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BIRTHDAY
AMERICA

75¢

The Devil's River News

Volume 122 • Issue 26

SONORA, TEXAS

Thursday, July 1, 2010

The Devil's River News
will be closed
Monday, July 5th

Deadline for the
paper will be
Friday at Noon.

Due to the
Construction
of the County Park,
Fireworks are
Not Allowed
in the park area this year.

Happy 1st
Birthday



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Photo By Delyse Jaeger

The Bryan Family Farm: A New Tradition Sets Root in Sutton County

found out how much went into harvesting them. So we started with pomegranate trees because they grow well here".

Blair commented that native wildlife and livestock generally leave the pomegranate's alone. "We don't have to worry about deer because goats and deer don't like to eat them. My goal is within 10 years to have 10 acres planted. There is a real market for them because right now in Texas. We are buying all of our pomegranates from California".

It is important to the Bryans that their farm be as self sufficient as possible. "We are very into sustainability. I define it as having the least amount of impact on our environment as possible. It's not "organic" but its knowing what you are doing. For me organic is not doing anything that we don't have to do to make a crop. I understand that if you use any chemical then you are not organic. That doesn't mean we are going to stick with a strictly organic approach. I tell people that our best effort is to be organic, or as close to it as we can".

That self sufficient approach lead Blair to also experiment with Vermiposting (a process using red earthworms in a compost pile in order to make fertilizer).

"They call it [the fertilizer] black gold. So far I've just been experimenting with it, but I did make some compost

tea. I sprayed it on my peach trees and they look a lot better now".

The Bryan Farm also has plans to grow vegetables, "this is my fifth year working with vegetables. The first year was a disaster, but every year we are getting a little smarter".

In addition to onions, okra, zuchnni, tomatoes, and spinach, Blair is experimenting with different varieties of corn.

"We are playing with the idea of growing corn, and we now have 2 varieties (Sweet Silver and Candy Corn). This was our first year to get kernels of corn-every other year we haven't had anything. A lot of people say you can't grow corn out here, but I'm out to prove them wrong".

A part of the long term plan for this farm is to play a role in establishing a farmers Market in Sonora, "Right

now the idea for the farmers market is to bring people in from Sonora and Eldorado. This really is for people like me who want to stay home with their kids and are passionate about growing things. I know there aren't a lot of farmers in Sonora, but why not grow on that.

It is clear that Blair and her husband have a calling towards agriculture, but it is the tradition of family that eventually drew them to farming.

"The main reason I started this in the first place was for my family. I want to provide my family with home grown food that was clean and plentiful. I wanted a place to teach my boys how to grow food. I can't wait until our pomegranates come in and we have a big family event to harvest them".

Keep Sonora Beautiful: Viva Sonora Honored for Liberty Park



By Susan Hall

The mission of Keep Texas Beautiful is to engage and educate Texans to beautify their community environment. Keep Sonora Beautiful has worked for the past five years to help accomplish this goal. This past week, Sonora was recognized at the state convention for being a "Gold Star Affiliate". We also received "The Award of Excellence" because of our efforts towards the Governor's Community Achievement Award. It was an action packed week full of a myriad of opportunities to learn about sustainability practices for our community, state, and planet. Many new ideas and concepts were brought before the attendees and Keep Sonora Beautiful will hope to educate everyone about some of these in the near future. The plans currently for Sonora to have a "Farmers Market" would be one of those future connections. The week ended with a luncheon to congratulate re-

markable community leaders and acknowledge the valuable efforts of these individuals. This year our very own Code Enforcer, Juanita Gomez was given the highest honor for the work she has done for Sonora. She was honored with The Ed Davis Litter Law Enforcement Award. Keep Sonora Beautiful is lucky and proud of all the efforts Juanita has done for our community. Viva Sonora was also recognized at this luncheon for their efforts restoring Liberty Park. Jo Ann Jones, Michele Faz, Juanita Gomez, and Eddie Arteaga worked very hard to accomplish this beautification project and our entire community has benefited from their tireless efforts. Liberty Park is an inspiration and it was a topic that was an example for many different classes taught this past week at the conference. We should be proud of Viva Sonora for helping us Keep Sonora Beautiful!

By Ben D. Taylor

Around ten thousand years ago someone had an idea that would change our world forever. That person figured out that if you buried a seed in the ground, you could then harvest what grew out of it. The accomplishment itself lacks the drama required for a Hollywood Movie, but it was in that inspired moment that Agriculture was born.

John and Blair Bryan (along with their children Jarrett, Brody and Jake) continue the thousands year old tradition of agriculture at their family farm near Ft. McKavett.

The idea for a family farm began with a conversation Blair's mother had with a horticulturist, "it really sparked our interest. At first we were just going to do olive trees, but then we

Hilderbran Enhancement Provides Stricter Sentences for Convicted FLDS Members

ELDORADO - This week, Abram Harker Jeffs was sentenced to 17 years in prison for the sexual assault of a child, making him the sixth member of a polygamous group to be convicted of the crime. The Schleicher County jury determined that his crime was a first degree felony due to an enhancement in punishments authored by Rep. Harvey Hilderbran in 2005.

Sexual assault is generally considered a second degree felony that carries a penalty of 2 to 20 years. Hilderbran's amendment, however, made sexual assault a first degree offense if the defendant was prohibited from marrying or living under the appearance of marriage with the victim. As a first degree felony, the crime carries a penalty of 5 to 99 years in prison.

Jeffs was convicted under the enhancement because he was already legally married in 2006 when he "spiritually" remarried the victim in the case, who was 15 years old at the time. Jeffs was 34 years old.

Five other members of the

Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints - a group that mainstream Mormons reject - have previously been convicted of sexual assault of a child. Under Hilderbran's enhancement, Allan Eugene Keate was sentenced to 33 years in prison, while Merrill Leroy Jessop was sentenced to 75 years. Jessop had been "spiritually" married to two 15-year old girls, one of whom he impregnated, and one 12-year-old girl.

"Anyone who sexually abuses a child should receive the harshest punishment possible, and I hope these strict sentences will stop other individuals from thinking that freedom to practice one's religion somehow means freedom to force marriage, to rape, and to sexually assault young girls," Hilderbran said.

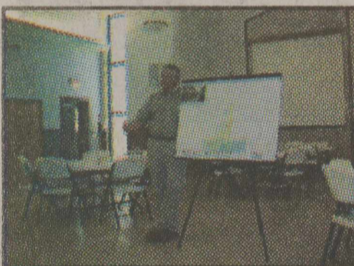
Raymond Merrill Jessop, Michael Emack, and Lehi Barlow Jeffs have also been convicted of sexual assault of a child, receiving sentences of seven to ten years each. Two additional members of the FLDS group are scheduled to go on trial

later this year for the same crime, while another has been charged with bigamy and a fourth with conducting an unlawful marriage ceremony involving a minor. All ten men were charged following a 2008 Child Protective Services search of the group's Yearning for Zion Ranch outside of Eldorado.

The sect, which moved into Schleicher County from Utah and Arizona in 2004, first came under scrutiny when its leader, Warren Jeffs, was accused in two lawsuits of sexually abusing his underage nephew and covering up widespread molestations by fellow sect leaders. The following year, Hilderbran successfully enhanced penalties for sexual assault by offering an amendment to Senate Bill 6 during the 78th Regular Legislative Session.

Warren Jeffs is currently serving 10 years to life in a Utah prison for being an accomplice to rape, and Texas has begun extradition proceedings for crimes committed in this state.

