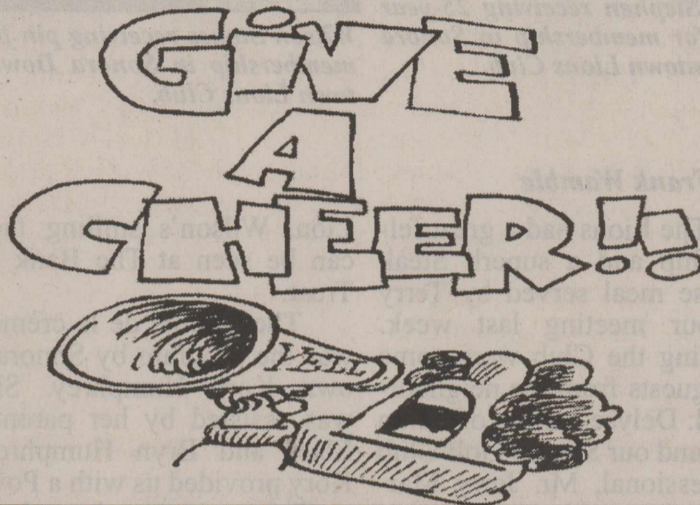
YMCA CHEERLEADING 2009

Enrollment for the 2009 YMCA Cheerleading has begun and will continue through August 15, 2009. It is for Pre-K thru 6th grade, and the cost is a \$20 enrollment fee plus the cost of uniform for first-year participants. There will be a \$15 late fee for those who register after the 15th.

The first practice will be August 27th from 5:30-6:30 at Bronco Stadium.

To sign up or for more information:

- contact Evelyn Zook at 387-9946 or 387-4179
- contact Katrina Fiveash after 5:00 p.m. at 660-238-5070,
- stop by the Katz Creations Booth at Sutton County Days on August 15th
- or pick up a registration form at the Sonora Chamber of Commerce.



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F.Y.I.

Eaton Hill Summer Nature Camp to be held on the historic Eaton Hill. Grades 1-3 will be held July 28-30 from 9:00 a.m. - noon, grades 4-5 will be held August 3-5 from 9:00 a.m. - noon. FMI please contact 387-2615.

St. Ann's CCE Swimming and Registration Party, Tuesday, July 28, 2009 at Municipal Swimming Pool from 6:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Sonora Volunteer Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary is having a Rummage Sale on Saturday, August 1st at the Fire Hall. Your donations for clothing, household items, etc. are tax deductible and most welcome. Please contact Sandee Reese at 387-5368 or Christy Lippman at 206-1342 to arrange a donation drop-off today.

Mutton Bustin is here again, August 8, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. If interested, please call the Chamber at 387-2880.

County Team Roping - August 8, 2009. Books open at 10:00 a.m. and close at 11:00 a.m. Rope at 12:00 noon. For more information call Petie Lewis at 325-650-8675.

Class of 1984 - 25th Year Reunion to be held at the home of Melanie Smith; 223 Sawyer Dr. FMI Call 325-387-2900.

Reunion for Graduating Classes 1985 and 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.

SHS Class of 1999 Reunion, August 15-18:15 a.m. downtown Sonora to ride float, 1:30 p.m. Stacy (Fox) Fisher's home @ 9240 Ranch Road 864 for Hot Dog Cookout!!!! Please RSVP to Stacy at (325) 226-4453 or stayce_fox25@hotmail.com

Please join the Sonora High School Class of 1979 in celebrating its 30th reunion on August 15, 2009- 4:00 p.m. @ The old Depot (across from The Church of Good Shepherd Presbyterian). The cost will be \$20.00 per adult which includes catered BBQ, soda, and ice. It's BYOB for adult beverages. Please RSVP by August 1st, to any of the hosts below.

Stacey Brasher-sriggs61@hotmail.com or 858-232-6173.
Loraine Creek-lsurbur@yahoo.com or 210-383-5552.
Benny Granger-benny.granger@ozonaschools.net or 325-226-2489.

Mike Jones-mwjones7@hotmail.com or 325-642-2864.
Patricia Ponsetti-ttl@poolprossa.com or 325-650-3302.
Duray Smith-duray_smith@msn.com or 325-206-0200.
Kids and grandkids welcome.

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.

Hudspeth Hospital Auxiliary is selling chances for \$1 for a 42" HDTV or a Child's Electric Vehicle. The drawing will be held August 15, 2009 during Sutton County Days and you do not have to be present to win. All proceeds will be used to benefit Hudspeth Hospital.

