



Volume 122 • Issue 51

SONORA, TEXAS

Thursday, December 30, 2010

2010 A Year of Recovery

By Ben D. Taylor

As I look back over the previous year I can't help but to find a measure of hope within our community. We are still fighting our way back from the local economic meltdown of two years ago, but we are fighting back.

In a way 2010 could be seen as the year that the dust finally settled, allowing us all to start re-building. Local businesses have begun to branch out into different markets, and our local government has begun the difficult process of rebuilding our infrastructure.

Our school system also worked to improve the athletic facilities for student athletes, and in 2011 are planning on improving many of the academic facilities. By every measure 2011 looks to be a very bright year, as long as we all keep working.

In this edition we have selected just a few stories from this previous year. All of us at the Devil's River News wish you a happy and prosperous new year.

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

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 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. "w are very into stainability. 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".



Soldiers raise the flag at the Bronco Homecoming Game.

The LCRA Looks At Sonora For Power Line Route

By Ben D. Taylor

The Lower Colorado River Authority Transmission Services Cooperation (hereafter LCRA) hosted an open house at the Sutton County Civic Center on Wednesday, February 24, 2010 to inform the citizens of Sutton County about the possible construction of a transmission line through the county. This meeting was a part of the transmission line construction process as the LCRA has held "the come and go-style open houses" in all the communities this route passes through.

In 2009 the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUC) ordered the LCRA-a non for profit organization-to construct transmission lines designed to transport the electricity produced on West Texas wind farms to urban population centers (predominantly San Antonio and Austin). Part of the mandate from PUC requires the LCRA "to purchase an easement to construct, operate, and maintain the new electric transmission lines." Landowners would be paid a fair market value for the easements-which is established by an appraisal for the easement.

The LCRA has proposed several different routes for this transmission line to support their mandate from PUC, and one of their "alternate route segments" is placed along 277 (from Eldorado to Sonora) then to Interstate 10 heading east-bisecting the county. This specific route has only

been recently added by the LCRA-the previous plans had the line run from Eldorado to Menard in an almost direct line (cutting through only a part of the county). These transmission lines are currently in the proposal phase, and final route selection is not expected until mid summer of 2010. Sutton County stands to collect taxes on any equipment or property the LCRA has within its borders, but the city-and citizens therein are guaranteed no other direct benefit from this project.

The actual construction of this transmission line will not use any local contractors or materials, and will not provide electricity to the counties it passes through. Statewide electricity prices would actually increase due to the size of this overall project. According to LCRA documentation this project encompasses "600 miles of new and existing transmission lines and facilities", and "according to the Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT), represents about \$795 million". This represents a cost that all electricity users in Texas will initially have to pay for in higher rates.

A possible benefit to Sutton County landowners would be that the close proximity of this transmission line could increase interest from wind farms, but it probably has a relatively small influence on that decision. Just as an oil company doesn't decide to drill a rig simply because a gas station is nearby, a wind farm

won't immediately come to Sutton County because a transmission line is close. Simply put, if there aren't any people-there's no need to get dressed up just because a band is playing.

Two things that are of real concern to landowners (and citizens alike) are the potential decrease in property values and the instances of higher rates of cancer associated with these power lines.

A study published in Southwestern Legal Foundation (by David Dolton, and Kent Slick) evaluated the relationship between property values and power lines, and determined that, "real estate professionals (even those performing studies on behalf of power line companies) are continuing to conclude that power lines are bad for property values". In 1997 the LCRA funded a study that confirmed the previous statement by showing that "the area located within an electric transmission line easement has a 90% [decrease] in value to due the presence of the easement". Further studies conducted in Oregon, Missouri, New York, and California confirmed the correlation between a decrease in property value and power lines exists (as low as 10 and as high as 54%). The greatest negative impact seen in Oregon properties were those properties that were "managed agricultural property and in rural developments."

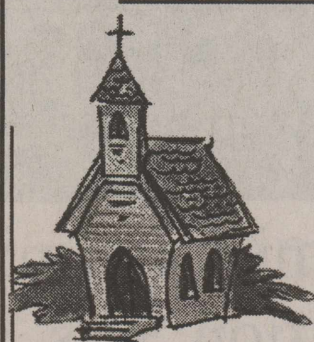
Senior Center Activities

Thurs. December 30 - Center Closed for New Year's
 Fri. December 31 - Center Closed for New Year's
 Mon. January 3 -
 Tues. January 4 -
 Wed. January 5 -

Senior Center Menu

Thurs. December 30 - Center Closed for New Year's
 Fri. December 31 - Center Closed for New Year's
 Mon. January 3 - Steak fingers w/gravy, mashed potatoes mixed vegetables, rolls, fruit cocktail
 Tues. January 4 - Breaded pork chops w/gravy, wheat roll, zucchini & yellow squash, tossed salad, fruit
 Wed. January 5 - Beef tacos w/cheese, lettuce, tomatoes, pinto beans, orange cake, 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

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

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MEMBER 2010
TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

Letter to the Editor

Dear Ben,
 I have read with interest your series of articles about the national debt. While it has been pretty good, it is the kind of information that I, and I suspect most of your readers, are getting from the national media and press.
 It is particularly depressing when this material is presented with NO local news at all, save sports. While we have only been back here for about 5 years, I have subscribed to and read the Devil most of my adult life, but I am about to give up on it, Ben. It seems to me you should be making some effort to provide the public some information about the things that would truly interest them about city and county government and, perhaps, even what the Sonora Industrial Development Corporation is doing.
 As a recent example, when the City Manager recently resigned, it was mentioned at the very end of the article on other city business, almost as an after thought. Not a word then or this week from either Ms. Miller or the Mayor or any City Councilor as to why Ms. Miller, after a rather brief tenure is leaving. It seems to me that this departure either says something about the Manager, the City or its leadership or all of the above, but the general public, without the Devil doing it's job is left to rumor and conjecture.
 Come on, Ben, write some national stuff if you must, but do your job. Sutton County needs a newspaper that will keep us informed about what is going on here. Sports coverage is great, but there is so much more you need to be covering.