Lions Roar



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Student Council Fundraiser



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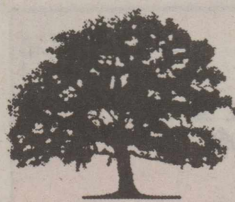
Couder Graduates



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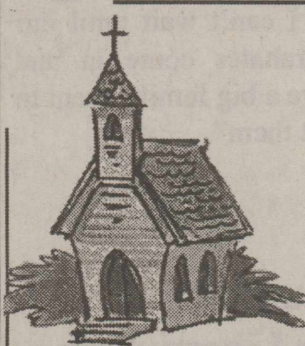
Senior Center Activities

- Thurs. July 1 - Sign up for "free" smoke & carbon monoxide alarm!
- Fri. July 2 - Happy Birthday *Eddie Smith, Manuel Flores*
- Mon. July 5 - Center Closed
- Tues. July 6 - Happy Birthday *Juanita Herrera*
Cargiver Mini Series w/AAA @ noon
- Wed. July 7 - Trax van to San Angelo call 387-2509

Senior Center Menu

- Thur. July 1 - Fried catfish, hominy, okra tomato gumbo apple crisp, roll, milk
- Fri. July 2 - Tacos w/cheese, pinto beans, toss salad corn w/green peppers, fresh fruit, milk
- Mon. July 5 - Center Closed
- Tues. July 6 - BBQ beef on a bun, french fries, carrots coleslaw, peaches w/topping, milk
- Wed. July 7 - Baked chicken, scalloped potatoes, beets roll, bread pudding w/raisins, milk

Participants in the senior nutrition program must be 60 or older. Meals are served Monday - Friday at 12:00 p.m. **Donations are accepted** (suggested donation for Seniors is \$2.00; \$5.00 for under 60 and all other meals-to-go).



Sonora Church Directory

- | | |
|--|---|
| Church of Christ
304 N. Water
387-3190 | First Baptist Church
11 E. Oak
387-2951 |
| Primera Iglesia Bautista
504 Santa Clara
387-2035 | St. John's Episcopal Church
404 E. Poplar
387-2955 |
| The Church of the Good Shepherd Presbyterian
319 E. Mulberry
387-2616 | First United Methodist Church
201 N. Water
387-2466 |
| Lighthouse Community Church
1705 N. Crockett
387-9100 | St. Ann's Catholic Church
229 W. Plum
387-2278 |
| St. Ann's Catholic Church
229 W. Plum
387-2278 | Templo Jerusalem Asamblea De Dios
306 W. 4th St
387-5713 |
| Jehovah's Witness
310 St. Ann's St
387-5658/387-5518 | Hope Lutheran Church
417 E. 2nd St.
387-5366 |

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387-2266

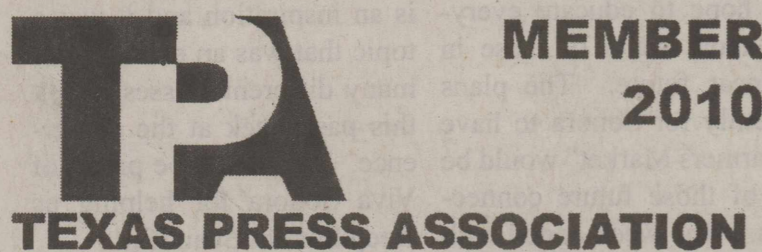
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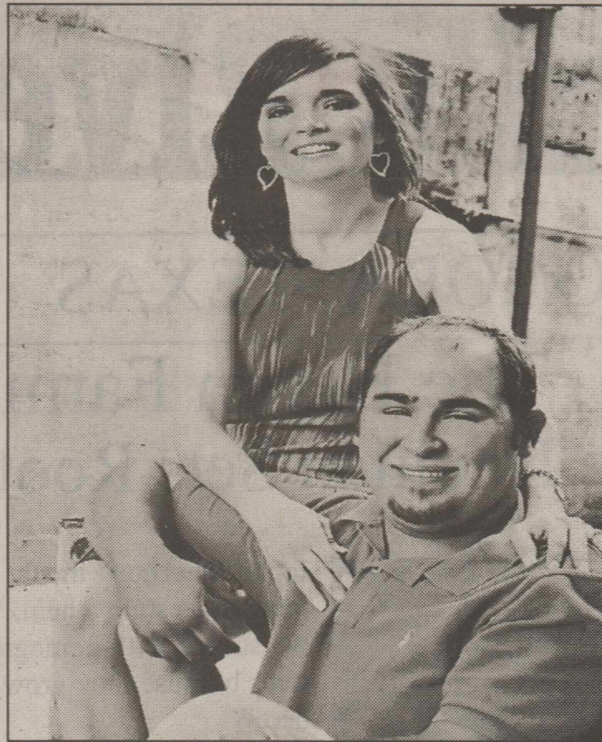
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Engagement Announcements

Proctor and Martinez

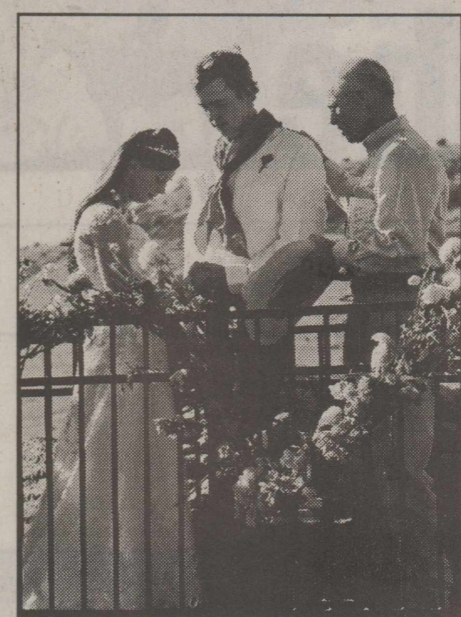


Destiney Proctor and Mason Martinez

Mr. and Mrs. Doug and Julie Proctor announce the engagement of their daughter, Destiney Proctor to Mason Martinez the son of Mr. Eddie Martinez and Ms. Danni Price on July 31st, at the Depot in Sonora Texas.

Wedding Announcements

Joshua & Kyla Bannon

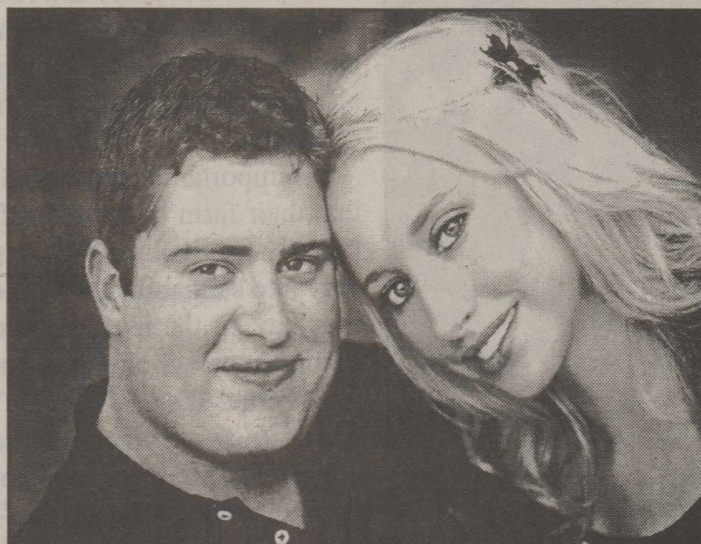


Kyla Gail Turney and Joshua David Bannon were married June 5, 2010, in an outdoor wedding at the Sproul Ranch, near Fort Davis, Texas. The bride was attended by, Misty Keane of San Angelo, Texas, as matron of honor, and Lauran Schaefer of Sonora as maid of honor. Bridesmaids were her sister, Logan Luttrell, and sister of the groom, Jordyn Bannon. Jared Bannon, brother of the groom was best man. Groomsmen were Connor Doherty of Folsom, and Jack Turney of Sonora. Jody Luttrell and Ben Taylor supplied music from the soundtrack of The Man from Snowy River. Faith Knight of Sonora carried and released four dozen monarch butterflies as she and her escort Jayce prompted the guests for the presentation of the bride. The bride was escorted by her father, Paul Turney, to the music of Snowy River, "Breaking in the Colt." Jim Spradley of Alpine, Texas began the wedding services with a word, a blessing, and a prayer. Pastor Don Longoria of Sonora's Lighthouse Community Church completed the double-ring ceremony. The couple exchanged a Sand pouring ceremony to the music of "Yours and Mine" by Kyle Park.

A reception followed immediately after the wedding with food catered by Sproul Ranch, cake, and live dancing music by the Justin Treviño band.

The newlyweds spent their honeymoon in Orlando, Florida where they enjoyed swimming with the dolphins at Discovery Cove. Then they were off on a 4 Night Bahamas Cruise.