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!

Need a Dunking Booth for a party or fundraiser? Sonora Volunteer Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary has a dunking booth for rent. Call Tommie Sanchez at 226-8271 for availability and rates.

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.



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The Lions Roar

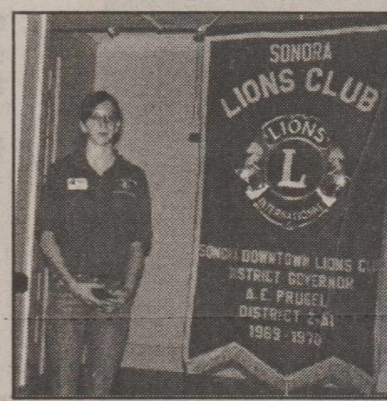
Government Offers Drought Assistance



Jim Stephen receiving 25-year pin for membership in Sonora Downtown Lions Club.



Wilson Stokes receiving pin for membership in Sonora Downtown Lions Club.



Kory Humphrey presented information on the Bob White Brigade Camp she recently attended.

By Frank Wamble

The Lions had a great fellowship and a superb Steak House meal served by Terry at our meeting last week. Visiting the Club were some fun guests from the neighborhood: Delyse Jaeger, of Eaton Hill and our Sonora Golf Club Professional, Mr. Jerry Marshall.

We honored Reverend (Judge) Jim Stephen on his 25 years of service to the Lions and his community. A 25 year pin was presented to him. Thank you, Jim for all your years of service. Wilson Stokes was presented with his initial Lions pin as our newest

Lion. Wilson's smiling face can be seen at The Bank & Trust.

The "crème de la crème" was the program by Sonora's own Kory Humphrey. She was assisted by her parents, Mary and Bryn Humphrey. Kory provided us with a Power Point presentation about her educational experience as a member of the Bobwhite Brigade. The training is an in-residence experience of classroom and field work designed to teach participants all aspects of quail habitat and life cycle. It also provides the student with life skills and team-

work, high stress environment of deadlines, interviewing, sleep deprivation and leadership problem solving. The Drill Instructor (DI), a former military trained DI, earned their respect because of his ability to increase the morale and spirit in the Bobwhite Brigade coveys.

Kory's presentation was crisp, informative and well received by our club. Thanks Kory.... GO BRONCOS!!!

Commandments From a Child

A teacher was discussing the Ten Commandments with her five and six year olds. After explaining the commandment to "honor thy father and thy mother," she asked, "Is there a commandment that teaches us how to treat our brothers and sisters?" Without missing a beat one little boy (the oldest of a family of seven) answered, "Thou shall not kill."

We are not only our brother's keeper; in countless large and small ways, we are our brother's maker.

~Bonaro Overstreet

SAN ANGELO - As the growing season progresses, hot, dry conditions prevail over much of Texas causing crops, pastures and rangeland to wither, according to a Texas AgriLife Extension Service expert.

"We're actually experiencing quite a reversal in rainfall patterns in some areas with some rain falling on the normally dry western parts of the state while the traditionally wetter eastern portions are suffering severe drought conditions and prolonged 100-degree heat," said Dr. Travis Miller, AgriLife Extension agronomy leader at College Station. "More than 70 percent of the state is in one stage or the other of drought."

Texas Agriculture Commissioner Todd Staples said current dry conditions are adding more headaches to the state's already overburdened agricultural producers.

"Texas farmers and ranchers are some of the most resilient people I have ever known," Staples said. "Our producers have been hit hard with a triple threat starting with Hurricane Ike, then with our nation's current economic calamity, and now one of the worst droughts our state has seen in years."

"We hope God will bless us with moisture to relieve some of the pressure facing our producers," he said. "While we wait, state and federal agencies are working together to offer assistance and I urge producers to take advantage of these critical resources."

Those sources include:
- The Agricultural Drought Task Force Web site, <http://agrilife.tamu.edu/drought/> provides a clearing house of drought-related information from a number of state and federal agencies. The site is divided into two distinct areas. The 'Resources on Drought' section provides static and changing information on drought ranging from stream-flow data and weather information to links provided by the participating agencies. The 'News Updates/Situational Reports' section features the latest items submitted by the participating agencies.

- Texas Department of Agriculture's Hay Hotline at 1-877-429-1998 connects ranchers with hay suppliers. The resource is meant to connect those with extra hay to sell or pasture to lease with those needing it. The agency's 'Disaster Resource Information Packet' is also available and provides pertinent contact information for state, federal and private agricultural disaster assistance programs. See www.TexasAgriculture.gov for more information on both Texas Department of Agriculture resources.