Sincerely,
 David L. Smith

Editors Note:

David,
 First and foremost I would like to thank you for your submission to the Devil's River News. I firmly believe that the only true path towards growth is the acceptance of criticism, and I appreciate your well written concerns and have taken them into account.
 Initially I was afraid that I had come down with a case of nearsightedness when it came to local coverage (looking only at a few big local stories, while not seeing many others). I had my staff look over the previous 51 editions of the DRN and tasked them with the goal of documenting all of the stories we covered on the front page of direct local interest- omitting all sports coverage. I realize that there are probably plenty of local stories my limited staff and I have missed over the course of the previous year, but on just the front page alone we have documented well over 100 different local news stories (that number would almost double if we were to account for local news contained in the interior pages).
 Your questions also challenged me to re-evaluate my decision to run the National Debt Series, and to re-address my reasoning behind covering the resignation of the City Manager.

I was in attendance at the meeting where the City Council accepted Ms. Miller's resignation, but the discussion as to why she presented that resignation was conducted in the Executive Session. The Texas Open Meeting Act allows for the public and media to be privy to any information discussed in an open meeting with few exceptions, one of them being discussions made during executive session. Further details of that law (and subsequent opinions by the State Attorney General) do not make it a criminal offense for members of the council to discuss details of that meeting with the public, but it would open up whoever discussed the information to a civil lawsuit. While other publications do print such information, I do not see it as appropriate (through my actions) to expose fellow community members to civil action.

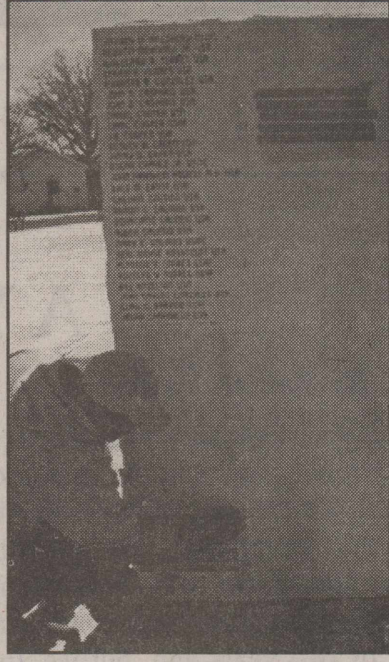
I am glad that you find the series of articles on the National Debt interesting, and I hold high hopes that many other members of our small community feel the same way. The issue of National Debt is not strictly national news, but will continue to be an issue my generation will deal with on a local level for decades to come. The content of those articles were not found in any national media outlet, but were siphoned through peer reviewed scientific journals. I feel that while the broad strokes of the information contained in the articles have been mentioned in national media outlets, those broad strokes lack context-and I attempted to put the information into context for my readers. I once had a professor though who told me that, "If you have to defend anything you write due to its relevance, then you need to do a better job writing it". If that is the case here I can only try to do a better job in the future.

I can remember one of the most cherished gifts I received upon graduating from Sonora High School in 1996. It was a slender box wrapped in maroon paper, and inside it was a dress shirt with a clipping from the Devils River News. That clipping had a picture of me in the fourth grade (along with fellow UIL team mates), and a handwritten letter from Charles Russell-superintendent of schools at that time. His letter simply said, "I have been watching your achievements ever since this was printed, and only wonder at your future". That clipping (and the sports write ups that came in high school) followed me throughout college, and served to show me that no matter where I went my community supported me.

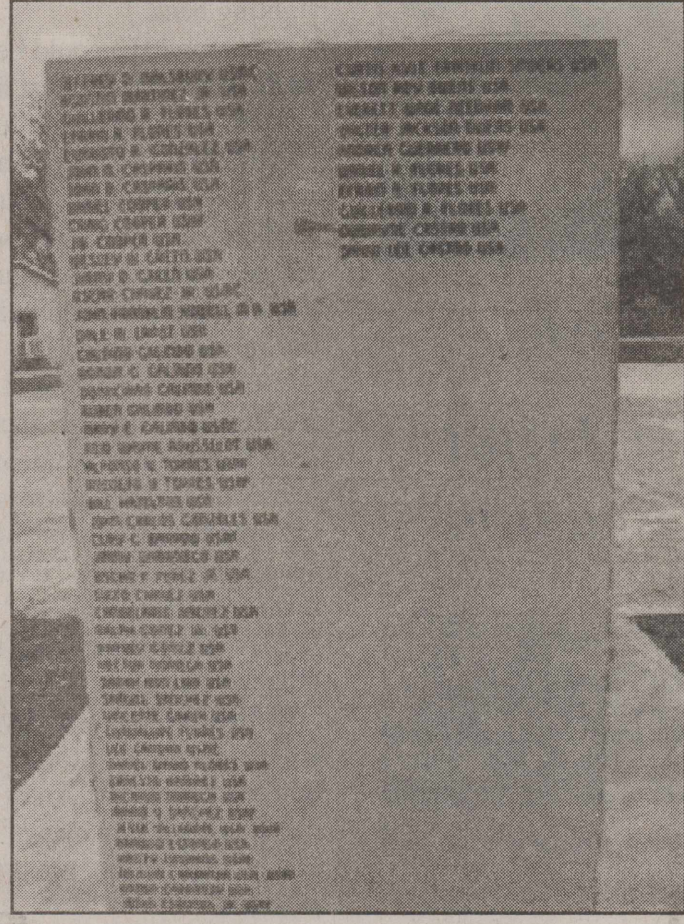
I realize that we do print quite a bit of sports in the Devil's River News, but I will not take from these young men and women the recognition that I was able to get so much strength from.
 There are only two things in this world I am certain about. 1) A perfect person once lived on our earth, and 2) he ain't me. Thank you David for taking the time to write this letter and voicing your concerns. I promise that I will take all of your points to heart, and hope to use them to make the Devil's River News better.