Mathis and Gulley



Christopher Thomas Mathis and Jillian Jae Gulley

Mr. & Mrs. Chris Mathis of San Angelo, Texas and Mr. & Mrs. Jim Gulley of Sonora, Texas are pleased to announce the engagement of their children, Christopher Thomas Mathis and Jillian Jae Gulley.

Christopher is a 2003 graduate of Wall High School and is employed by Westside Gin, Inc. Jillian is a 2006 graduate of Sonora High School and will graduate in December of 2010 with a business Management degree. She is currently employed by Bentwood Country Club.

The couple will marry on October 2, 2010 at Cain's Cove in San Angelo.

Thank You Notes

May God Bless You All,
Without God nothing is possible. Today I would like to thank God for always being with me. He never forsakes me.

Also, a special thanks to all who help me and all the donations given to me to fight Fibromyalgia. Fibromyalgia effects my bones, energy, and brain. It is very painful. My prayers go out to those who have this illness like me.

Thanks to Maria Hernandez, my sister, without you I would be lost. To my sister, Carmen Tina, my brother Victor Lira, God Bless you and your families.

To all who did the bake sale, burrito sale, and garage sale, thank you with all my heart. Becky Leavor, Mona Prito, and all who donated baked goods, God Bless.

To all for the burrito sales, Dora Galvan, Maria Hernandez, Nicole Hernandez, Anna Dominez, Flora Salazar, Lizzy Chavez, Rosable Gloria, Chado Salazar, Pablana Salazar, Mary Trevino, Maribel Perez, God Bless You. A special thanks to Johnny and Linda, Irma Gandra, Juanita Robles, for donations and helping financially. To all from San Angelo who have donated money and clothes for the garage sale. Thank you so much. Thank you Sonora and San Angelo, Texas. Psalms 34:1-22

God Bless You and Your Families.
Love,
Melissa Lira and kids

Mata and Duran

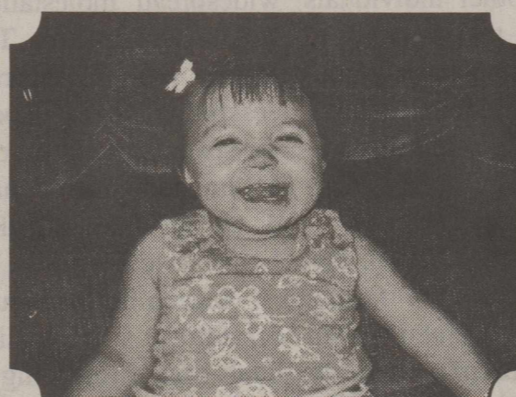


Adrian A. Mata and Karina Duran

As the flowers bloom and petals unfold,
They're soon to say "to have and to hold".
We've made the plans and can hardly wait.

Mr. & Mrs. Samuel Mata and Mr. & Mrs. Dimon Duran are pleased to announce the wedding of our children Adrian A. Mata and Karina Duran Saturday, July 24, 2010 in Sonora, Texas.

**Happy First Birthday
Karysah Lopez**



Love,
Mom, Dad,
Arturo, Leandra, and Milanni

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July 4th Picnic
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10:55 a.m. Worship
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Tuesdays
Noon
Downtown Lions Club

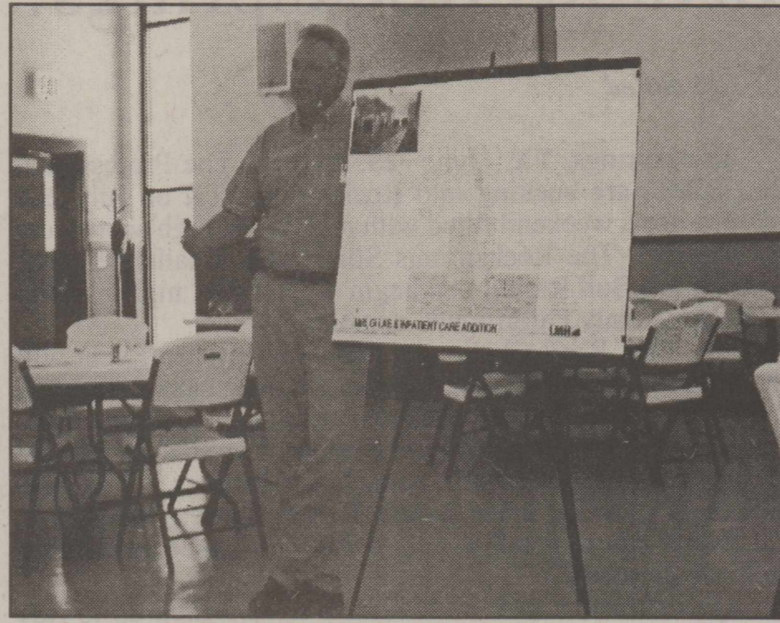
Governor Perry Comments on National Guard Deployment to the Texas-Mexico Border

AUSTIN – Gov. Rick Perry today issued the following statement regarding the Obama administration's National Guard deployment plan for the Southwest border:

"The Obama administration has announced its National Guard deployment plan for the Southwest Border, and only about 20 percent of these personnel will end up in Texas, which has 64 percent of the U.S.-Mexico border. For years I have asked the federal government to provide adequate resources along the border, including my request from January 2009 for 1,000 National Guard troops to increase boots on the ground and amplify border security efforts in Texas alone.

"We welcome any and all resources the federal government sends to secure the border since this is a federal responsibility; however, this latest effort is insufficient to meet the needs of securing the Texas-Mexico border. Texas will continue to urge the federal government to provide the necessary resources so the brave men and women of the Border Patrol can effectively do their jobs and protect our border communities, and the entire nation, from those who would do us harm."

Lions Roar



LMH CEO Mr. Keith Butler

Submitted by Frank Wamble

Your Lions received a request last week as we were asked by supporters of Sonora 7 on 7 football to help raise funds to send a team to Texas A&M to compete for a 7 on 7 State Title. We answered the call and have raised \$1300 thus far. The tourney is July 8-9 so we have a bit more time. If you would like to contribute contact any Lion or Suzanne Badeaux 206-0779. Thanks to all the Lions and other citizens for their contributions to this worthy effort, promoting our Student Athletics and our wonderful Town of Sonora.

LMH CEO Mr. Keith Butler (pictured above) updated the Club on the Hospital addition and the wonderful capability it will bring our citizens. Well breast screening, upper and lower GI series of tests, Colon checks, Heart Clinic and state of the art imaging equipment... right in our own back yard. We see little need to leave Sonora for your Physician/Medical needs since we have the best rural medical Team in West Texas!!! Ms. Peggy Hodges, a Business Specialist from Angelo State, visited the Club and briefed us on her business support role here in Sonora. She is an expert in promoting Economic Development, assisting new businesses as well as old business that are attempting to revitalize themselves. To contact this smart well qualified lady contact Robin at the SEDC office at 387-6280. At our next meeting we will host a contingent of Sonora 7on 7 players as well as their Chief Supporters: Suzanne Badeaux, Coach Pope and Coach Hudson.

Our money needs to stay in SONORA so Shop Sonora and GO BRONCOS !!!

CNA SCHOOL STARTING

Crockett County Care Center is starting a new CNA school beginning July 12, 2010 for 2 weeks. Get paid while you go to school, get paid mileage and also have your school expense paid for! The sky is the limit. It only takes commitment on your part. Call 392-2671, ask for Santa, Vicki, Karen or Benny. Administrator will be interviewing selected applicants. Work steps, drug screen, criminal history check and reference checks. Education / work agreement to be signed. CCCC is an EOE. Deadline to submit application is July 7, 2010 by 5:00 p.m.

F.Y.I.

FARMERS MARKET!!! Fresh Home-Grown Goodness
WHAT: Meeting to discuss starting a Farmers Market in Sonora, hosted by Blair Bryan - Bryan Family Farms
WHEN & WHERE: Thursday July 1st, 5:30 pm at the City Council Chambers of City Hall
WHY: If you are interested in participating in a Farmers Market in Sonora either as a producer or as a consumer - support our local growers in their efforts - find out what is available in our community - start planning for next season...

