

Historical Society 1
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SonoraTX76950

The Devil's River News

Serving Sutton County Since 1890

75¢

Volume 124 • Issue 8

SONORA, TEXAS

Thursday, February 23, 2012

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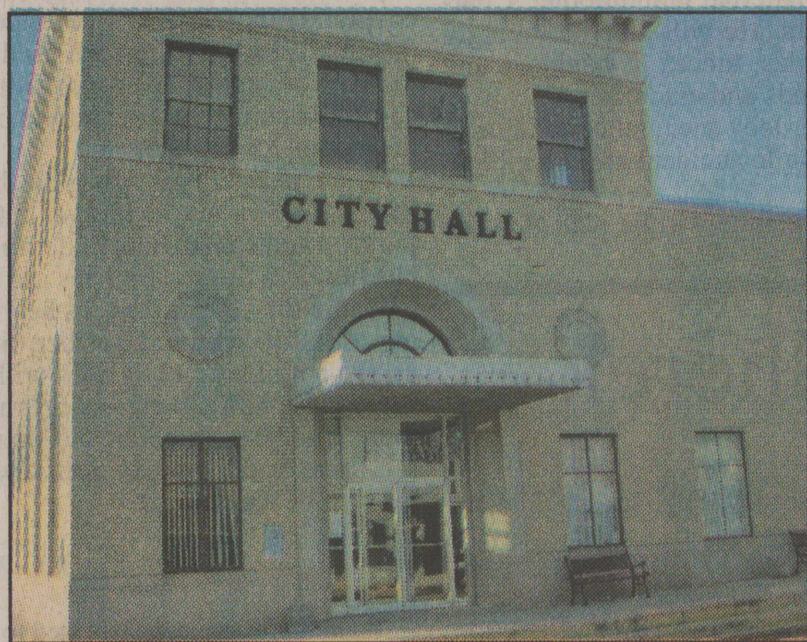
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THE DEVIL'S RIVER NEWS



By Ben D. Taylor

There is an idea currently circulating around Sonora that could potentially impact us all for years to come. This idea centers on disincorporating the City of Sonora (or doing away with the city government) and having the Sutton County government manage our tax dollars to provide services to the residents. Doing away with the city government has been brought up several times in Sonora's history, but it has (to date) never been acted upon. Some members of the community have started the process to address

disincorporation by circulating a petition. If enough signatures are collected, then an item would be placed on the ballot in the upcoming election in May where citizens could vote "yes retain the city" or "no abolish the city and consolidate under the county". It is unknown why previous discussions about doing away with the city were brought up, but some of the major driving forces for the current discussion are centered on management of city funds and county tax rates.

It might be easy to assume the

city is facing serious financial woes, especially on the heels of a former City Manager pleading guilty to Felony Theft charges. In order to understand fully the scope and scale of the past actions of city management staff and policy makers, current City Manager Charlie Graves has requested a forensic audit of the city (the results of which will be available in the near future). Even given the actions of previous management, it appears that the City of Sonora is not in dire financial shape.

According to the most recent audit of the city (conducted by Coleman Horton and Company, LLP) Sonora has around \$9 million overall in net assets (money left over after debt is paid). Specifically in the proprietary fund (the fund where we pay fees for water, sewer, sanitation and airport) currently has \$13 million in revenue and \$7 million in expenses—which means that it has a total of \$6 million dollars after debt is serviced. The General Fund receives its money from property taxes and pays for most of the services the residents of

Continued on Page 8

Sutton County Little Mr. and Miss Win First San Angelo Stockshow Parade



Little Mr. (Hollis Snyder) and Little Miss. (Catelynn Ramirez) Sutton County pose with a first place plaque for their float in the 80th annual San Angelo Stock Show and Rodeo Parade.

Schleicher County Rodeo Association Gives Back to Communities



The Schleicher County Rodeo Association proudly given donations to both Schleicher County 4-H and Sutton County 4-H programs. SCRA has given annually to these two organizations and pictured are: Pasqual Hernandez, Sutton County Extension Agent and Anthony Monuz, Schleicher County Extension Agent is Charly Swinford SCRA 2011 Rodeo Queen.

Bronco Nation Welcomes New Athletic Director

By James Hartman

Sonora ISD is proud to introduce Mr. Craten Phillips as Head Football Coach/Athletic Director. Coach Phillips comes to Sonora from Garrison ISD, where he led the Bulldogs to back to back Class A State Semifinal games. He sports an overall head coaching record of 40-19 during his five years at the helm including 34-6 the past three years with a 7-3 mark in playoff competition.

Coach Phillips grew up in a coaching family and spent the first several years of his career working under the mentorship of his father, Scott Phillips, who won state championships at Groveton and Waxahachie (including Craten's senior season in 1992.) He is dedicated to student/athlete success in all academic and sport endeavors; and believes that consistency in discipline leads to chemistry within the program. Coach Phillips is committed to preserving the high standards of expectations for students and staff and will work diligently to build a unified athletic program that is responsive to student needs and supportive of academic programming.

Coach Phillips and his wife, Wendy (certified in math and dance), have two boys and a girl: Hunter-9, Ryder-7, and Harper-17 months. The family is excited about the new challenges and opportunities that await here in Sonora, and look forward to becoming part of the community. Craten's extended family now resides in Junction and his wife's family is in Austin and Fredericksburg; so Sonora is an ideal location for them geographically as well.

Although a start date has not yet been finalized, Coach Phillips is eager to begin working with the Sonora staff and students to start establishing and building those critical relationships.

Coach Craten Phillips and family: welcome to Bronco Nation!

Re-Districting Makes A Mess of Political Signs



It's quite an unusual circumstance. As the result of the challenges to the re-districting plans for Texas House, Senate and US Congress, the date of many statewide elections has been changed from March 3, 2012 to April 3, 2012.

Under state law, political campaign signs may not be erected more than 90 days before the election date. In anticipation of the original March 3, 2012 election date, many candidates for elected office and proponents and opponents of various issues and initiatives erected political campaign signs within 90 days of the election date as allowed by state outdoor advertising rules. It is likely that many local jurisdictions will keep the original March 3, 2012 election date for local elections. Therefore, signs erected for these elections are within the 90 day period of compliance.

In compliance with state law, many exempt political campaign signs for the Texas House, Senate and US Congress races were erected within the 90 day compliance period for the original March 3, 2012 election date. Because of the change in the election date from March 3, 2012 to April 3, 2012, these signs are now technically out of the 90 day window.

The department recognizes that these signs were erected in good faith reliance on the original March 3, 2012 election date. It would be unrealistic and impractical to require all affected statewide election signs to be removed and then re-established in order to enjoy the full 90 days of public exposure before the new April 3, 2012 election date.

Given the numerous extenuating and unprecedented factors at issue, political campaign signs that are erected in anticipation of the upcoming elections may remain in place and do not need to be removed and re-established in order to be in compliance with off-premise outdoor advertising sign rules.

In accordance with state law, TxDot will require all affected political signs to be removed within 10 days after the April 3, 2012 election date. Contact Wendy Knox at the ROW Division at 512-416-2915 or wendy.knox@txdot.gov with any questions.

Senior Center Activities

- Thurs. February 23 - Exercise Video
- Fri. February 24 - PEC Program w/ Matthew Gonzales
- Mon. February 27 - Bingo
- Tues. February 28 - Happy Birthday *Mary Ellen Lane*
- Wed. February 29 - Craft Ideas for St. Patrick's Day

Senior Center Menu

- Thurs. February 23 - Turkey pot pie, seasoned corn, milk green salad, wheat roll, ambrosia
- Fri. February 24 - Beef pepper steak, mashed potatoes, milk capri vegetables, wheat roll, chunky fruit
- Mon. February 27 - Oven fried chicken, bowtie pasta, milk broccoli-raisin salad, fruit cocktail
- Tues. February 28 - Chicken salad sandwich, tomatoes, milk pickles, lettuce, carrot sticks, macaroni salad
- Wed. February 29 - Mushroom steak w/gravy, peas & carrots mashed potatoes, roll, emerald pears, 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).

Obituary

Joseph Jay (Joey) Wilson

Joseph Jay was born June 18, 1977 in Eldorado, Texas to Joe Ray and Rhonda Hicks Wilson. He spent most of his young life in Sonora and San Angelo, but most of his life in Odessa, Texas.