Sincerely,
 Ben D. Taylor
 Publishing Editor

More Names Added to the Veterans Wall at Liberty Park



Liberty Park welcomed the addition of 38 new names to its Veterans wall. Park organizers are always looking for more names to add to this wall, so if you know of anyone that should be added to the wall please contact Juanita Gomez at 325-206-0830.



First United Methodist Church

201 NW Water Ave.
 (325) 387-2466
 Ray Wells, Pastor

- Sunday**
 9:45 Sunday School
 10:55 Worship
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- Tuesday**
 12:00 Lion's Club
- Wednesday**
 6:00 Beth Moore Study - Fellowship Hall
 6:00 Jr. High Youth - St. John's Sunday House
 7:00 Sr. High Youth - St. John's Sunday House

Happy Birthday!

- December 30
 Blayze W. Sykes, Justin Northcott, Carol Pope, Rosalie Richardson, Mario Lira, Jr., Katelyn Trevino, Erica Olson, Jeannette Thompson, Jeb Hunt, Mary Jean Sims
- December 31
 Nathan Longoria
- January 1
 Shirley Hall, Dorothy Jimenez, Ana-Lesa Samaniego, Becky Collins, Amy Harris, Joe Micheal Campos, Brianna Kesinger, Richard Gomez, Lize Conteraz, Corey Smith, Erika Acevedo
- January 2
 Alex Morrow, Keith Hudson, Gretta Smith, Betty Lopez, Nick Pena, Michael Martinez, Pablo Favela
- January 3
 Missy Longoria, Melissa Fisher, Mikey Owen, Camille Marshall, Lance Haynes, Armando Noriega, Norma Williams, Elyssa Prieto, Linda Samaniego, Diana Samaniego, Mickey Galindo, Jessica Loera
- January 4
 Wylie Wagoner, Linda Neff, Elyssa Prieto, Ebot Flores, Katelyn Lipham, Xzavier Castilleja, Delaney Ramsdell, Heather Smith, Lorie Powers, Kallie Humphrey, Jennifer Creek, Cyndye Batchelor, Jamer Alexander, Hope Mesa
- January 5
 Nicole Aguirre, Randy Garcia, Renee Smith, Demetrio Castro, Jr., Colton Hooper, Miranda Perez, Francisco Perez, Marlene Ortiz, Robert Hughes



Arbor Day Brings New Life: To An Old Park

Mayor Jed Davenport declared April 30, 2010, Arbor Day in Sonora. It was official and the day of activities began for 80 fifth grade students in Sonora. This was the largest class so far to date to participate in planting trees to help beautify Sonora. This year the girls' softball field, by the City swimming pool, was the recipient of ten Red Bud trees. After the Mayor made it official, this year's T-shirt winner was revealed. The honors went to Josh Galindo. This year's poster winner also placed at the state level with an Honorable Mention Award. He was presented with a certificate and goodie bag from the Texas Forest Service. All the students and teachers received a shirt with his picture silk-screened on the front thanks to the generosity of several donors including: MultiChem and Ben and Lenora Pool. After planting the trees, the students had the opportunity to go by First National Bank to view their posters that were on display in the bank for everyone's viewing pleasure. A big "Thanks" goes out to our County Agent Pascual Hernandez for all his help with the planting of these trees. Also thank you to the City for all your support of this worthwhile project. This softball field has come a long way and gets better and better every week. The students will be able to watch their trees grow as the past students have been able to do throughout Sonora. Keep Sonora Beautiful is very proud to sponsor this terrific event, helping to Keep Sonora Beautiful!

Sonora Native Inducted Into OCS Army Hall of Fame



Submitted

Colonel Larry D. Cade, formerly of Sonora, was recently inducted into the Officer Candidate School (OCS) Hall of Fame for the U.S. Army. He and his wife, the former Kristin Keel, attended the official induction ceremony on March 26, 2010 at Fort Benning, Georgia.

The OCS Hall of Fame was established in January, 1958 to honor OCS graduates who display outstanding service to the nation. Only

1% of all OCS graduates are selected for the Hall of Fame. The selection process is open to officers of all branches who have graduated from any active Army component OCS program and have attained the rank of Colonel while serving on active duty or the reserves; have been appointed or elected to a state or national office; have received state or national recognition for distinguished service; or have distinguished wartime service records.

The history of OCS began during the summer of 1940 when General George Marshall recognized the absolute importance of establishing training facilities for new officers. His vision was put into action at Fort Benning and General Omar Bradley, former Commandant of the Infantry School, is credited with establishing the foundation of training still being used in OCS today, a foundation which emphasizes rigorous training, strict discipline, and efficient organization.

