



The Devil's River News

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

December 15, 2016

\$1

Volume 127
Issue 49



A Special Visit from Santa

Santa stopped in Sonora this past Thursday December 8, 2016 to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and visit with local girls and boys.

He and Mrs. Claus spent the evening with kids of all ages and their families before making their way back to the North Pole to prepare for Santa's magical Christmas Eve journey around the world.

The event, hosted by The Bank & Trust, offered refreshments, goodies and photos with Santa. Of course, Mrs. Claus was ready with candy canes for everyone.

"This is a good way to give back to the community, Marketing Director Lara Coleman said. "It brings just as much enjoyment to the adults as it does the children."

Justin Headrick, just two-years old, was eager to sit on Santa's lap and tell him what he hoped to find under the tree on Christmas morning.

"Hot Wheels!" he squealed. It took a little more persuading to get his twin sister, Ashley, to join in the fun. Although not totally convinced, she climbed atop Santa's lap just long enough

for a photo.

Standing beside Mrs. Claus with candy cane in hand, Ashley finally revealed to Santa her wish for ponies [My Little Pony].

Parents Burke and Megan Headrick said they like the annual event because it is less overwhelming for their kids. It's already becoming a tradition for their family.

"This is our second year to come out and visit Santa at this event," the Headricks said. "We like having Santa come to Sonora to visit the kids. It's perfect having it here at the bank also. It's a smaller setting and less stressful. And, this year is better than last year.

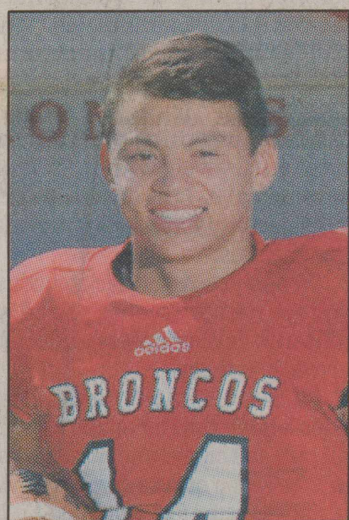
One by one youngsters of all ages whispered in Santa's ear and posed for a photo before leaving to go home and wait to see if their wishes will come true on Christmas day.

"We have a good crowd of people this year," Coleman said. "Maybe more than last year. So far, this evening we have seen a steady stream of kids and their families come in to see Santa. There is something here for everyone and I think they are having fun."

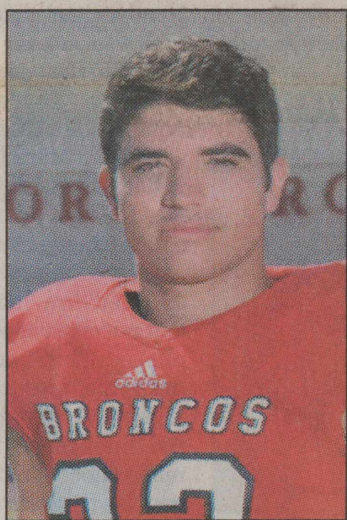


Justin and Ashley Headrick sit with Santa and whisper what they want for Christmas Thursday, December 8 during his visit to the Bank and Trust in Sonora. Santa and Mrs. Claus stopped in Sonora to visit with good girls and boys and their families before making his epic trip on Christmas Eve.
KIMBERLEY MEYER | THE DEVIL'S RIVER NEWS

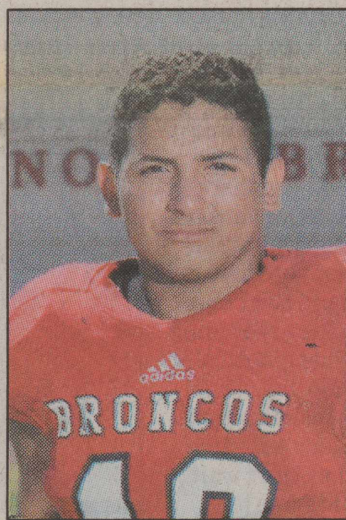
Broncos Place 24 on District 3-3A Div II All-District Team



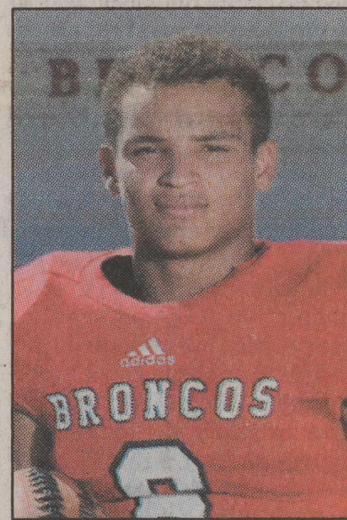
Kaden Cordell
MVP



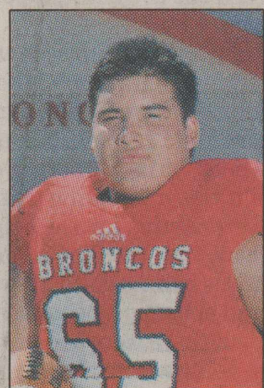
Liam Yourgalite
Co-Defensive MVP



Isaiah Lira
Co-Defensive MVP



Jarrett Jackson
Offensive MVP



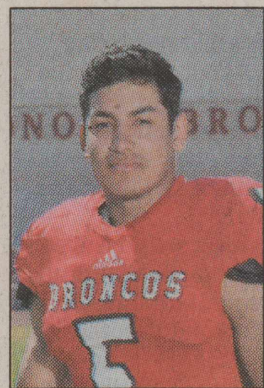
Bryndon Robles
1st DT, 1st T



Josh Galindo
1st DT, 1st G



Michael Solis
1st DE, 1st REC



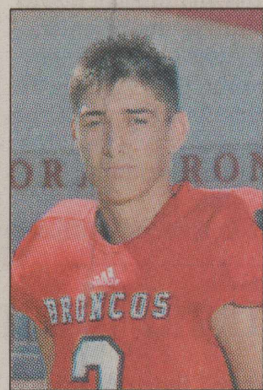
Jose Hernandez
1st DE



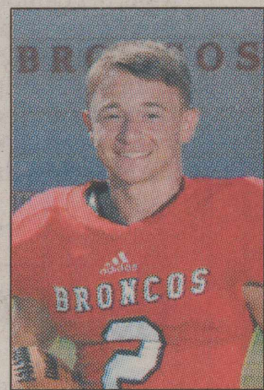
Michael Mungia
1st ILB



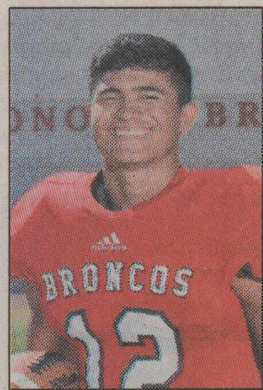
Brandon Martinez
1st OLB, 1st K



Carter Zook
1st CB, 2nd KR



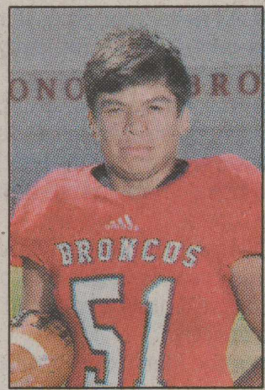
Walker T. Sine
1st Safety, 2nd REC



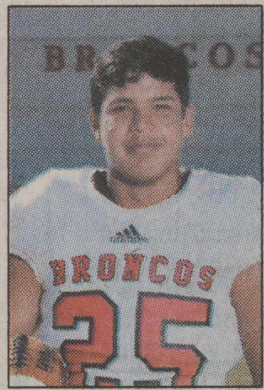
Drew Buitron
2nd DE



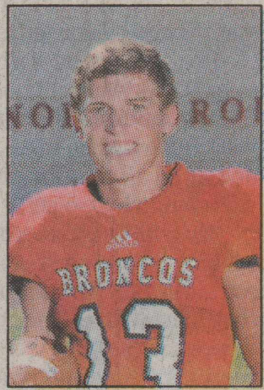
Rafael Mendoza
2nd ILB



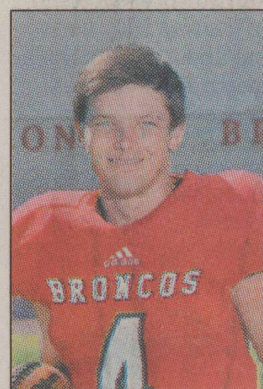
Juan Villanueva
2nd DT, 2nd OT



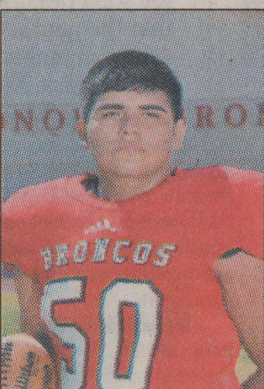
Carlos Mendoza
2nd OLB



Wesley Dutton
2nd CB



Kade Creek
2nd Safety, 2nd REC



Andrew Martinez
1st C



Noah San Miguel
1st REC, 1st KR



Julian Guerra
1st T



Wilson Johnson
2nd RB



Christian Ramon
2nd G



Mark Chavez
Utility

Abbott Nominates Racing Commission Chair as Secretary of State

AUSTIN — Gov. Greg Abbott has appointed Rolando Pablos of El Paso to succeed Secretary of State Carlos Cascos, effective Jan. 5.

Pablos has served as chair of the Texas Racing Commission, the state agency that regulates pari-mutuel racing, since December 2015. Because Abbott nominated Pablos during a legislative interim, the Texas Constitution requires the Senate to conduct a confirmation hearing and vote on the appointment during the first 10 days of the next session of the Legislature. The 85th Regular Session of the Legislature is scheduled to convene on Jan. 10. Confirmation would make Pablos Texas' 111th secretary of state.

In accepting the appointment, Pablos said, "I am humbled and honored that Governor Abbott has placed confidence in me to faithfully execute those duties. I look forward to serving on behalf of all Texas communities and demonstrating my unwavering dedication to the responsibilities of the office."

