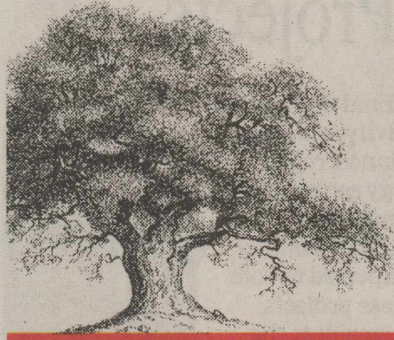


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The Devil's River News

February 4, 2016

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Volume 127
Issue 5

OUR ROOTS RUN DEEP & STRONG • COVERING THE NEWS IN SONORA AND SUTTON COUNTY SINCE 1890



Fatal Crash Claims Sonora Teen, Severely Injures Another

A fatal crash six-miles northeast of Sonora on RM 864 claimed the life of a Sonora teen and severely injured another on Sunday afternoon.



Stevie Smith
COURTESY PHOTO

Stevie Smith, 14, of Sonora, died of injuries sustained after being ejected from a 2004 Dodge Ram pickup driven by Charles Tyler West of Mertzon.

Smith was transported by AirMed helicopter to Shannon Medical Center in San Angelo where she was pronounced dead by Dr. James Slauson.

A second passenger, Gabby Zapata, 16, of Sonora was also ejected from the vehicle. Zapata sustained incapacitating injuries, according to a statement released by DPS spokesman Justin Baker. She was taken by Sutton County EMS ambulance to Shannon Medical Center for treatment.

Smith and Zapata were not wearing a seatbelt, Baker reported.

Baker said that Summer Hall, 16, was driving a 2013

Chevrolet Equinox northbound on RM 864 when she signaled for a left turn entering a private ranch road.

Tyler, the driver of the pickup, overtook Hall's vehicle and attempted to pass on the left.

The ensuing collision caused Tyler's vehicle to overturn, ejecting Smith and Zapata.

Trooper Baker said that West and Hall were uninjured in the crash.

The trooper's statement indicated that neither weather conditions nor time of day were a factor in the crash. However, Baker said that speed may have been a contributing factor.

Sutton County deputies responded to the wreck and assisted at the scene. DPS Trooper Donald Van Zandt investigated the accident.

Smith was a student at Sonora High School where she participated in several school activities. Her parents are Olie and Carla Smith of Sonora.

A memorial service for Stevie Smith was planned for 4 p.m. on Wednesday, in the Sonora High School gymnasium.



Sutton County Judge Steve Smith was the first person to come and renew his subscription to The Devil's River News on Thursday, January 28, 2016. He came by the newspaper's new office at 105 N. Concho Avenue to welcome editor Kimberley Meyer and publisher Randy Mankin to the community.
J.L. MANKIN | THE DEVIL'S RIVER NEWS

Retool, Remount & Reload: DRN Moves Forward Under New Ownership

In case you haven't noticed, things are changing at The Devil's River News including the newspaper's design as well as its location in downtown Sonora.

The DRN was purchased last week by Masked Rider Publishing, Inc. and has moved into its new office at 105 N. Concho Avenue, in the Tedford Building.

Kimberley Meyer has taken over as the DRN's editor and is looking forward to getting to know everyone in Sonora.

DRN publisher Randy Mankin notes that Meyer has been working in Sonora for the past few weeks.

"I had the opportunity to hire Kimberley at about the same time that we became serious about publishing a newspaper in Sonora," Mankin said. "She has been working out of our Eldorado office for the past few weeks, but spending a lot of time in Sonora, attending meetings and covering stories that matter to Sonora."

Some of those stories, such as the one about the 2016 Sutton County Jr. Livestock Show and



Randy Mankin Kimberley Meyer Justine Word
FILE PHOTOS

Sonora. "That's why we chose a weathered liveoak tree for our logo," Mankin said.

The newspaper, like that old tree, has weathered many storms and sunk its roots deep into Sutton County. Hence the newspaper's motto, "Our roots run deep and strong."

Kimberley Meyer comes to Sonora from San Angelo where she previously worked at the San Angelo Standard-Times and KLST-TV. She studied journalism at Angelo State University where she attended class with J.L. Mankin who just happens to serve as editor at The Big Lake Wildcat, another newspaper owned and published by Masked Rider Publishing, Inc.

The company's third newspaper, The Eldorado Success, was purchased by Randy and Kathy Mankin in 1994. In addition to editing The Success, Mankin is president of Masked Rider Publishing and serves as publisher of the company's three newspapers.

UIL Realignment Released

The University Interscholastic League announced its biennial realignment of football and basketball districts on Monday, February 1st. The Sonora Broncos will be playing football next year in District 4-3A Division II where they will contend for the district championship against Alpine, Reagan County, Grape Creek, Texas Leadership Charter Academy (TLCA) and Ballinger.

The district is only one team different from District 3-3A Division II in which the Broncos played for the past two seasons. Ballinger is joining the district and replacing Crane which moved into District 2-3A Division II with Kermit, Grape Creek, Tornillo and Wall.

The Broncos will be playing basketball in District 4-3A beginning in the fall. They are joined in that district by Ballinger, Reagan Co., Grape Creek,

TLCA and Wall. The Broncos are currently playing basketball in District 5-3A Division II where they are matched with Reagan County, Coahoma, Colorado City and Stanton.

"Every year is a new adventure and this year was no different," Sonora ISD Athletic Director David Sine said.

Sine noted that he was anticipating a six-team district in which he would need to add one, we needed to add

one game. "If we were in a seven team district, I could drop a game," Sine said. "However, we were placed in a five team district and I had to add two games."

Sine said that an hour after the realignment packets were opened the schedule was set.

He noted that the Broncos' non-district football schedule will include Ozona, Llano, Junction, Jim Ned, Crane and Iraan.



Sonora City Council Meets, Hears Annexation Concerns

The Sonora City Council quelled concerns regarding annexation issues during a public hearing held during the January 19th meeting at City Hall.

Concerned resident Brigette Rogers asked City Council members to explain why the Town & Country Food Stores, Inc. c/o Stripes, LLC- Abstract 318, 1.726 Acres, Section 91, HE & WTRY Co. located at the end of Hwy 290 West, across the street from the rodeo arena, as well as, property owned by Dora Hilda Fuentez-Abstract 892, 1.21 Acres, Section 92, Sim White was not annexed before now.

She also asked the council if there are any additional properties that will be annexed in the future. Ed Carrasco, Sonora City Manager, explained that the Stripes was not included in the first annexation because it had initially been reported that it was within the city limits and no further properties are being considered for annexation at this time.

Carrasco further stated that

the Fuentez property was unintentionally overlooked with the first annexation. Further, he stated that these are the only properties being considered at the present time.

Following comments and concerns, Mayor Wanda Shurley closed the open hearing without further business.

City Manager Ed Carrasco began the meeting reporting that the items from Friends of Historic Sonora Main Street had been returned by Viva Sonora. Following Carrasco, Matt Hickey, City Engineer, advised council members about defects with the wiring at the Sonora Wastewater Plant. He said Cunningham Constructors and Associates have agreed to fix the wiring connections.

Board constituents approved the minutes from the December 14th and 22nd meetings and a Resolution 2016-R-2 changing the regular meeting on Monday, February 15, 2016 due to The Presidents' Day holiday and abstaining from participating in The Texas Main Street

Program with The Texas Historical Commission for 2016.

Sonora resident, Brigette Rogers, requested that the council waive the personnel charges regarding public information requests. She agreed that taxpayers should be charged for copies accordingly but requested the Council waive the personnel charges for local taxpayers. The Council bade City Attorney, James Kosub to research the city ordinance regarding open records requests. In addition they requested city staff, Belia Fay and Betty Hernandez to provide information regarding the amount of time they spend on processing open records requests. No action was taken.

Next, Council members approved The Plum Lift Station Replacement Change Order No. 2 by amending the contract amount from \$599,317.00 to \$637,932.00 and extending the contract time from 300 calendar days to 360 calendar day, Tammy Fisher as a member of The Sonora Tourism



Sonora City Council members (L-R) Doug Chandler, Terri Johnson, Mayor Wanda Shurley, Todd Munn and Jeremy Dawson listen to residents voice concerns at a hearing during the January 19th City Council meeting at City Hall.
KIMBERLEY MEYER | THE DEVIL'S RIVER NEWS

www.devilsriver.news
Sonora News Online, All the Time

TxDOT Awaits Go-ahead Signal for Gridlock-reducing Projects

AUSTIN — The Texas Department of Transportation on Jan. 27 reported that on average, Texas drivers in five of the state's largest metropolitan areas lose about 52 hours and \$1,200 annually due to traffic congestion.

Upon approval by its oversight body, the Texas Transportation Commission, TxDOT plans to improve drive times and reduce costs through what it calls an accelerated \$1.3 billion effort addressing gridlock in some of the state's most congested areas.

"The major metro areas of Texas — Austin, Dallas, Fort Worth, Houston and San Antonio — represent more than two-thirds of the state's population and 97 percent

of the state's most congested roads," said Texas Transportation Commissioner J. Bruce Bugg Jr.

"These areas see some of the worst congestion in the nation. We've just completed a listening tour in these major areas and have gathered valuable local input from transportation leaders regarding their priorities and where we can quickly address some needs. This is the initial phase of a new statewide plan to address congestion," he said.