Rider at Texas Tech University in 1978 and graduated in 1979. He completed a Masters Degree in Health Care Administration from Central Michigan University in 1990. Colonel Cade is currently assigned to the Army Medical Department Center and School, Fort Sam Houston, Texas as the Chief, Department of Health Services Administration. Larry and Kristin's parents are Gaile and Clay Cade and Cynthia and Bill Keel of Sonora.

Colonel Cade graduated from Sonora High School in 1974. He was the Masked

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F.Y.I.

2011 Miss Cinco de Mayo: Viva Sonora is accepting registration for the 2011 MISS CINCO DE MAYO. If you would like the opportunity to be the next MISS CINCO DE MAYO and win a \$1000.00 scholarship, please contact Michelle Faz at The Bank & Trust. Applicants must be in 9th, 10th and 11th grades.

2011 Little Mr. & Miss Cinco de Mayo: Viva Sonora is accepting registration for 2011 LITTLE MR. & MISS CINCO DE MAYO. To register or for more information, please contact Jo Ann Hernandez at The Bank & Trust.

2011 Mrs. Cinco de Mayo: Viva Sonora is also looking for a 2011 MRS. CINCO DE MAYO. The winner will receive a one night two day weekend getaway for two. For more information, please contact Jo Ann Hernandez & Michelle Faz at The Bank & Trust.

Farmer's Market every Thursday @ 4:00 p.m. next to Ol' Sonora Trading Co.

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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Sonora Service Directory

<p style="text-align: center;">Allison Well Service</p> <p style="text-align: center;">325-446-2382 <i>All your pump and windmill needs.</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Knox Floor Covering</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Carpet-Vinyl-Tile</i> 392-2180 201 Ave I Ozona, TX</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Apache Floors & Interiors</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Now Offering Western & Wildlife Furniture Made in USA <small>"Sales & Installation of all types of flooring."</small> 105 N 11th Street, Junction, TX 325-446-4067</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Advertise Here!</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.2em;">325-387-2507</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Big C Automotive</p> <p style="text-align: center;">501 S. Crockett Sonora, Texas 76950 325-387-5167</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Mata Fence and Dozer Services, LLC Specializing In All Types Fencing, Welding, Landscaping, Dozer & Auger Services Sam Mata Adrian Mata Office: 325-387-5913 Cell: 325-226-2899</p>
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<p style="text-align: center;">Charles Howard Construction, Inc.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Oilfield Contractor Asphalt & Concrete Construction email: chowardconst@sonoratrix.net phone: (325) 387-3093 fax: (325) 387-5543 mobile: (325) 206-0497</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Order Your T-Shirts Today! Call Ben @ 325-387-2507</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Judy Edwards</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Licensed Massage Therapist The Cutting Edge 1001 St. Anns St. 325-234-5554</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Tom Davidson Attorney at Law</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Specializing in Criminal Law</i> <i>Free Advice & Referrals</i> 325-632-2000</p>
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Super S Foods Purchases T&C Village Markets

Super S Foods, a Texas family owned and operated chain of supermarkets with 51 hometown stores located in 41 Texas counties throughout South and Central Texas, has purchased the seven T & C Village Markets located in: Sonora, Ozona, Iraan, McCamey, Big Lake, Cross Plains and Sundown. The purchase became final on Wednesday, May 19, 2010.

"This is a very exciting occasion for Super S Foods with the addition of these seven stores," said David McBurnett, President and owner of Super S Foods. Our niche is serving hometown communities in South, Central and West Texas, and this acquisition fits our expansion plans perfectly. "We are eager to begin serving our new customers with a wide selection of quality foods and fresh perishables."

"Customers will begin to see a transformation of products and expansion of departments within the next three to four weeks," said McBurnett.

Super S Foods is known for its outstanding Meat Department, featuring Nolan Ryan's All Natural Guaranteed Tender Beef. Nolan Ryan Beef products are processed in Texas with no artificial ingredients and are guaranteed tender, which translates into a great eating experience. All fresh meats are cut fresh and packaged in-store by our Super S Foods meat experts. Special orders and requests are always our pleasure at Super S Foods.

In addition to the Nolan Ryan Beef, Super S Foods offers G.F. Swift 1855 Brand all natural premium pork. This product has superior tenderness and juiciness and has no added artificial ingredients. Both the Swift Natural Fresh Pork and G.F. Swift 1855 Brand Pork are exclusively sold at Super S Foods. The stores will also offer guaranteed fresh poultry, never frozen.

For the budget minded shopper, within the Meat Department, Super S Foods offers its PICK 5 MEAT PACKAGES for \$19.99. Customers will find over seventy different varieties of specially marked packages featuring ribs, steaks, pork chops, chicken, frozen foods and more—any combination of five packages, mix or match, for just \$19.99.

Super S Foods owns and operates its own Produce Warehouse in San Antonio. This enables Super S Foods to bring customers the freshest fruits and vegetables from around the world, across the nation and even locally where available. Each store will receive fresh deliveries 2 to 3 times per week.

Super S Foods prides itself on freshness. During the initial transformation of the stores customers will begin to see expanded Dairy and Frozen Foods departments, which will have added selection and the introduction of new products.

Super S Foods offers two lines of store brands that are

designed to save you money. Look for the "Parade" label for national brand quality at a lower price and the "Better Valu" label for value priced items that will help you stretch your grocery dollar.