Lighthouse Community Church- Antique Childrens Pictures, July 16-17, 2010, \$10.00 for an 8x10, FMI call Brooke Knight at 757-375-3241.

1980-30th CLASS REUNION- To ALL members of SHS Class of 1980: You & your family are invited to our 30th Class Reunion your host is Peter Gomez 387-5018 and Eddie Favila 387-3661. Events will be during Sutton Co. Days Aug. 13 & 14 RSVP to us & help us find classmates!!!

Summer Camps and Activities on Eaton Hill- The first two weeks of August have been set aside for Eaton Hill's summer camp sessions. Planning is underway and details will be published at a later date. Additionally, parents can contact the Eaton Hill office to schedule a one day camp which includes an art activity for up to six children. FMI contact the Eaton Hill office at 387-2615.

Volleyball Camp with ASU Head Volleyball Coach Chuck Waddington. Join ASU Head Volleyball Coach Chuck Waddington for an all skills volleyball camp right here in Sonora!! July 6th, 7th and 8th at Sonora High School Gym. Elementary/Middle School 9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon, High School 1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. For more information contact Greta Ramsdell at greta.ramsdell@sonoraids.net or by phone at 325/206-0142

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

Sutton County Friends of NRA 3rd Annual Auction/Banquet will be Saturday, September 18, 2010. Banquet tickets are \$25 per person. Pre-event raffle tickets are \$10 each with one winner taking home five firearms and a 14 gun fire resistant safe. Tickets may be purchased at First National Bank, Sonora Air Cooled Engines or by contacting Tonya @ 387-3861 or 387-5929. Your support is appreciated!

PARADE FOR LA ELLIOTT SCHOOL REUNION- If you would like to be in the parade for La Elliott School Reunion, on Sept. 11, 2010, please contact Ernesto Barrera at 512-961-9709-cell or 325-387-5480-home.

Looking for L. W. Elliott School (La Elliott) Alumni. Register on facebook or by emailing guschavez2000@yahoo.com or juanita@sonorax.net or by calling 325-206-0830. Everyone is encouraged to submit names. A committee is being put together to organize LA ELLIOTT SCHOOL REUNION and also to place a historical marker where the school stood. If you have any information or questions please contact us.

La Elliott School Commemorative Poetry Contest- Open for all Sonora Middle and High School Students. Adults are also welcome to participate. No Entry Fee. Poetry should be your own and can be submitted in both English and Spanish. Submit one poem of no more than 20 lines with a maximum of 150 words, in any form on the personal experiences of former L.W. Elliott School Alumni, provided that the poem content is not vulgar/offensive. **Deadline is Friday, September 10, 2010.** Please include your name and grade level. Winners will be announced September 16. Please submit poems to **Delia Samaniego:** the_twins@verizon.net or FMI Call 325-226-0666.

L.W. Elliott (La Elliott) School Reunion will be Sept. 10-11, 2010. Registration will start Sept. 10, with a ceremony on Sept. 11, the unveiling of the Historical Marker and a parade. Please plan to attend these two days for this Historical Event in Sonora, TX.

The Primary Purpose Group of Alcoholics Anonymous meets every Thursday at 8:00 p.m. at the St. John's Episcopal Church, 404 NE Poplar. FMI call 325-387-9765 or 325-206-1311.

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



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Much more marked down for Clearance. Even Home Decor and Gifts

Bridal Selections

Lauren Smith and Colby Bates
 Jason Geske and Lindsey Wiemers
 Mason Martinez and Destiney Proctor

The Mercantile Garden
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 Lauren Smith ♥ Colby Bates
 Thomas Bloodworth ♥ Brooklyn Woehl
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Traffic Enforcement Heats Up Fourth of July

Submitted

DPS urges Texans not to take a holiday from driving safely and avoid tragedy on Texas roadways this July Fourth weekend. All available DPS troopers will be out patrolling during the long holiday weekend to keep the travelling public safer.

"We want people to celebrate America's birthday, but we want them to do it responsibly," said Assistant Director David Baker, who oversees the Texas Highway Patrol. "People know when they are going to drink. Plan ahead, get a designated driver—or don't get behind the wheel if you have been drinking."

Troopers will focus on drunk drivers, seat belt violators, and speeders. Additional law enforcement presence on holiday weekends increases the likelihood motorists will get caught violating traffic laws.

A reminder: the new car seat law went into full effect in June

Children younger than 8 years old must be in a child safety seat or booster seat unless they are taller than 4 feet, 9 inches tall.

Last year during the extended holiday weekend, DPS troopers made 729 DWI arrests, issued 11,420 speeding citations, and ticketed more than 3,000 seat belt and child safety seat violators.

DPS offers these tips for safe travel over the Fourth of July holiday:

- Drive with courtesy; it's contagious.
- Slow down—especially in bad weather, construction areas, and heavy traffic.
- Don't drink and drive; get a designated driver.
- Buckle up everyone in the vehicle.
- Keep cell phone chatter to a minimum, and don't text while driving.
- Don't drive drowsy; pull over or switch drivers if you need to.
- Make sure your vehicle is

The PBR Invades Rocksprings!

Submitted

Rocksprings, TX. (June 29, 2010) – The Professional Bull Riders are bucking into Rocksprings, TX on July 2nd and 3rd, for a weekend filled with rank bulls, high scores and big wrecks. The Rocksprings Slick Rock Challenge, PBR Touring Pro Bull Riding will begin at 7:00 p.m. nightly at the Edwards County Fairgrounds complex.

The Slick Rock Challenge, PBR Touring Pro Event will showcase some of the most promising rising stars of the PBR, riding alongside fan favorites and veterans, as all the competitors face off against the most famous animal athletes in the business. Stock Contractors, Tino Martinez, Chad Pennington, Circle T, Lufkin Ranch, Box K Cattle, Diamond S, Sid Evans, James Riley and Jerry Hale are expected to bring their toughest stock.

At this time, a total of 45 riders have signed up to ride during this two day event. Australia, Brazil, Mexico and 10 of the United States will be represented. The PBR's Touring Pro Division offers upcoming bull riders the opportunity to compete in PBR sanctioned events while earning money to qualify for the PBR's elite Built Ford Tough World Finals.

For more information concerning this event, contact Betty Schnack at 830/683-3112 or visit the website at www.edwardscountyfair.com.

Sonora Middle School Student Council Fund Raiser



J.D. Garza and Robert from Schwan's

Sonora Middle School Student Council held a Schwan's fundraiser on June 19, 2010 in order to help pay for Leadership Camp. The student council members will be attending a one day Leadership Camp at the Y.O. Ranch in Kerrville, Texas. They will participate in leadership, team building, and cooperative learning activities, as well as complete a ropes course. They are extremely excited about the opportunity to learn how to become better leaders, students and members of their community. They are looking forward to testing their own physical and mental limits on the ropes course, too.

The students took preorders for Schwan's for two weeks prior to the Truckload Sale Event. The students sold over \$3,500.00 worth of products. The Student Council received a portion of those sales for their fundraiser. As an extra incentive, Schwan's gave the student with the most preorder sales \$100.00 of merchandise off the truck. J.D. Garza was the winner for selling over \$800.00. Overall, the fundraiser was a great success and the student council members appreciate the community's support. They wish to thank all those that came out to purchase or donate toward the expenses of their camp.

Keep Sonora Beautiful Landscape of the Month



Keep Sonora Beautiful's Landscape of the Month for June was Kyle and Elaine Donaldson, 125 E. Castlehill Road

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PBR Touring Pro Bull Riding in Rocksprings, TX

WHO: Edwards County Fair Association

WHAT: PBR Touring Pro Tour Bull Riding

WHEN: July 2nd and 3rd
Performances begin at 7:00 p.m
General Admission: Adults \$10
Children 12 & under \$5
Dances begin at 9:00 p.m.

WHERE: Edwards County Fairgrounds,
Rocksprings, TX

Friday night dance features the Tejano sound of
Grupo Vida/The Electric Cowboys.

Saturday night dance entertainment will be
Billy Mata and Texas Tradition.

Saturday events include the
parade, food & beverages, washer and horseshoe pitching,
shearing contest, stock dog field trials, goat cook-off,
Farm & Ranch Trade Show, afternoon Musicfest and "Mutton Busting".