Joey was preceded in death by his father, Joe Ray Wilson, grandfather, Leo James Wilson and his maternal grandparents, John and Martha Hicks.

He is survived by his wife Heather Wilson of Odessa; daughters, Amanda Wilson of Kyle and Valora Wilson of Odessa. Survivors also include his mother, Rhonda and husband Joe Skelton of Odessa; sisters, Darcey and husband, Mike Dwyer and family of San Angelo, and Jamie and husband, Curtis Tidmore and family of Odessa; and paternal grandmother, Charlotte Wilson and family of Sonora. He will also be lovingly remembered by many aunts, uncles, nieces & nephews and cousins, as well as numerous friends and associates.

On Saturday, January 28, 2012, Joey succumbed to injuries previously received in an automobile accident and an oilfield accident.

In loving memory of Joey, a plaque will be placed in the James Wilson plot in the cemetery.

Letter to the Editor

Demand that our elected officials become more frugal with tax dollars.

Accept fewer services

Trim the labor force

Consolidate duties with the County

Retain or Eliminate the City (Unincorporated/Disincorporation) In accordance with Chapter 62 Texas Code 400 City taxpayers can petition the Mayor (Mayor Pro-Tem since our Mayor resigned) to abolish or retain Sonora. Mayor Pro-Tem put it on ballot for City citizens to vote to retain or to abolish. If abolish is approved the City goes into Receivership to satisfy City Debt and Sutton County assumes responsibility for its entire population. If voters "vote no" on abolishing the City remains.

It appears that Sonora City citizens while paying \$2.26/\$100 that amount is not sufficient to fund the City due to higher costs and other declining revenue sources. Rainey Days Funds (savings) are and have been used to Supplement Taxes in order to meet budget obligations. Using savings to compensate for shortfall is unacceptable public policy and if continued will be disastrous for the City.

There is a petition which has been prepared by Sonora Citizens to ask for a vote of "yes retain the City" or "no" abolish the City and consolidate under the County during the May City election. All Sonora citizens are requested to sign this petition to insure the voter's voice is heard. I will be ready to meet with our Sonora citizens to further discuss their concerns, as soon as, the ballot petition is filed with the Mayor Pro Tem.

Please call Councilman Frank C. Wamble 387-2672 for more information about the petition or a meeting to discuss this topic or the topic of your choice. E-mail gr6gr6@verizon.net will be answered.

Frank C. Wamble

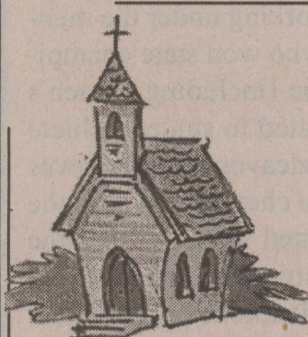
Frank C. Wamble was elected to Sonora City Council in 2010 to represent all Sonora citizens. A Texas Aggie to the bone! He has and continues to serve the citizens of Sonora with distinction. Some of his key accomplishments...elected President of the Sonora Lions on two occasions, Worshipful Master of our Masonic Lodge, member and former officer in the Chamber of Commerce, Citizen of the Year and Main Street Volunteer of the Year. He is a "giver"...not a "taker" and accomplished much with a severe disability of being Legally Blind.

Thank You Notes

We want to express our sincere appreciation for all of the prayers, warm hugs, cards, calls and other expressions of sympathy extended to us at the time of Joey's death.

Gratefully,
 Charlotte Wilson
 Jim & Cherrie
 John & Karen

Sonora Church Directory



Church of Christ
 304 N. Water
 387-3190

Primera Iglesia Bautista
 504 Santa Clara
 387-2035

First Baptist Church
 11 E. Oak
 387-2951

The Church of the Good Shepherd Presbyterian
 319 E. Mulberry
 387-2616

St. John's Episcopal Church
 404 E. Poplar
 387-2955

Lighthouse Community Church
 1705 N. Crockett
 387-9100

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

Linda Sherek

Linda Sherek, 67, died Wednesday, Feb. 15, 2012 at her residence.

Graveside service was Friday, Feb. 17, 2012 in Cedar Hill Cemetery. Arrangements are by Preddy Funeral Home. Survivors include two sisters; Bonnie Ogle of Ozona and Dorothy Wilson of Sonora; five brothers, Bobby Harris of San Angelo, James Harris of Eola, Cliff Harris of Fort Stockton, Hal Harris and Rusty Harris both of Ozona.

**Pre-Need
 Funeral Insurance
 and
 Monument Sales
 Contact:
 Glen Love
 Kerbow
 Funeral Home
 325-387-2266**

Lions Roar

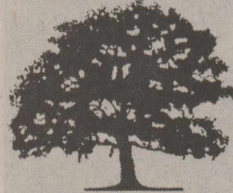
Members met at noon on February 21, 2012 in the fellowship hall of First United Methodist Church. Lunch was served by Sutton County Steakhouse. President Sam Kent welcomed all of the guests which included middle school students of the week, Ryon Martinez and Adrian Trevino. Also, visiting were Stephanie Haischer and Thomas Correo from the girl scouts and boy scouts organizations respectively. The high school art instructor, Karen Roach, announced that her third and fourth year students were in the process of designing a mural to be painted on the side of the Girl Scout hut commemorating the 100 year anniversary.

The program consisted of students Marci Parks and Kaitlyn Gibbens reciting pieces they are currently using to compete in area UIL contests. Both students performed very well to the pleasure of their audience.

Member Brandon Duncan announced that four high school athletes who are members of Fellowship of Christian Athletes are working to gain sponsorship to attend an FCA event later this year. Frank Wamble made the motion that Lions Club offer partial sponsorship for these athletes and Carl Teaff seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

SUTTON COUNTY HEALTH FOUNDATION



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 P.O. Box 18, Sonora, Texas 76950
 All contributions are 100% deductible

www.suttoncountyhealthfoundation.org

The Devil's River News

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**MEMBER
 2011**

TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

201 NW WATER (325)387-2466

REV. LEIGH LLOYD



Sundays

- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School
- 10:55 a.m. Worship
- 2:00 p.m. Bible Study

(Nursery provided from 9:30 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.)

Wednesdays

- 5:00 p.m. Choir Practice
- 6:00 p.m. Community Bible Study
- 6:00 p.m. Jr. High Youth (St. John's Sunday House)
- 7:00 p.m. Sr. High Youth (St. John's Sunday House)

Special Events

- Potluck Lunch Sun., Feb 12 following worship
- Ash Wednesday Service Wed., Feb 22 @ 6:00 pm

You can hear our worship service each Sunday morning
 @ 11:00 am on KHQS 92.1FM
 Check us out @ faithbreaksonora.wordpress.com

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An original WOBB musical

- Performances:
- Friday, February 24 7:00 p.m.
 - Saturday, February 25 DINNER THEATER
 Dinner 6:00 p.m.
 Show 7:15 p.m.
 - Sunday, February 26 2:00 p.m. matinee
 - Friday, March 2 7:00 p.m.
 - Saturday, March 3 2:00 p.m. matinee
 - Sunday, March 4 2:00 p.m. matinee
 - Friday, March 9 7:00 p.m.
 - Saturday, March 10 2:00 p.m. matinee
 - Sunday, March 11 2:00 p.m. matinee

Written by Terry Weaver & JoAnn Sproul

Music & Lyrics by Terry Weaver,
 Burrell Rutherford & Jon Cartwright

Box Office Information

2:00-5:00 p.m. Monday—Friday
FEBRUARY 13 through **MARCH 9**
 Call (325) 853-2900
 or come by the theater office 115 SW Main
 Show tickets: Adults—\$15 & Children (under 12)—\$10
 Dinner theater: Adults—\$30 & Children (under 12)—\$20
 Tickets must be prepaid. Limited seating. No refunds or exchanges.

Students of the Week

High School

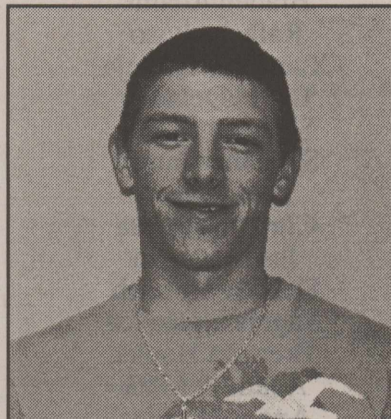
Freshman Jazmin Ramos, sophomore Danielle Vargo, junior Gunter Pennington and senior Phillip Stephens are the Sonora High School Students of the Week for February 13.