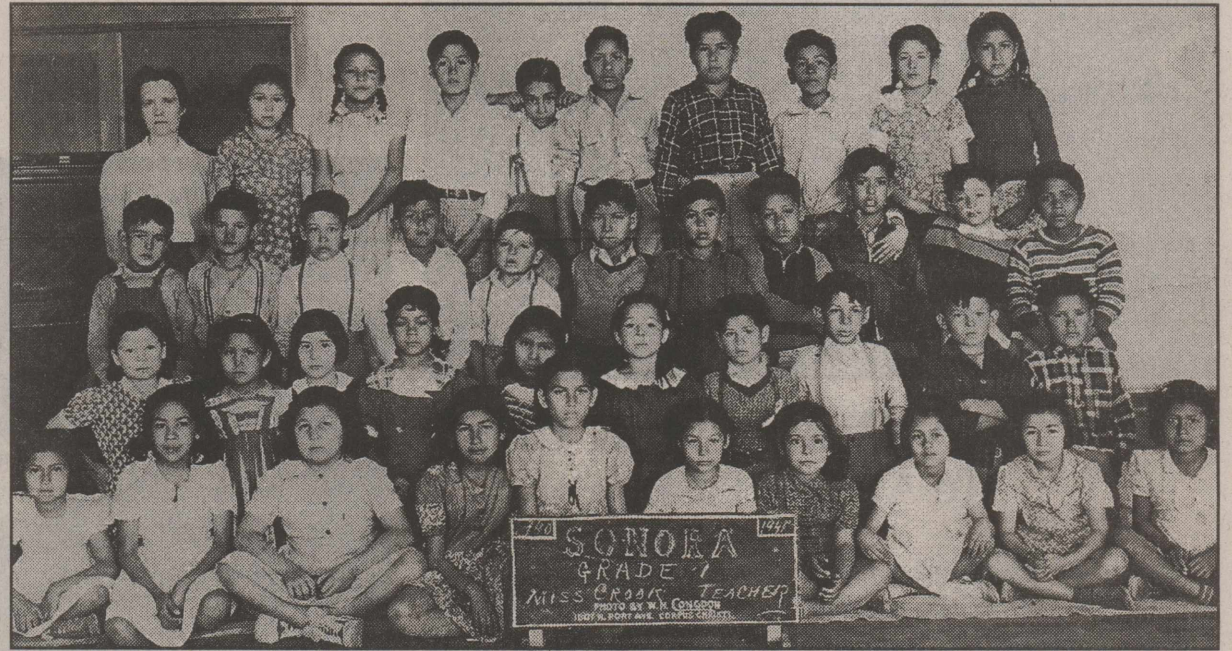
All stores will be open 7 days a week with operating hours that fit each town's needs. The stores will offer super customer services including: check cashing, Western Union money orders and money transfers, pre-paid phone cards, Texas lotto and lottery tickets, hunting and fishing licenses, utility payments and convenient ATM's.

Super S Foods is known for taking an active role in helping support the communities where they operate stores. Super S is active in local FFA stock shows and offers \$1,000 annual scholarships to deserving high school seniors in all 48 towns where Super S Foods is located.

Super S Foods is proud to announce that with the acquisition of these stores, they will immediately implement their \$1,000 scholarship award to seven deserving high school seniors at the end of this school year in May.

Super S Foods is a Texas owned supermarket business now with 58 stores located in hometown communities throughout Central, South and West Texas and is in its 37th year of serving customers with all their grocery shopping needs.

A Joyful Reunion



Students from the 1941 La Elliott School first grade pose for their class picture.

By Delyse Jaeger

September 11, 2010 now marks a historically significant day for Sonora, Texas. On Saturday, former students of La Elliott School gathered for a "first of its kind" school-wide reunion and historical commemoration ceremony.

The event was a dream come true for former students and the culmination of months of planning and hard work on the part of the Commemoration Committee. Former students now living in California, Colorado, Iowa, Idaho, Arizona, Utah, Louisiana, and all across Texas returned to their home town to celebrate a shared history and reunite with friends and family. The Historical Marker Dedication Ceremony began with a welcome by Master of Ceremonies Honorable Judge Pete Gomez Jr., followed by Goodfellow Air Force Base Honor Guard Presentation of Colors and the Star Spangled Banner performed by Elizabeth (Lizzy) Avila Chavez. Several speakers recounted the history of La Elliott and the significance of the lawsuit that brought about the closing of the school.

The original plaintiffs and their adult children were honored and recognized for their involvement in the historic case. Speakers included Maura Hernandez Weingart of Sonora, Atty. Marisol L. Perez of San Antonio (formerly of the Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund), Augustine (Gus) Chavez of San Diego, CA, Reverend Zaragosa Esquivel of Sonora and Sam David and Betty Hernandez of Sonora. Also recognized were Luther Creek and Mary Lou Mata Creek (a former La Elliott student), current owners of the site for their contri-

buton to the event. A beautiful rock structure encases the historical marker which was unveiled at the close of the ceremony.