- U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency provides low-interest (3.75 percent interest on July 9, 2009) emergency loans to help eligible producers recover from natural disasters. Loans can cover restoring or replacing essential property; essential family living expenses; production costs associated with the disaster year; reorganizing the farming operation and refinance of certain debts. Interested producers should contact the office that serves the county in which their operation is located for options available in their specific location. For statewide assistance contact Brenda Carlson, public affairs specialist, U.S. Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency at 979-680-5213, brenda.carlson@tx.usda.gov

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- Set air-conditioning thermostats to the highest possible comfortable setting and dress accordingly.
- Turn off every appliance you are not using including lights, televisions and radios. Use the "sleep" feature on your computer equipment.
- Only cool rooms that you use. Close vents and doors in unused rooms. Be sure to close closet doors.
- Check your air-conditioning filter every month and replace as needed.
- Keep windows that let the sun in covered when the sun is shining on them.
- Weather strip and caulk around windows and doors to prevent drafts.
- Close your fireplace damper when the fireplace is not being used.
- Use fans to help circulate the air in your house.
- Air-dry dishes in the dishwasher.
- Lower the temperature on your hot water heater to warm during the summer, take short showers and wash only full loads of clothes in the laundry.

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Oil & Agribusiness

The Time To Spray Brush

By Pascual Hernandez,
Sutton County Agricultural
Extension Agent



We are in the window of opportunity for herbicide applications on some brush species.

Frequent brush spraying recommendations include "spray foliage when soil temperatures are above 75 degrees" or "wait until the new foliage has changed from a light pea green color to a uniform dark green color." But, have you ever stopped to consider why this is so? Well, there is good reason to adhere to these recommendations.

It has to do with the time of year and what the plant is doing. We learned about it in school during our discussions of photosynthesis, remember? Once budbreak occurs, further plant development is regulated by daylength. When brush such as mesquite puts on new leaves, the sap (carbohydrates) begins to move up to provide energy for the developing leaves. Yet, when the leaves have fully devel-

oped, they actively produce carbohydrates and will transport them BACK to the roots for storage. The key, then, is to understand that the use and replenishment of root carbohydrates follows this definite pattern.

Timing of the application is critical. Herbicides are translocated in the same way as carbohydrates. The greatest amount of root-kill is obtained when carbohydrates are translocated to the root and basal bud zone. Begin spraying in the spring after the soil temperature at 12 to 18 inches deep has reached 75 degrees. Look for the leaves to reach a dark green color (about 45 days after bud break). At this time, carbohydrates start translocating down to the root system, so an application will produce a good root kill.

If spraying is done when leaves are a pale green and not yet fully developed, the trees are not translocating to the roots; therefore, root-kill

is low and only top-kill is achieved. You'll kill the top, but the plant will re-sprout the next year.

An application too late would hit the foliage when there is less downward flow and control would not be as good. Foliar applications can be made from 45 days after bud break through September for our part of the state.

Keep these points in mind: 1) Follow herbicide label directions. 2) Wet the foliage thoroughly with herbicide until the leaves are almost to the point of dripping. 3) For best results, DON'T spray when: A) rains have stimulated light green new growth in tree tops. B) foliage is wet from rain. C) foliage shows damage from hail, insects or disease. D) you are working upwind of desirable trees, shrubs or crops.

For additional information on this and related topics, visit our website at <http://sutton-co.tamu.edu>.

Native Plant Meeting to Be Held July 28

By Doris Beebe

The Native Plant Society of Texas was founded in 1980 by Carroll Abbott, of Kerrville, with sponsorship by interested individuals, including several members of the faculty of Texas Woman's University in Denton. By April 25, 1981, more than four hundred and twenty Charter Members had signed up. The work of these early members alerted the public to the need to preserve Texas' native plants, and to the wisdom of using them in landscapes. The Society now has thirty chapters around the state.

The Society's mission - to promote research, conservation, and utilization of native plants and plant habitats of Texas through education, outreach and example - is especially timely in light of America's new emphasis on 'green'. Education continues through symposiums, undergraduate and graduate research grants, scholarships, and local chapter meetings.

Everyone is invited to an organizational meeting for the Concho Valley Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas. The meeting will be held at 7:00 pm Tuesday, July 28th, at the Massey-Meyer Garden Center in San Angelo. The Center is located at 815 South Abe - the northwest corner of Abe and Washington. Refreshments will be served.