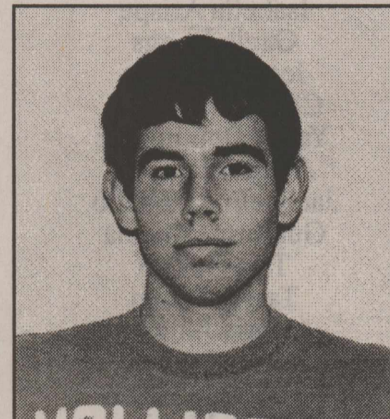
Jazmin Ramos is the daughter of Liliana Acosta and Henry Ramos. Her favorite teacher is Mrs. Garcia and her favorite class is band. Jazmin likes the open campus lunch, coloring, animal crackers and ice cream and dislikes bugs, homework, thunderstorms, and broken crayons. Jazmin is a member of the Mighty Bronco Band and on the cross country and softball team. She lived in Oklahoma till the end of her 1st grade year. Her favorite thing about high school is not taking her finals, and plans to go to college to be a pediatrician.



Sophomore Danielle Vargo is the daughter of Mariam and Tony Vargo. Her favorite teacher is Coach Waites and her favorite class is Theatre. Danielle likes acting, early out on Fridays, and Basketball. She dislikes the new basketball district, country music, and broccoli. Danielle is a member of youth group, UIL, and One Act. She is a basketball and softball manager. Danielle moved to Sonora from San Antonio in May of 2011. Her favorite thing about Sonora High is the people. After graduation Danielle plans to go to college.



Junior Gunter Pennington is the son of Fran and Stacey Pennington. Gunter's favorite teacher is Coach Tuttle and his favorite class is Woodshop. He likes track and dislikes reading. Gunter is in 4H and Ag; he also participates in track and rodeo. Gunter has lived in Sonora all his life. His favorite thing about Sonora High is the open campus lunch. Gunter plans to go to college after graduation.



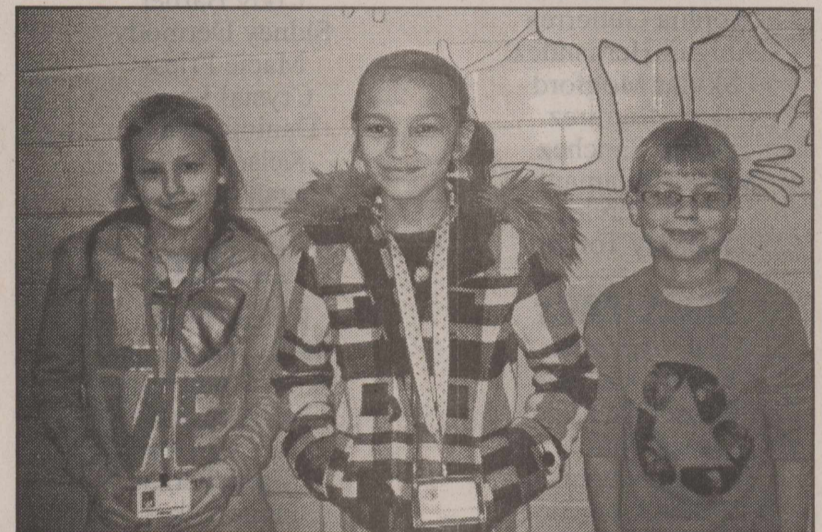
Senior Phillip Stephens is the son of Paul and Jan Stephens. His favorite teacher is Coach Dukes and his favorite period is lunch. Phillip likes Baseball and dislikes homework. He is a member of NHS, community service and competes in UIL. Phillip plays baseball, tennis, and basketball. Phillip moved to Sonora in 1997 from Houston. His favorite thing about Sonora High is the good friends. After graduation Phillip plans to attend Baylor for college.

Elementary School



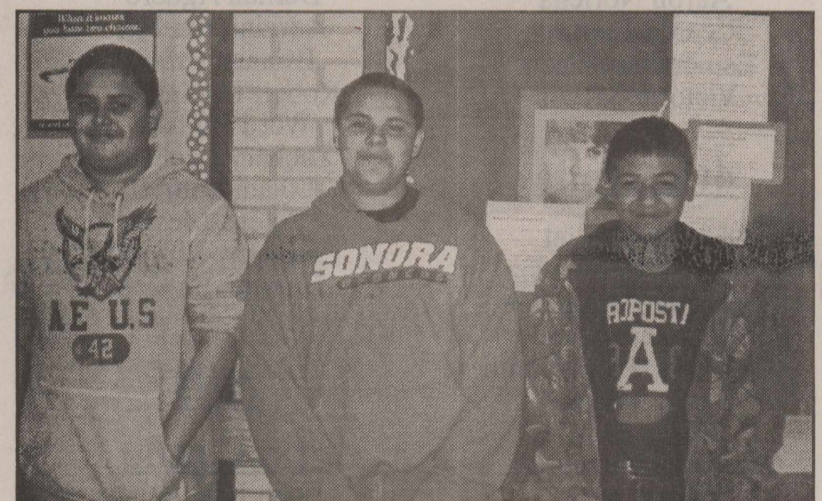
L to R: Chyenne Rivera, Alyna Saiz, Adyson Ganzales
Not pictured: Madison Mayfield

Intermediate School



L to R: Kayla Gee, Gabriela Zapata, Zachery Kinard

Middle School



L to R: 8th-Ryan Martinez, 7th-Jesse Ramon, 6th-Adrian Trevino

Rosey Bud Florist
410 S. Crockett
325-387-5507



Bridal Selections

Johnna Wade & Gary Gibson
Steven Frazier & Brea Hughes
Cash Jennings & Catherine Warren



Baby

Zed & Ashley Snodgrass
Candace & Landry Matthies
A flower for everyday...

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<p>Everett's Pharmacy Feature of the Month </p>	 Advertising Works! Call Rhonda at 387-2507

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We offer a full service store providing prescription medications, diabetic supplies, home health equipment, and gifts galore! With free delivery within the city limits of Sonora and Eldorado, Everett's is proud to offer their new prescription savings club on over 5,000 name brand and generic medications. Let us fill your 30 day supply starting at just \$4.99 by calling 325-387-2541 or come by 417 Hwy 277 North in Sonora.

Baby Registry
Dani & Chance Dillard

F.Y.I.

Sutton County Friends of NRA Pre-event raffle is underway! Tickets are \$10 each with one winner taking home five firearms and a 10 gun fire resistant safe. Tickets may be purchased at Buck N Bass/Sonora Air Cooled Engines, by contacting Tonya @ 387-3861 or 206-0454 or by contacting any committee member. The winning ticket will be drawn during our 5th Annual Auction/Banquet, Saturday, September 15, 2012. Your support is appreciated!

Car Seat Available! Contact Araceli Perez at 325-387-2234 for more information.


Little Mr. & Miss Cinco de Mayo registration deadline is April 30, 2012. Contact Jo Ann Hernandez at The Bank & Trust for FMI.


Viva Sonora will be selling bricks to made into a sidewalk around the new city park located on Deerwood Drive. The money that is raised will be rotated back into community projects. If you would like to reserve a permanent brick you pick up a form at the Bank and Trust or call Juanita Gomez 206-2698 or JoAnn Hernandez 206-0366.

Are you interested in praying for our country, our city, our loved ones? You are most welcome to meet in the Prayer Garden every Tuesday morning at 10:00AM. Bring a chair please. All are welcome. FMI call 325-387-3246.

Sonora Lions are ready to sponsor our youth who are disabled or who have TYPE 1 diabetes to attend a 1 week camp. For more information contact Col. Pete Bradley @ 387.6282 or any Lion. Further information on all Lions Camps is online @ Texas Lions Camp. Camp dates are in June for disabled and July diabetes.

Rent the Depot or Icehouse Ranch Museum for your special party or event. Call 325-387-5084 Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.