The marker reads:

L.W. Elliott School
"La Elliott"

In Sonora, Texas the site of the second Mexican Ward School was opened on January 26, 1935. The official name was L.W. Elliott School, after the Sonora ISD Board President, L.W. Elliott. Since opening day, the Mexican American community referred to the school in Spanish as La Elliott. La Elliott represented racial segregation in public schools and facilities that existed in many communities throughout the nation. Despite evident inequities in the school system, students and parents of La Elliott made the school the vibrant hub of cultural, social and academic life of the Mexican American community. The friendships, family connections and generational interchange created by La Elliott gave rise to lasting relationships that will continue to record and acknowledge the historical contributions, heritage and success of Sonora's Mexican American community. After thirty four years of operation the Sonora Independent School District Board of Trustees closed the L.W. Elliott School on June 30, 1970 as a result of a historic lawsuit filed by Isael Perez, Victoriano Chavez, Santos Hernandez and Eugenio Gonzalez, representing their minor children. Thanks to the perseverance of the spirit and determination of former La Elliott students, parents, elders and friends, the closing of La Elliott marked the beginning of the end to educational racial segregation in Sonora. Sonora

has continued to be a united and integrated community working for a better future.

A special tribute is paid to the American G.I. Forum and the local community leaders who spearheaded the drive that initiated the litigation that ended school segregation in Sonora.

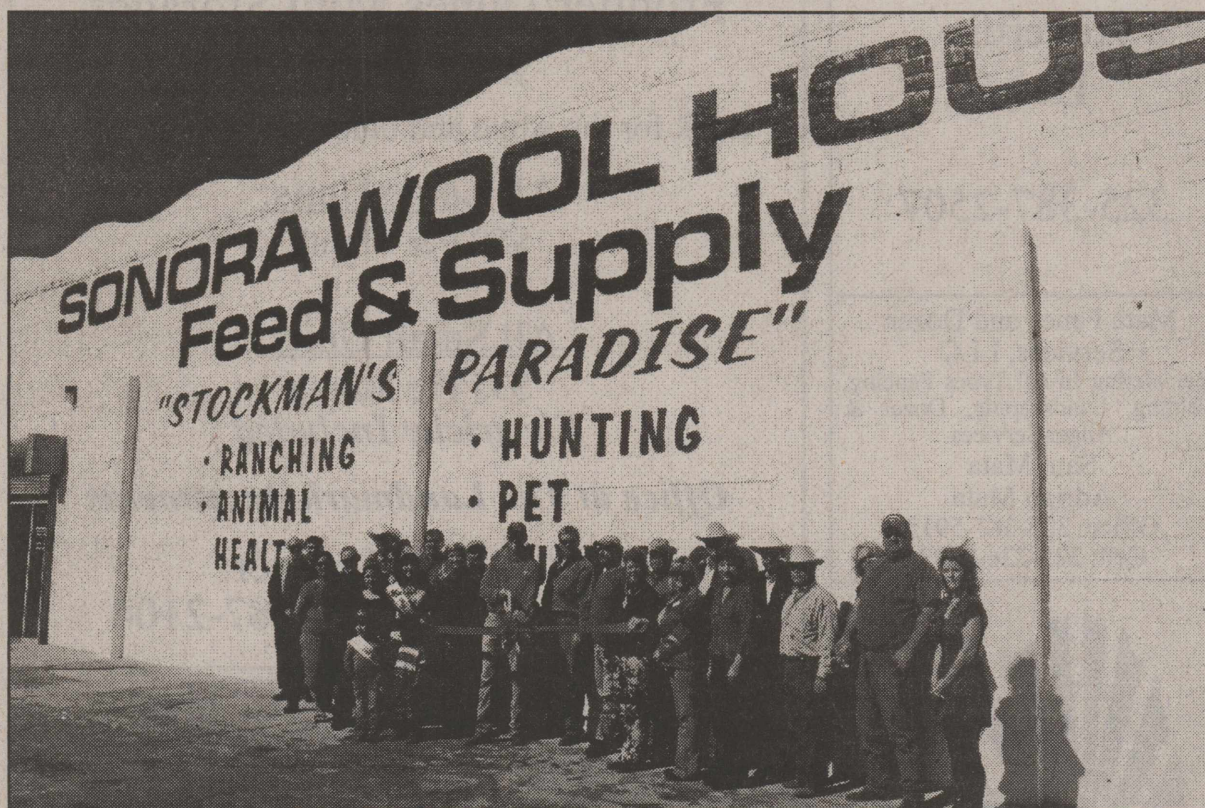
Case No. CA-6-224
Perez et al vs. Sonora Independent School District. The Board of Trustees of the Sonora ISD, et al. U.S. District Court, Northern Division of Texas. San Angelo Division
Viva La Elliott -
September 11, 2010 -
Sonora, Texas

A Reunion Parade took the event from the site of La Elliott to the Sutton County Civic Center where lunch was served to a full house. Numerous photographs from La Elliott were on display and many alumni brought pictures to share, which were also scanned and added to the growing body of information collected with the help of Viva Sonora. The atmosphere was thick with warmth and excitement as old friends greeted one another, many of whom had not returned to Sonora since the 1950's. With laughter and tears, former students recounted their stories of La Elliott and the community through which they are forever bound.

Commemoration Committee Chair Person Betty Hernandez stated, "This is one of the most rewarding experiences I have ever had and Sam David and I are so proud to have taken part in it. Seeing everyone reunite and reminisce, especially those who have never experienced a reunion, is very special. We are so thankful for all the hard work of the committee members, for our sponsors and the many individuals who gave donations for the event, and for the guidance of Dr. Alma Sanchez Perez and Mr. Gus Chavez."

While the oldest among the La Elliott alumni were perhaps the most profoundly moved by the event, today's youth will also be able to learn from it. Cathy Pacheco, daughter of Emilio and Edna Pacheco of Sonora, filmed the ceremony and reunion as part of a university course project and agreed to make her film available. In addition, the committee is collecting and organizing photographs, stories and documentation related to La Elliott which will eventually reside at the Smithsonian in Washington D.C.