Don't miss this "rockin" weekend in Rocksprings!



For additional information
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Controlling Aquatic Vegetation With Grass Carp

Submitted By
Pascual Hernandez,
Sutton County Agricultural
Extension Agent



Unwanted vegetation in ponds or tanks can be a nuisance to control. If your nuisance vegetation consists mainly of plants such as bushy pondweed, American pondweed or hydrilla, grass carp may be an option. Compared to alternative methods of control, grass carp are very inexpensive, no chemicals are required and no expensive machinery is needed. But grass carp aren't the answer to every situation.

Grass carp, also known as white amur, are native to the Amur River in eastern Siberia. Grass carp feed only on plants. They live for at least 10 years and may grow to 60 pounds or more.

It's important to know the size of your pond, the extent of plant coverage and how long you are willing to wait to see results. The recommended stocking rate for triploid grass carp is five per acre if plant coverage is 50 percent or less, and 10 per acre if more. To get the best results, it helps to pre-treat the pond with herbicide or draw the water down to promote winter die-off of plants before stocking in the spring. Even then it may take a while to achieve full control.

Stocking grass carp will take long-term monitoring. If too few carp are stocked, plants they don't prefer to eat may become overabundant. If you wish to maintain some vegetation in the pond and too many carp are stocked, they may eat themselves out of business. Even if all goes well, you may have to restock the pond with carp every five to seven years.

Like most exotics, grass carp can become very destructive when introduced into an ecosystem that has no natural controls for them. Therefore, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) requires a permit be obtained before stocking carp. In addition, only triploid grass carp may be stocked. Triploid grass carp are sterile and cannot reproduce. However, they are long-lived, and if they escape, they can do considerable damage.

Triploid grass carp seek flowing water, so in areas where there's the possibility of them escaping, an escapement barrier across your spillway or overflow pipe that meets minimum standards set by TPWD is required. Grass carp pose special danger to areas harboring threatened, endangered or unique species and to coastal marsh habitat. For this reason, they cannot be used in some counties.

To legally purchase and stock triploid grass carp, you must obtain a permit from the Inland Fisheries Division of TPWD. You may inquire about an application by calling your local TPWD office. The cost is minimal—\$16 plus \$2 per fish requested. (You must also purchase the fish from a source approved by TPWD). Approval of the permit may require an on-site visit by TPWD personnel and will take at least four to five weeks. Any additional purchases of fish will require a new permit.

Manure provides Higher Returns Than Chemical Fertilizers

VERNON — No significant differences in corn yield were found between organic and chemical sources of nutrients, but a Texas AgriLife Research economist said manure generates higher economic returns than anhydrous ammonia. Dr. Seong Park, AgriLife Research economist, recently had his research published in the Agronomy Journal. The work was from studies he conducted in the Oklahoma Panhandle while at Oklahoma State University and finalized while in his new position at Vernon.

The long-term experiment involved the use of pig and beef manure on irrigated corn fields, he said. The testing was conducted in part due to a rapid growth of animal population and density in that region, as well as the northern part of the Texas Panhandle.

Park said when swine manure, which is normally stored in open-air lagoon systems, is properly applied and the economics figured, the effluent can be used as manure with minimal environmental and nuisance concerns. Animal manure, he said,

benefits producers by reducing waste management costs and the need for chemical fertilizers because it contains multiple essential crop nutrients, according to previous research. Park said the key between animal manure transitioning from a cost (for disposal) to a benefit (as a fertilizer) is determined by agronomic and economic factors such as chemical fertilizer costs and equipment and labor needed to apply each.

Anhydrous ammonia was the most costly nitrogen source across all three equivalent nitrogen rates of 50, 150 and 450 pounds of nitrogen per acre, with costs of \$30.86, \$54.88 and \$126.95 per acre, respectively.

He said the higher costs of anhydrous were due to the purchase price, which is not required normally with the use of beef and swine manure. Swine effluent had the lowest costs at \$12.06, \$17.98 and \$34.51 per acre for the three application rates.

The lower costs for the swine effluent are associated with

Continued on Page 6

Rainwater Harvesting Training Camp Aug. 16-20 in Junction

JUNCTION - A new statewide Rainwater Harvesting Training Camp has been set for Aug. 16-20 on the Texas Tech University campus in Junction.

The course is sponsored by the Texas AgriLife Extension Service and Texas Tech University in Junction.

"This camp is a five-day intensive educational course for those interested in expanding their knowledge of rainwater harvesting and rain catchment systems while getting lots of practical, real-life experience with the construction and installation of these systems," said Billy Kniffen, AgriLife Extension water resource specialist and the lead instructor for the camp.

The course will include tours of rainwater harvesting systems ranging in size from 50 to 250,000 gallons, 12 hours of hands-on construction experience and 20 hours of 300-level American Rainwater Catchment Systems Association classes.

"This is the first time we have offered such an intensive and extensive rainwater harvesting program," said Brent Clayton, an AgriLife Extension assistant in the biological and agricultural engineering department at Texas A&M University in College Station. "We consider this a truly statewide program that will attract people from throughout Texas and possibly beyond. We've selected some extremely knowledgeable people to provide instruction and give the benefit of their expertise."

Clayton, who helped develop and coordinate the camp, said those who would benefit most from attending the camp would be people who are "serious about rainwater harvesting" or plan to provide instruction on rainwater harvesting to others.

Training instruction will be provided primarily by AgriLife Extension experts, including Kniffen, Justin Mechell, Dr. Fouad Jaber, Dr. Doty Woodson, Dr. Bruce Lesikar and John Smith. Other experts providing instruction will include Tim Pope, Northwest Rainwater Company; Gary Bryant, Texas Water Resources Institute; Dan Pope, American Society of Irrigation Consultants; Dr. Megan Dominguez, Texas Tech University; and Jack Shultz of Shultz Engineering.

Program instruction begins at 1 p.m. Aug. 16 with a training overview, then a presentation on watersheds,

stormwater and commercial rain gardens. Dinner will be served at 6 p.m.

Morning presentations on Aug. 17 begin at 8 a.m. with pumps and controls. After lunch, presentations will cover installation of a 300-gallon tank, wildlife guzzler and motion-sensor camera, installation of a below-ground tank and construction of a rain barrel. There also will be discussion of rain barrel uses and concerns and greenhouse rainwater use. A tour of rainwater systems in Menard County will begin at 5 p.m., followed by dinner in Menard.

Aug. 18 presentations will begin at 8 a.m. The first will cover irrigation timers and controllers; the second will address rain gardens and storm chambers. An afternoon session will cover installation of a solar pump for irrigation, installation of a rain garden or green roof/green wall and installation of a storm chamber. Storm chamber installation will include discussion on site evaluation and developing a stormwater management plan.

Presentations during the morning of Aug. 19 will address harvesting systems for drinking and other uses. Afternoon instruction will include installation of an above-ground tank for commode and washing machine; installing pump, filters and UV protection for producing drinking water; review and/or installation of other types of disinfection devices; and review and installation of devices and filters for systems used to provide drinking water.

The final day's sessions from 8-11 a.m. will be on rainwater system maintenance and troubleshooting, followed by a review, evaluations and recognition wrap-up. The program ends at noon on Aug. 20.

On Aug. 16, 18 and 19, there will be evening train-the-trainer presentations for those interested. These classes will teach participants how to develop, plan for, execute, and evaluate a successful training program on rainwater harvesting.

The course cost is \$790 and includes meals and training materials. Dorm-style on-campus lodging is available at an additional cost of \$60, which covers all nights Monday through Thursday.

To register for Rainwater Harvesting Training Camp, go to <http://agrilifevents.tamu.edu> and enter "Rainwater Harvesting" into the search field.

Small Town Courthouse

A small town prosecuting attorney called his first witness to the stand in a trial, a grandmotherly, elderly woman. He approached her and asked, "Mrs. Jones, do you know me?"

She responded, "Yes, I do know you Mr. Williams. I've known you since you were a young boy. And frankly, you've been a big disappointment to me. You lie, you cheat on your wife, you manipulate people and talk about them behind their backs. You think you're a rising big shot when you haven't the brains to realize you never will amount to anything more than a two-bit paper pusher. Yes, I know you."