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


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

Academic Honor Roll

4th Six Weeks

All A's

1st Grade

Sophia Acevedo
Molly Friess
Aidan Leamon
Jonathan Lozano
Jake Malsbury
Madison Martin
Madison Mayfield
Juan Torres-Alvarez
Adilynn Woods

2nd Grade

Ariana Arispe
Abby Bennie
Carson Cahill
Kodi Davis
Seth Davis
Abigail Duncan
Christina Garcia
Sophia Gutierrez
Abigail Hernandez
Skylar Mogford
Laci Ramirez
Adam Sanchez
Mariah Talamantes
Lane Taylor
Melody Torres

3rd Grade

Ilze Contreras
Kaitlyn Daniels
Rashel De Luna
Jaci Dutton
Juan Garza
Preston Gonzalez
Savannah Harger
Christopher Hernandez
Kaylea Liggett
Michael Morales
Aaron Noriega
Ricardo Ramirez
Esmeralda Salazar
Victoria Salazar

4th Grade

Harley Daniel
Catarina Hernandez
Deborha Hernandez
Wilson Johnson
Victoria Klebold-Smith
Taryn Mitchell
Jansen Morris
Isabella Samaniego
Blayne Sykes
Traci Vickers

5th Grade

Juan Baez
Wesley Dutton
Noe Estrada
Cara Hernandez
Mary Kyle Johnson
Avery Leamon
Brodey Myers
Reagan O'Brien
Evan Shannon
Sterling Smith
Dylan Taylor

6th Grade

Carly Brown
Christina Hernandez
Sierra Herrada
Delaney Ramsdell

7th Grade

Autumn Ayala
Sky Jennings
Jessica Paredes
Kristy Sanchez
Tate Shannon

All A's (cont'd)

8th Grade

James Freeman
Adrian Garcia
Darby Ramsdell

Freshman

Gracie Dozier
Veronica Gaytan
Julia Gibbens
Lillian Kent
Abby Nolen
Jonathan Salazar
Logan Sine
Alexa Sykes
Selena Trevino
Brandi Wright

Sophomore

Cody Barber
Sidney Dermody
Macie Friess
Crystal Lopez
Danielle Vargo
Kelsey Velez
Megan Yourgalite

Juniors

Kelsey Favila
Melissa Freeman
Kory Humphrey
Stella Ingham
Avery Nolen
Marci Parks
Paige Sykes
Kade Wimberley

Seniors

Delilah Agüero
Adriana Buitron
Brianah Creek
Robert Hernandez
Word Hudson
Zachary Leonard
Logan Luttrell
Selena Mesa
Brittany Morin
Braxton Snyder

A/B

1st Grade

Joseph Ivan Abrego
Grayson Beyers
Ashley Castilleja
Jerry Centeno
Ignacio Coronado
Koda Davis
Montserrat De La Fuente
Joshua Esquivel
Jonathan Galvan
Emilio Garcia
Nora Gaspar
Imanol Gaytan
Omar Gonzalez
Christian Guerrero
DCaniel Gutierrez
Hayden Hartman
Kanen Henderson
Alexis Hernandez
Alma Hernandez
Daniela Lozano
Trinity Luna
Jeremiah Martin
Mia McGee
Hunter O'Banon
Angel Perez
Jacob Perez
Sayler Reagan
Lorena Reyes
Ethan Roque
Brandon Torres
Romeo Torres
Shakira Villanueva

A/B (cont'd)

2nd Grade

Isabella Arispe
Gavin Boggs
Jessica Campa
Christian Deluna
Yailin Dominguez
Abigail Fuentes
Jacqueline Galindo
Guillermo Garcia
Tais Gaytan
Taryn Hamm
Amaris Jimenez
Emilio Lozano
Fernanda Lozano
Damian Martinez
Abigail Mendoza
Mariana Montoya
Sean Mungia
Joselyn Rodriguez
Jeliza Salazar
Santos Salazar
Dalissa Sanchez
Jessica Smith
Carlynn Teaff
Jacqueline Torres

3rd Grade

Kaylann Alvarez
Sianne Alviso
Saul Bermea Arambula
Ricardo Castilleja
Hannah Covarrubiaz
David Creek
Osbel De Luna
Madalyn Fisher
James Gartman
Yesenia Garza
Alexis Gaytan
Martha Gonzalez
Hazel Guerra
Alan Hernandez
Sky Hernandez
Allen Jones
Benjamin Kinard
Adrian Longoria
Alyssa Martinez
Carla Mota
Caleb Nolen
Kameryn O'Brien
Frankie Ortiz
Elias Perez
Harmony Ramirez
Matthew Roque
Juan Ruiz
Sebastian Silva
Haley Teague
Brina Trevino
Alexis Velasquez
Brady Vyvlecka
Kristina Zabecki

A/B (cont'd)

4th Grade

Braden Adams
Rafael Alviso
Xzavier Castilleja
David Delgado
Slade Dermody
Shyanne Gamez
Levi Garrett
Christina Garza
Jesus Gaytan
Destiny Goforth
Angela Gonzalez
Brennen Hooks
Adamari Mata
Analy Palacios
Kadee Petty
Haley Smith
Kathryn Wardlaw
Hollie Wilson
Gabriela Zapata
Ashley Zook

5th Grade

Morgan Anguiano
Scarlot Banfill
Trista Bush
Lane Cahill
Danyse Cantu
Kaitlyn Gann
Kayla Gee
Zayda Gloria-Gutierrez
Adriana Gonzalez Martinez
Alannah Harger
Antonio Lopez
Araceli Marin
Logan McDonald
Carlos Mendoza
Keeley Moore
Emily Nhek
Perla Salazar
Walker Sine
Kodee Smith
Stevie Smith
Alexandria Torres
Wesley Wilson

6th Grade

Savannah Castro
Felicia Farley
Shalon Franklin
Kristin Garrett
Bailey Gonzales
Summer Hall
Jesus Herrera
Hazel Kent
Mercedes Lee
Yesenia Lujan
Audry Nolen
Amber Vasquez

A/B (cont'd)

7th Grade

Bethany Agüero
Tonya Bounds
Samantha Castro
Kade Creek
Joseph Delgado
Angel DeLuna
Netza Estrada
Bianca Fay
April Fraire
Caleb Galvan
Juan Miguel Jimenez
Katelyn Lipham
Rafael Mendoza
Michael Mungia
Marlene Ortiz
Henry Ramos
Kylie Reiner
Isela Rivas
Bryndon Robles
Nydia Rodriguez
Ramon Rodriguez
Angelica Romero
Holly Sparks
Liam Yourgalite

8th Grade

Joe Michel Campos
Julian Gallardo
Juan Gamez
Mary Gartman
Alexis Garza
Juan David Garza
Tyler Hampton
Trent Harris
Edgar Hernandez
Garett Jaeger
Brianna Jarratt
Kaitlyn Lopez
Jonathan Martinez
Ryan Martinez
Sky McGuffin
McKenzie Murphy
Tanner Myers
Cip Tobias
Destany Velasquez

Freshman

Andres Acevedo
Pedro Campa
Emelio Contreras
Elijah Cross
Tanner Esparza
Julissa Esquivel
Abigail Garcia
Santiago Garza
Maria Gaspar
Tyler Gayanich
Seth Gunn
Mckayla Herrada
Hunter Hughes
Dub Latham
Jackie Limon
Walker Lipham
Kamrie Martinez
Kali Mendez
Hector Ortiz
Lisette Ortiz
Alison Perez
Annalisa Perez
Valeria Ramirez
Jazmin Ramos
Jose Robles
Halle Samaniego
Jessica West

A/B (cont'd)

Sophomore

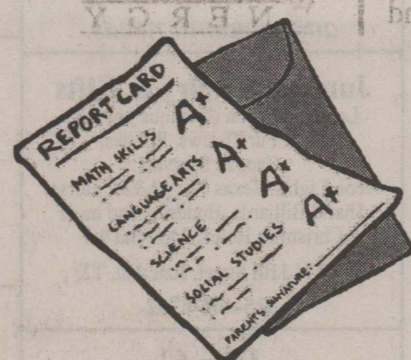
Morgan Badgett
Chance Campbell
Will Dutton
Tori Harris
Shea Holmes
Kylie Love
Kassandra Medina
Kassandra Monroe
Jonathan Paredes
Jomayra Ramirez
Alec Samaniego