Sonora Wool House Feed & Supply: A Grand Opening With Grand Weather



The Sonora Wool House Feed & Supply Celebrated their grand opening with perfect weather and a great attendance Monday, November 8, 2010.

Please join us in celebrating....

Gretta Elizabeth Smith's

100th Birthday

Saturday, January 1, 2011

3:00pm - 5:00pm

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Oil & Agribusiness

Looking Back at 2010

By Pascual Hernandez,
Sutton County Agricultural
Extension Agent



As we conclude another year, we look back at some of the events of 2010. They all had an impact on agriculture. Here are a few of the top stories:

Worst Oil Spill of All Time
The massive gush of oil started on April 20 and ran for 86 days. It may be hard to appreciate now, but 2010 started as a banner year for oil. The world's energy giants were on the move, sending off their sharpest petroleum engineers, sophisticated seismic probes, and huge rigs to some of the most forbidding places on the planet, from the Gulf of Mexico to Greenland.

The economic message from all of this exploration still holds true: The world is not running out of oil—it is running out of easy oil.

Egg Recall Rattles Food Supply

More than 500 million eggs were pulled off store shelves last summer due to possible contamination with salmonella. It was the largest food recall of the past decade, according to the Food and Drug Administration. State authorities in Minnesota started reporting human outbreaks of salmonella disease to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in May. By October more than 1,800 people were reported ill with fever, abdominal pain, and diarrhea in 29 outbreaks across 11 states. The CDC estimates that, in total, the bacterium poisoned at least 54,000 people, the worst outbreak of salmonella since the agency began surveillance on the bug in the late 1970s. No deaths were reported.

Public Safety Commission Approves Enhanced DWI Enforcement Program

During their monthly meeting today, the Texas Public Safety Commission approved a special DWI enforcement program by the Texas Highway Patrol. The enhanced patrols will be funded through a grant from the Texas Department of Transportation.

Highway Patrol troopers will conduct patrols looking for drivers who are intoxicated during selected holidays in high-risk locations during the times when alcohol-related crashes are most frequent.

"We are pleased that we will be able to expand our DWI enforcement, especially during the times that many intoxicated drivers are on Texas roadways. If you've been drinking, you need to make other arrangements to get home. If you don't, you may find yourself in one of our black and whites, on your way to jail," said David G. Baker, the DPS assistant director of the Texas Highway Patrol.

The targeted enforcement periods in 2010 and 2011 will be during the Christmas/New Year's holiday, Spring Break (in mid-March), Independence Day and the Labor Day holiday.

President Obama Signs Tax Bill

President Obama signed the Tax Relief, Unemployment Insurance Reauthorization, and Job Creation Act of 2010 on Friday, December 17. Among other things the measure includes estate tax reform and extensions of ethanol and biodiesel tax incentives. Also of note, the legislation extends existing individual income tax, capital gains and dividend tax rates for two years and extends dozens of short-term tax breaks. Many agricultural groups reacted positively to the news that President Obama signed the tax package into law.

Dry Winter & Long-term Drought?

Much of our region is showing a rainfall deficit. A strong El Niño, which heated up the equatorial Pacific Ocean, was blamed for triggering 2010's monsoons; now, weather experts say La Niña, the opposite phenomenon that results from cooler Pacific temperatures, will influence this winter's weather and bring warmer, drier than average weather to the Southwest, Southern Plains, Gulf Coast states, and the Southeast. This will likely aggravate drought conditions in these areas say National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) scientists in their October 21 forecast.

Looking Ahead
We look forward to a new year and hope for a prosperous 2011.

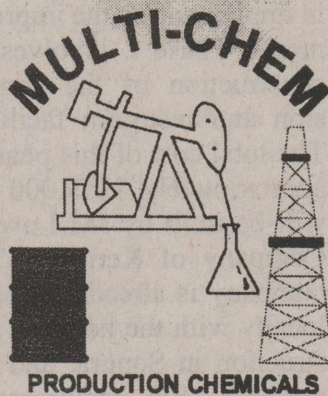


Rig Report December 26, 2010

Sutton
New 1 Highmount E&P Tx 6250' W R Cusenbary -39- #10 Ft Ringo Drilling I Lp 2 07/17/10 7 Drlg Ahead 6025

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1 Approach Operating 9000' University 45-21 #7 Dw Nabors Drilling (O) 353 07/14/10 10 Drlg Ahead
New 2 Approach Operating 9000' University 45-21 #8 Dw Nabors Drilling (O) 353 07/30/10 Assigned
New 3 Approach Operating 9000' Baker -A- #107 Dw Nabors Drilling (O) 709 07/17/10 7 Drlg Ahead
4 Approach Operating 9000' University 42-23 #12 Ft Ringo Drilling I Lp 18 07/11/10 13 Drlg Ahead 8000'
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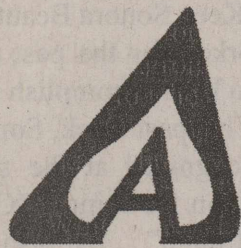


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3rd Marine Division Visits Sonora



By Ben D. Taylor

In 1985 President Reagan commented that, "Some people spend an entire lifetime wondering if they made a difference in the world. But, the Marines don't have that problem". Before talking with the men of the 3rd Division I would have seen that quote as a commentary solely on the confidence of the typical Marine. It wasn't until speaking to one of these men that I realized how deeply Reagan understood Marines. They never question whether they made a difference in the world not just because of the battles they fought or the wars they won. They knew they made a difference in the world because they fought not just for country but for the man next to them, and for any soldier that can be world.