The lawyer was stunned. Not knowing what else to do he pointed across the room and asked, "Mrs. Williams, do you know the defense attorney?"

She again replied, "Why, yes I do. I've known Mr. Bradley since he was a youngster, too. I used to babysit him for his parents. And he, too has been a real disappointment to me. He's lazy, bigoted, he has a drinking problem. The man can't build a normal relationship with anyone and his law practice is one of the shoddiest in the entire state. Yes, I know him."

At this point, the judge rapped the courtroom to silence and called both counselors to the bench. In a very quiet voice, he said with menace, "If either of you asks her if she knows me, you'll be in jail within 3 minutes!"

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June 25, 2010

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Crockett
1 W B Osborne O & G 10150' Bellows #1 Dw Felderhoff Bros 2 06/07/10 12 Drlg Ahead 3525'
New 2 Approach Operating 9000' University 42-22 #11 Dw Nabors Drilling (O) 353 06/23/10 Assigned
3 Approach Operating 9000' University 42-22 #13 Dw Nabors Drilling (O) 353 06/08/10 11 Drlg Ahead
New 4 Approach Operating 9000' Baker -B- #103 Dw Nabors Drilling (O) 709 06/15/10 4 Drlg Ahead
5 O'ryan Oil & Gas 9000' Exxon Fee -C- #9 Dw O'ryan Drilling Llc 8 05/26/10 24 Drlg Ahead
New 6 Approach Operating 9000' University 42-13 #12 Ft Ringo Drilling I Lp 18 06/17/10 2 Drlg Ahead
New 7 Eog Resources/Mid 7000' University 40-14 #2 H Dw Latshaw Drilling 11 06/11/10 8 Drlg Ahead
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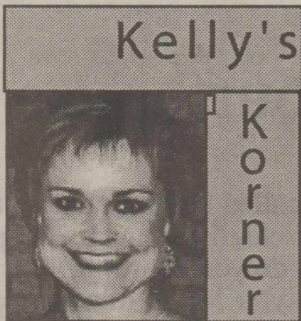
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Road Trip Food Safety



Adapted By: Kelly L Thorp
County Extension Agent -FCS
Texas AgriLife Extension-
Sutton County

Pack the vehicle - it's time for a summer hiatus. Whether the trip is a day-long jaunt up to see grandma or a long break across the country, it's important to keep food safety in mind when packing food along. Prevention of food-borne illness becomes more of a concern when summer temperatures and hot cars increase the opportunity for bacteria in foods to multiply. Because bacteria can reach dangerous levels within as little as one to two hours in warm environments, care must be given to minimize the time food spends in the "temperature danger zone" (41-140°F). The following tips will help ensure that summer plans include safe food for any outing.

Coolers and Cold Source

The first step to packing food safely begins with selecting a cooler with adequate insulation, a tight fitting lid and preferably a drain plug to make cleaning easier. One with inside storage bins or trays will keep foods separate from melting ice. Consider packing separate coolers for food and drinks to minimize cold air escaping from frequent opening and closing of the lid. Because a full cooler will stay cold longer, plan to fill remaining cooler space with an additional cold source or fruits and non-perishables like peanut butters or bread.

Next, consider the cold source. Making your own ice can save money. Since blocks of ice keep longer than ice cubes, half-gallon jugs or cartons can be filled with water and frozen to make ice blocks. Smaller-sized, recycled soda or water bottles can also be cleaned, refilled with fresh water and kept frozen to grab and go. Other cold source options include frozen gel-packs or ice cubes packed in zipper bags. Also, freezing ahead the meat, milk and juice boxes you are taking allows these items to serve as a cold source as they thaw.

Pack It Safely

When it's time to pack the food, pack so that the first foods to be used are near the top. Separate and seal same-type foods together in zipper bags to combat cross-contamination and make them easier to locate. Double seal any raw meats to keep any bacteria

laden juices from contaminating other foods. Distribute cold sources evenly throughout the cooler, such as layering 3 to 4 inches of ice in between foods.

If you are camping, plan for those situations when no ice is available to replenish the cooler. Non-perishable nut butters, honey, trail mix, canned or dried meats, and fruits and vegetables which require no refrigeration can offer a safe alternative.

A few remaining necessities should be added before leaving home. Pack a few empty plastic containers with lids for storing opened canned items. Plan for handwashing and clean up by bringing along disposable wipes, hand sanitizing lotion and/or biodegradable soap and extra water. Last but not least, place a food thermometer inside the cooler to monitor temperature along the way. Cooler temperature must be maintained at 41°F or below to ensure food safety.

On the Road

Once on the road, it's best to keep the cooler out of direct sunlight in the coolest part of car, instead of the trunk. Covering the cooler with a blanket or wet towel can provide further insulation from hot windows. Leave the extra sodas or other carbonated drinks behind, as these could explode in a hot car. When stopped, park in the shade and remember to monitor time perishable foods spend out of the cooler. Discard any foods left out for more than 2 hours, or 1 hour if the outside temperature is above 90°F. During the trip, continue to monitor cooler temperature, and add fresh ice as needed to maintain proper temperature. Upon returning home, if any remaining foods are sitting in water, they should be discarded. Most importantly, at any time, WHEN IN DOUBT, THROW IT OUT!

Sources:

1. Handling food safely on the road. Food Safety Inspection Service (FSIS) Fact Sheet. July 2005. http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Fact_Sheets/Handling_Food_Safely_on_the_Road/index.asp
2. Erin Doty, CSU Food Science & Human Nutrition Intern, Colorado State - Summer 2005

Prescribed Burning Association Sets Annual Field Day In Fredericksburg

FREDERICKSBURG – The Edwards Plateau Prescribed Burning Association will hold their annual field day from 8 a.m.- 4:15 p.m. July 28 at Fredericksburg's American Legion Hall, 726 S. Washington and U.S. Highway 87 South.

Three hours Texas Department of Agriculture continuing education units will be available for those with either a commercial or private certified burn managers license.

Dr. Charles "Butch" Taylor, Texas AgriLife Research Station superintendent at Sonora and the association's originator, said the field day will include a number of educational presentations and commercial vendor displays and demonstrations.

"The association, which has 500 members in 15 counties, is run by ranchers for ranchers," said Taylor. "For those unfamiliar with the association, its main goal is to promote the safe and environmentally responsible use of fire as a means to control noxious invading plant species on native range.

"The purpose of this field day is to bring our members up to date on the latest developments surrounding the use of fire on rangelands and to introduce the concept to prospective members and others

with an interest in using fire as a range management tool."

Topics and presenters will include:

– Fire Boss Responsibilities, Taylor.

– Burning Brush Piles, Bill Armstrong, retired Texas Parks and Wildlife Department biologist, Hunt.

– Burning During Burn Bans in Gillespie County, Billy Roder, Gillespie County Commissioner.

– Edwards Plateau Prescribed Burning Association Liability Insurance, Allen Ersch, president, Fredericksburg.

– Edwards Plateau Prescribed Burning Association Website, Dirac Twidwell, Texas A&M University graduate student, College Station.

– Reporting of Burn Plans to the Edwards Plateau Prescribed Burning Association, (speaker to be determined).

Pre-registration by July 20 is \$12 per person and \$20 thereafter.

For more information and to pre-register call Taylor or Robert Moen at 325-387-3168 or angora@sonoratx.net

Prospective vendors and those needing directions should contact Ersch at 830-990-2817 or agritech@ctesc.net.

The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and to take care of it.

-Genesis 2:15

Continued from Page 5

the ability to apply it through existing irrigation equipment, requiring only minimal purchase to pump from the lagoon to the center pivot, Park said.

Both the anhydrous and beef manure require the purchase of application machinery, he said, which adds a fixed cost. Because of that cost, beef manure application costs were higher than swine, at \$30.52, \$35.47 and \$47.19 per acre, respectively at the same rate.

Beef manure, however, becomes a more economical choice if the crops are located away from the originating farm of either manure, Park said. While swine effluent has a lower breakeven price, it is too bulky to transport off-farm to other producers.