Abbott thanked Cascos, saying, "I would also like to extend my sincere appreciation to Secretary Cascos for his service and dedication to the people of Texas, and for strengthening our partnerships across the globe." Cascos, who plans to step down effective Jan. 4, was Abbott's first appointee after being sworn in as governor in January 2015.

The secretary of state serves as:

- Chief election officer for Texas;
- Keeper of the state seal;
- Attestor to the governor's signature on official documents;
- Senior advisor and liaison to the governor for Texas Border and Mexican Affairs; and
- Chief International Protocol Officer for Texas.

The Office of the Secretary of State is the repository for certain official and business and commercial records, it publishes government rules and regulations and commissions notaries public.

Pablos, co-founder and chief executive of Uriel Americas, formerly served as chief

executive of the Borderplex Alliance, a bi-national economic development organization based on the U.S.-Mexico border.

Craddick is new RRC chair

Christi Craddick, one of the three members of the Railroad Commission of Texas, on Dec. 6 was elected chair of the commission, the state agency that regulates the oil and gas industry.

SEE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS ON PAGE 8

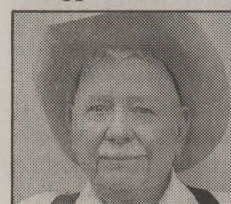


STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS
By Ed Sterling

A Country Christmas Tale

Back in the 1970s we were living and ranching on Block 150 in Pecos County. This was a typical family operation at that time. We had three kids in school that

It Happened Out West



by Joe N. Brown

lived in town to go to school and came to the ranch on weekends and holidays. This story occurred at that location in December of that year.

Now we have the location and the timing so let's get to the story. It was

Christmas vacation and everyone was at the ranch for the holidays. The normal Christmas excitement was working on our kids. At the same time the problems of hiding gifts from the kids was worrying my wife and I. As we living in the ranch house it was awfully hard to wrap and hide gifts. Our kids were out running trap lines or hunting deer so this gave us some time to get ready for Christmas Eve. The tree was up and the house was decorated so now were we to get the presents out of hiding and under the tree?

I devised a foolproof plan to handle this problem, not realizing the storm it would cause later. This was the year that "Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer" was so popular and our kids were worried about him finding our house in the country. To get the kids out of the house, my wife took them to the barn to take care of their 4-H lambs and horses. During this one hour interval, I would get all the presents out and put them under the tree. The idea here was Rudolph had found us and had delivered all of their gifts. A very great plan except that I did not tell my wife the rest of my part of this plan.

Everything worked out as planned, wife took the kids to the barn about a half mile from the house I did my part and all the gifts were arranged under the tree.

Then we got to my part of this Christmas surprise. When I heard my wife start the pickup to come to the house, I got my .300 savage deer rifle and stepped out in the backyard. As they drove up to the yard, I fired three quick shots at the hill behind our house. As they all came running into the yard, my wife asked, "what were you shooting at?" I very proudly answered, "I got three good shots at Rudolf as he came over the hill and I feel sure I got him, so we will have deer meat for Christmas dinner."

They all asked at the same time, "You shot Rudolf? Now he will never find us to deliver our gifts."

About here was when all the screaming and bawling started. I heard many times how mean I was for shooting poor Rudolf. My wife was not in on this part of my plan so she began to try to stop the crying and bawling by telling our kids, "Listen, your dad might have missed and Rudolf will come back later." Between sobs the oldest boy said, "Mama, Papa never misses with that gun," and the crying started all over again.

Realizing what a wreck I was in I began to tell the kids that I had shot at Rudolf as he was leaving and that I had missed as he went out over the hills. Also that he had delivered all the Christmas gifts while I was somewhere else.

My wife began to stop the sniffing and sobbing by saying "Let's go in the house and see if the gifts got here or not." With this they all ran to the back door and burst in where they saw the tree loaded with many presents. There was much cheering and laughing between the kids and their mama. I was totally ignored for a while but that all changed with the opening of their gifts.

Now about a half century later someone always brings up at Christmas time the story of "the night Papa Joe shot Rudolf the Red Nosed Reindeer."



Oh Topiary, Oh Topiary

Each year at about this time I find myself face to face with an issue. It has to do with one aspect of the holidays. In two words – the tree. I can't get behind the idea of the tree and my lack of spirit makes me feel downright Grinchy.

I don't want to have a tiny, shrunken heart. I want to participate in the magic and miracles of the season. I want to drink eggnog. I want to be enthused about a tree in my living room. I really do. But I'm not.

Something must be wrong with me. I can see the magic of the season in other aspects. I love shopping for gifts. I love the Christmas story and holiday music. I love family get-togethers and the abundance of festive food and goodies that make the season bright. But I'm not feeling the need to hug a tree (metaphorically speaking).

Everyone around me is giddy with tree glee. They can't wait for the big tree buying day to get here. They have traditions about when and where to get the best tree. About decorating it while singing carols and eating homemade cookies. About who puts the star on top and who gets to be the first to plug in the lights. They all delight in the celebration of the tree. Their eyes sparkle as they absorb the beauty, radiance and brilliance.

And then there's me. I see pine needles dropping to the floor and cats that think the tree is their personal climbing station. I see work. It's hard to enjoy decorating a tree when I know it all has to be undone in just a few weeks. I anticipate dragging the tree out to the backyard, getting sap and pine pricks on my hands. I do not look forward to vacuuming up prickly pine needles from January until March because I never can quite seem to get them all – or perhaps they multiply. I can't see the forest of joy, for the tree.

I know; I have serious deficits. I've suggested an artificial tree, but the people who live with me will have nothing of it. They demand a tree that smells like a tree.

This year, I thought I'd take a preemptive and creative approach to the issue. I decided we'd have a tree that isn't quite a tree – exactly.

I got the idea from Pinterest. Instead of a tree, we're going to have a topiary. I'm making it myself.

My project started with an upside-down tomato cage. The base tines are held together with a rubber band. It's a highly technical craft plan. From there, I just wind leaves and garlands around the base to create a green backdrop. Then,

items like pinecones, berries and ribbon complete the festive look. I figured I could even spray it with a bottled pine scent.

I started my project last weekend, but ran into a snafu of not having enough garlands, so the topiary currently sits half wrapped in the dining room.

My kids discovered it yesterday and inquired as to its purpose.

"It's going to be our Christmas tree," I said.

They were collectively silent – a feat not often accomplished.

Then the youngest spoke up. "That's supposed to be a tree?" he asked, putting a large inflection on his last word. He got up off the couch to get a closer look. A couple others followed him – another feat not often accomplished. They hadn't been this interested in my activities since the time I made homemade chocolate chip cookies two years ago. They surrounded the tomato cage, scrutinizing its every leaf.

"It's not done yet," I said. "It's going to look

great."

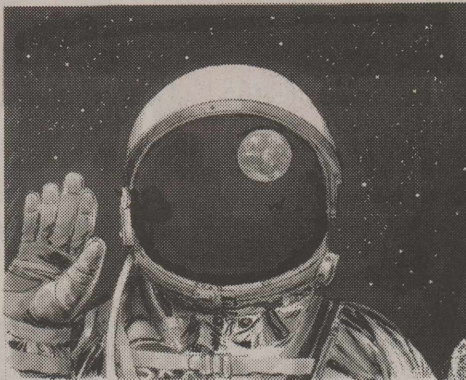
"But it's not a tree," the youngest said. "Of course it's not," I said. "It's a topiary!"

"Who's ever heard of a Christmas topiary?" he asked.

"You have now," I said. "We're starting a new tradition."

They weren't convinced. They seldom are when I have one of my creative inspirations. Still, I refuse to let them put a damper on my topiary spirit. And, by December 25, bet I'll have them singing new words to the traditional carol, "Oh topiary, oh topiary, how lovely are thy branches."

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



Godspeed, John Glenn

An International Collection of Nativity Scenes

Iris Bradley of Sonora loves to show her collection of nativity scenes.

"I've had the pleasure of collecting them and making memories of where I bought them or the friends who gave them to me. So it's a treat for me to be able to share it with other people."

She has nativity scenes from forty-five countries.

"All of them are catalogued and numbered on the bottoms. I have pictures of them in the catalog so I can keep a good record of where I bought them or where a friend bought one and gave it to me. One from Argentina was hand-carried on a plane. Another one was carried on a flight from France. The one new one I bought this year is from Nepal."

They're all sizes. Some are tiny enough to fit into a small matchbox. The nativities are made of all types of material, from rocks to animal fur. She enjoys the unusual ones.

"This one is from Hawaii and the person who made it used a coconut shell. This is from Alaska and has Jesus in an igloo and the three kings brought him fish. All of these on this shelf are from different countries in Africa. I appreciate that they can take something everyday and make something lovely with it. This one used banana bark. This one used cornhusks. This nativity has a zebra and a giraffe for the animals."

When you enter her spacious home, you see nativity scenes placed with museum care on tables and shelves. They are everywhere.

"I have 315 in my total collection. I don't have the flat space to put them all out, so some come out this year and maybe some others come out next year. It's always changing a little bit. It takes a couple of weeks to put them out."

When her husband was stationed in Germany in 1980, she went with him. That's when she got serious about her collecting.

"One of the first things I bought was this one from Spain, which I thought was so cute. We were in Germany for three years and I continued to purchase different ones while we were over there. I thought it was interesting that even though we were there at the height of the cold war, with the Berlin wall and all, countries behind the wall were Communist and not supposed to have any religion, but there were some artisans that were going against their government and making nativities. I appreciate that. I have several made beyond the old iron curtain."

Her collection has items from Viet Nam, Sri Lanka, India and Russia, just to name a few of the countries represented. One shelf has 42 nativities on it, most of them from foreign countries. Her favorite is one she and her parents made when she was younger. It's one of only two nativities she had when she went to Germany.

www.tumbleweedsmith.com

Heard Around Town

There are heroes and then there are HEROES like John Glenn who looked danger in the eye and daily put themselves at risk on our behalf. Those few are too soon passing from our presence and into the pantheon of heaven. May we forever remember them and their unflinching sacrifice. Godspeed, John Glenn.