Juniors

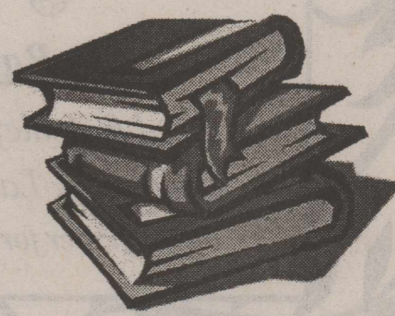
Jason Alaman
Mario Bonilla
Felipe Calderon
Ryan Contreras
Abby Creek
Damon Evans
Adriana Faz
Tyler Hampton
Clarissa Hernandez
Emilce Hernandez
Julietta Hernandez
Leonard Ibarra
Rebekah Infante
Micaela Moore
Phillip Onofre
Gunter Pennington
Sam Powers
Jacinda Sanchez
Michael Sanchez
Lino Villanueva

Seniors

Clarissa Acevedo
Jesse Amador
Sabrina Blanco
Maria Camarillo
Santiago Campa
Robert Chavez
Imoni Cross
Jasmine Daniels
Toby Garza
Alba Gloria
Erik Hernandez
Hunter Jennings
Davis Jimenez
Christian Kenney
Madison Myers
Arlette Ortiz
Clayton Parks
Kyle Patlan
Cadesman Pope
Ryan SanMiguel
Evelyn Solis
Phillip Stephens
Cande Tobias



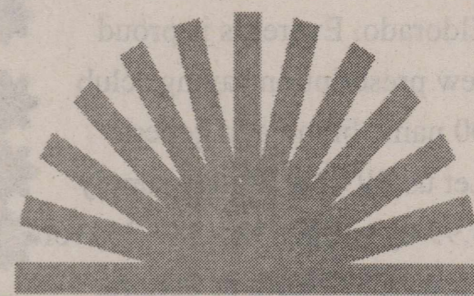
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Oil & Agribusiness

News From The Stock Show Trail

By Pascual Hernandez, Sutton County Agricultural Extension Agent



4-H families travel many miles this time of year to compete at the various livestock shows in Texas. This year, some of the stock shows overlap, making the travel more rigorous. So today, we share preliminary results from BOTH San Antonio AND San Angelo livestock shows which are going on concurrently at the time of this writing.

Our exhibitors made the trek to San Antonio to compete at the annual stock show with their gilts, goats, lambs, and breeding animals. Lots of work goes into preparing for exhibition. The following are results from the show (as of today).

In the gilt show, Darby Ramsdell had a 4th place with a Berkshire gilt while Delaney Ramsdell placed 5th with a gilt of the same breed. The girls also competed in the Swine Skillathon which tests knowledge and skills of swine management. Darby finished 3rd while Delaney was 4th in the intermediate-age division.

In the breeding sheep show, Lane Cahill hit a home run. She won the Dorper ewe-lamb class which went on to be reserve division champion! Lane also had a 2nd place with a yearling ewe, and 3rd place with an aged ewe. Meanwhile, in the Lamb barn, Robert Chavez placed 7th with his medium wool lamb and qualified for the auction.

The wool judging team placed 8th at San Antonio.

So far at the San Angelo Stock Show, our youth have competed in the gilt shows and wool and mohair judging contests. In the gilt show, Quealy Shain took 3rd place with a Chester gilt. In wool-judging, Zachary Leonard was 2nd high individual, helping his team (made up of Stella Ingham, Damon Evans, and Macie Friess) finish 3rd. Zachary was 4th high individual in the mohair judging contest. In overall results (which combine wool & mohair scores), Zachary was high individual and Stella was 5th high, which helped the Sutton County team place 3rd.

We are proud of all of our exhibitors and competitors. Some will be at the San Antonio steer and barrow shows, while others will be competing at market lamb, meat goat, and Angora goat shows in San Angelo. We wish them all luck and safe travels. More results will be provided as they happen.

Lake Amistad Gets New Fishing Hotspot

ATHENS—The lake known as “the Big Friendly” got a little friendlier to fish recently. As a result of a cooperative effort among Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, the Del Rio Home Depot and the National Park Service (NPS), fish-attracting structure was placed into Amistad International Reservoir near the Governor’s Landing camping area.

“The drought of 2011 had a devastating impact on most Texas reservoirs, including Lake Amistad,” said Randy Myers, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) Inland Fisheries biologist. “The lake is currently about 15 feet low, and projections have it going as much as 25 or 30 feet low in the next couple of months.”

“We’re happy to be working with Texas Parks and Wildlife to improve habitat for the fish and at the same time improve the fishing,” said Jack Johnson, resource program manager for Amistad National Recreation Area. “Home Depot provided about 160 unsold Christmas trees, and National Park Service staff bundled them together

and constructed concrete anchors. TPWD provided the expertise to identify the location to sink the trees.”

“Good habitat is key for good fish production,” Myers said. “We selected a small hump off a point between the Diablo East boat ramp and the Highway 90 bridge. The hump is small enough that the trees cover the entire top of that hump. We expect many species to be attracted to the area—largemouth bass, baitfish, sunfish and catfish. There were some fish on the hump before we placed the fish attractor, so we expect it to attract more fish. We will provide the waypoint for the attractor on the TPWD web site so anglers can find it and fish it.”

As Myers motored slowly over the hump, the newly planted “forest” of five- to six-foot Douglas firs lit up on the sonar like a Christmas tree, surrounded by a shimmering cloud of needles floating up off the trees. Compared to the bare lake bottom around it, the hump is a paradise for fish—and anglers.

Cattle Producers Advised To Use Caution As Prices March Higher

WACO – Cattle producers should be mindful to not get too caught up in reacting to high market prices, according to a Texas AgriLife Extension Service economist.

When Dr. Jason Johnson, AgriLife Extension economist from Stephenville, showed a slide to several hundred cattle producers at the Blackland Income Growth Conference in Waco, it caused many to gasp and begin conversations about profit potential.

Target prices for the first quarter of 2012 for 500-600 pound calves are \$1.45 to \$1.50, which has already been exceeded this year, Johnson said. That trend is likely to continue with a historic shortage of beef cows not seen in the U.S. since 1952.

Profitability for Texas ranchers relies on using the availability of forage and reducing the amount of purchased feed, Johnson said.

The outlook for corn prices continues to be on the upswing, Johnson said, due to declining carryover stocks from last year. He expects feed prices to remain level or increase a bit “due to these supplies and the renewable fuel standard tapping into corn to make ethanol.”

Texas hay prices continue to be a threat to profit margins as well for ranchers, he said.

“You can spend a lot of money raising that \$1.50-per-pound calf on hay,” he said. “Cattle producers might want to consider storing hay supplies for up to two years if ample rainfall is received this spring and summer, and if enough hay is harvested.”

With 2011 federal income tax returns set to be filed in mid-April, Johnson said cattle producers can consider deferring taxes on the sales of excess breeding livestock if the proceeds are used to purchase replacements within the next two years.

“You don’t have to pay tax on excess sales due to drought,” he said. “If you normally sell one-fifth of your breeding animals, anything in excess of that one-fifth you can defer taxes on and use those proceeds for replacement.”

A second tax-management option applies to non-breeding livestock. Ranchers whose principal business is farming and ranching can defer taxes on sales proceeds resulting from disaster conditions for up to one year, Johnson said.

There are several online spreadsheets made available by AgriLife Extension economics that can assist ranchers with management decisions, Johnson said. For more information, go to <http://agecoext.tamu.edu>.