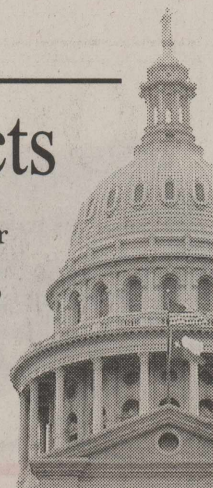
If adopted, these metro area projects will begin construction to enhance existing efforts and address gridlock on the state highway system. The projects, which add up to more than 42 miles, include

interchanges, flyovers and congestion relief efforts at some of the state's worst chokepoints. They will be funded using \$1.3 billion made available through ending the use of diversions of highway money by other agencies, according to TxDOT.

"For years we've been committed to addressing congestion, and this year we're getting a jumpstart on that part of our core mission," said TxDOT Executive Director James Bass. "As the severity of congestion in the Lone Star State continues to grow, we are committed to delivering projects many Texans need and deserve to reduce the amount of time they spend in traffic."

The Texas Transportation Commission also will consider another \$800 million

in additional funding for connectivity and safety, maintenance, repairs to the energy sector and border infrastructure funding. The commission is expected to vote on all these projects when it considers the quarterly Unified Transportation Plan at its monthly meeting on Feb. 25.



STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Ed Sterling

Resettlement prompts suit
The Texas Health & Human Services

SEE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS ON PAGE 8

Owned by Cats

I have two cats, or better put, they have me. Cats aren't actually owned by humans. It's a fallacy perpetuated by dogs that delight in being owned and coming when they're called.

My cats grace me with their presence when they want, not when I call. They strut through the house with the dignity of royalty. Never mind they were both abandoned as kittens. One was found in a cardboard box on the side of the road, the other wandering the parking

Slices of Life



By Jill Pertler

lot of a home improvement store. Technically, they have humble roots and should be thankful we took them in and provided a warm spot for their naps.

But they know nothing of technicalities or humility. They are cats. And as such, they are assured, without any hint of a doubt, they are the supreme beings of our domicile, the planet, and most likely the entire universe. They possess powers and authority incomprehensible to mere humans.

Not only that, they may want to kill us. Cat research made the news recently when a study compared domestic cats to larger cats in the wild saying both breeds have strong characteristics related to dominance, impulsiveness and neuroticism. And, both are predators with an instinct to hunt and eat their kill. Some researchers concluded that our cats would kill us, if only they could. Trouble is, we're too big.

So although cats are smarter and better than humans in every way possible, in this case, size does matter.

In addition to their extremely honed balance, super-kinetic jumping skills and other worldly hunting abilities (among countless additional attributes) my cats are telepathic. At various times of the day — at their choosing — they sit atop a perch on the cabinet directly in front of the TV and stare with the tenacity and intensity of Spock doing a mind meld. This is because I think they are attempting a mind meld by telepathically sending the message, "Give me all the catnip, simple worthless human."

Unfortunately, as a simple human, I am not as evolved as the feline species and as such have not yet mastered the skill of telepathy. I can only guess what they desire because when I get up to fetch a cup of tea from the kitchen, they follow me greedily and alternate the death stare between their treat dish and yours truly.

Which brings me to the most astounding and impressive fact about my elusive and elite felines. Despite their haughty temperament and persnickety demeanor, I've taught one of them to perform a cat trick.

He doesn't exactly perform on demand. He has to be in the right frame of mind and know it is time for his daily dose of nip. Then, and only then, he will shake hands.

That's right. My cat shakes hands. If I hadn't witnessed the feat (or better put, paw) with my own eyes, I wouldn't have thought it possible because as a general rule, my cats don't do anything I ask of them. They also don't particularly like people pawing with their paws, which under normal circumstances would make shaking hands with a human a deplorable experience.

It probably is deplorable. I never said my cat enjoys shaking his paw. I said he will do it — for the right price, or in this case cat treats.

I'm sure there will come a time when his hatred for cat tricks overcomes his desire for treats. At that point he will probably give in to his cat instincts and attempt to kill me.

For now, though, I still have the upper hand.

Jill Pertler is an award-winning syndicated columnist, published playwright and author. Don't miss a slice; follow the Slices of Life page on Facebook.



Uncle Mort on Current Matters

Uncle Mort, staring down the barrel at his 104th birthday on July 4, lives in utter fascination of the moment-whatsoever he's "in it" or not. Aunt Maude says he is fully entertained for a good four hours in an empty room with a fly swatter. "Add a fly to the mix, and an entire day is made," she laughs.

He gabs about tiniest shreds of minutia. One of his domino buddies claims he's clocked Mort's verbal barrages at 250 words per minute, with gusts to 300.

Mort's arrival at the general store on a Saturday morning generally means domino-shuffling is soon to commence. Recently, though, the table was turned--so to speak--because of distractions provided by headlines in a newspaper someone had tossed aside. One cited numerous Walmart closings; it begged to be dissected. The domino game would have to wait....

"The closings will complicate many lives, way beyond mere inconvenience," he commented. "Think of the thousands of husbands who had signed off on their funeral plans and now must make changes."

Gripped by the puzzlement, his friends couldn't imagine what Walmart closings have to do with husbands' exits.

Mort said, "I know several guys who'd planned on cremation, with their ashes spread at Walmart, thus guaranteeing spousal visits at least twice a week...."

"Some of my best spontaneous conversations have been at Walmart with other languishing husbands whose wives also are shopping," another guy mentioned. One friend spoke of a fellow husband he recently met there. The new acquaintance muttered about two long-time, troubling areas in his life that cause him to get off the subject at best and off the track at worst.

"Neon and nylons," the guy laughed.... Another member of the foursome spoke of a second "mart" in the news.

"Kmart says shoppers with firearms need only abide by state law--open carry or concealed--without requirement to "check 'em at the door."

"I guess they think Saturday night specials are compatible with blue light specials," he concluded....

They were all agog about Los Angeles' re-entry into the National Football League, as well excited about LA's proposed new \$2 billion football palace. It is

purported to make Jerry Jones' AT&T Stadium look, uh, "so yesterday." Someone rebounded conversation about San Antonio getting an NFL franchise.

One guy thought leaders there should consider "Toros" for the team nickname. "Political correctness being what it is, they'd need to clear the mascot idea first with the bulls and the lawnmower people," he laughed....

Soon the subject turned to the Super Bowl. Mort asked if his friends know the toughest job on the planet.

He said it has nothing to do with world peace, terrorism, immigration or other topics covered in TV debates by presidential hopefuls.

Mort feels maybe the toughest sell of all might be TV guys trying to convince advertisers that Super Bowl 30-second spots are worth \$5 million a pop....

Just before the clock struck noon, they hurriedly dissected NFL play-off games. Talk wasn't as much about play on the field as the bizarre happenings neither players nor officials had ever previously experienced. Exhibit "A" occurred before the overtime session of the Arizona Cardinals-Green Bay Packers game. Team captains and officials gathered for instructions and the all-important coin flip to determine first possession. The official's blunder assures there'll be additional "coin toss training" before the Super Bowl.

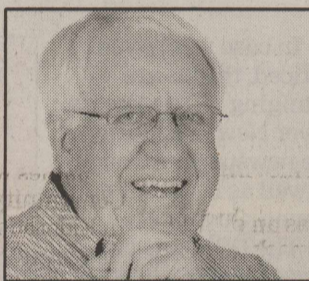
You remember the moment-when the coin failed to flip. So the official tried again, this time successfully. It could be that the next time it happens, instant replay will be called for, giving the networks the opportunity to wedge in more commercials before it is "lead pipe certain" that the coin actually flips.

And, what constitutes a flip? Must the coin turn a minimum number of times? Whatever, coin-flipping should be a slam-dunk, and officials failing to execute it perfectly should be flagged, maybe even benched.

The saga of the botched coin flip overwhelmed the four old guys. Coinciding with the clock striking twelve was a quartet of stomach growls. The guys were hungrier for food than for conversation or dominoes. So they went home....

Dr. Newbury is a speaker in the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex. Inquiries/comments to: ewbury@speakerdoc.com. Phone: 817-447-3872.

The Idle American



by Dr. Don Newbury

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Deanna's Life with Arts & Crafts

I went to interview Deanna Foresyth in Big Spring because seven generations of her family have lived in Howard County. When I let her know I was en route to her house she said, "Come to

Rolling Along



by Tumbleweed Smith

the side door. Nobody uses the front one." My wife Susan was with me. When she was curator of an air museum, Deanna worked

with her. When we walked into the house, the first thing we noticed was a brightly colored table. It was striking. Deanna said it was a door. "My husband Jimmy and I spent a lot of time going to lumber companies to find one with some prominent wood grain patterns. We painted the grains with colors of blue, yellow, orange, lime green and dark green. We spent about a month on it, putting on several coats of polyurethane." The table is a real showcase in her home. One of many.

Deanna worked for twenty years making fancy cakes for weddings and anniversaries, birthday and other celebrations. Before we sat down for the interview, Deanna said she wanted to give us a tour. Near the table were glassed in cabinets with shelves full of cups and saucers that she had collected. Among the cups and saucers were tiny ladies high heel shoes. One of the heels had an Eiffel tower inside it. The shoes were about three inches long and looked like jewelry.

Her living room had a display of little Christmas houses all lighted and arranged in perfect order. Just to the left of the Christmas village was a display case full of chicken and ostrich eggs. Some were cutaways with items inside them. Others were painted on the outside. Some are covered in tiny beads, put on one at a time. "I go to an egg workshop in Dallas that attracts people from all over the world who cut and paint eggs. My grandmother was an egger and I picked it up from her. I have about 200 stored in a closet."