Slices of Life



By Jill Pertler

The Devil's River News

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MASKED RIDER PUBLISHING, INC.
224 E. Main Street
Sonora, Texas 76950

Ph: 325.387.2507
Fax: 325.853.3378

Email: editor@devilsriver.news
Website: www.devilsriver.news
USPS 155-920

Randy Mankin
Publisher

Kimberley Meyer
Editor

Kathy Mankin
Business Manager

Lauren Rubio
Circulation & Production

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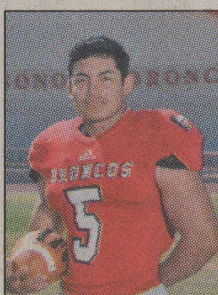
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LADY BRONCOS
SONORA TOURNAMENT
DECEMBER 8 - 10, 2016

SONORA v. TLCA
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SONORA v. REAGAN COUNTY
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JUNIOR VARSITY

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SONORA v. BRACIET
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BRONCOS
SONORA TOURNAMENT
DECEMBER 8 - 10, 2016

SONORA v. ELDORADO
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SONORA v. REAGAN COUNTY
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SONORA v. REAGAN COUNTY
30 - 25
SCORERS: Cordell 10; Creek 10; Solis 4; Shannon 4; Yourgalite 2.

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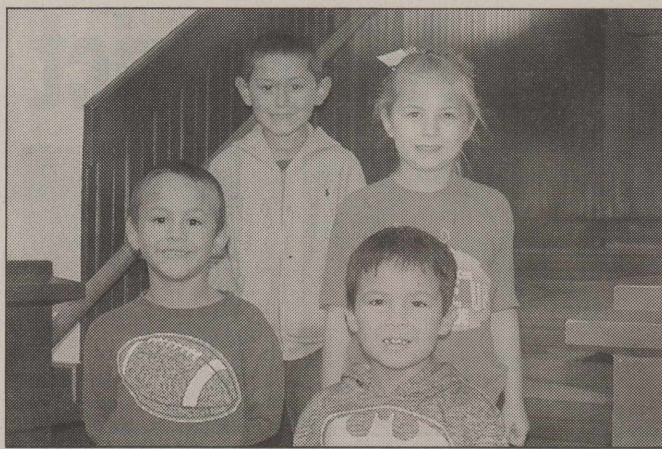
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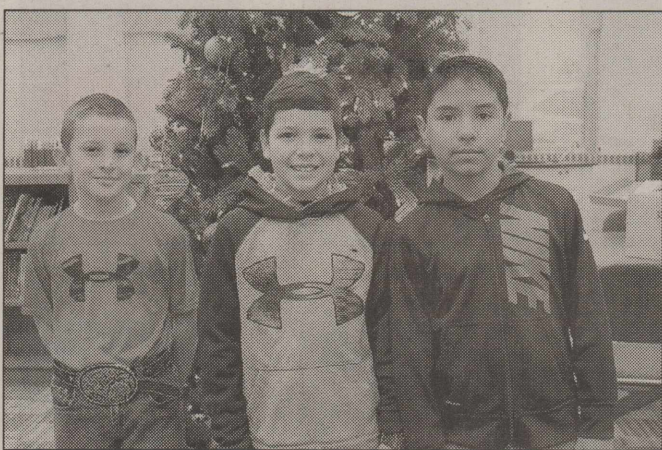
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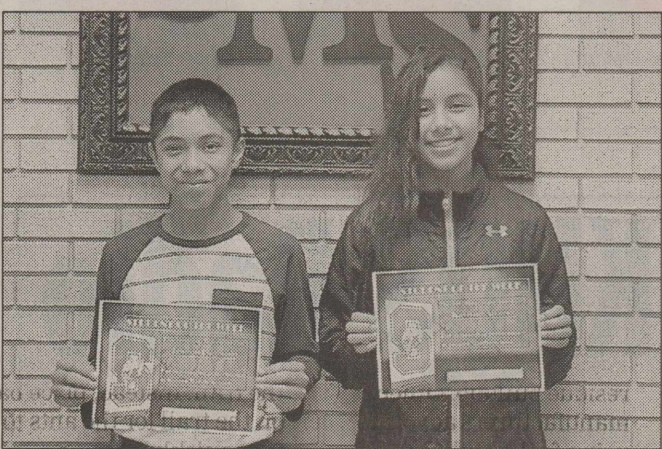
Elementary School Students for the week of December 12-16 Syllas Robles, Pre-K, Rico Valdez, K, Samantha Nichols, 1st, Noah Davis, 2nd.

Sonora ISD
Students of the Week

Brought to you by:
EATON HILL
 NATURE CENTER & PRESERVE



Intermediate School Students for the week of December 12-16, Reilly Wardlaw, 3rd, Braden Bailey, 4th, Marcos Perez-Garcia, 5th.



Middle School Students For The Week of December 12-16, Ignancio Coronado, 6th, Damian Martinez (not Pictured), 7th, Kaylynn Alvarez, 8th.

Thu 12/15	Fri 12/16	Sat 12/17	Sun 12/18	Mon 12/19
53/48	64/55	74/36	51/29	52/28
Cloudy	Cloudy	Clouds/Sunshine	Clouds/Sunshine	Cloudy
Sunrise 7:32 a.m. Sunset 5:43 p.m.	Sunrise 7:33 a.m. Sunset 5:44 p.m.	Sunrise 7:33 a.m. Sunset 5:44 p.m.	Sunrise 7:34 a.m. Sunset 5:45 p.m.	Sunrise 7:34 a.m. Sunset 5:45 p.m.

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Chavez and Castro Attend Newly-Elected Sheriffs Seminar

Sheriff Elect Oscar G. Chavez and Chief Deputy Designee DuWayne Castro from the Sutton County Sheriff's Office recently attended the Sheriff's Association of Texas Newly Elected Sheriffs Seminar held in San Marcos, Texas, December 5-9, 2016.

The Newly Elected Sheriffs Seminar is held every four years after election time for new Sheriffs and Chief Deputies, education, teaching and preparing them for office.

This year, participants received training on a variety of topics, including Duties and Responsibilities of the Sheriff, Model Policies, Inmate Transportation, Open Records, Media Relations and Texas Department of Public Safety Resources.

Training also included TDCJ Intake and Classification, Estray Law, Parole Warrants, Civil Process, Texas Commission on Jail Standards Regulations, Cold Case Review Team, Evidence and Property

Room Liabilities, New Technology, Labor Law, Ethics and many more.

This seminar also allows them a comprehensive overview of their responsibilities of their new office and a chance to meet their peers to whom they can look to for support during the coming term.

The Sheriff's Association of Texas (SAT) is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to increasing the effectiveness of local law enforcement in Texas.

Through the support of their Members, SAT provides training, legal/technical information, and other critical resources to law enforcement personnel in Texas.

SAT also offers scholarships to leace Officers and their children who wish to continue their education.

In addition, they honor Fallen Officers with their Lost Lawman Memorial. For more information or to join as a member, visit www.txsheriffs.org or call (512) 445-5884

Wildlife Webinar Slated for Dec. 15

TWA and Texas A&M AgriLife Extension is pleased to announce their next Wildlife for Lunch webinar Thursday,

December 15th, 2016, from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. CDT.

The topic, "Patterns of Supplemental Feed Consumption in White-tailed Deer" is presented by Emily Belsar, Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute.

This presentation will start with discussions about using supplemental feed as a tool for managing white-tailed deer and address the pros and cons of supplemental feed use. It will then transition to part of a research project which focuses on specific issues with supplemental feed, such as loss to non-targets and social exclusion from the feeders. It will also address patterns of feed use by deer during different months of the year.

Anyone interested may participate with the use of a by using a computer, smartphone, or tablet and internet access.

The cost is free.

To sign on, simply point your browser to <https://texas-wildlife.webx.com> on the day of the webinar and click to join the Wildlife for Lunch webinar. Each web based seminar is fully interactive and allows you to engage the experts, make comments, and ask questions during the course of the presentation.

Also, WFL Webinars are now available for viewing on your smart phone or tablet. To sign on, download the WebEx app and either follow the link above or key in the meeting number (661 674 996) to access the event directly.

Each webinar is archived and available for viewing following the initial air date at the TWA website at <https://www.texas-wildlife.org/webinars>, for those who cannot attend the live webinar.

For more information please contact TWA's Clinton Faas at cfaaas@texas-wildlife.org or call 1-800-839-9453

Please attend the retirement party for
Sheriff Joe Fincher
December 27, 2016
 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
 District Courtroom - 2nd floor (Courthouse)
 Time of Service:
 Deputy: Jan. 1977 - Dec. 2000
 Sheriff: Jan. 2001 - Dec 2016
 Please join us in thanking Joe for his public service

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 The Caverns of Sonora Staff

Weekly Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

- Nymph who loved Narcissus
- Church council
- Nice friend
- Avoid
- Make corrections
- Jack Horner's find
- Form of address for a sovereign
- Piebald
- Speech defect
- Finish
- Confection favor
- Irish literary great
- Mist
- Type size
- Versifier
- Harridan
- Entertain
- Pine
- Trim
- Natural resource
- Entertainer Adams
- Incidentally
- Licit
- Word with break, dream or light
- Westernmost of the Aleutians
- Animate
- ___ rule
- Starchy foodstuff from orchids
- Basic
- Choose
- At the top; prefix
- Ghostly
- Scent
- Ode
- Closes securely
- Chills and fever
- Indefinite amount
- Units of measure
- Gala party

DOWN

- Being; L
- Place for a Van Dyke
- Barrel organ
- Unit
- Public opinion
- Leaves out
- Portable shelter
- Against
- Came to earth
- Essenal
- Kaffir warriors
- Took of, as a hat
- Stoppe
- Londo gallery
- Method of learning
- Artist's ipod
- lowa town noted for cooperaves
- French sldier
- Merely
- Olio
- Kind of flu
- Celt
- Mimicked
- Put up a sin
- Female ruf
- Uncomplicated
- Raised pltrms
- Aloe
- Most recent
- Unit in physcs
- Fence crossig
- California civ
- Religious paiting
- Playing card
- Navigation hazard
- ___ caelestes
- divine wrath
- Sulk
- Arboretum specimen
- Dolt

"DOUBLE TALK"

See solution on Page 8

This crossword puzzle is sponsored each week by
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Members of the Sutton County Underground Water Conservation District welcome a new board member Tuesday, December 13, 2016. Front Row (L-R) Jacqui Thomas, technician, Max Howorth, Director and Meredith Earwood, operations manager. Back Row (L-R) Jim Polonis, General Manager, Robert Sol Meyer, Chairman, James Archer, new board member and Joe David Ross, Director.