Swimming With Gators

A CEO (and member of Forbes 400!) throwing a party takes his executives on a tour of his opulent mansion. In the back of the property, the CEO has the largest swimming pool any of them has ever seen. The huge pool, however, is filled with hungry alligators. The CEO says to his executives "I think an executive should be measured by courage. Courage is what made me CEO. So this is my challenge to each of you: if anyone has enough courage to dive into the pool, swim through those alligators, and make it to the other side, I will give that person anything they desire. My job, my money, my house, anything!"

Everyone laughs at the outrageous offer and proceeds to follow the CEO on the tour of the estate. Suddenly, they hear a loud splash. Everyone turns around and sees the CFO (Chief Financial Officer) in the pool, swimming for his life. He dodges the alligators left and right and makes it to the edge of the pool with seconds to spare. He pulls himself out just as a huge alligator snaps at his shoes. The flabbergasted CEO approaches the CFO and says, "You are amazing. I've never seen anything like it in my life. You are brave beyond measure and anything I own is yours. Tell me what I can do for you."

The CFO, panting for breath, looks up and says, "You can tell me who the heck pushed me in the pool!!!"

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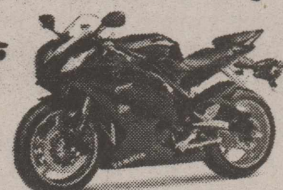
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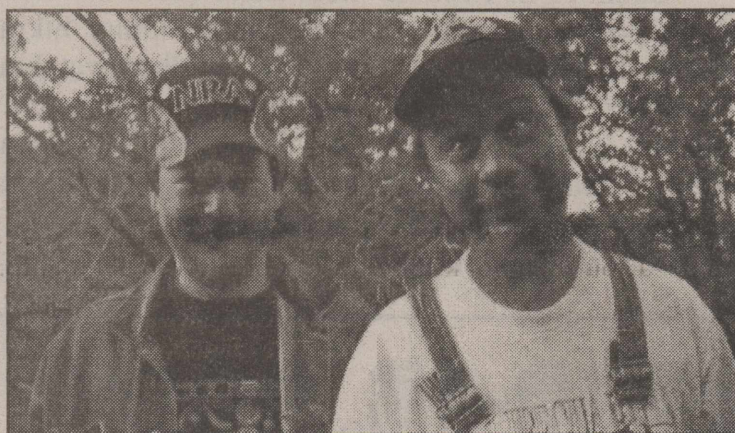
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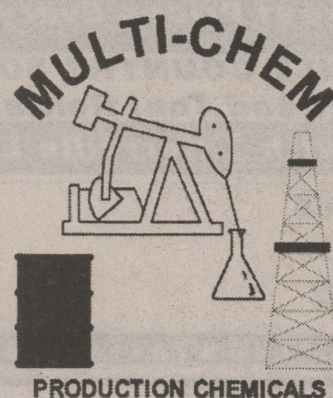
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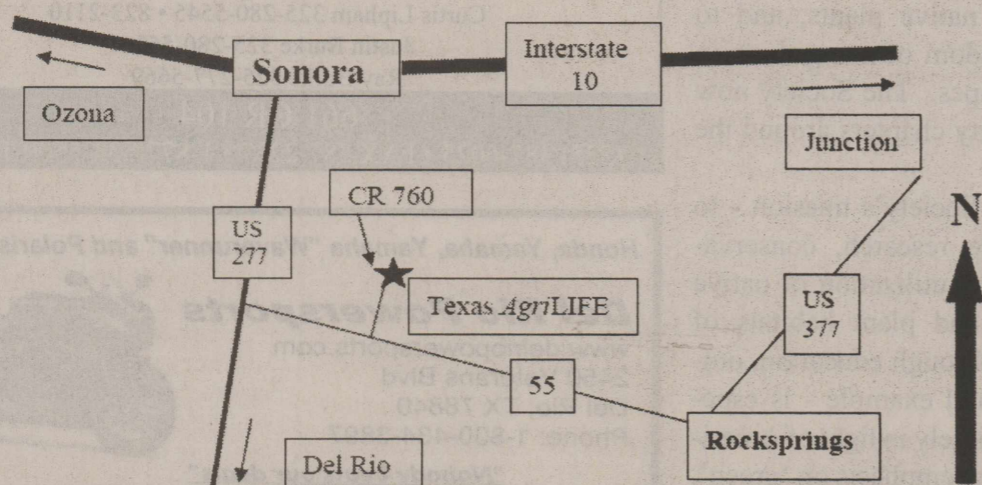
Prescribed burning insurance opportunities, the new EPPBA web site, current prescribed burning laws and regulations, prescribed burn research, NRCS programs and policies, and various vendors. There will also be a Prescribed Burn Board meeting open to the public.