Deanna has a huge collection of Barbie dolls, all in their original boxes. She still buys the holiday doll every year. She's been collecting Barbies since 1960. We walked through a room that had floor to ceiling shelves with rows and rows of notebooks. "Those are photos of some of our travels," says Deanna. "We've been to all 50 states and always get a souvenir from each one." A collection of lapel pins from towns and tourist attractions covers a closet door. She and Jimmy have played golf in a number of states including Hawaii and Alaska.

In the den we saw a wall full of little cars, all in their original packages. "I just started collecting model cars from the movie CARS. I think they're neat."

She is the official genealogist for her family and has photos and documents from seven generations all catalogued in neat notebooks. She has typed stories about her ancestors that she has heard or read. When we went back to the table for the interview, she brought out coffee and pie. "I can't sit still," she said. "I've got to be doing something all the time. I get up at six and walk the mall for a few laps, then come home and start doing arts and crafts. I'm retired now and have more time. I've just started a bead project that will take about a year and a half to complete. It's from Ukraine."

Tumbleweed Smith has traveled nearly two million miles on Texas highways finding all kinds of folks with all kinds of stories. Contact: ts@tumbleweedsmith.com

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Fax: 325.853.3378
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Randy Mankin
Publisher
Kimberley Meyer
Editor
Kathy Mankin
Business Manager
Justine Word
Circulation & Production

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Classifieds are due by Monday at 5 p.m.
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR: Letters to the Editor will be considered for publication only if they are signed and accompanied with a day and night phone number for verification purposes. Letters may be edited for length or offensive material. Anonymous letters will not be published.
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OBITUARIES

Stevie J'Dale Smith

March 5, 2001 - January 31, 2016



Fellowship of Christian Athletes, National Junior Honor Society, and Sutton County 4-H Club. She loved going to stock shows and rodeos. Stevie wanted to be involved in all activities. She was a student trainer, played basketball, volleyball, golf, and track. However, softball became her passion. She had plans to pitch for Sonora High School this spring.

Left to cherish Stevie's memory are her parents, Carla & Olie, and her twin sister, Sterling. The girls were inseparable and soul mates for life.

Also surviving Stevie are grandmother and grandfather, Jean (Mimi) and Ron (Papa) Williamson; grandfather, Harrison (Papa Mac) Farrington; aunt and Godmother, Terri J'Dale Van Kirk and uncle, Chris Edwards; cousins, Katherine and Cody Van Kirk; aunt and uncle, Naomi and Jim Smith; Godparents Sherry and Ben Ingham and "sisters" Steely and Stella; great aunt Minnie Altizer; great aunt and uncle Mary and Charles Smith. Numerous Altizer, Robbins, Cox, Smith, Cauthorn, Farrington, Herring and Brown cousins will treasure memories of Stevie as will many special friends.

Preceding Stevie in death were grandparents Blanche Altizer and Floyd Eldon (Bud) Smith; great grandparents Stella Cauthorn and Olin Altizer; Rena and Eldon Smith; Lora and Floyd Farrington; Annie Lee and Granville Herring.

Services were held at Sonora High School Gymnasium on Wednesday, February 3, 2016 at 4:30 p.m. A private family burial preceded the service. Honorary pall bearers were Bronco Nation.

A Stevie J'Dale Smith Memorial Scholarship Fund will be established in honor of her twin sister Sterling Smith. Donations may be mailed to The Bank and Trust, P.O. Box 895, Sonora, Texas 76950.

Stevie danced through life with her contagious smile, and left a lasting impression on everyone she met. Stevie J'Dale Smith, age fourteen, became one of our heavenly treasures on January 31, 2016 after a fatal car accident. Sonora and southwest Texas have been left a perpetual light that transcends us all from a beautiful and perfect angel.

She was born in Ker-ville, Texas on March 5, 2001 to parents Carla Farrington & Olin Ross Smith. Stevie was a freshman at Sonora High School, along with her twin sister, Sterling.

Stevie was filled with love and laughter and especially liked to sing and dance. She was a self-confident young lady and was always the "life of the party" as witnessed by her many friends. Going to Lake Amistad was one of Stevie's favorite past times. She was known to be a "super tuber", and always looked forward to these fun trips. At family Thanksgiving celebrations, Stevie loved to compete and win games of Pictionary. She always played with great enthusiasm!

The Smith Ranch, south of Sonora, was home to Stevie, Sterling, Carla, & Olie. Stevie adored her time spent there...riding the 4-wheeler, hunting, tending to her 4-H show animals, playing with her dogs, and just being a Texas ranch girl.

Stevie was a member of St. John's Episcopal Church in Sonora, where she served as an acolyte, a member of the Sonora Youth Group,

James Edward Mankin

May 15, 1930 - January 4, 2016



James was always quick with a story or a joke and was known to be something of a coffee shop philosopher. He made many friends throughout his life and only lamented the fact that so many of them had left this life ahead of him.

He was a member of American Legion Bev McCormick Post 257 of Eldorado and participated in its meetings until failing health precluded his attendance.

James was preceded in death by his father, William Thomas Mankin, mother Myrtle Opal Mankin Olney and step-father Gene Olney; siblings Joe Tom Mankin, Robert William "R. Dub" Mankin, Betty Ruth Mankin Brown, Dorothy Mankin Scales and Karie Olney Best.

He is survived by his wife Dora with whom he shared 62 years of marriage; sons Randy and wife Kathy of Eldorado and Mike and wife Rhonda of Aztec, New Mexico; grandchildren Holly Studer and husband Jeff of Chandler, Oklahoma, Dr. Sarah Mankin of Lubbock, J.L. Mankin and wife Jacy of Big Lake, and Courtney Clayton and husband Brannon of Plano; and six great-grandchildren.

He is also survived by sisters Mary Francis Andrews and husband James of San Angelo and Marilyn Olney Grant of Abilene; brothers Larry Olney and wife Ramona of Hawley and Jerry Lynn Olney and wife Carla of Hamlin; brothers-in-law Randall Grissom and wife Mary of Irving, Darrell Grissom and wife Maxine of Abilene, and William Earl Grissom of Lawn; and sisters-in-law Ellie Jo Kirk and husband Kenneth of Truby and Sharon Rister and husband John of Hamlin.

Visitation was at Kerbow Funeral Home, 210 W. Gillis in Eldorado, on Thursday, January 7, 2016.

James was a member of Community Baptist Church in Eldorado and it was there that family and friends gathered to celebrate his life on Friday, January 8th. Burial followed at the Eldorado Cemetery where military honors will be rendered. Pallbearers will be Ronnie Rister, Danny Rister, Langly Rister, Steve Andrews, Telesforo Martinez and Ethan Dennis.

James Edward Mankin was born May 15, 1930 to William Thomas and Myrtle Opal (Rushing) Mankin in Hawley, Texas. He passed from this life on January 4, 2016 at Community Medical Center in San Angelo. He was raised on a farm at Truby, Texas where he grew up among nine brothers and sisters. He attended school at Truby, Noodle-Horn and Anson before joining the Army in 1951. He served with distinction during the Korean War earning two Bronze Stars for valor. He served for many years in the Army Ready Reserve following the war.

James married Dora Ione Grissom on November 19, 1953. They lived in Truby where they raised two sons, James Randy Mankin and Michael Leon Mankin.

He also ran the Truby Musical, a country-western stage show that was held the first Saturday night of each month in the old Truby school building. He not only organized the show, but served as its emcee and helped to develop many talented acts that appeared there. It was in that role that he was able to introduce a young Jeannie Stevenson (Jeannie C. Riley) to the audience as she made her first public appearance.

James made a career in the oilfield but was also a farmer, raising cotton and hogs in Jones County before selling out and moving to Eldorado.

He worked as an oilfield pumper, roughneck, driller and tool pusher. He retired from Wes-Tex Drilling Company in 1990 when he turned his attention to fishing.

James and Dora spent many winters at Port Aransas where they made countless friends from among the "Winter Texans" who flocked to the island each season. He loved catching flounder during the winter and hosting his friends and family to fish fries each summer in Eldorado. Failing health ended his trips to Port Aransas but fishing there was never far from his mind.

Professor S. Shyam Sundar. He says that the media may play a key role as regards the perceptions seniors have about robots.

There is no room in their world for so-called autonomous robots. "When interfaces are designed to be almost human-like in their autonomy, seniors may react to them with fear, skepticism and other negative emotions."

Senior Citizens Don't Like Bossy Robots

A new study at Penn State University shows that the elderly are willing to accept robotic help-mates, but they want to be in control.

"It is clear senior citizens want robots to play passive and non-confrontational roles. Seniors do not mind having robots as companions, but they worry about the potential loss of control over social order to robots," reports

SONORA WEATHER FORECAST

Thu 2/4	Fri 2/5	Sat 2/6	Sun 2/7	Mon 2/8
59/30	59/33	55/31	68/34	61/29
Sunny. Highs in the upper 50s and lows in the low 30s.	More sun than clouds. Highs in the upper 50s and lows in the low 30s.	Cloudy, periods of rain. Highs in the mid 50s and lows in the low 30s.	Times of sun and clouds. Highs in the upper 60s and lows in the mid 30s.	Sunshine. Highs in the low 60s and lows in the upper 20s.
Sunrise: 7:32 AM	Sunrise: 7:31 AM	Sunrise: 7:31 AM	Sunrise: 7:30 AM	Sunrise: 7:29 AM

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CRAIG LEONARD IS THE NEWEST MEMBER OF OUR LENDING TEAM

Sonora Bank proudly introduces the newest member of our lending team, Craig Leonard. Craig has a Bachelor's of Science from Texas Tech University and completed his Masters of Science at Angelo State University. Craig joined our Sonora Bank family in May of 2013 and recently completed Stanford Law School Directors' College in July of 2015. Being a Sonora native, Craig offers a wealth of local agricultural knowledge with many years of experience raising livestock. On the weekends he can be found attending the First Baptist Church, volunteering for the 4H club, or lending a hand on his family ranch in Loma Alta. We greatly appreciate Craig's many valuable contributions over his two years with Sonora Bank.