Sutton County UWCD Board Welcomes New Member

James Archer was sworn into office Tuesday, December 13, 2016. He will serve as a member of the Sutton County Under Water Conservation District Board of Directors.

He takes the place of former member Bob Brockman.

Brockman stepped down

following his recent election to serve as Sutton County Commissioner Precinct 2.

Archer is a long time resident of Sutton County and business owner. He is an active member in the community and shares a genuine concern for the conservation and protection of our vital water resources.

ASU Fall Commencement Activities

Nearly 600 students are scheduled to graduate during Angelo State University's fall commencement ceremonies on Saturday, Dec. 17, in the Junell Center/Stephens Arena, 2235 S. Jackson St.

Graduates of the College of Education and Archer College of Health and Human Services, as well as graduates of the College of Graduate Studies in those academic fields, will walk the stage during a 10 a.m. ceremony.

Graduates of the College of Arts and Humanities, College of Business and College of Science and Engineering, as well as graduates of the College of Graduate Studies in those academic fields, will walk the stage in a 2 p.m. ceremony.

All of ASU's commencement activities are open free to the public, and the two ceremonies may also be viewed live on the ASU website at www.angelo.edu/commencement.

During ASU's commencement, 172 master's degrees and 418 bachelor's degrees are scheduled to be presented.

Graduate students will earn 25 master of arts, six master of professional accountancy, two master of agriculture, 13 master of business administration, 89 master of education, 31 master of science, four master of science in nursing, and 21 master of security studies degrees.

Undergraduates will receive 79 bachelor of arts, 62 bachelor of business administration, seven bachelor of fine arts, 20 bachelor

of interdisciplinary studies, three bachelor of intelligence, security studies and analysis, three bachelor of music, 185 bachelor of science, 45 bachelor of science in nursing, 11 bachelor of security studies, and three bachelor of social work degrees.

The commencement speaker will be ASU alum Dr. Hector Gonzales, president of Southwest Texas Junior College in Uvalde since 2012. A 1992 ASU graduate, Gonzales was recognized by U.S. President Barack Obama as a Champion of Change for Community Colleges in 2011, and he helped lead SWTJC to recognition as a Top 10 Community College by the Aspen Institute in 2012.

Also active in his community, Gonzales has served as director of the Uvalde Area Development Foundation and as treasurer of the Uvalde Area Chamber of Commerce.

He has also been on the Board of Directors for Uvalde Memorial Hospital since 2001.

The commencement ceremonies will highlight two days of graduation-related events on the ASU campus.

On Friday, Dec. 16, the ASU Nursing Department will conduct its annual pinning ceremony at 6:30 p.m. in the Houston Harte University Center, 1910 Rosemont Drive.

Pinning ceremonies became a U.S. tradition in the early 1800s to mark nursing students' completion of their education and entry into the profession.

Home Horticulture Tips For December

Finishing up the growing season also has its chores. Here are a few tips to keep in mind.

Planting & Pruning:
November through February is a good time to plant trees and shrubs. And, don't spare the pruning shears when transplanting bare-rooted woody plants.

Cut the tops back at least one-third to one-half, to compensate for the roots lost when digging the plant.

Late December through February is usually the best time to prune trees. You might consider using a pruning paint on the cut surface. Be on the Lookout:

Don't forget to irrigate your trees once a month if it gets dry this winter.

Drain and store garden hoses and watering equipment in a readily accessible location. All hoses connected to the outside hose connection should be detached, drained, and stored away during the Winter. Leaving hoses connected with water inside of them will cause the hoses to freeze and split.

Mowers and power tools that use fuel also need attention. Pay attention to manufacturer recommendations.

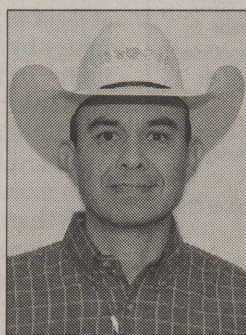
Why? Some recommend draining the fuel and running the engine until fuel in the carburetor is used up. This is to prevent gummy residue buildup. Other manufacturers advocate using fuel stabilizers.

The recommendation is to fill your tank with fresh, stabilized fuel. Then run the engine for a couple

of minutes. This gets the stabilized fuel into the carburetor and fuel lines. The contention is that if the tank is empty, moisture will condense and contaminate fuel.

The last tip deals with pharaoh ants, also known as sugar ants.

They are tiny, orangish-colored ants that may become a nuisance in homes.



Pascual Hernandez

Colonies like to locate in warm areas near food and water, so they are usually found in kitchen or bathroom areas.

Mating takes place within the colony and the colony spreads

by "budding". "Budding" is when a queen and many worker ants leave the parent colony to create a new colony.

The ants can also "bud" and create a new queen from brood (eggs, larvae, pupae) if they are separated from the parent colony. Due to budding, it is best to use ant baits to manage pharaoh ants.

If pesticides are used, it stimulates budding of the colony and creates more colonies. Baits should be placed where ants are trailing to food and water sources.

It is best to reduce other available food so that the ants will more readily take the bait product. If ants are trailing, do not wipe away the trail. Instead, place bait on the trail for the ants to find quickly.

For more information, contact the Sutton County Extension Office.

Sonora Animal Control Asks Pet Owners to Act Responsibly

Due to numerous complaints of people illegal dumping animals, the city of Sonora animal control is asking for any information on anyone who may be unlawfully discarding animals.

If you are a pet owner and need to confidentially relinquish a pet or pets to animal control, call the Sonora Animal Control at 325-387-3888.

Animal abandonment is a crime and should be reported immediately.

The Texas Penal Code

Section 42.092 states, "Animal cruelty includes abandoning an animal in the person's custody without making arrangements for assumption of custody by another person."

To report anyone illegally dumping animals, immediately call the Sonora Police Department at 325-387-3888 or after hours call the Sutton County Sheriff's office at 325-387-2288.

Devil's River News Weekly Rainfall Report			
December 1-13	2.30 in.	December 1-13	1.47 in.
November	2.05 in.	November	2.23 in.
October	0.00 in.	October	0.00 in.
September	5.78 in.	September	4.31 in.
August	1.74 in.	August	4.82 in.
July	.19 in.	July	.00 in.
June	3.16 in.	June	3.97 in.
May	2.70 in.	May	5.31 in.
April	2.58 in.	April	2.95 in.
March	3.39 in.	March	2.62 in.
February	0.77 in.	February	1.04 in.
January	0.36 in.	January	0.38 in.
2016 Year-to-Date TOTAL	25.02 in.	2016 Year-to-Date TOTAL	29.10 in.
2015	23.87 in.	2015	25.31 in.
2014	14.32 in.	2014	12.72 in.
2013	25.12 in.	2013	25.00 in.
2012	16.06 in.	2012	17.82 in.
2011	11.50 in.	2011	10.49 in.
2010	20.37 in.	2010	17.94 in.
2009	21.67 in.	2009	28.44 in.

Rainfall data collected at LCRA weather station located 14 miles southeast of Sonora. Rainfall data collected at LCRA weather station located 17 miles east-northeast of Sonora.

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may occur 30 to 60 years after exposure to asbestos. Many workers were exposed from the 1940s through the 1970s. Industrial and construction workers, along with their families (second hand exposure) are among those at risk for mesothelioma, lung cancer or gas-tro cancer (throat, stomach, colon). Call us for professional insight.
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Richard A. Dodd, L.C.
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City of Sonora
Senior Center
MONDAY December 19
Pulled Pork on Bun, Pickles & Onions, Baked Beans, Herbed Corn, Mandarin Oranges, Milk
TUESDAY December 20
BBQ Chicken, Sautéed Potatoes w/Onion, Coleslaw, Wheat Bread, Frosted Spice Cake, Milk
WEDNESDAY December 21
Roast Turkey, Dressing w/ Poultry Gravy, Green Beans, Roll, Cranberry Sauce, Pie, Milk
THURSDAY December 22
Grilled Chicken Sandwich, Lettuce, Tomato & Pickles, Corn, Pudding, Milk
FRIDAY December 23
Senior Center will be closed for Christmas Holidays.
Transportation to and from the center may call 325-387-3941.

CHURCH SERVICES DIRECTORY
"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control." - Galatians 5:22-23

St. John's Episcopal Church 404 East Poplar St. (325) 387-2955 Sunday Services @ 10:30 am	First Baptist Church Matt Killough, Pastor 111 East Oak Street (325) 387-2951 Sunday School @ 9:45 am Sunday Worship @ 10:45 am Wednesday @ 6:00	First United Methodist Church Bill Harris, Pastor 205 North Water Ave. (325) 387-2466 Sunday Worship @ 10:55 am
Prebyterian Church of the Good Shepherd Lewis Allen, Pastor 401 East Mulberry St. (325) 387-2616 Sunday Services @ 11:00 am and 5:30 pm	St. Ann Catholic Church Rev. Terry Brenon 311 W. Plum St. (325) 387-2278 Saturday Mass 6:00 pm English Sunday Mass @ 8:00 am Spanish and 10:30 am English	Church of Christ Roy Smalling 304 North Water Ave. (325) 387-3190 Sunday Worship @ 11:00 and @ 5:30 pm KHOS 92.1 Radio 8:00 Sundays
Hope Lutheran 417 Southeast 2nd St. (325) 387-5366 Sunday Worship @ 4:00 pm	Lighthouse Don Longoria, Pastor 1705 North Crockett Ave. All Services Start @ 10:30 am (325) 387-9100	

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Viva Sonora Pavilion Pavers Project OK'd by Commissioners

County Commissioners approved a request from Viva Sonora to move forward with their Pavilion Paver Project during their regular meeting Monday, December 12.