"The breakeven is figured by using the actual price of corn plus the cost of fertilizer," he said. "During this study, there was a widening margin in the breakeven between the animal manure-treated corn crops and anhydrous ammonia-treated corn crops, which generated an increased profitability for producers and increased the economic viability of marketing beef manure as a commercial fertilizer."

Park explained if beef manure averages \$2.20 per ton with a shipping cost of 50 cents per mile, it can be prof-

itably transported up to 29 miles from its point of origin in the Oklahoma and Texas panhandles and be competitive with high anhydrous ammonia prices, as experienced from 2005-2007.

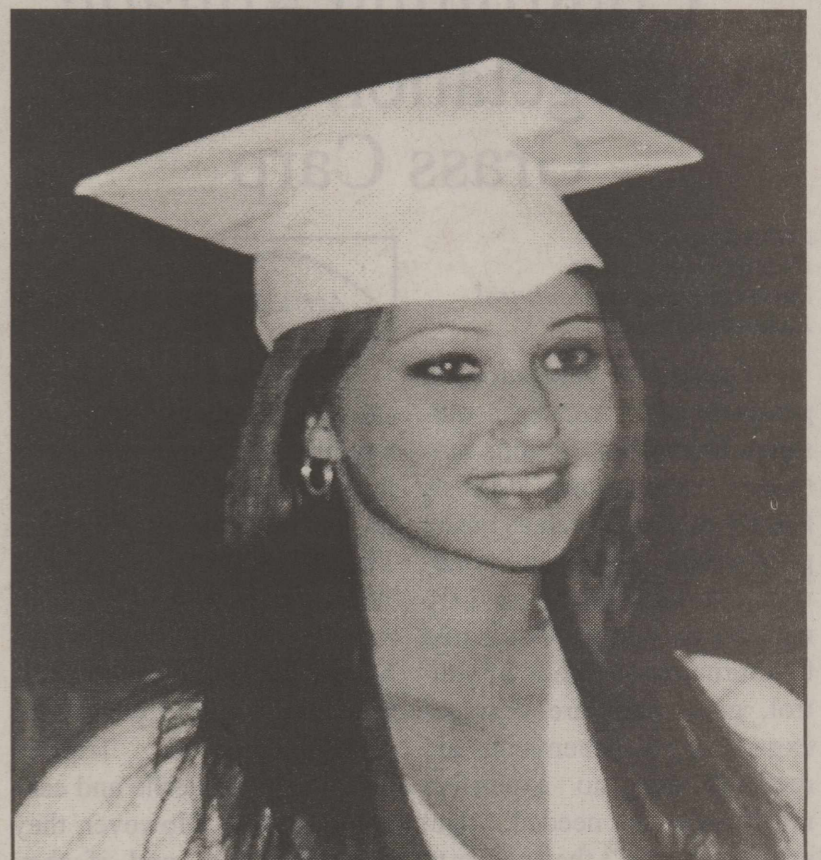
Another benefit of animal manures is the improvement of soil properties such as micronutrients and soil pH, Park said. Throughout his experiment the beef-manure and swine-effluent plots maintained higher soil pH levels than the corresponding anhydrous plots.

Additionally, continued application of anhydrous can lead to acidification and thus losses in productivity, he said. Appropriate nutrient-management practices should be implemented to prevent environmental damages.

Park also warned that site-specific conditions such as weather, animal waste management practices and soil properties would need to be taken into consideration when adapting this information to locations outside the Oklahoma Panhandle.

"This is a unique economic study on various nitrogen fertilizers using rare and valuable data from a long-term field experiment from 1995 to 2007," Park said. "The next step is to determine best nutrient practices based on this experimental data."

Couder Graduates



Nicole Yvette Couder

Nicole Yvette Couder graduated from Farmington High School, Farmington, NM on May 20, 2010. Her parents are Rocky and Anna Couder, grandparents are Juanita and Modesto Mesa, great grandmother Ofilia Torres.

Congratulations Nicole. We are very proud of you, continue on and strive towards your goals and dreams.

Texas Forest Service Deploys Incident Management Teams to South Texas for Tropical Storm Alex

Texas Forest Service is sending nearly 50 emergency responders to South Texas in preparation for Tropical Storm Alex, which is expected to make landfall as a hurricane early Wednesday morning.

The agency has mobilized one Type 3 All-Hazard Incident Management Team and placed on standby two additional teams that have been assigned to Rapid Response Task Forces — Task Force Austin and Task Force Texas.

"We're working with all our agency partners and private partners to provide a coordinated state response to the Valley in the aftermath of what we believe will make landfall as Hurricane Alex," said Texas Forest Service State Incident Management Team Coordinator Bob Koenig.

Trained and operated by Texas Forest Service, the Type 3 All-Hazard Incident Management Teams are made up of local emergency responders from across the state. When deployed, they work with local officials, providing command and leadership support to communities in need of help following a disaster.

Generally, the teams are tasked with tracking resources in different counties, operating resource distribution points and staging areas or providing support for public information. When assigned to a task force, the teams provide operational and logistical support for the group such as coordinating transportation conveyances and operational briefings.

Two additional Texas Forest Service employees — a regional fire coordinator from Gilmer, Texas, and a resource specialist from Pittsburg, Texas — also were deployed Monday to McAllen, where they'll be embedded with the District Disaster Chair, the regional coordinator for the disaster response.

The storm is expected to make landfall Wednesday morning on the extreme northeast coast of Mexico, possibly near the mouth of the Rio Grande River or just south of South Padre, according to National Weather Service meteorologist Tom Bradshaw.

Currently a tropical storm, Alex is forecast to become a hurricane within the next 24 hours as it hovers over the warm Gulf Coast waters.

As a result, heavy rain, flash flooding and hurricane force winds are predicted for South Texas, Bradshaw said during a statewide emergency response conference call on Monday morning. Up to 12 inches of rain is expected between Wednesday and Friday with up to 16 inches in isolated areas. Coastal flooding also is predicted with the storm surge expected to rise six to eight feet — and possibly up to 12 feet near South Padre.

"The bottom line is: it's certainly going to produce adverse affects for South Texas," Bradshaw said.

A member of The Texas A&M University System, Texas Forest Service is recognized as a leader in defining forestry for the future of Texas and the nation through its applied programs in forest and tree development; wildfire prevention, mitigation and protection; urban and community forestry and a host of other innovative forest sustainability programs.

Texas Forest Service also serves as the lead agency for the state for all-hazard responses including suppression of wildfires and the management of state disasters such as the Space Shuttle Columbia recovery effort and Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, Dolly and Ike.

It's time for some summer fun!

Sonquest Rainforest

Vacation Bible School

For: PreK (age 4 & up) through 6th grade

July 5th - July 9th
8:30 a.m. - 12:45

St. Ann's Catholic Church

Lunch will be provided!

The Philosophy of America:

An Editorial
By Ben D Taylor

I have struggled with what (at the time) I considered my close minded view of the direction of my country. Often in discussions with friends I wondered at the universal strategy of debate for those that share a different kind of mind set than mine. When backed into a corner they fight off logical thought by simply stating "you just don't understand the bigger picture". My initial reaction was defensive and more often than not I found myself performing the useless task of self analysis.

"Maybe I am missing the big picture. I have grown up in an isolated small town with established conservative roots—could they be right in that I lack the capacity to accept bigger ideas?"

Over the course of the past few years I struggled with that self doubt, but each decision made by my government eroded the foundation of that doubt. I continued to read and try (in some way) to find something that could allow me to understand people. Everything I read about the founders only re-affirmed my convictions about government control. My study of the Bible only served to show me that social services are best served as a product of society and not the government; the list went on (Thomas Payne, Ayn Rand, Thomas Jefferson etc).

Through the words of greater men I discovered that our country has lasted and prospered because it was established on a philosophy built on truth. The documents written by the Continental Con-

gress in 1776 did not form a government, rather; they laid down the philosophy of the new American Nation.

A common mistake is to assume that the founders of the constitution exhibited a vision and ability not since seen in over 200 years. They had tremendous foresight, but were not supermen able to view into the future. This does not cheapen their achievement, but makes it greater in scope. They were men and they found truth. They did not govern with the constitution; they only compiled a philosophy that the formed government would use to construct itself.