SONORA BANK

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BOERNE: 122 West Bandera • Boerne, TX 78006 • 830-331-9118
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Chess Club Begins in Eldorado

Members of Eldorado's new Chess Club will meet on the first and third Thursday of every month at 6:30 p.m. at the Eldorado First Methodist Church in the fellowship hall.

There is no fee to join, but donations are welcome to help pay for equipment.

Sets and boards are provided and everyone is welcome to participate.

For information, call Brenda Hardesty at 853-2324.

Brenda is certified by the U.S. Chess Federation as a Senior Tournament Director.

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Armer & Andi's Floral

Valentine's Day Menu

1 Dozen Roses/Vase - \$50.00
Half-Dozen Roses/Vase - \$25.00

Tulips and mixed arrangements are also available.

The Snack Pack - \$20.00
1 drink, 2 candy bars or favorite snack, stuffed animal, and a balloon

The Six Pack - \$25.00
Six pack of favorite drink, 2 candy bars or favorite snack, stuffed animal, and a balloon

For snack Menu options please call

325.387.3555



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Sonora ISD Menu

PK-5th : Free Breakfast & \$2.45 lunch
Middle & High School: \$1.95 Breakfast & \$2.85 lunch
Choice of 1 of 2 entrees or salad
Menu Subject to Change

Monday - February 8th Breakfast

Waffles/Sausage or Cereal w/ Crackers, Fruit, Juice, Milk Variety
Lunch
Pepperoni Pizza or Chicken Alfredo w/Breadstick

Garden Salad, Carrot Coins, Apple Slices, Cookie, Milk.
After School : Cereal, Milk

Tuesday - February 9th Breakfast

Breakfast Burrito or Cereal w/ Crackers, Fruit, Milk Variety
Lunch
Spicy Thai Chicken w/Eggroll and Brown Rice or Hot Ham & Cheese Sandwich

Tomato-Cucumber Cup, Steamed Broccoli, Snowball Salad, Milk.
After School: Fruit, Raisins, Milk

Wednesday - February 10th Breakfast

Cinamom Roll w/Bacon or Cereal w/Crackers, Fruit, Juice, Milk Variety
Lunch
Grilled Cheese Sandwich or Meatball Sub Sandwich

Hamburger Garnish, Fries, Baby Carrots/Ranch, Mixed Fruit, Milk.
After School: Baked Chips, Milk

Thursday - February 11th Breakfast

Sausage and Egg w/Biscuit or Cereal w/Crackers, Fruit, Juice, Milk Variety
Lunch
Meatloaf w/Mashed Potatoes or Chicken Bowl w/Gravy

Roll, Savory Green Beans, Apple-Pineapple D'Light, Milk.
After School: Fruit, Vegetables, Milk

Friday - February 12th Breakfast

Eggs w/Toast or Cereal w/Crackers, Fruit, Juice, Milk Variety
Lunch
Fish Strips w/Toast or BBQ on a Bun

Coleslaw, Pinto Beans, Oranges Smiles, Milk.
After School: PBJ Sandwich, Milk

Grab-N-Go Salads

Monday - Chicken Fajita
Tuesday - Chef
Wednesday - Santa Fe
Thursday - Crispy Chicken
Friday - Tuna

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Broncos Basketball Update

On Tuesday, February 9th, games will be played in Stanton in the High School gym.

JV Girls 4:00 p.m.
JV Boys 5:15 p.m.
Varsity Girls 6:30 p.m.
Varsity Boys 8:00 p.m.

Softball Invitational

Winding-up their basketball season and a shot at winning state, the Lady Broncos are sliding into Softball by hosting the Lady Bronco Invitational on February 25th - 27th.

If you would like to help out with the scoreboard, concession stand, or any other tasks we would greatly appreciate it.

For more information, contact Sandy Wellmann, Head Softball Coach at 325-387-6940.

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387-2507

School Board Approves 2016 Campus Improvement Plans

The Sonora ISD board of trustees met Monday evening, January 11th and voted to approve the 2015-16 Campus Improvement Plans.

Following a closed door session, the board authorized Superintendent Ross Aschenbeck to negotiate a contract on the real property at 813 S. Prospect Avenue, Sonora.

Aschenbeck expressed his appreciation to the school board members and applauded them for their commitment and hard work during the past year.

In other business, the board heard that the school's enrollment was 899, down by 29 students from the September 1st enrollment total of 928. Aschenbeck said he attributes the decrease in student enrollment on the decline of oil and gas

production in the area.

Without discussion, the trustees approved the December 16th meeting minutes and the financial report including the payment of current.

Board members also approved a budget amendment transferring \$10,000 from the operating funds into the cafeteria fund to ensure enough cash flow to cover expenses until the end of the school year. Unused funds will be deposited back into the general fund account at the end of the year.

Aschenbeck reported that the school district received a \$3,750 donation from the Booster club. The money will be used to cover medical supplies.

Member comments included a request

by Brady Johnson for an updated school calendar.

The trustees also went behind closed-doors for the discussion of personnel and real property matters.

Board president Dawn Cahill presided over the meeting with trustees Jesse Bustamante, Jerry Jimenez, Brady Johnson, Cynthia Perez, Shanna Petty-Castro and Delyse Jaeger in attendance.

School officials also present included Superintendent Ross Aschenbeck, Brandon Duncan, Michael Kissire, Sean Leamon, Greta Ramsdell and Ken Wimberley.

The next meeting of the board of trustees is slated for 5:30 p.m. on Monday, February 8, 2016, in the Vocational Building.

2016 SONORA SOFTBALL SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	Location	JV	Varsity
Feb. 11	Ballinger (Scrimmage)	Home	6:00 pm	4:30 pm
Feb. 16	Mason	Home	TBA	5:00 pm
Feb. 18-20	Reagan County Tournament	Away		TBA
Feb. 23	Ballinger	Away	6:00 pm	4:30 pm
Feb. 25-27	Lady Bronco Invitational	Home		TBA
March 1	Wall	Home	TBA	5:00
March 3-5	Big Spring Tournament	Away		TBA
March 7	Eldorado	Home	TBA	4:30 pm
March 15	OPEN			
March 18	Coahoma*	Away	TBA	5:00 pm
March 22	Colorado City*	Home	TBA	5:00 pm
March 24	Reagan County*	Away	TBA	5:00 pm
April 1	Coahoma*	Home	TBA	5:00 pm
April 5	Colorado City*	Away	TBA	5:00 pm
April 8	Reagan County*	Home	TBA	5:00 pm
April 12	Coahoma*	Away	TBA	5:00 pm
April 15	Colorado City*☆	Home	TBA	5:00 pm
April 19	Reagan County*	Away	TBA	5:00 pm

*Denotes District Games

☆Denotes Senior Night

All Home games will be played at Lady Bronco Softball Field, which is located at: 900-1098 Sutton Avenue, Sonora, TX 76950

Head Coach: Sandy Wellmann

Assistant Coach: Morgan Wellmann and David Buitron

Athletic Director: David T. Sine

Superintendent: Ross Aschenbeck

Principal: Ken Wimberley

Weekly Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

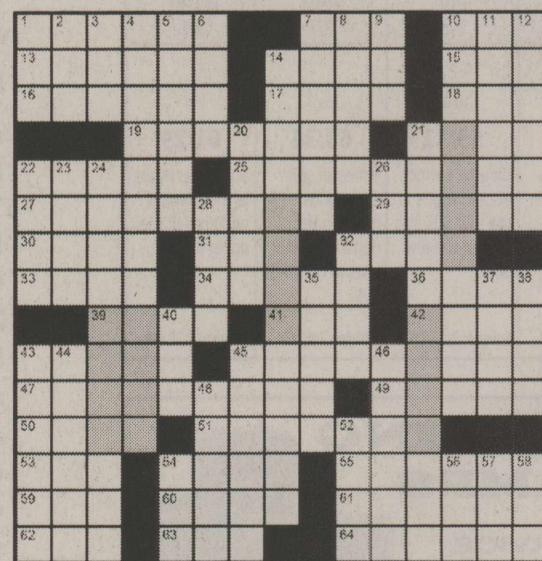
- "Aeneid" poet
- Show ____
- GI-free area
- Requiring decryption
- Only
- Heating alternative
- Maine park
- Cork's country
- "Xanadu" group
- "In all likelihood"
- "Over here!"
- Curses
- Keeps at it
- One studying saucers
- Breaks off
- Creative
- Acapulco gold
- Letter abbr.
- Sneak a peek
- Melodious
- Did too much
- Shock grp.
- Terse question
- Agrippina's slayer
- Kind of salami
- Squeezes (into)
- Grading aid

DOWN

- Itinerary word
- Mag for execs
- Major TV brand
- 1966 Beach Boys hit
- "You'd better believe it"
- Its symbol is Pb
- Lebanese port
- Like some vbs.
- End of a series
- Makes something

- better in a big way
- Country singer
- Ronnie
- Polish bread
- Food delivery service for the homebound
- VP Agnew
- Comedian who is the narrator on TV's "The Goldbergs"
- Kind of income
- 60's do
- Berry Gordy Jr. pioneered it
- Boom source
- "__ light?"
- Soothing plant
- Nautical calls
- Coastal eagle
- Biblical verb
- Significant other
- Some roof ends
- Implant deeply
- Vail trail
- Oahu outsiders
- Like a Boston accent
- Women's links grp.
- Cook's spray
- Elevator ____
- J.F.K. posting
- Kind of flour

SNOW DRIFTS



See solution on Page 8

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City Council Meets, Hears Annexation Concerns

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Committee replacing Jimmy Cahill, and a request by Ed Carrasco regarding a special use permit necessary to install a permanent generator at the corner of Concho and Plum Streets was approved.