With the Court's approval, Viva Sonora in conjunction with the Sonora Chamber of Commerce is offering the opportunity to purchase personalized pavers for the entrance to the pavilion.

The Sonora Chamber of Commerce is mailing information and order forms to Chamber members to let them know about this special opportunity.

However, anyone is welcome to purchase a paver. For more information contact the Chamber.

In regular business, commissioners approved the minutes of the November 28th meeting, and accounts payable as presented.

County Auditor, Maura Weingart, reported the receipt of compensation in the amount of \$508 for county employee participation in the recent Wellness Program challenge. Some employees received \$60 individually as incentive for reaching their goal.

John Wilson, Justice of Peace, reported 21 people magistrated and 577 new docket cases for November. In addition, the JP's office collected on 542 cases for a total \$131,166.15 in revenue. Of that total, \$79,843.30 is retained by the county.

Janalyn Jones, County Treasurer updated the court on the status of monies redeemed and applied towards jail repairs and renovation. The Bank & Trust waived the early redemption fee on a \$200,000 CD and that money was transferred into the Sheriff Seizure (checking) Account

to pay for materials needed to begin the jail project.

Other reports and updates heard by the court include Road and Bridge, Library and Extension Office.

Rachel Duran, County Clerk reported on the November revenue collections. County Court fees collected total \$3,859.68 and District Court collections total \$15,162.20 for the month of November 2016. Additionally, the Clerk's office redeemed \$3,910 in Open Records fees.

Judge Steve Smith informed the court of the date and time for the County Christmas party. The event is scheduled for Thursday, December 22 at 6 p.m. Employees may bring a guest for \$8 per person. Please RSVP to Maura Weingart.

Smith also informed commissioners of a retirement party honoring Sheriff Joe Fincher scheduled for Tuesday, December 27th from 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Lastly, on the agenda commissioners discussed payment of the remainder of Robert Hughes vacation days. The court decided that Hughes must follow the same guidelines as all other county employees and use accrued vacation before the year end renewal of his employment or lose it.

Without further comments or discussion, the court adjourned.

Judge Steve Smith presided over the meeting. Commissioners Carl Teaff, Mike Villanueva, Fred Perez and Bob Brockman were present.

The next regular meeting of the Sutton County Commissioners Court is slated for Tuesday, December 27 at 9:00 a.m. in the Sutton County Annex Building.



Sonora ISD Menu

PK-5th : Free Breakfast & \$2.45 Lunch
Middle & High School: \$1.95 Breakfast & \$2.85 Lunch
*Menu Subject to Change

Monday- December 19th Breakfast

Sausage Biscuit Or Cereal/Crackers, 100% Fruit Juice, Fruit, Milk Variety Lunch
Hot Ham & Ch. Sand., HB, or Ch. Burger w/Hamburger Garnish, or Chicken Fajita Salad

Broccoli Bites, Baby Carrots, Oven Fries, Mixed Fruit, Milk Variety

After School Program

2PM Release, No After School Snack

Tuesday- December 20th Breakfast

Breakfast Boat Or Cereal/Crackers, 100% Fruit Juice, Fruit, Milk Variety Lunch
Pizza, Asian Bowl w/Eggroll, or Chef Salad

Tomato & Cucumber Cup, Garden Salad, Snowball Salad, Milk Variety

After School Program

2PM Release for School Holiday

School will be closed

December 21 through January 4.

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Giving a Bicycle for Christmas? Don't Forget the Helmet!

Bicycles are always a popular gift at Christmas time, and many parents are shopping now for that perfect new bicycle for their child - maybe even their first bicycle.

This is an excellent opportunity to teach children about the importance of wearing a helmet to protect their head.

According to National Safe Kids, helmets reduce the risk of head injury by at least 45 percent, brain injury by 33 percent, facial injury by 27 percent and fatal injury by 29 percent.

Safe Kids also reports that bicycles are associated with more injuries in children than any other product except automobiles.

The Texas Medical Association reports that head injuries account for more than 60 percent of bicycle-related deaths, which reinforces why helmets should be considered an important part of bike riding.

"Learning to ride a bicycle is not just child's play," Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service agent Jessica Stapper said. "In addition to promoting healthy living habits, riding bicycles can teach children about becoming independent. With this new independence, children need to learn to follow important safety rules. One

of the most important rules is to always wear a helmet."

Parents can be great role models to promote bicycle safety by wearing helmets on every trip.

A child who rides with companions wearing helmets or adults in general is more likely to wear a helmet himself. Even very young toddlers on tricycles should wear helmets to establish good habits.

When selecting a helmet for your child, follow these tips:

- Look for a helmet that has been certified to meet Consumer Product Safety Commission standards.

- Make sure the helmet fits properly. To do this, measure around the rider's head about an inch above his or her eyebrows, and select an appropriately sized helmet.

- When wearing a helmet, make sure the rim sits level from front to back and is worn low and just above the eyebrows.

- Make sure the helmet fits snugly. Adjust the helmet's size with extra foam pads, which are provided with most helmets.

- Buckle the chin strap on every ride.

- Replace a helmet if it has been in a crash, even if no damage is visible.

In addition to helmets, parents need to find safe places to ride, such

as parks, sidewalks, or playgrounds.

It is important to supervise preschoolers when they are riding, and keep children younger than 10 from riding bikes in the street.

When teaching children to ride bicycles, also educate them on these tips for safe bicycle riding:

- Always wear a bike helmet.

- Make sure the bicycle is the right size for the rider and in good working order.

- Wear the proper clothing - neon, fluorescent, or other bright colors when riding day or night.

- Teach children to make eye contact with drivers.

- Ride in the same direction as other traffic.

- Use hand and arm signals.

- There should only be one rider per saddle.

- Keep at least one hand on the handlebars.

- The bicycle must have a white light on the front and a red reflector or red light on the rear (for riding at night).

- Use effective brakes that are capable of making the braked wheel skid.

For more information, visit the Bicycle Helmet Safety Institute's website at <http://www.bhsi.org/>, Bike Texas at <http://www.biketexas.org>, Safe Kids Worldwide at <http://www.safekids.org/bike>

Retirement Reception Honoring Tom Payton

The Edwards Plateau SWCD Directors is hosting a reception to honor Tom Payton for his 38 years of service with the USDA Natural Resources

Conservation Service. Everyone is invited to attend.

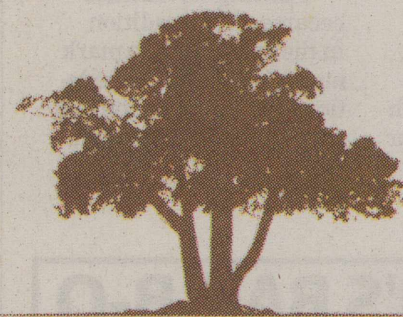
The reception will be held Tuesday, December 20, 2016, from 11:30 a.m.

until 2:30 p.m. at the USDA Service Center Office, 301 S. Crockett Avenue in Sonora.

For More Information please contact Iris Garza at 325-387-2369.



Merry Christmas!
From all of us



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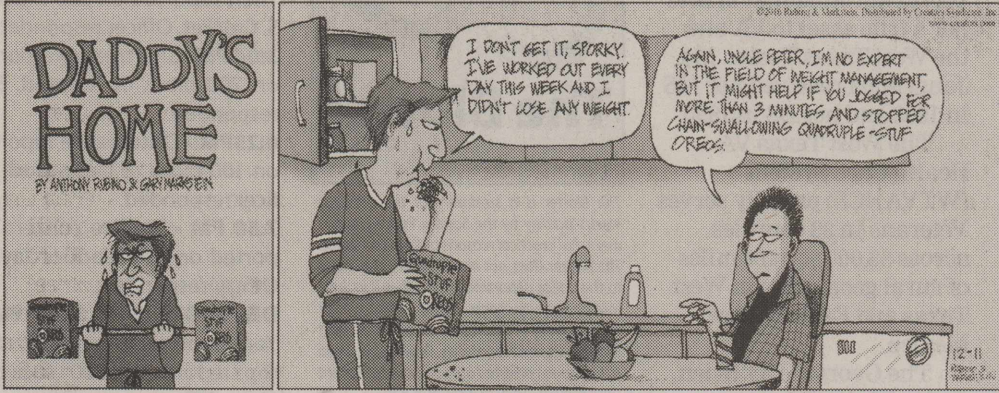
Craig Leonard
325-226-3347
craig@cauthorndgriffin.com