The philosophy they laid out on parchment was one that valued the individuality of the citizens, while limiting the powers of its government. I believe that somewhere in our short history as a free nation we started diverting from that central core. Instead of governing within the bounds of the American Philosophy set first by the Declaration of Independence, then broadened by the constitution, we started trying to extend those bounds.

With the best of intentions, we tried to ensure people had work during the great depression. That was the first time in our history that someone in this country was employed based on need rather than ability. Marking the first step toward delegating need over ability.

Nothing was done in malice, but the poison is in the dose. We evaluated our rights and determined that it is the government's job to ensure

that everyone has happiness, instead of just ensuring their freedom to pursue that happiness. Americans started worshipping the institution of America for what she gave us, while ignoring that the true gift she gave us was an ability to provide for ourselves.

The acceptance of that idea allowed our country to view the constitution as a living document. The idea was that in order to keep its value to our culture the constitution must evolve with the needs of the people. However because the constitution was based on truth, it lacks the ability to change.

The foundation of our country on a philosophy is a good sign for the longevity of the United States of America. Truth does not die. However the shift to regard our government and its constitution as living things does have very serious implications. The main downfall to any "living thing" is that eventually it dies.

The constitution, being a vessel of truth, does not evolve. The document is written in a way that amendments can be made, but the core foundation cannot. The guidelines for the establishment of the government houses and details of our government are designed to ensure the success of the philosophy. The philosophy does not change. The perception of change in the constitution is simply that; a problem of perception. It is not the constitution that has evolved; it has been our society.

My struggle with understanding the "big picture" can best be defined as a successful failure. My perception shifted, but I misunderstood the other mind set even more. Before I started asking this question I saw my country as a photograph representing freedom, capitalism, and truth. It was a solid image as I could picture

the high definition contrast between the shadow of tyranny, and light of true leadership. I now see America not as a photograph, but as a mosaic. The "big picture" I was missing was there, but the reason I could not see it was because I am a part of it. It is the small communities, conservative and liberal alike that contribute to the mosaic of America. We cannot be unbiased in our view of our country, and while debate is necessary between different mind sets we cannot ignore arguments (you can only dismiss it as untrue). We cannot do those things because we are each a part of it, we must each find our individual voice and use it.

Every life lived is a song. Each year a verse, and every note a memory. The pace of the music simply makes you pay attention to the next string of rhyme. Understanding that is nothing more than a function of putting things in context. With a flawed perception of myself I was reading the lyrics of my country without hearing the music. I had a grasp on truth without understanding the meaning. I now see our country not as a machine but as a symphony, and my part in it not as a cog in the wheel, but as a song.

I wonder what the heavens hear in our song. Does the thunder of war drums drown out the soft peace of the violin? Do the clear sounds of our triumph make the angel's pulse quicken, or do the mournful cries of despair dampen their eyes? I have to believe that they hear all life in harmony. Each individual life sings its own message and all play integral parts in the ultimate composition of life's greatest song. If you listen you will hear the spirit of America sing a single song. The song is called hope, and

Independence Day Revealed: Fourth of July Facts Every American Should Know

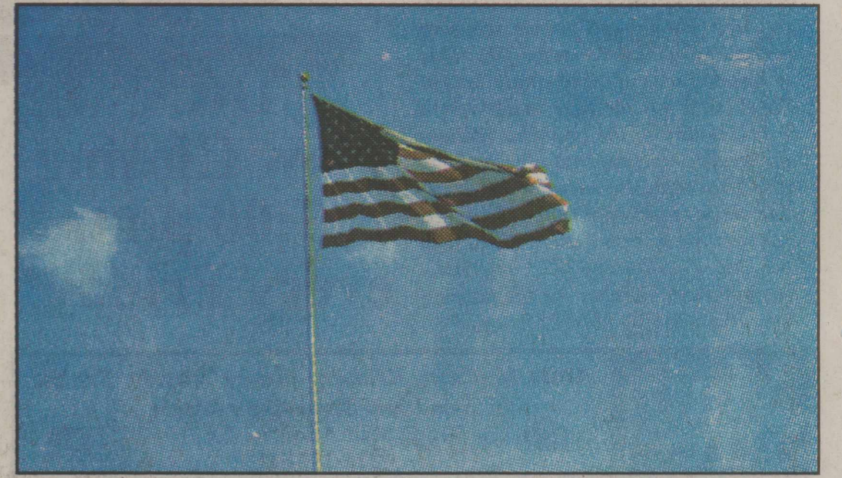


Photo by Rhonda Wilson

Americans associate fireworks and family with the Fourth of July. The holiday marks the anniversary of the Continental Congress approving the Declaration of Independence. Here are some little known facts about the Fourth of July that Pauline Maier highlighted in her 1997 book, *American Scripture: Making the Declaration of Independence*.

July 2nd, America's First Independence Day

We celebrate Independence Day on the anniversary of the day when Continental Congress approved the Declaration of Independence. Since the document had actually been released earlier, founding father John Adams suggested July 2nd as a day on which future generations would celebrate with guns, bonfires, and other things.

The First Fireworks

The first celebrations involved rockets not fireworks. At the Philadelphia celebration in 1777, they fired thirteen rockets to represent the thirteen colonies.

Fourth of July Was Not Universally Celebrated

The new Americans did not all celebrate the Fourth of July. During the 1770s and 1780s, the holiday was not celebrated in all American towns. In fact, many of the states had made their own independent declarations after the Continental Congress approved the Declaration of the Independence. They used their own words and language to declare their break as colonies from England.

Declaration of Independence Facts

Here are a few interesting facts about the Declaration of Independence. Many founding fathers signed the Declaration of Independence in August not July. The Declaration of Independence spent the war at Fort Knox.

Other Important American Events Occurring on July 4th

Many other important American events occurred on the Fourth of July: In 1803, the Louisiana Purchase was announced to the American people. In 1817, construction of the Erie Canal begins. New York abolishes slavery on July 4, 1827. Thoreau begins to live at Walden Pond in 1845. The Siege of Vicksburg ends in 1863 on the Fourth of July. President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Freedom of Information Act in 1966. Famous Americans born on July 4th include writer Nathaniel Hawthorne, songwriter Stephen Foster, James Bailey of circus fame, filmmaker Louis B. Mayer, advice columnists Ann Landers and Abigail Van Buren.

Founding Fathers and the Fourth of July

On the 50th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, John Adams and Thomas Jefferson died on July 4, 1826. In 1821, James Monroe died on the Fourth of July, too. Only one president, Calvin Coolidge was born on the holiday.

How Much Do You Know About Independence Day?

If you are in the 3rd - 8th grade, answer the following questions, and submit your answers to the Devil's River office by 4 pm, July 11, 2010. One recipient, chosen from all submissions, with all 5 correct answers will receive a one day swimming pool pass and a Sonic Hamburger Meal.

Name: _____
Age: _____
Grade: _____
Address: _____
Phone Number: _____

- When did the Continental Congress actually pass a resolution of Independence?
A. July 1
B. July 2
C. July 3
- Who was on the committee assembled to draft the declaration?
A. Richard Henry Lee, Ben Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, Robert Livingston, and George Washington
B. Samuel Adams, Ben Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, Robert Livingston, and John Hancock
C. John Adams, Ben Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, Robert Livingston, and Roger Sherman.

- What was one of the reasons that Adams told Jefferson, the youngest man on the committee, to draft a celebration?
A. Jefferson was from Massachusetts, a politically power state.
B. Adams knew that he was an unpopular considered obnoxious by many delegates. In order for the declaration to be accepted, he had to keep a low profile.
C. Adams wanted to challenge Jefferson to improve his writing skills by drafting an important document.
- Which of the following was something Congress cut out of Jefferson's draft of the declaration?
A. They removed all references to slavery.
B. They removed all references to women.
C. They removed a paragraph written in Latin.
- Which two key players in the history of Independence died on the fiftieth anniversary of the declaration?
A. Thomas Jefferson and John Hancock
B. Thomas Jefferson and John Adams
C. Benjamin Franklin and John Adams

Happy 4th of July

God Bless The Fine Young Men and Women of Our Armed Forces