In the absence of Donna Garrett, Executive Director of Chamber of Commerce, the council took no action on the following agenda items: Chamber of Commerce quarterly reports, approval of the 2016-17 budget for motel tax revenues for COG and Chamber of Commerce director's annual report.

Council members approved the 2016 City of Sonora holidays in addition to two Resolutions and one Proclamation including Resolution No. 2016-R-02A approving a Joint Election for May 7, 2016 with The Sonora ISD, Resolution No. 2016-R-01 approving the policies in connection with the City of Sonora and The Texas Community Development Block Grant and the declaration of proclaiming January as Fair Housing Month in The City of Sonora.

Approved City of Sonora holidays are as follows:
New Year's Day - January 1, 2016
Martin Luther King

Day - January 18, 2016
Presidents' Day - February 15, 2016
Good Friday - March 25, 2016
Memorial Day - May 30, 2016
Independence Day (4th of July) - July 4, 2016
Labor Day - September 5, 2016
Columbus Day - October 10, 2016
Veterans Day - November 11, 2016
Thanksgiving Day - November 24, 2016
Day after Thanksgiving - November 25, 2016
Christmas Eve - December 24, 2016
Christmas Day - December 25, 2016
New Year's Eve - December 31, 2016
New Year's Day - January 1, 2017

Following the designation of holiday, a lengthy discussion was held regarding Handgun Carry License signs. Advise on the matter was stated by City Attorney James Kosub as well as input by Sonora Police Chief William Dudley. Council members approved the posting of signs at City Hall only during court sessions and voting pursuant to The Texas Penal Code §30.06 and §30.07.

Council members tabled a report from Water Supervisor Charlotte McElwain on the need to revise the current sewer rates to help offset the deficit in operating expenses for the city's sewer facility until more information is made available. She presented findings from 15 residential accounts reflecting a total in collection fees of \$4,000.00 and 5 commercial accounts reflecting a total in collection fees of \$1,000.00 comparing the averaging billing versus actual usage billing. Members agreed that the issue needed attention.

Before going behind closed doors, to discuss real property negotiations,

the board approved the SEDC Quarterly Report.

Lastly on the agenda council members approved the Senior Center monthly reports for October, November and December and the Police Department monthly report for December. Chief Dudley reported that he is in the process of applying for two grants to help pay for new car radios and officer equipment including tactical vests. Funding from one of the grants equals \$62,000.00. Dudley made aware council members that if the grants are awarded they will be required to pay for the purchases up front then receive reimbursement.

Mayor Wanda Shurley presided over Tuesday night's meeting with City Council members Doug Chandler, Jeremy Dawson, Todd Munn and Terri Johnson in attendance. The next meeting of the Sonora City Council is slated for 6 p.m. Monday, February 8, 2016 in the council chambers at City Hall.

Birthday List

FEBRUARY

- 4th** Janey Dillard, Jovita Jimenez, Veronica Hernandez
- 5th** Macee Friess, Jucy Martin, Glen Fisher
- 6th** Chacho Cahill, Jose Casillas, Trista Bush, Justin Lozano, John Henry Strauch
- 7th** Shane Love, Ricardo Perez Sr.
- 8th** Jacinda Sanchez, Jacob Perez
- 9th** John Lopez III, Jo Ann Palmer, Roberta James, Tina Zuniga, Boomer Galindo
- 10th** Patti Prather, Cam Campbell, Deylse Jaeger
- 11th** Leandra Castaneda, Kim Lewis, Ty Fincher

Send us your birthdays to
editor@devilsriver.news

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Sonora Bank Officers present to Sutton County Food Bank staff a check in the amount of \$10,000 during the Food Bank's committee meeting on Tuesday, January 19th. | COURTESY PHOTO

Food Bank Receives 10K Donation

Members of the Sonora Bank staff presented the Sutton County Food Pantry a \$10,000 check donation during their meeting on Tuesday, January 19th.

Linda Cahill opened the meeting for discussion of regular business items. Standing committee chairpersons, Jennifer Nichols, Pat Gomez, Linda Cahill and Ben Pool reported on their committees' continued efforts in providing meals to school children Kindergarten - 8th grades,

delivering 78 backpacks to school age children and affording meals for 200 families in Sutton County.

There was no discussion on fundraising.

In other business, board members approved the minutes from the previous board meeting, treasurer's report and the executive director's report.

Treasurer Paul Ramsdell reported an up-to-date balance of \$100,000.

A committee was created to oversee the Clothing

Closet Options project.

Board president Noemi Samaniego presided over the meeting with members Michelle Hall, Kelly Holder, Paul Ramsdell, Ben Pool, Brenda Mungia, Pat Gomez, Jennifer Nichols and Lewis Allen in attendance.

Others in attendance included Leigh Lloyd and Theresa Ward.

The next meeting of the Sutton County Food Pantry is slated for Tuesday, February 9th, at the Food Pantry & Resource Center.

2016 Sutton County Junior Livestock Show Draws Showmen and Supporters

About 50 young competitors, contending for the Grand Championship, showcased their animals at the Sutton County Civic Center, in Sonora, Friday and Saturday, January 8th and 9th during the 2016 Sutton County Junior Livestock Show.

More than 225 animals were shown by Sutton County 4-H and FFA members and community sponsors provided \$53,500 in prize money for the youths.

The judging began at 8 a.m. on Friday for the all-day event with Clay Burson judging the market lambs, market meat goats and Pee Wee Show, Zane Willard judging the angora goats and Will Hartnett judging market and breeding swine. A dinner and awards ceremony and premium sale took place at the Civic Center on Saturday.

All participants in the Livestock were congratulated on their hard work in preparing for this year's livestock as well as recognition for their exceptional showmanship.

Briana Palacios received the Alderman Cave Top Hand Award

Buckle for the annual Jr. Livestock Show.

Summer Hall was honored with the Senior Showmanship Award in the Angora Goats division and Madalyn Fisher received the Junior Showman in the Angora goats division.

Senior Swine Showman was awarded to Quealy Shain and Junior Swine Showman went to Reagan Owen.

Christina Hernandez was awarded the Senior Showmanship award in Market Lamb division and Kadee Petty received the Junior Showman in the Market Lamb division.

Other livestock show results are as follows:

ANGORA GOATS

Champion Registered Angora Goat: Madalyn Fisher (Class 6 Registered Yearling Buck)

Reserve Champion Registered Angora Goat: Madalyn Fisher (Class 10 Registered Aged Doe)

Champion Commercial Angora Goat: Summer Hall (Class 3 Commercial Aged Doe)

Reserve Champion Commercial Angora Goat:

Weston Fisher (Class 3 Commercial Aged Doe). Grand Champion Angora Goat: Madalyn Fisher.

Reserve Grand Champion Angora Goat: Summer Hall.

SWINE

Champion Market Swine: Reagan Owen (Class 4 Market Swine)

Reserve Champion Market Swine: Quealy Shain (Class 3 Market Swine)

Champion Breeding Gilt: Quealy Shain (Class 2 Crossbred Gilts)

Reserve Champion Breeding Gilt: Reagan Owen (Class 1 Crossbred Gilts)

MARKET MEAT GOATS

Grand Champion Meat Goat: Kodi Davis (Class 4 Meat Goats)

Reserve Grand Champion Meat Goat: Kodi Davis (Class 2 Meat Goats)

MARKET LAMBS

Champion Fine Wool Lamb: Kadee Petty (Class 1 Light Weight Fine Wool Lamb)

Reserve Champion Fine Wool Lamb: Makinna Price (Class 3

Heavy Weight Fine Wool Lamb)

Champion Crossbred Lamb: Christina Hernandez (Class 6 Heavy Weight Fine Wool Cross Lamb)

Reserve Champion Crossbred Lamb: Katy Jo Wardlaw (Class 5 Middle-weight Fine Wool Cross Lamb)

Champion Hair Sheep: Cara Hernandez (Class 8 Heavy Weight Dorper)

Reserve Champion Hair Sheep: Kadee Petty (Class 7 Lightweight Dorper)

Champion Southdown Market Lamb: Cuatro Wardlaw (Class 9 Lightweight Southdown)

Reserve Champion Southdown Market Lamb: Catarina Hernandez (Class 9 Lightweight Southdown)

Champion Medium Wool Lamb: Rebeckah Owen (Class 12 Heavy Weight Medium Wool)

Reserve Champion Medium Wool Lamb: Saylor Reagan (Class 11 Medium Weight Medium Wool)

Grand Champion Market Lamb: Christina Hernandez

Reserve Grand Champion Market Lamb: Kadee Petty.