Guy Cauthorn
512-658-0134
cauthorng@anco.com

DRN Comics

Daddy's Home

by Tony Rubino and Gary Markstein



Dogs of C-Kennel

by Mick and Mason Mastroianni



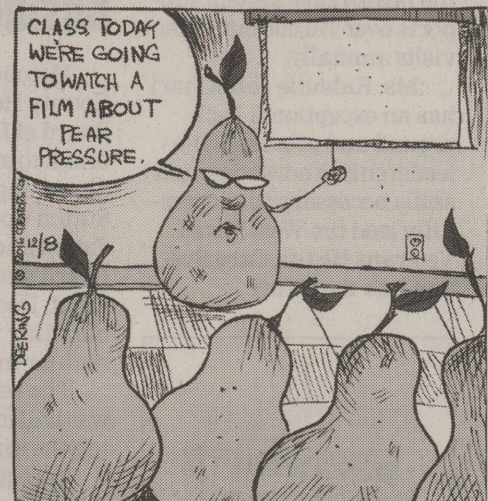
Strange Brew

by John Deering



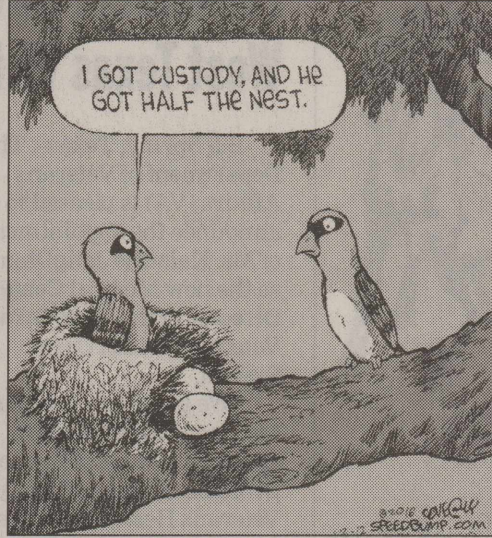
Strange Brew

by John Deering



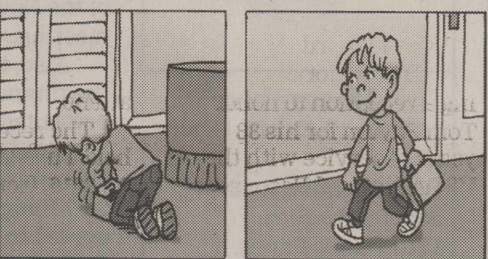
Speed Bumps

by Dave Coverly



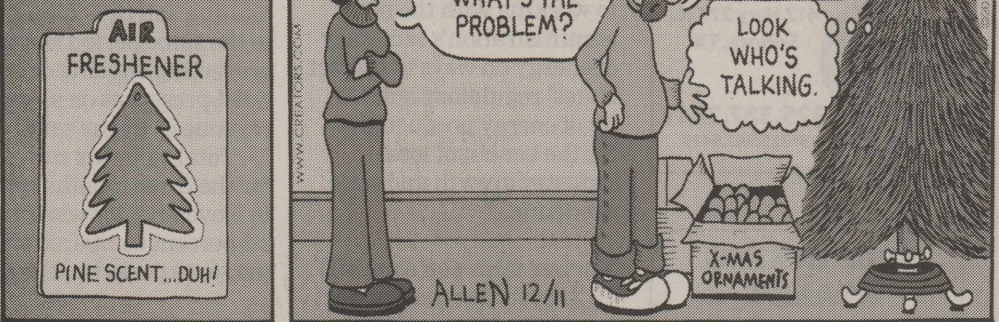
Speed Bumps

by Dave Coverly



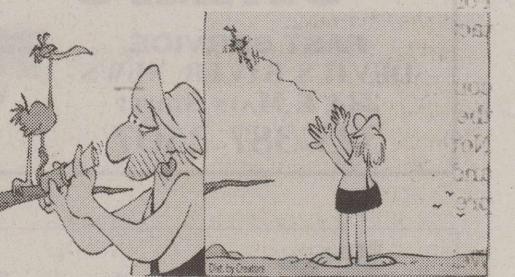
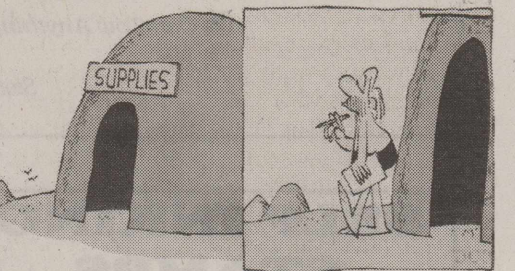
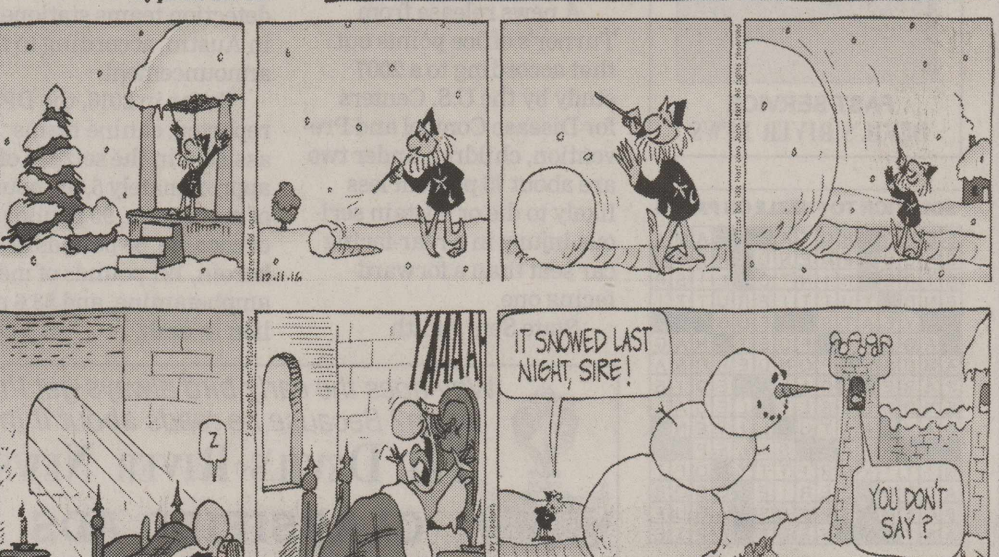
Nest Heads

by John Allen



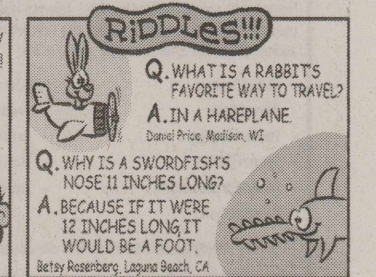
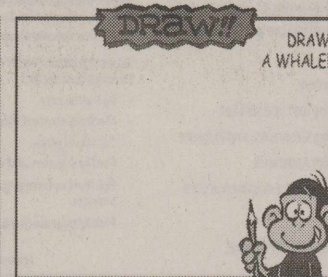
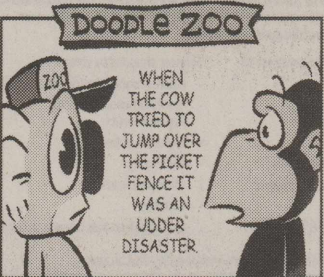
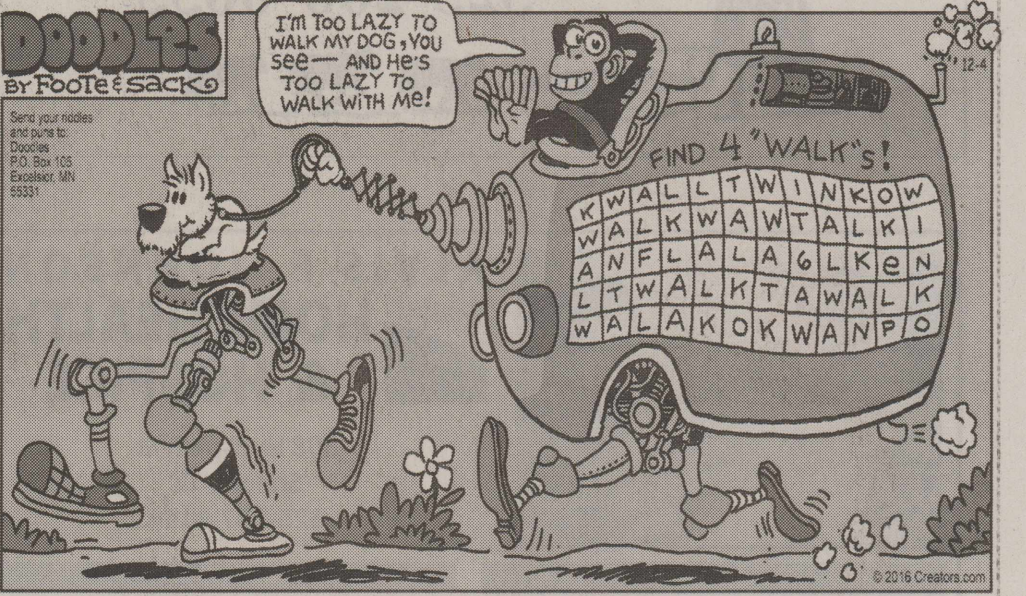
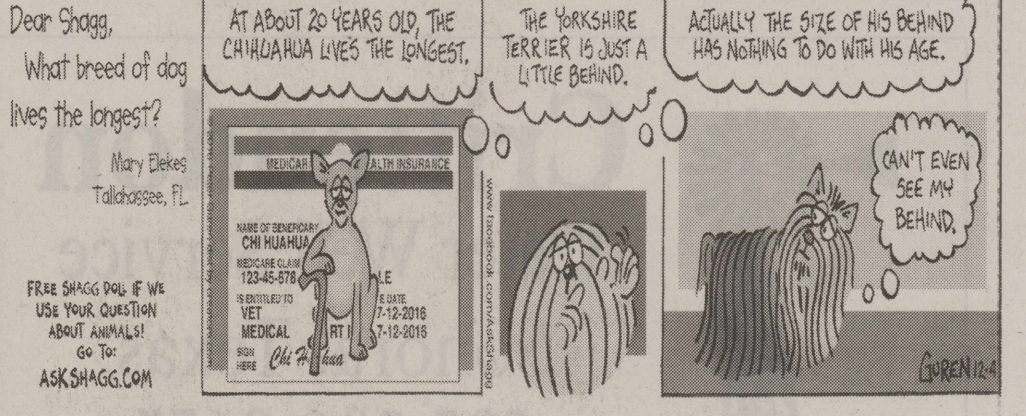
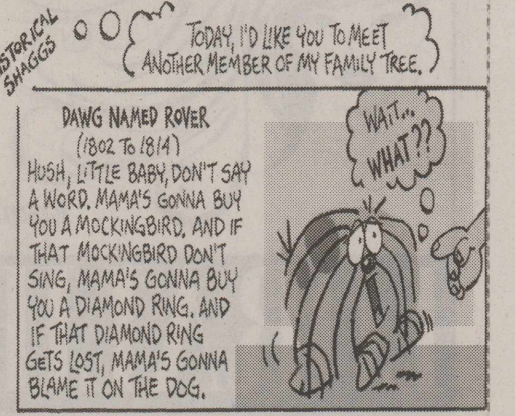
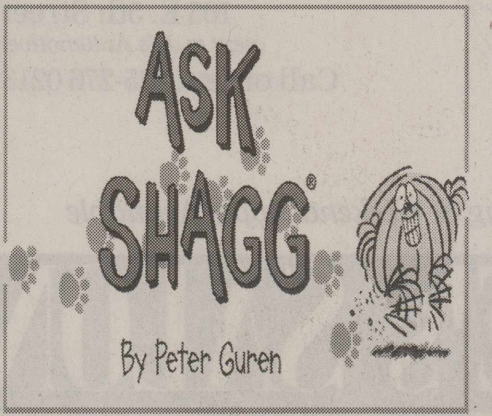
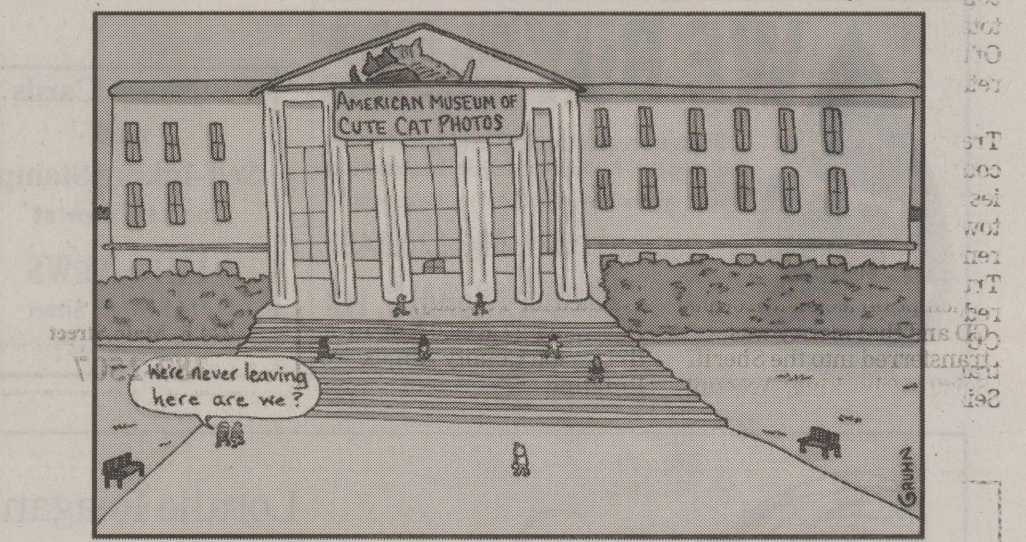
Wizard of ID