For further information please call or email

Dr. Charles "Butch" Taylor at:

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Co-sponsored by Edwards Plateau Soil & Water Conservation District, Eldorado Divide Soil & Water Conservation District and the Crockett Soil & Water Conservation District.

Drought:

Continued from Front Page

ing, with many stock ponds dry."

The statewide crop condition report by U.S. Department of Agriculture rates one-third of Texas cotton acreage very poor or poor. Dry moisture conditions indicate a large amount of acreage will likely be abandoned, Anderson said, and a small cotton crop is expected because of lost acreage and low yields.

Corn and sorghum were rated even worse with more than 40 percent in the poor category, he said.

"As a result, a large part of the planted cotton and grain acreage will be abandoned, and the rest of dryland production will produce below average yields," said Dr. Mark Welch, AgriLife Extension grains marketing economist. "Many of the dryland cotton, grain sorghum and corn crops in the Coastal Bend and Lower Rio Grande Valley have been abandoned."

Total crop losses estimated for the entire growing season include cotton, corn, grain sorghum, wheat, and miscellaneous crops. Current crop conditions reported by USDA are taken into consideration in estimating lost value, Welch said.

While West Texas cotton is in the early stages of the growing season, abandoned planted acreage and low projected yields indicate a loss of \$540 million, Welch said. Compared to 2008,

he expects the drought to cut the corn crop about 45 percent, the sorghum crop 69 percent, and wheat crop 62 percent. Grain sorghum losses stand at \$258 million and corn, \$618 million.

"The combined effects of drought, freeze and lower prices are estimated to have cut Texas wheat value by \$506 million in 2009," Welch said.

Meanwhile, the state's livestock operations continue to suffer. Little or no hay has been baled this year or for 2008 in South, Central or East Texas. Much of Texas continues to be short on moisture. The hay loss at mid-year is estimated at \$409 million, according to economists. Hay is being shipped into south Texas from northeast Texas and other states.

"Given the critical shortage of forage for grazing and hay, a soaking rain is needed soon to maintain the beef cow herd in Central and South Texas," said Dr. David Anderson, AgriLife Extension livestock marketing economist. "The high cost of buying hay and supplemental feed is resulting in liquidation of some herds."

Counties in extreme and exceptional drought account for 40 percent of Texas' cow herd and 6 percent of the U.S.'s beef cow herd, Anderson said. Ranchers have been forced to cull deeper into herds and to sell

calves at lighter weights, earlier than normal.

"From November 2008 until March 2009, the loss was estimated at \$569 million," Anderson said. "Additional livestock costs since March 2009 are estimated to have totaled about \$300 million. The total now is \$869 million. Those include feed costs such as hay and other feed supplements, and do not include reduced future revenues due to losing breeding stock and lost revenue from selling calves earlier. In addition to the beef cattle losses, the estimated loss for goats, sheep, honey and horses totals \$105 million."

The drought will stress wildlife resources and reduce the amount and quality of wild animals and birds. Wildlife management programs are critical to maintaining the recreational value of land used for outdoor recreation during the intense drought, according to Anderson.

The early summer drought and high temperatures are damaging all dryland crops such as vegetables, horticulture plants, peaches, pecans and other crops by at least \$214 million. Land-based recreation used for camping, hiking, birding, wildlife watching, and hunting is expected to lose some \$100 million, according to AgriLife Extension estimates.

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Public Notice

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2553 PR 1152 (10.97 acres)	\$159,500	<i>Sale Pending</i>
5098 S US Hwy 277, (5acres)	\$172,000	
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301 W. Castlehill Rd.	\$195,000	
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Buffalo Well Division
 523 ac. Camp house, well, large liveoaks and white tailed deer and turkey. 15 miles east of Sonora on paved road. \$1495/ac.
 650 ac. Highway frontage, deer, turkey, large liveoaks, very little cedar, electricity. \$1495/ac.

These properties are 15 minutes from I-10 on state highway less than 1 1/2 hr. from the Kerrville area.