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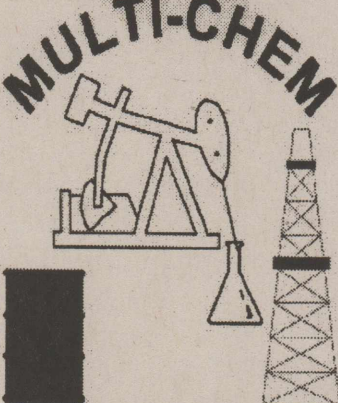
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9600' Burk Royalty Company Harris #1 Ringo Drilling I Lp #19 1/15/11 7 2510' O/G Dir Od
6500' Eog Resources University 40-14 #4 H Cactus Drilling #102 1/13/11 9 O/G Hor Od
9000' Approach Operating West #2315 Nabors Drilling #709 1/10/11 12 O/G Ver Od
9000' Approach Operating Cinco Terry -M- #901 H Nabors Drilling #714 1/3/11 19 O/G Hor Od
9000' Walter O & G Corp M Smith -15- #1 H Patterson Uti #471 12/5/10 48 10585' O/G Hor Od

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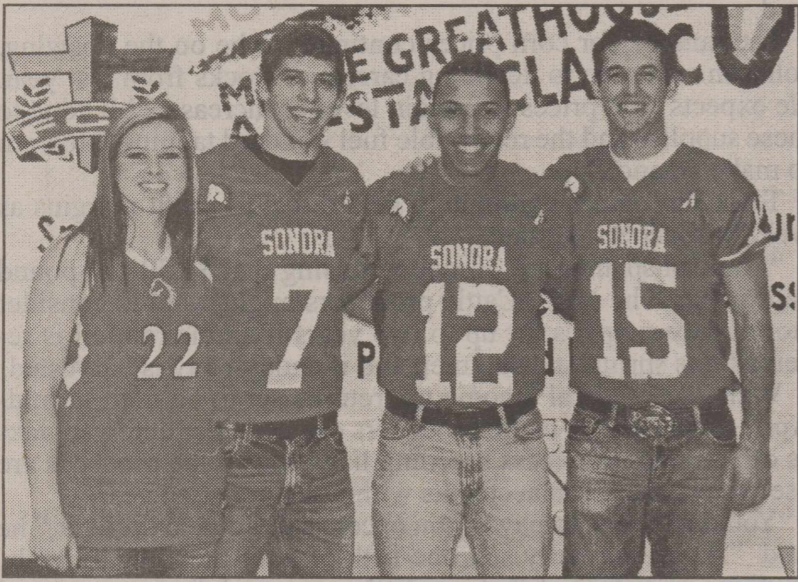


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BRONCO SPORTS

Sonora High School Athletes Named To The 2012 All-Star Squad



FCA All Stars, Brianah Creek, Dallas Payne, Imoni Cross and Word Hudson

ABILENE- Sonora High School has four senior athletes selected to participate in the 13th annual Fellowship of Christian Athletes Myrle Greathouse All-Star Classic to be held on Saturday, June 2, 2012 in Abilene.

Brianah Creek, daughter of David and Kay Creek, has been chosen as part of the girls' South basketball squad and Imoni Cross, son of Jay and Marie Valdez, Word Hudson, son of Keith and Anita Hudson and Dallas Payne, son of Larry and Jill Payne have all been chosen as part of the South football squad.

These athletes are four of 134 area student athletes selected for their respective game which benefits the Big Country Area Office of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. Representing approximately 50 area schools, the roster for the North and South squads were announced at a Press Conference on Sunday, February 19, 2012 at Beltway Park Baptist Church in Abilene, Texas.

The young All-Stars were nominated by their head coaches for the game, which features schools from an approximate 100-mile radius of Abilene covering 36 counties.

Representatives from Class 1A-5A make up squads. They will report for two-a-day workouts on Wednesday, May 30, 2012. There will be lots of activities that they will be involved in during that time and will be honored at a Victory Banquet on April 22nd, at the Abilene Civic Center.



Lady Broncos Softball Win the Crane Tournament!



This past weekend the Lady Broncos traveled to Crane to play their first tournament of the year. The Lady Broncos went 4-0-1 in the tournament to bring home the Championship. The Lady Broncos opened

Lady Broncos Season Opener!

Last night the Lady Broncos Softball team played their season opener against the Harper Longhorns. After only 4 days of practice the girls came out ready to play. In the first inning the Lady Broncos jumped out to a quick 4-0 lead. With Madison Myers hitting a line drive down the left field line to score Freshmen Abby Nolen. Two batters later Abby Creek hit a double to deep right center that scored sophomore Kylie Love and Paige Sykes and then freshmen Alexa Sykes capped off the inning by hitting a single to right that scored Micaela Moore. That would be all the runs that the girls would need because of the great pitching the Lady Broncos got from the two headed monster that is Senior Madison Myers and Sophomore Kylie Love. Madison Myers threw 4 innings and struck out 7 Lady Longhorns while giving up only 2 hits and 1 earned run, Madison Myers record is now 1-0 on the year. Kylie Love came in the game to pitch in the 5th inning and picked up right where Madison left off. Kylie threw 2 innings had 4 strike outs while giving up no hits. The 2 pitchers complimented each other well and where consistent all night only allowing 1 free pass to the Lady Longhorns. The hitting was led by Abby Creek who went 3 for 4 on the night with a single, a double, and a triple. Abby was a homerun away from hitting for the cycle, she also had 5 RBI on the night to lead all Lady Broncos. Senior Madison Myers reached base safely on all 4 of her at bats (RBI single and 3 walks). Sophomore Kylie Love went 2 for 3 on the night with a single and a double and had 2 RBI. Abby Nolen and Micaela Moore both had 2 runs scored in the game. Avery Nolen finished the game by hitting a single down the right field line which plated runs 12 and 13 to put the Lady Broncos up 13-2 to end the game. The girls played well and will travel to Crane, TX for a tournament this weekend. First game is Friday the 17th at 10:00 am against Seminole; the ladies will play 2 games Friday and 3 games on Saturday.

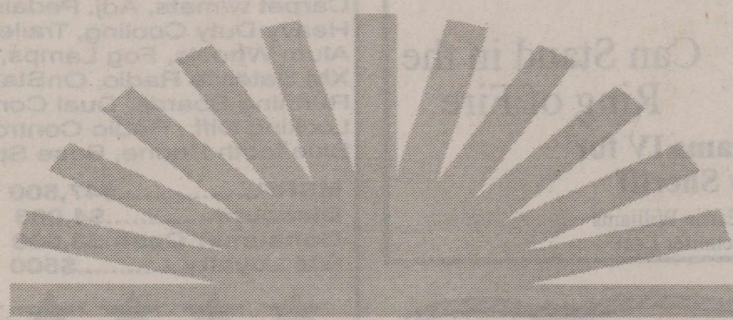
up the tournament with 3A Seminole, the ladies got out to a slow start and had some errors early in the game that allowed Seminole to jump out to a 4-0 lead in the second inning. Sonora then cut the lead down to 2 after a 3 run 3rd inning lead by a double off the bat of Senior Madison Myers that scored Freshmen Abby Nolen who reached by a walk earlier in the inning and Sophomore Kylie Love who hit a single just one batter earlier. The Lady Broncos never quit and came back to tie the game and that is how the game ended was in a 5-5 tie, which awarded both teams half a point in the tournament. The second game of the day was against 3A Presidio. The Lady Broncos bats were warmed up and in the first inning jumped out to a 5 run lead and never looked back from there. Sonora went on to put 5 more runs on the board. Leading the hitting was Kylie Love, Abby Creek, Abby Nolen, Alexa Sykes and Micaela Moore. These girls all combined to go 10 for 12 with 10 RBI's in the game. Kylie Love also did the pitching against Presidio and got her first win of the season. The second day of the tournament the ladies opened up with Marfa. The Lady Broncos played a flawless game, no errors, and no runs and only gave up one hit to Marfa. Madison Myers threw a complete game shutout while striking out 14 Marfa batters and only allowing 1 hit. The Sonora bats where just as hot as there defense and pitching lead by freshmen Abby Nolen who went 3 for 4 with a RBI, 2 stolen bases and 2 runs scored and Sophomore Kylie Love who 2 for 3 with 2 runs scored and 3 RBI's. The Sykes sisters did there share at the plate as well. Paige and Alexa Sykes both went 2 for 3 with a RBI a piece. The win against Marfa set up the championship game between Sonora and Crane. The win pushed Madison Myers record to 2-0-1 on the season. The championship game was back and forth game between Crane and the Lady Broncos. The Lady Broncos were leading 4 to 3 in the 5th inning when the bats of the Lady Broncos came alive. Taylor Hampton led off the 5th inning with a single and the next batter, Freshmen Abby Nolen, hit a line drive double to right center that scored Hampton. Next, Micaela Moore singled to put runners on the corners, Kylie Love then hit a double into left center that scored Nolen and Moore. The last run of the inning came on a deep fly ball from Madison Myers which brought home Kylie Love for the last run of the game for the Lady Broncos. This big inning pushed the lead to 7 to 3. Crane came back in the next half of the inning and where threatening with runners on first and second and the tying run at the plate. The Lady bird hit a line drive to first base which Abby Creek showed great glove work and got the double play that the Lady Broncos needed. The Lady Broncos played exceptionally well for being this early in the season. Some of the Lady Broncos played positions that they have never played before and responded to the changes very well. The Lady Broncos will be at home Tuesday night to take on the Eldorado Eagles. Varsity will start at 5:00 and JV will start right after at 6:30.