Katy Jo Wardlaw and Kodi Davis watch Judge Clay Burson contemplate the winners during the 2016 Sutton County Junior Livestock Show. | KIMBERLEY MEYER | THE DEVIL'S RIVER NEWS

ASU Dean's List

Students achieving the Dean's List for the 2015 fall semester have been announced by Angelo State University in San Angelo. To be eligible for the Dean's List, students must be enrolled fulltime at ASU and maintain a 3.25 or better grade point average on a 4.0 scale. Among the students making the honor roll are: SONORA — Morgan C. Badgett, Owen L. Friess, Nicholas B. Pena, Logan

T. Sine, Logan N. Smith, Michelle L. Solt, Kade H. Wimberley, and Megan R. Yourgalite. OZONA — Kerrie M. Baker, Sean T. Curry, Melissa Garza, Desiree S. Marshall, Lazarae L. Rodriguez, Loren B. Talamantez, and Sierra M. Trevino. ELDO-RADO — Kayla B. Ballew, Abby R. Fuentes, Kairos B. McCollum, Brittny L. McCulloch, Krista J. Murr, Ana C. Sanchez, and Maria E. Vasquez.

Winning in Ft. Worth

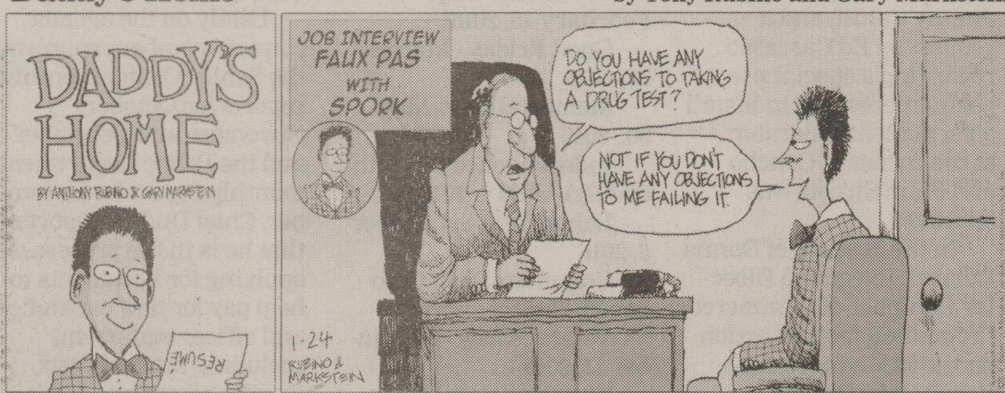


Lane Cahill of Oak Hill Ranch, Sonora, TX wins at National Dorper Show in Ft. Worth with her newly crowned Grand Champion Ewe. | COURTESY PHOTO