Bob Caruthers - Broker
 325-226-3003 Anytime
 email: bobc@sonoratx.net

4,515 acres (Sutton Co.) STONE KEY ESTATES
 1+ ac. parcels
 Wall ISD
 protective covenants
 community water system
 6 mi. S of San Angelo
 priced to sell, can finance
 325.374.2597

TAKE A LOOK
 30 acres—great location 6 miles from Sonora, remodeled 3/3 house w/CH&A, attached carport, sprinkler system, well, outbuildings, fences, views, abundant wildlife, pictures on website; \$310,000.
R.D. Kothmann Real Estate
 www.kothmannrealestate.com 325-446-3013

Rio Diablo Realty
 (325) 387-2537
 www.riodiabl Realty.com
 Stacy Fisher--Broker/Owner

*****New Listing***
 120 Oakwood
 3/2/2, 1966 sf
 Updated Interior
 \$189,000**

106 Sawyer Court	3/2/2	\$113,000
706 S. Crockett	3/2	\$145,000
125 Edgemont	3/3	\$395,000

Commercial
 208 E. Main St. 2245 sf \$105,000

***** Ranch Listing***
 1339 Ranch Road 864
 300 acres OR 100 acre plots
 5 miles from Sonora
 \$2500 per acre**

Schleicher County Medical Center
FT Floor/ER RN
12 hour shifts 7p-7a competitive wages
ACLS, PALS and/or TNCC certifications preferred
Benefits: vacation, sick, health/w/ vision/life ins., medical savings plan options on-site childcare
 Schleicher County Medical Center
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 Resumes faxed to 325.853.3523
 Phone 325.853.2507 ext 109
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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 Venthood
 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
 228 E. Main St.
 Sonora, Texas 76950
 325-387-2498

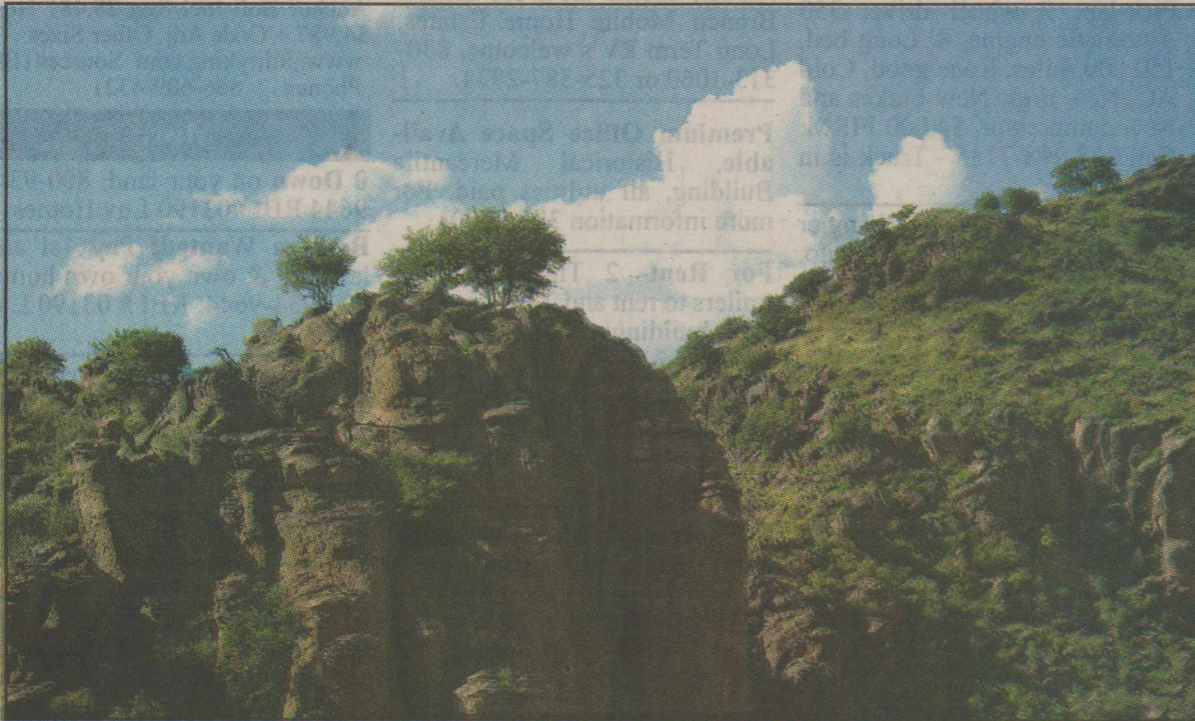
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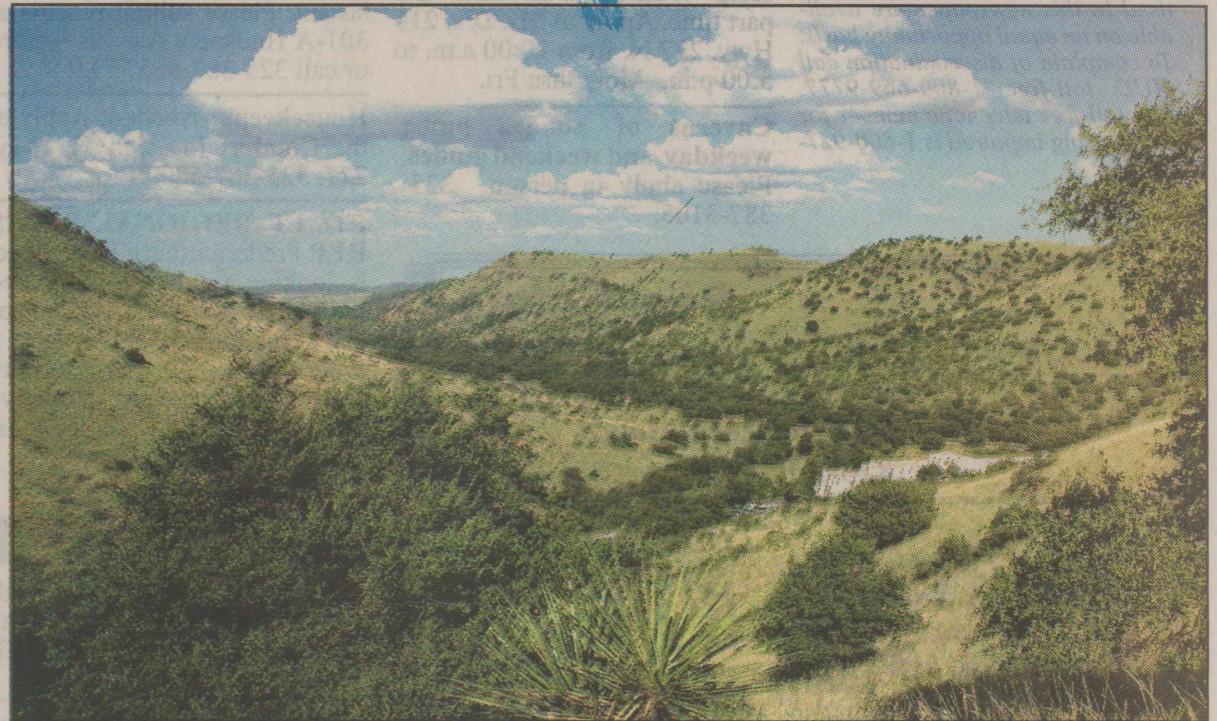
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Scott Jacoby Real Estate
 www.scottjacobyrealestate.com