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THE STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTY OF SUTTON

BY VIRTUE OF AN ORDER OF SALE

DATED JANUARY 20, 2012

and issued pursuant to a judgment decree of the District Court, 112TH Judicial District, of Sutton County, Texas, by the District Clerk on said date, and to me directed and delivered as Sheriff of said County, I have on the 31st day of January, 2012, seized, levied upon, and will on the first Tuesday in March 2012, the same being the 6th day of said month, at the Courthouse door, of said County in the City of Sonora, beginning at 11:30 o'clock a.m., on said day, proceed to sell for cash to the highest bidder all the right, title and interest of the defendants in such suit to the following described real estate levied upon as the property of said defendants, the same lying and being situated in the County of Sutton and the State of Texas, to-wit:

CAUSE NO. 4758: SUTTON COUNTY APPRAISAL DISTRICT VS. LUMBRERAS, REYES ET AL

TRACT 1: R101669
Being the West One half (W/2) of that certain lot, tract or parcel of land in the West Mexico Addition to the Town of Sonora, and fully described in a which is of record in the Deed Records of Sutton County, Texas, in Volume 21, Page 372; being that property more particularly described in a Gift Deed recorded in Volume 111, Page 579 of the Deed Records of Sutton County, Texas.

CAUSE NO. 5175: SUTTON COUNTY APPRAISAL DISTRICT VS JOY, KIRK ET AL

TRACT 1: R100806
Being Lot 5, part of 6, Block 33-A, South Heights Addition, Sonora, Sutton County, Texas; being that property more particularly described in a Warranty Deed Recorded in Volume 262, Page 20 of the Records of the Sutton County, Texas.

CAUSE NO. 5524: SUTTON COUNTY APPRAISAL DISTRICT VS VICTOR VIRGEN, D/B/A VICTOR'S AUTO/TRUCK PARTS, ET AL

TRACT 1: R101454
The East-Half (E/2) of Lot Three (3), Block W-10, City of Sonora, Sutton County, Texas; being that property more particularly described in a Warranty Deed with Vendor's Lien recorded in Volume 246, Page 201 of the Deed Records of Sutton County, Texas.

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Public Notice

ney, a sufficient portion thereof to satisfy said judgment, interest, penalties, and costs; subject, however to the right of redemption by the defendants or any person having an interest therein, to redeem said property, or their interest therein, in the manner provided by law, and subject to any other and further rights to which the defendants or anyone interested therein may be entitled, under the provisions of law. Said sale to be made by me to satisfy the judgment rendered in the above styled and numbered cause, together with interest, penalties and costs of suit, and the proceeds of said sale to be applied to the satisfaction thereof, and the remainder, if any, to be applied as the law directs.

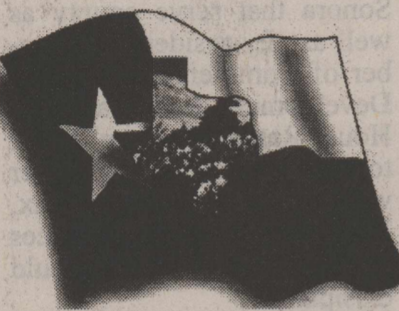
I have appointed the following as agent to conduct the sale, to-wit:

Perdue, Brandon, Fielder, Collins & Mott, L.L.P.
Attorneys at Law
1031 ANDREWS HWY, SUITE 210
Midland, Texas 79701
(432) 522-2427

At the time the sale begins, all bidders at the sale must be registered with the above named agent conducting the sale and be eligible to bid according to the Property Tax Code.

Dated at Sonora, Sutton County, Texas, this 31st day of January, 2012.

JOE M. FINCHER
SHERIFF, SUTTON COUNTY



Found

Found: a black hard case for eye glasses lying in the street at the corner of Water Ave and Poplar St. The brand on the hard case is Innovative Technology. Call or come by the State Farm office and describe the contents of the case and pick it up

LOST

Lost, Reward Offered: Male cat, neutered, 3 years old, 18 lbs, domestic short hair, gray tiger. There is a \$500 reward for the person that can find him and take to the Sonora Animal Hospital to confirm his chip number

WHITETAIL STOCKERS

Bred does and bucks with horns intact. Big Sout Texas x Northern Genetics
Lorenzo Lasater
(325) 949-3763.

2 PREMIUM PROPERTIES NEAR ELDORADO 108.5 acres & 1339 acres. Both with homes and great features.
Laurence Lasater
(325) 949-3763.

Jon Hart Design... great gifts for your Grad!

Graduation Sale
Super Wheels in Swirls
Large Laundry Bag in Orange
Candy On Wheels in Ocean Blue
Diploma in Kelly Green
Burlap Bag in Fuchsia
Milkcase Case in Purple
Clear Grande in Hot Pink
Grande in Burnt Orange
Jon Duffin in Burgundy
Shrink Kit in Red
Large Laundry Bag in Purple
Oversticker in Black

JON HART DESIGN

Rosey Bud Florist
410 S Crockett
(325) 387-5507

Jon Hart Trunk Show
Thursday, March 1, 2012
10:00AM - 5:30PM

Senior Hamburger Luncheon
Everyone is Welcome!
Come See ALL New Merchandise!

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~SOLD~
600+ Acres, Large Live Oak, Heavy Mesquite, Seller To Pay Water Well Allowance, Abundant Deer and Turkey, Hwy frontage, some minerals, 14 miles E of Sonora, \$1395/Acre
~Commercial Property~
Large Price Reduction
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Great location & Fenced yard
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325-226-3003 Anytime
email: bobc@sonoratrix.net



CITATION BY PUBLICATION

THE STATE OF TEXAS:

CAUSE No. 5769

TO: ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN, Respondent; GREETING:

NOTICE TO RESPONDENT: "You have been sued. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 AM on the Monday next following the expiration of 20 days after the date you were served this citation and petition, a default judgment may be taken against you."

The petition of SAMUEL DOUGLAS CALDWELL AND CYNTHIA DIANE CALDWELL, Petitioners was filed in the 112th District Court of Sutton County, Texas on the 23rd day of January, 2012 against JANELLE FAYE PECHACEK AND UNKNOWN FATHER, Respondents in the above entitled cause and entitled 'In the Interest of ADELE LE'ANN PECHACEK, a child'

The suit requests termination of the parent-child relationship and adoption, as is more fully shown by the Petition on file in this suit.

"The court has authority in this suit to render an order in the child's interest that will be binding on you, including the termination of the Parent-Child Relationship, the determination of paternity, and the appointment of a conservator with authority to consent to the child's adoption."

ISSUED and given under my hand and seal of said Court at Sonora, Texas this the 10th day of February, 2012.

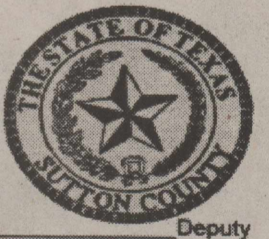
Attorney for Petitioner or Petitioner:

MELVIN GRAY
206 WEST COLLEGE AVE.
SAN ANGELO, TX 76903

Clerk of the Court:

RACHEL CHAVEZ DURAN
300 E. OAK, SUITE 3
SONORA, TX 76950

By: *Jan Trapp*



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Jacoby www.scottjacobyrealestate.com

P.O. Box 295 325-226-2768

Sonora, TX 76950 sjacoby@dishmail.net



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chpatterson.com

Irene Casillas, REALTOR®
Sonora, Texas 76950
(325) 226-4475
irene@chpatterson.com

LISTINGS:

110 Deerwood Drive - 4 BR/3BA
1039 Eaton St. - 80'x120' lot
1011 Eaton St. - 80'x120' lot
612 Orient - SOLD!!
214 Sawyer Dr. SOLD!!
382 W. S. - SOLD!!

705 S. WATER AVE.

Very nice 3 BR/2 BA, fireplace, formal dining room, privately fenced, 2 car garage, backyard concrete patio, in-ground swimming pool, lots of outdoor storage! Call for a showing

Main Street REALTY

Anita Hudson, Broker
Sam David Hernandez ~ Realtor
215 E. Main * Sonora, TX 76950
325-387-6115
www.SonoraTexasRealEstate.com

New Listings!