DRN Comics

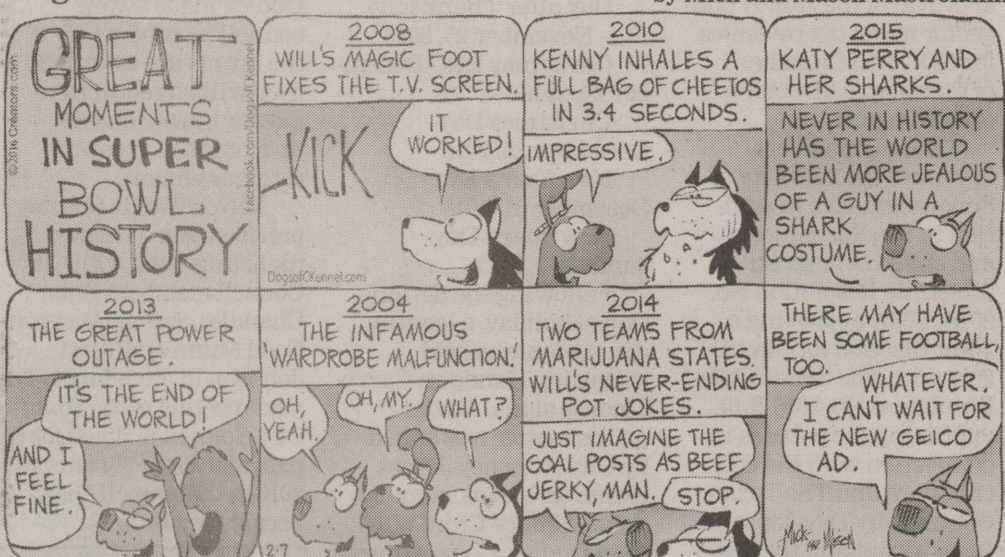
Daddy's Home

by Tony Rubino and Gary Markstein



Dogs of C-Kennel

by Mick and Mason Mastroianni

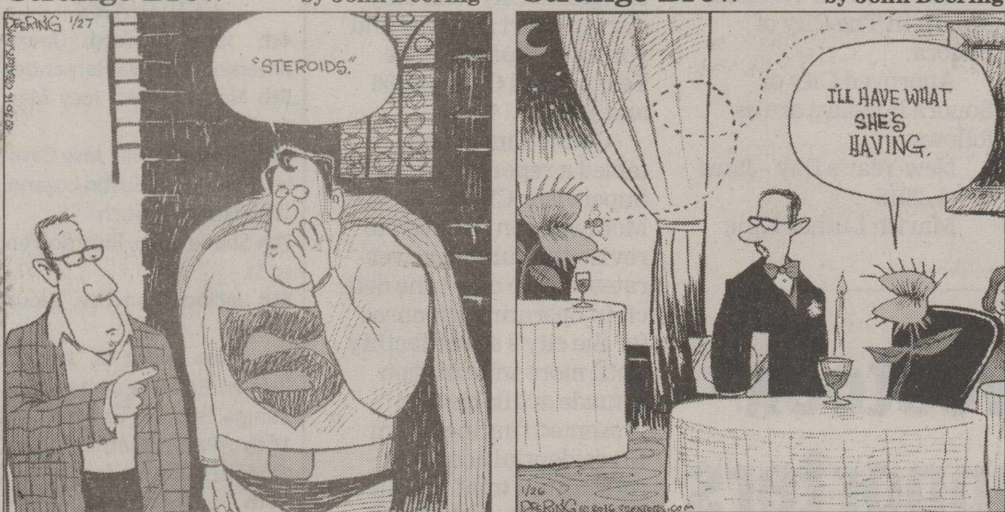


Strange Brew

by John Deering

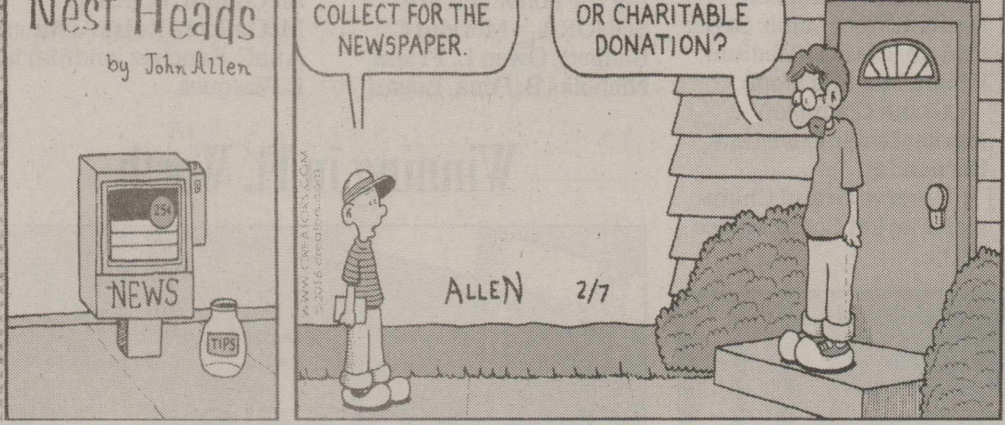
Strange Brew

by John Deering



Nest Heads

by John Allen



Wizard of ID

by Parker and Hart

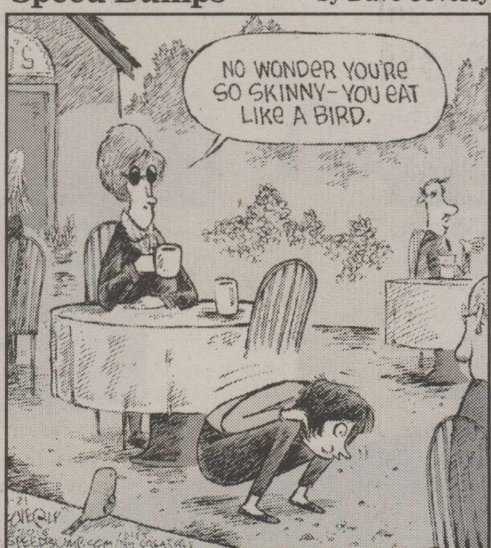


Speed Bumps

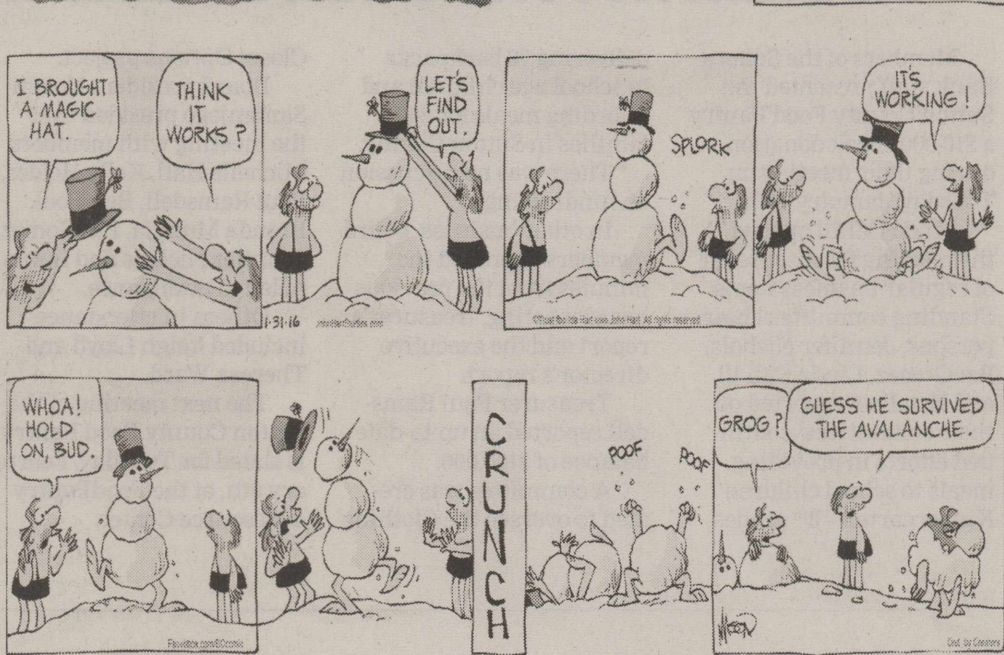
by Dave Coverly

Speed Bumps

by Dave Coverly



BY MASTROIANNI AND HART



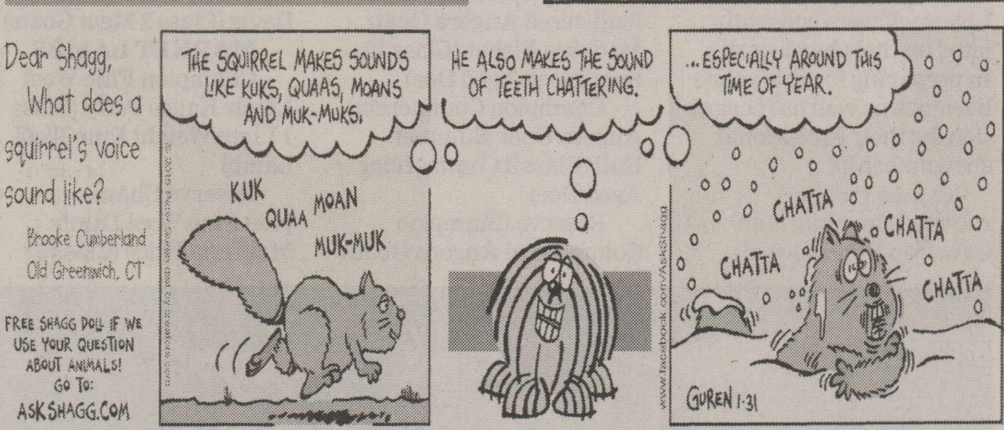
WebDonuts

by Mike Gruhn



ASK SHAGG

By Peter Guren



DOODLES

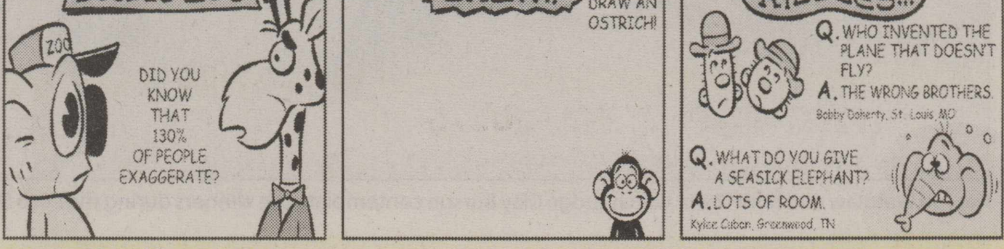
By Foote & Sacko



DOODLE ZOO

DRAW!! DRAW AN OSTRICH

RIDDLES!!!



HONOR ROLL

**Sonora High School
Honor Roll
1st Semester**

9th Grade
"A" Honor Roll: Lane Cahill, Wesley Dutton, Kayla Grace Edwards, Cara Hernandez, Mary Kyle Johnson, Vidhi Kumar, Avery Leamon, Carlos Mendoza
Keeley Moore, Rebeckah Owen, Evan Shannon, Walker Sine, Sterling Smith, Dylan Taylor, Sheridan Walther
"A-B" Honor Roll(85 and above): Viviana Arellano, Jacqueline Baez, Juan Baez
Scarlot Banfill, Trista Bush, Alex Castilleja, Brittney Contreras, Payton Dawson, Joe Espinosa, Noe Estrada, Kayla Gee, Adriana Gonzalez, Zayda Gutierrez, Araceli Marin, Karah Martinez, Logan McDonald, Manuel Montoya, Lesli Ramirez, Sabian Robles, Ana Salas, Perla Salazar, Stevie Smith, Jackilyn Sykes, Natalia Villalobos

10th Grade
"A" Honor Roll: Carly Brown, Kaden Cordell, Summer Hall, Christina Hernandez, Hazel Kent, Robin McGuffin, Delaney Ramsdell, Amber Vasquez
"A-B" Honor Roll(85 and above): Christopher Adkins, Janet Baez, Savannah Castro, Mark Chavez, Felicia Farley, Kristin Garrett, Bailey Gonzales, Sierra Herrada, Bryson Holmes, Dariela Lopez, Iris McAfee, Keegan McCollum, Audry Nolen, Kaytlan Noriega, Alondra Pena, Elyssa Prieto, Caleb Ritchey, Zavier Rodriguez, Noelia Tovar, Alexis Villanueva

11th Grade
"A" Honor Roll: Bethany Agüero, Autumn Ayala, Tonya Bounds, Samantha Castro,

Shayna Edwards, Skyler Jennings, Meivelyn Medrano, Nydia Rodriguez, Kristy Sanchez, Tate Shannon, Claire Thiebaut
"A-B" Honor Roll(85 and above): Rosa Araujo, Drew Buitron, Layla Burke, Adriana Campa, Mayra Capuchina, Dakota Castro, Joseph Delgado, Netza Estrada, Bianca Fay, April Fraire, Josh Galindo, Caleb Galvan, Gabriel Garcia, Issek Hernandez, Jose Hernandez, Luke James, Juan Miguel Jimenez, Katelyn Lipham, Isaiah Lira, Erik Lopez, Ariel Lugo, Esteban Marin, Ryker Marshall, Blanca Mata, Rafael Mendoza, Dalton Morris, Michael Mungia, Marlene Ortiz, Jessica Paredes, Ronald Pincince, Henry Ramos, Kylie Reiner, Ariana Reyes, Isela Rivas, Sydney Robles, Ramon Rodriguez, Sylvia Salazar, Misae Smith, Michael Solis, Holly Sparks, Zelenia Vasquez, Liam Yourgalite, Carter Zook

12th Grade
"A" Honor Roll: Adrian Garcia, Alexis Garza, Kaitlyn Lopez, Darby Ramsdell, Susana Robles, Cip Tobias
"A-B" Honor Roll(85 and above): Victoria Acosta, Shelby Aschenbeck, Jillian Buitron, Joe Michael Campos, Noel Fierro, Julian Gallardo, Juan Gamez, J D Garza, Felix Guerra, Trent Harris, Jonathan Hazelton, Edgar Hernandez, Marlena Hernandez, Dionne Hinojosa, Garrett Jaeger, Sierra Kimbrell, Jonathan Martinez, Ryan Martinez, Octavio Mendez, Daniel Pechacek, Straton Rushing, Mauro Santana, Sergio Solis, Japelle Vasquez, Maritza Villanueva

HONOR ROLL

**Sonora Middle School
Honor Roll
3rd Six Weeks**

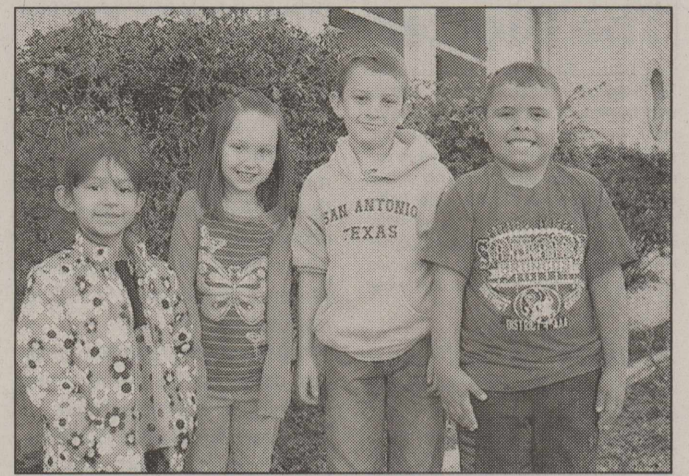
6th Grade
"A" Honor Roll: Carson Cahill, Kodi Davis, Yailin Dominguez, Abigail Duncan, Sophia Gutierrez, Mariana Montoya
"A-B" Honor Roll: Isabella Arispe, Abby Bennie, Jessica Campa, Alexandra Cardenas, Giovanni Daniels, Seth Davis, Mario De La Fuente, Jina Dooley, Carolina Elizondo, Briana Espinosa, Abigail Fuentes, Ivan Fuentes, Natalie Fuentes, Christina Garcia, Brijida Garza, Tais Gaytan, Taryn Hamm, Abigail Hernandez, Catarino Hernandez, Amaris Jimenez, Diya Kumar, Susie Levario, Emilio Lozano, Fernanda Lozano, Damian Martinez, Fernando Mendez, Abigail Mendoza, Skylar Mogford, Sean Mungia, Blanca Portillo, Laci Ramirez, Victoria Regino, Joselyn Rodriguez, Adam Sanchez, Dalissa Sanchez, Jessica Smith, Lane Taylor, Carlynn Teaff, Jacqueline Torres, Tyler Walther