P.O. Box 295 325-226-2768
 802 S. Concho sjacoby@dishmail.net
 Sonora, TX 76950



The Davis Mountains are the most extensive mountain range in Texas. Attractions include scenic drives, scenic overlooks, and 4 miles of hiking trails connecting with Fort Davis.



The Indian Lodge Hotel in the Davis Mountains State Park sits secluded at the foot of the hills. The lodge was constructed in the 1930s by the Civilian Conservation Corps.

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.

Davis Mountains SP
Travel Time: 3 hrs. 13 min.
Distance: 232 miles from Sonora

Story and Photos
by James Ricks

As the heat of the day set in during a late morning hike over the hill tops above the camping sites and lodge, a cool breeze blew off of the mountains and over the hills cooling the day to pleasant temperatures just right for hiking or biking the scenic routes in the Davis Mountains State Park.

The beauty of the park almost disguises the rugged nature of the land. The park is filled with wildlife; from the chorus of various birds to the deer, javelinas, and possibly bears and mountain lions.

Davis Mountains S.P. holds something for a variety of nature lovers: light to medium hikes vs. a scenic drive, tent camping and RVing vs. the Indian Lodge hotel with its rustic classy rooms run by the park. The park features water spigots and some electrical hook-ups vs. the ice machines and air-conditioning of the lodge. Campers can drive a short 3



A view of the night sky at Davis Mountains State Park shows the Milky Way Galaxy brightly overhead.