by Parker and Hart



WebDonuts

by Mike Gruhn



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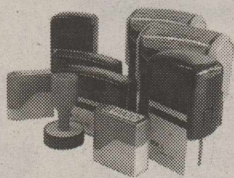
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Permanent Director announced at West Texas VA Health Care System

Big Spring, Texas – The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is pleased to announce the appointment of Ms. Kalautie JangDhari as the new Medical Center Director of the West Texas Veterans Health Care System.

“We are excited to bring Ms. JangDhari on board as the new Medical Center Director of the West Texas Veterans Health Care System,” Mr. Joseph Dalpiaz, Network Director, Heart of Texas Health Care Network said. “Her sound leadership qualities and proven experience will be valuable assets for the health care system, the employees, volunteers and most importantly, for the Veterans we are honored to serve. Ms. JangDhari will begin her appointment on December 11, 2016.”

Ms. JangDhari is currently the acting Interim Director of the West Texas VA Health Care System in Big Spring, TX.

She has held her permanent position as the Associate Director of the Orlando VA Medical Center beginning July 2012.

Her position prior to Orlando, FL Health Care System was at the VA Pacific Islands Health Care System, Honolulu, HI from Sept 2006-Jul 2012.

Ms. JangDhari started her career as an Administrative Fellow in June, 1993. She has an extensive

VA background that makes her a true asset to VA and the West Texas Team. Ms. JangDhari received her MS in 1993 and her BS in 1990.

The West Texas VA Health Care System (WTVAHCS) proudly serves Veterans in 33 counties across 53,000 square miles of rural geography in West Texas and Eastern New Mexico.

The George H. O'Brien, Jr. VA Medical Center is located in Big Spring, Texas.

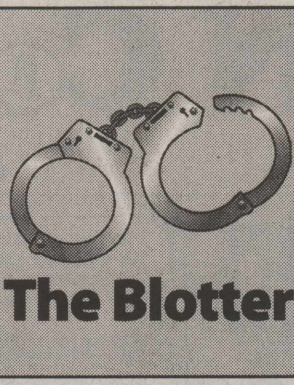
The Permian Basin Community Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC) is located in Midland/Odessa, Texas, with other CBOCs in Abilene, TX, San Angelo, TX, and Hobbs, NM.

There are two outreach clinics in Stamford, TX, and Fort Stockton, TX.

Two Vet Centers also provide services and are located in Abilene, TX and Midland, TX.

More than 56,000 Veterans reside within the service area, of which approximately 17,000 (30 percent) receive care from the WTVAHCS. On average, the health care system supports over 170,000 outpatient visits annually.

Ms. Kalautie JangDhari has an exceptional background and possesses the leadership, knowledge, and skills necessary to successfully lead the West Texas Veterans Health Care System into the future.



The Blotter

The Blotter is a summary of the previous week's activity by the Sonora Police Department. For practical reasons of time and space, The Blotter does not include every call made to the police department, nor does it include routine security checks, minor traffic stops or routine patrols. Accidents of major impact may be reported separately. Subjects reported to have been arrested are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

INCIDENTS

DECEMBER 5 - 5:01 PM • Agency requested assistance. Officer responded.

DECEMBER 6 - 10:10AM • Assistance requested on 100 block of Deerwood. Officer responded.

6:15 PM • Officer requested for a civil matter on 100 block of Deerwood. Officer responded.

7:35 PM • Agency requested assistance. Officer responded.

DECEMBER 7 - 10:10 AM • Officer requested on 100 block of Deerwood. Officer responded.

10:52 AM • Theft reported on

700 block of Carver. Officer responded.

4:24 AM • Disturbance reported on 700 block of St. Ann's. Officer responded.

DECEMBER 8 - 12:29 PM • Theft reported on 500 block of S. Crockett. Officer responded.

3:04 PM • SRO truancy reported on 700 block of Amistad. SRO responded.

6:23PM • Disturbance reported on 100 block of Deerwood. Officer responded.

7:50 PM • Welfare concern reported on 600 block of Tayloe. Officer responded.

DECEMBER 9 - 3:30 PM • Youths on local business rooftops reported on 200 block of E. Main. Officer responded.

4:41 PM • Caller reported a welfare concern on 100 block of Deerwood. Officer responded.

6:44 PM • Caller reported a welfare concern on 1300 block of Orient. Officer responded.

DECEMBER 11 - 8:43 AM • Burglary reported at Sonic. Officer responded.

12:58 PM • Alarm reported on 200 block of Sawyer Dr.. Officer responded.

6:29 PM • Theft reported at Tres Amigos. Officer responded.

11:54 PM • Suspicious vehicle reported at Chamber of Commerce. Officer responded.

SCHD Trustees Wrap up Regular Business Following Holiday Dinner

Members of the Sutton County Hospital District Board of Directors took a break to enjoy a holiday dinner together with the Sutton County Health Foundation and Hudspeth Ranch Board members Monday night, December 12, before handling the details of their regular monthly meeting.

The regular meeting was called to order following the dinner.

In regular business, the board approved the minutes of the November 14 regular meeting.

Also, trustees approved the financial report as presented.

Finally, members discussed and approved the 2017 Budget. The Board agreed to re-evaluate their financial plan in February

and make adjustments if necessary.

Without further discussion or action the meeting adjourned.

President Sharon Holman presided over the meeting. Edward Eawood, Don Longoria, Mary Humphrey, Lenora Pool and Adalita Alvarez were present. John Henry Strauch was absent.

The next special meeting of the SCHD Board of Directors is slated for Friday, December 16, 2016 at 12:00 p.m. in the multi-purpose room of the Wellness Center at LMH Memorial Hospital.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for January 9, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. in the multi-purpose room of the Wellness Center at LMH Memorial Hospital.

CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS: Craddick

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

Craddick, a member of the commission since 2012, succeeds fellow member David Porter as chair. Porter chose not to seek reelection and Wayne Christian, a former member of the Texas House of Representatives, won the race to replace Porter in the Nov. 8 general election. Christian will take office in January.

“Earlier this year,” Craddick said, “I was appointed to the National Petroleum Council, and I look forward to working with the new administration’s secretary of energy on ways to protect states’ regulatory authority of energy production for the benefit of local industry growth and state economies.”

Zaffirini, D-Laredo, on Dec. 8 filed SB 278, proposed legislation identical to Turner’s.

Revenue down in November

Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar on Dec. 2 announced that state sales tax revenue totaled \$2.51 billion in November, 2.9 percent less than in November 2015.

“Continued weakness in the manufacturing and wholesale trade sectors, combined with persistently lower levels of oil and gas drilling activity compared to the same period last year, is exerting ongoing downward pressures on sales tax revenues,” Hegar said.

Total sales tax revenue for the three months ending in November was down by 2.2 percent compared with the same period a year ago.

Canine teams graduate

The Texas Department of Public Safety on Dec. 9 announced the graduation of five troopers and five canines from an eight-week training program.