7th Grade
"A" Honor Roll: Kaylynn Alvarez, Jaci Dutton, Alan Hernandez, Ricardo Ramirez

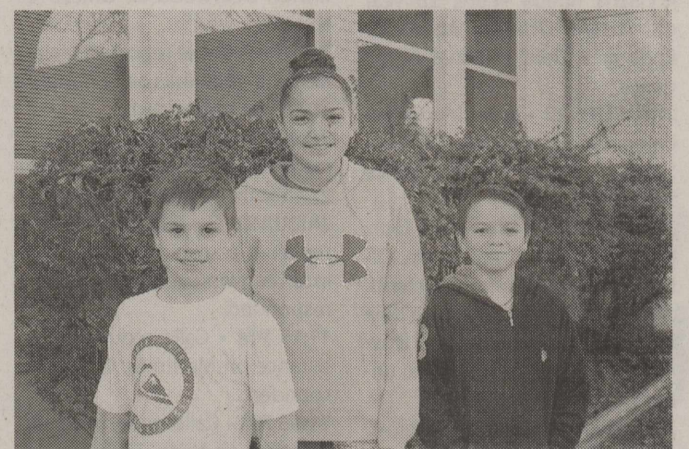
"A-B" Honor Roll: Osbel De Luna, Rashel De Luna, Jose Figueroa, Madalyn Fisher, Kevan Flores, Sydney Flores, Jovan Garza, Juan Garza, Martha Gonzalez, Preston Gonzalez, Angel Hernandez, Zachary Joffrion, Alyssa Martinez, Caleb Nolen, Aaron Noriega, Reagan Owen, Harmony Ramirez, Miranda Renteria, Clarissa Rodriguez, Esmeralda Salazar

8th Grade
"A" Honor Roll: Ethan Hamm, Catarina Hernandez, Deborah Hernandez, Wilson Johnson, Kami Lux, Jansen Morris, Kadee Petty, Blayze Sykes, Traci Vickers, Ashley Zook
"A-B" Honor Roll: Enedina Alvarez, Brock Aschenbeck, Joshua Barrera, Jayde Bean, Aldo DeLuna, Slade Dermody, Tully Flanagan, Shyanne Gamez, James Levi Garrett, Christina Garza, Angela Gonzalez, Danica Jimenez, Dalylah Lopez, Jalen Lopez, Dakato Love, Alexandra Mendoza, Analy Palacios, Melanie Perez, Kevin Ramos, Isabella Samaniego, Haley Smith, Kathryn Wardlaw

**Elementary and Intermediate
Students of the Week**



Sonora Elementary Students of the Week — Anahi Aguayo, Pre-K, Ryan Mungia, K, Lynden Cearley, 1st, Reilly Wardlaw, 2nd. | COURTESY PHOTO



Sonora Intermediate School Students of the Week — Julian Zaragoza, 3rd, Ben Blackbird, 5th, Trinity Luna, 6th. | COURTESY PHOTO



**8th Grade Colts Defeat
Reagan County Owls 30-15**

Last night the 8th Grade Colts took on the Reagan County Owls. The Colts jumped out to an early 8-0 lead and never looked back, going on to win the game 30-15. Slade Dermody and Wilson Johnson led the team scoring 7 points each. Blayze Sykes and Jalen Lopez ran our press to perfection causing turnovers that would lead to fast points. Coming off the bench, playing big down low, and contributing 4

points each, were Thomas Talamantez and Dakota Love. While Jansen Morris and Ethan Hamm jumped up getting us offensive rebounds. Brock Ashenbeck and Kevin Ramos shut down the Owls offense with great defense. The 8th Grade Colts are undefeated and will finish up their season Monday at home against Stanton. Come out Monday and show your support while we shoot for a perfect season!

**Brackettville Border Agents
Nab Convicted Sex Offender**

Del RIO, Texas — U.S. Border Patrol agents assigned to the Brackettville Station arrested a Mexican national, convicted of sexual battery. "Homeland security is our primary mission, but apprehensions like this help keep our communities safe," said Del Rio Sector Chief Patrol Agent Rodolfo Karisch. On Jan. 29, Alejandro Velasquez-Aboytes, a 29-year-old Mexican national, was apprehended by Brackettville Border Patrol agents patrolling north of Brackettville. During processing, agents discovered that in 2008, Velasquez-Aboytes had been convicted of sexual battery in Lexington, Oklahoma. Velasquez-Aboytes was sentenced to five years incarceration and served three years with a two-year suspended sentence. Velasquez-Aboytes was then ordered removed from the U.S. in March of 2009.

Velasquez-Aboytes also has a prior conviction for driving under the influence in 2006 and was sentenced to a one-year suspended sentence. Velasquez-Aboytes faces a charge of illegal re-entry after deportation, which carries a penalty of up to 20 years in prison, and his prior order of removal will be reinstated. The Del Rio Border Patrol Sector is part of the Joint Task Force-West South Texas Corridor.

U.I.L. Reading



UIL students Sophia Gutierrez, 6th grade, Slade Dermody and Jansen Morris, 8th grade, stand with teacher Richelle Aschenbeck following their UIL Readings during the weekly Sonora Downtown Lions Club meeting held Tuesday, Jan. 26th at the First United Methodist Church. KIMBERLEY MEYER | THE DEVIL'S RIVER NEWS

SONORA HIGH SCHOOL

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February 18th
5:30-SHS Auditorium
6:00-7:00 Library and Computer Labs

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Texas A&M Forest Service Crowns Big Tree Champions in Big Bend Ranch State Park

COLLEGE STATION, Texas — Two Mexican blue oaks in Big Bend Ranch State Park were recently confirmed by Texas A&M Forest Service to be the largest of their kind in the state.

Located in a remote canyon in the middle of the park, the trees are on the latest edition of the Texas Big Tree Registry, a listing of the largest specimen of every native or naturalized tree species found in the

state. Known officially as *Quercus oblongifolia*, Mexican blue oak is rare in Texas. First discovered in the state in 1970's, the remote canyon in Big Bend Ranch State Park is the only place the species is known to occur naturally in Texas. The largest tree in the grove was nominated and crowned the state champion in 1976. Fast forward forty years and the original champion still

reigns, but another specimen across the canyon has grown enough to claim co-champ status.

"Big Bend Ranch State Park is proud to partner with Texas A&M Forest Service to conserve and promote the appreciation of our state's important natural resources," Sean Dugan, superintendent of Big Bend Ranch State Park, said. "We at the park are excited to be a part of the Big Tree Registry with our

two co-champion Mexican blue oaks."

The purpose of the Big Tree Registry is twofold — to stimulate a greater public appreciation of trees and to recognize owners and nominators of the state's largest trees. The registry is published quarterly on the Texas A&M Forest Service Big Tree Registry page.

Trees are compared using a tree index, which combines trunk

circumference in inches with total height in feet, plus one-quarter of the average crown spread in feet. Trees within five index points are considered co-champions. The original champion has a circumference of 75 inches, a height of 22 feet and a crown spread of 28 feet, giving it a tree index of 104 points. The new co-champ has a circumference of 63 inches, a height of 38 feet and a crown spread of 26 feet, giving it a tree

index of 108 points. Currently, Texas A&M Forest Service recognizes 320 native or naturalized tree species that qualify for the list. Of these, 82 are current national champions or co-champions listed in the 2015 National Register of Big Trees published by the conservation group American Forests. Both of the Mexican blue oaks are nominated as national champs and may gain that title in late 2016.

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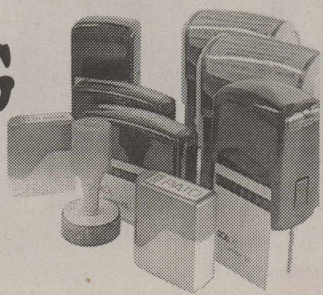
PUBLIC NOTICES

Application is being made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a (BQ) WINE AND BEER RETAILER'S OFF-PREMISE PERMIT by ROAD RANGER, L.L.C., d/b/a ROAD RANGER #275, to be located at 601 HIGHWAY 277 NORTH, SONORA, SUTTON COUNTY, TEXAS, 76950. Members and officers of said limited liability company are: Estate of Daniel J. Arnold — Member; Ranger Enterprises, Inc., an Illinois corporation — Member; Sunil Puri — Member; David J. Saporta — Manager; and Steven E. Brooks — Secretary.

Card of Thanks

The Valliant family and staff of Mr. D's Liquor & Beer want to thank the citizens of Sonora for supporting the bake sale held on Friday, January 22nd for the Word family. Because of your generous donations, the bake sale was a huge success!

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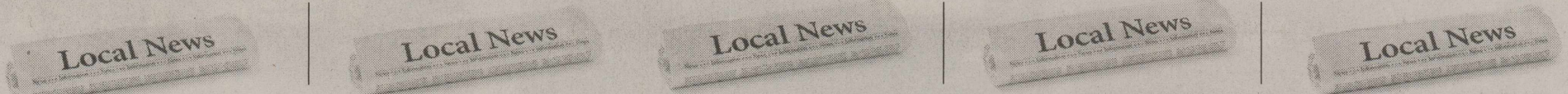


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