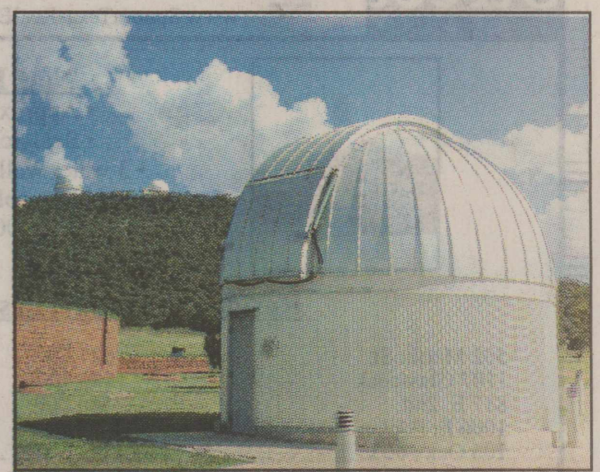
miles into Fort Davis to pick up supplies and ice cream or visit the lodges Black Bear restaurant (named for the animals that would raid the food supplies of the C.C.C. as they were building the facilities in the 1930's).

There is a sea of green and golden grass that cover the hillsides as shadows dance across the hills, while clouds roll by throughout

the day.

If the rolling vistas aren't impressive enough, the blue of the sky will catch your breath as the sun sets and the lightshow shines from the stars and glow of the Milky Way Galaxy set in the richly filled night sky.

A swimming pool is available for guests of the lodge, and one of my favorite swimming holes, Balmorhea

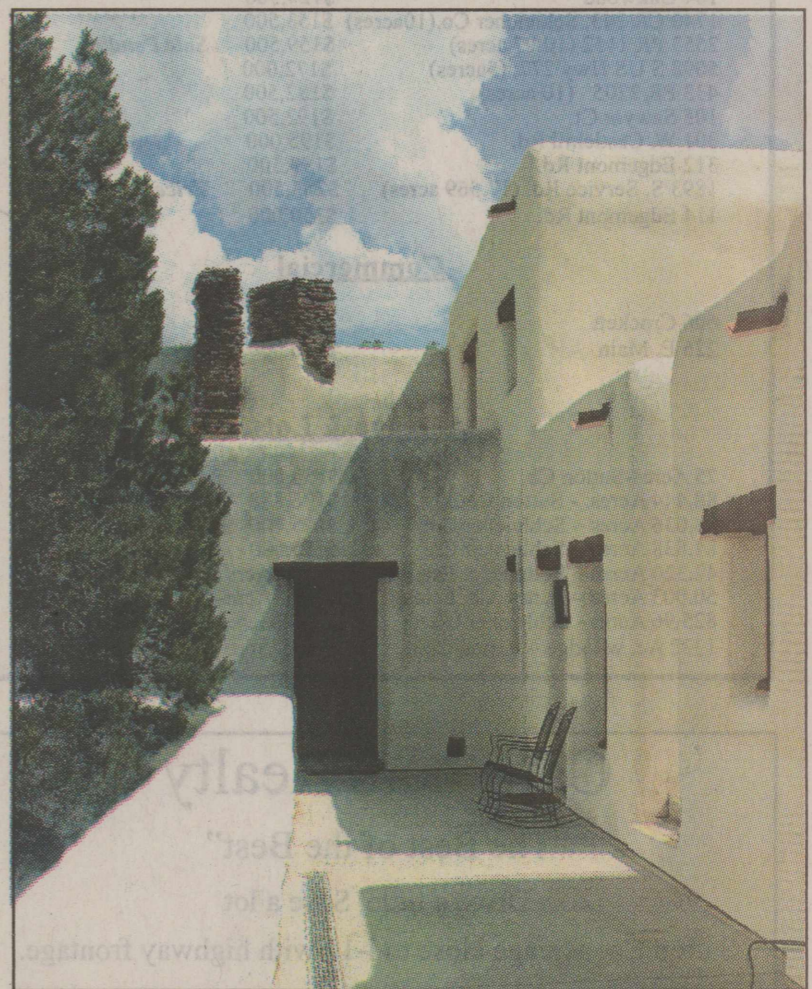


State Park is a short drive away. For fun activities during the day, Fort Davis National Historic Site and the McDonald Observatory are all within convenient travel times. So, if you're looking for adventure and a cooler place to escape the summer heat then think of the Davis Mountains for a great getaway.

For more information on the area and activities available, visit the Texas Parks and Wildlife website at www.tpwd.state.tx.us/.

Go ahead, be "Adventuresome."

To view past adventuresome articles visit: www.drn-adventuresome.blogspot.com



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