The new canine teams will join 46 other DPS teams stationed throughout Texas, including seven explosive-detection teams stationed in Austin, according to the announcement.

So far in 2016, the DPS reported, canine teams assisted in the seizure of approximately 5,000 pounds of marijuana, 90 pounds of cocaine, 63 pounds of heroin, 191 pounds of methamphetamine, and \$3.6 million in cash.

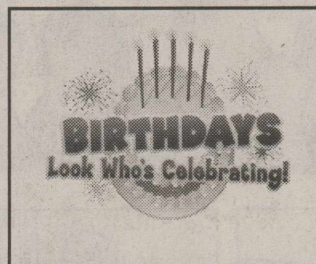
Turner files car seat bill
Legislation to require rear-facing car seats for children under two was filed by state Rep. Chris Turner, D-Grand Prairie, on Dec. 7.

If passed into law, Turner’s House Bill 519 would apply to all children under two unless the child weighs more than 40 pounds or exceeds 40 inches in height.

A news release from Turner’s office points out that according to a 2007 study by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, children under two are about 75 percent less likely to die or sustain serious injury in a rear-facing car seat than a forward-facing one.

State Sen. Judith

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December Birthdays
15th Dawn Cahill, Dustin Neff
16th Shannon Rushing, Janelle Vasquez
17th Dallas Payne, Olinda Jimenez, James Archer, Donna Seymour, Candise Martin
18th Juan Vasquez
19th Colton Moore, Rox Ann Friess, Teresa Vasquez
20th Matt Davenport, Tommy Arnwine, Eddie Hernandez, Amelia Butler, Swade Draper, Dave Love, Landon Castro
21st Janice Black, Cody Bush
22nd Westley Lipham, Edna Pochecho

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Sutton County is hereby requesting SEALED BID proposals for the county's electric service. Contract may be bid for one year, two years or more. The county currently has 48 meters. Please quote for kWh usage, nodal congestion charges, TDU surcharges and PUC assessment and gross receipts tax reimbursement and any other charges that your company may charge for providing services. Services begin on April 1, 2017.

For a list of meters (ESI ID#) and locations, please contact the Auditor's Office at 325/387-5380 or e-mail auditor@suttoncounty.org

Sealed Bids will be opened on December 27, 2016 at Commissioners Court Special Meeting at the Sutton County Annex Meeting Room at 9:00 A.M. Bids may be mailed or delivered to Sutton County Judge Steve Smith at 300 E. Oak, Suite #4, Sonora, Texas 76950, no later than 9:00 A.M. on December 27, 2016.

EMPLOYMENT

EMPLOYMENT NOTICE

The Sutton County Sheriff's will be accepting applications for the position of DEPUTY SHERIFF. The applicant must currently be certified as a basic peace officer and in good standing with TCOLE. Applications can be requested at the Sutton County Auditor's Office and returned to P.O. Box 16, Sonora, Tx 76950. For more information on this position call Oscar Chavez, Sheriff Elect or DuWayne Castro, Chief Deputy Designee at (325) 387-2288.

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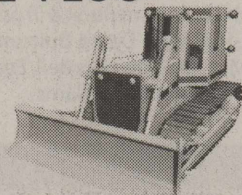
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184.80 Acres - Rolling Hills S/D (Tract 4)	Electricity	\$300,000.00
178.86 Acres - Rolling Hills S/D (Tract 6)	Double-Wide Home	\$350,000.00
334 Acres - SCR 410	House, Barn, Water Electricity	\$475,000.00
122.41 Acres - 3435 Loop 467	4BR / 2B Home	\$595,000.00
600 Acres - S. Service Rd. to IH-10	Near City Limits	\$957,000.00
772.35 Acres - SCR 403 (Off of HWY 277S)	Well	\$984,746.00
400 Acres - 680 RR 864 (Ft. McKavett Rd.)	3BR/2B Home, Pens, Barn & More	\$1,225,000.00
2424 Acres - FM 1691 (Bond Rd)	4 Water Wells, 3 Ponds & House	\$3,400,000.00
3934 Acres - PR 4412	Some Minerals Included, Pens, Barns, Utilities	\$4,307,730.00
3242 Acres - PR 4412	3 Homes, Barn, Shop, Pool	\$4,800,000.00
Crockett County	Improvements	Price
100 Acres Hersey Ranch S/D (Tract 25)	Furnished House, Blind/Feeder	\$179,500.00
2004 Acres - CR 101	House, Barn, Pens	\$2,104,935.00
5500 Acres - CR 402	Water, Electricity, Pens	\$4,125,000.00
Vel Verde County	Bedrooms/Baths	Price
5.46 Acres (Rough Canyon at Lake Amistad)	Commercial Lot	\$85,000.00
26.27 Acres (Juno Road)	Rock House, Log Cabin	\$295,000.00
Other Areas	Improvements	Price
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9.453 Acres, Junction, Texas	S. Llano River Property w/ house, barn, gardens	\$610,000.00
99.857 Acres, Mertzon, Texas	River Property w/ house, barn & more	\$1,595,000.00
996 Acres - Schleicher County, Texas	House, 3 Water Wells, Some Minerals	\$2,200,000.00

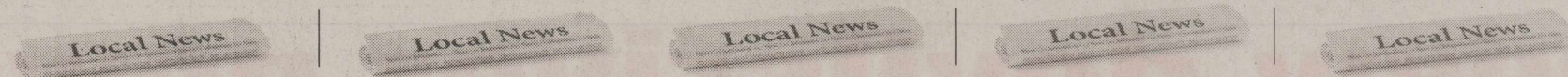
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City Council Stalemates on Ordinances Regarding Contract Permits and Animals

City Council members listened to residents' concerns and discussed the need to improve existing ordinances regarding permits for electrical, plumbing and AC as well as domestic animal issues during their regular meeting Monday, December 12, 2016.

The council entertained visitor comments and suggestions concerning regulations on issuing electrical, plumbing and AC permits.

Local contractors and City Code Enforcement Officer, Briggs Simms are concerned about the liability of non-licensed workers doing business in the community.

The current ordinance requires all contractors to pull the proper permits for all electrical, plumbing and AC work.

Residents and businesses are falling victim to faulty work completed by transient workers without proper licensing and permits.

The item was tabled until the next meeting on January 9, 2017. At that time the council will hear recommendations for naming committee persons to further look into the issue as well as specific modifications necessary to be outlined in such regulations.

Additionally, the council discussed ongoing issues and concerns over domestic animals in the community. Brigitte Rogers voiced her concerns and made suggestions to help with the situation. Susan Whitworth, Animal Control Officer, also shared ideas and possible solutions to help remedy problems.

Mayor Wanda Shurley

suggested modifications to the existing animal ordinance.

These suggestions included limiting ownership of domestic animals to no more than five per household, prohibiting outdoor feeding after 10:00 p.m., banning feeding animals on vacant properties and requiring owners to remove feces left by animals on property other than their own.

The council is seeking the council of City Attorney James Kosub to review the recommendations. Further discussion and/or decisions regarding changes to the existing animal ordinance was deferred to the next regular meeting on January 9.

In regular business, council members approved the minutes of the November 21, 2016 regular meeting and the Sonora Police Department Monthly Report. The Senior Center Monthly report was not available.

In other business, the council approved Ed Carrasco, City Manager, to select an Electric Company as provider for the Love's Project during their regular meeting Monday, December 12, 2016.

Council members approved a project grant to the Fling Ding Club in the amount of \$7,500 to assist with their annual event. Monies from the HOTS Tax Revenue fund will be used to subsidize the grant.

The council also approved the 2017 holidays observed by City of Sonora employees. These holidays were outlined in a prior meeting and are described

in the employee handbook.

In keeping with the holidays, council members approved Resolution 2016-R-12 authorizing the change of date for the January 16, 2017 regular meeting to January 9, 2017 due to the Martin Luther King holiday.

Additionally, the council approved Resolution 2016-R-12A authorizing the change of date for the February 20, 2017 regular meeting to February 13, 2017 due to the President's Day holiday.

With some hesitation, council members approved Case No. 2016-PL-12, South Heights addition Block 45A to re-plat lots 1A and 3A. A request to re-plat the lots was made so that they could be subdivided to allow two separate structures to be located on the lots.

Council members discussed but did not take action on a request from WTG to approve its third annual gas reliability infrastructure program interim rate adjustment. Because the increase is automatic, no approval from the council was necessary. Residents will see the increase reflected in their monthly WTG statement.

The council did not go behind closed doors due to the absence of necessary personnel.

Without further discussion or business, the council adjourned.

Mayor Wanda Shurley presided over the meeting. Norm Rousselot, Todd Munn, Juanita Barrera and Doug Chandler were present.

The next regular meeting of the City Council is slated for January 9, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall.



Sonora High School students stand united in a show of support for the Iraan Braves Friday, December 9, 2016 at Bronco Stadium. DANNY MEYER | THE DEVIL'S RIVER NEWS

Standing Strong for the Iraan Braves

Sonora High School students took a break from the Bank & Trust Basketball Tournament and assembled on the football field in a show of support for the Iraan Braves Friday, December 9. Students stood together in the formation of a capital letter "I" with a

spirit banner wishing them success in their upcoming playoff game. Additionally, the Sonora cheerleaders also traveled to Abilene to cheer for the Braves during the game against Wellington. SHS students, faculty and staff also showed their support for the community

of Iraan by collecting donations, hosting fundraisers and wearing "red and black" on Friday. Other area schools joined together to help the Iraan community during their difficult time following a tragic bus crash involving the Iraan Cheerleaders.



SHS Varsity basketball players claimed the Sonora Bank & Trust basketball tournament championship Friday, December 9, 2016. Pictured (L-R) Coach David Buitron, Rafael Mendoza, Marcos Talamantes, Robert Zapata, Kade Creek, Noah SanMiguel Kaden Cordell, Evan Shannon, Michael Solis, Raully Ojeda, Liam Yourgalite and Abel Cruz, Coach Cannon McWilliams. COURTESY PHOTO

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