115 Oakwood St., Sonora 232 E. Main St., Sonora

\$260,000

- 3BR/2 1/2 B w/2 car garage
- 1 BR/1B Detached Apartment
- Extra Vacant Lot Included
- Located in cul-de-sac near Hospital

\$395,000

- Mercantile Building
- 8448 sq ft 2-Story Rock Building
- Completely Remodeled 2007
- Located in Historic Downtown District

Continued from Front Page: A Tale of No City

Sonora receive (like police department, code enforcement, senior center, Trax Van, fire department, animal control, parks and street maintenance). Last year's audit showed that the general fund had a total of \$1.7 million dollars in revenue, and \$1.9 million in expenditures-which means that the General Fund's balance was around -\$200,000. The city council then approved

a measure to balance that debt by withdrawing \$200,000 from a "rainy day fund". It is not uncommon for the general fund to have infusions from other funds (the city council has approved such measures in the past).

It's important to note that even in the best financial years the General Fund is always managed on a thin margin, mainly due to the fact that it only receives money when

property taxes are paid (usually all at once in the month of January). Imagine managing all of your personal bills and expenses if you only get paid once a year. You would be able to budget all of your fixed monthly expenses (house payment, utilities and cable) but there is no way you can plan for unexpected doctor bills, vehicle repair or even theft. This is why savings accounts are so important in our personal finances as well as businesses and government.

In any discussion with the county, it becomes important to fully understand exactly what a county is and through that definition what it can and can't do (which have a direct impact on the services citizens receive and the tax rate we pay). According to a House Reach Organization Focus Report (a document prepared by the Texas House of Representatives) a county is, "a legal subdivision of the state, a county serves as an administrative arm of the state in helping to carry out the state's business. A county does not have as much autonomy [ability to self-govern] as a city". In a nutshell, a county is just a smaller form of the state government and does not have as much power as a city. For example, as dictated through the Texas Constitution, a county cannot pass any zoning laws or ordinances. That report later stated a specific problem associated with the lack of zoning powers for counties.

"Comal County is experiencing problems with rock quarries operating near residential neighborhoods. Blasts from the quarries rattle windows, shake doors, and disturb residents. Many counties have experienced problems with cement batch plants in proximity of

residential neighborhoods or schools. County commissioners are under pressure from residents worried about the effect of industries and other developments, such as the proliferation of manufactured home parks in unincorporated areas, on their property values." This means that if the city disincorporates then that empty lot next to your house could be turned into an enterprise that could decrease your property value.

The county also has little choice as to what services it can provide. By law Sutton County has to provide: sheriff's office, tax assessor, justice of the peace, county district courts and clerks, county judge, auditor, treasurer, probation services, and county roads. All other services can be provided if money is available (Trax van, senior center, golf course, parks, swimming pool, museums, etc). The key to make sure the county keeps providing all of these services is to increase revenue to the county, which in terms of government, could mean higher taxes.

Right now the Sutton County Property Tax rate is .4295 per \$100 of property value. This rate looks different from what your overall tax bill is (the total is about \$1.71 per \$100 for the county) only because the overall tax bill includes taxes we pay to the Hospital, Underground Water Conservation District and School. The county has no authority over what those tax rates are. With a tax rate of .4295/\$100 the county is able to bring in \$3.4 million annually and the city (with a tax rate of .53994/\$100) takes in over \$600,000. This means that the county and city have a base operational budget of

just over \$4 million. Ozona, for example, is an unincorporated city located in Crockett County. The people living in Ozona do not pay any city taxes, and the county tax rate is lower than Sonora City and County rates combined. Crockett County (which operates without a city government) is able to bring in over \$10 million dollars. The tax rates in Crockett County are lower not because they are unincorporated, but because they have more valuable natural resources than Sutton County (taxes on wind farms and oil field activity which Sonora does not have). It's important to note that Sutton County and the City of Sonora are able to provide more services to its residents on less than half Crockett County's revenue.

While taxes remain the largest source of revenue for our local government bodies, the City of Sonora is also able to take advantage of a city sales tax. This sales tax is used to supplement funding for several different organizations in Sonora that serve county as well as city residents (Chamber of Commerce, Economic Development Board and Ice House Ranch Museum). Due to the counties limited power without collect a sales tax, it's likely the funding sources for these organizations would dissipate.

However, in certain instances, a county can levy a sales tax. If it is approved by voters a "county assistance district" can be created to fund many different services. It's pretty complicated and can only be set at a predetermined rate - in other words, you could probably fund only one or two things because of the limitation on total sales tax. This is in the Local Government Code, chapter 387. You always have to remember that

Texas has a cap on sales tax, so you can only add a little to the state tax (also remember that the county is a part of the state government which restricts the level a county sales tax rate can be set). The most common use of these taxes is for fire department districts and the second most common use is for EMS.

A portion of the funds collected by a city sales tax is also earmarked for the maintenance and repair of the city streets. The Texas Legislature established the street maintenance sales tax in 2001. The purpose of the legislation is to allow cities to adopt a sales tax rate of up to 1/4th of one percent to be fully dedicated to the maintenance and repair of existing streets. What this means is that if a city votes to adopt the city maintenance sales tax (as Sonora has), then the city gets to keep a portion of the sales tax (instead of sending it to the Comptroller's office) to use on its roads. Currently the Sutton County and the City of Sonora have an agreement where the city pays the county (with sales tax money) to repair the streets in Sonora. Without the city in existence, that money would not be available and the county would then be responsible for paying for all city street repairs (at an estimated cost of \$80,000 annually).

Just as with any idea concerning the future course of our community, the question as to whether we should disincorporate is not simple. This question should not be approached lightly or without perspective. If you have any questions regarding this subject I encourage you to visit with our local government leaders and do your own research.

Sonora Sixth Graders to Participate in Fitness Frenzy Program

During the month of March, Sonora Middle School Sixth Grade students will be participating in the Fitness Frenzy Program sponsored by the Hill Country Chapter of the American Red Cross. During their PE class, the sixth graders will be walking, skipping, running, and/or hopping around the track at the football field. Their goal is walk approximately four miles during the month. They are also raising money for the Red Cross. They are seeking supporters to sponsor them for any dollar amount per mile. On Thursday, February 23rd, the sixth graders will begin asking for sponsors. They will have a registration form on which the sponsor will indicate how much they are willing to pledge or donate. For example, if someone wants to sponsor a student for \$2.00 per mile and that student walks four miles, the sponsor would be making an \$8.00 (4 miles x \$2.00 per mile) donation to the Red Cross. The students will be walking each Friday in March during their PE class time. Between Friday, March 30th and Thursday, April 5th, the students will be collecting their donations.

The Hill Country Chapter of the American Red Cross serves eight counties, including Sutton County. They provide disaster relief for families in our county that suffer a disaster, such a home fire. In addition, they provide canteen services for the fire fighters as they are fighting wildfires, such as during the Oasis Pipeline Fire this past April/May. In addition to disaster relief, they also provide training in first aid, CPR, babysitting, lifeguard training and water safety. The funding for these programs comes from grants and donations, donations like those the sixth grade students will be seeking from their family, friends, neighbors and business associates. So, if a sixth grader asks for your support, please consider sponsoring them and in turn, you will be helping your local Red Cross chapter. Your support is very much appreciated. Also note, all donations stay here in the Hill Country Chapter service area.

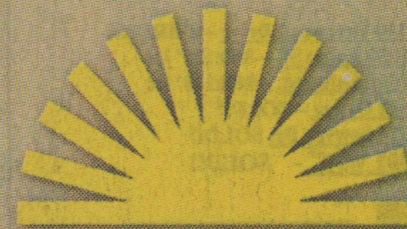
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Take good care of the things that take care of you. This motto has served West Texans well over the years.

When you've lived on a ranch your whole life you learn that taking care of the animals, equipment, and the land is first and foremost. Because, without them, your very existence is in jeopardy.

I'm Kay Stewart, Senior Vice President and Branch Manager for First National Bank of Sonora and I've been fortunate to have lived and loved the life of ranching.

All of us at the First National Bank of Sonora understand that the same philosophies that work well for ranching also apply to banking. Our existence depends directly on how well we take care of our customers needs. We aren't afraid of rolling up our sleeves and putting in a hard days work. Plus, we've had over 100 years to perfect our services, along with generations of honest people working for your best interest. People who understand that we're here, because you're here.



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