This past weekend, the surviving members of the 3rd Marine Division (some of whom helped take the beach head of Iwo Jima in 1945) visited Sonora for their annual reunion. While here they visited the newly renovated Liberty Park, ate at our local hotels, visited our museums, and shopped in our businesses. It is only fitting that the same men that helped liberate a beleaguered world from tyranny, do the same for Sonora. They did this by choosing our community (one that has been suffering from a dismal year of low revenue) for this reunion.

I had the opportunity to visit with one of these men on Main Street where he commented, "It's great to see a town with so many flags down its main street". When I told him that the flags were put out for their honor by a group of Good Samaritans (who prefer to be unnamed) he simply said, "you got a town to be proud of".

Keep SONORA Beautiful

Recycle, Reuse, Reduce, and Rebuy are now the 4 "R's" of education these days.

Keep Sonora Beautiful and the Sutton County 4H and Cub Scout Pack 19 helped make Sonora's Recycle-Reuse Round-up successful. Keep Sonora Beautiful was able to fill up a 14' stock trailer with cardboard, No.1 & No.2 plastic, and phone-books. The e-waste trailer was bursting over the edges with electronics and even several tube monitors for \$10 each were taken into recycling.

The Batteries Plus store from San Angelo had to come back the next day to pick up the remaining batteries he was unable to put in his truck. The bed of a truck was also filled with clothes and household items for Goodwill. The results are in and the day was determined a SUCCESS! A Big thanks goes out to our local Texas Department of Transportation and David Sanchez and Sam Kent for spending the day loading and unloading everyone's recyclables. These men were a huge help and were quite appreciated.

KSB is working very hard to make the recycling of cardboard and plastic a reality in this town and if we keep our fingers crossed it will happen in the Spring. These are two items that take up a large amount of space in the landfill and it would be beneficial to recycle them. There is a market for the product and we have a means to keep them out of the trash. KSB and the City of Sonora are working to make this recycling work for the community. We want to Keep Sonora Beautiful!

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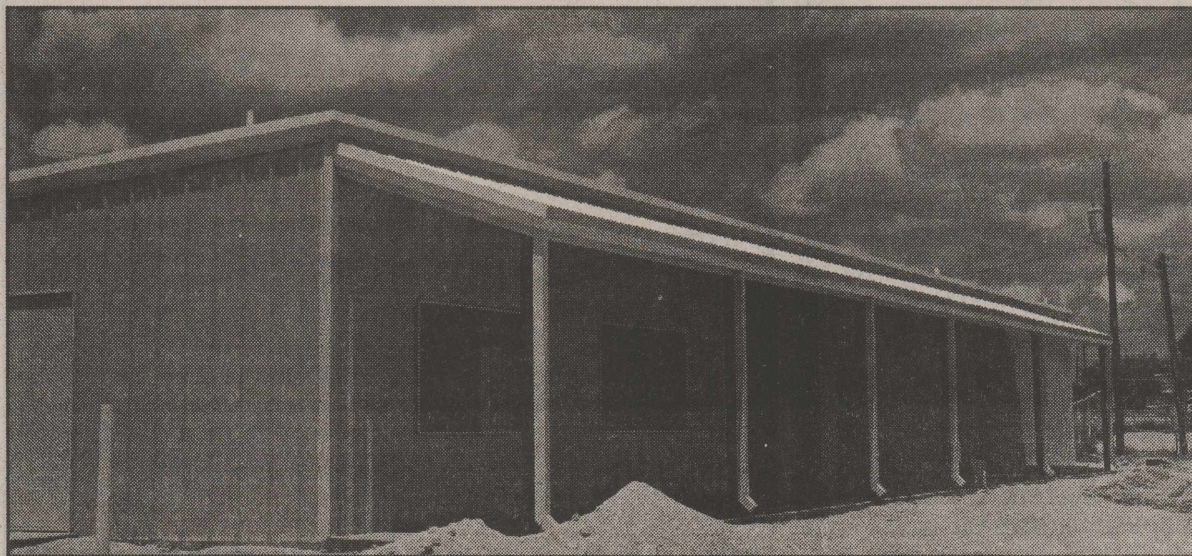
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Change You CAN Be Proud Of



The new concession stand at the Sutton County Rodeo Arena gets ready for customers.

Submitted

The Sutton County Arena is taking on a new look! The new concession stand and restroom facilities are scheduled to be finished just in time for the 2010 Sonora Outlaw Pro Rodeo and Sutton County Days festivities! Join your community improvement minded friends and become a part of the upgrade and expansion of YOUR arena.

Phase 2 of the Sutton County Arena improvements is finally nearing completion! For the past five years, the Sutton County Days Association has been actively seeking to improve the Sutton County Arena. The association created an Arena Improvement Committee (AIC) that employed H. Schmidt Architecture to develop a master plan for the Arena Park Complex. The proposed improvements included: new lighting and sound system (completed in phase 1), new concession and restroom facilities, additional bleachers and new covered grandstand seating, all of which will be handicap accessible and meet ADA standards. According to the architect cost estimates for the proposed improvements were expected to cost over \$800,000. Due to the difficulties of fundraising, made con-

siderably worse by the economic downturn, the AIC has had to take a phased approach in implementing the improvements. Phase 2 involves the construction of the concession and restroom facilities. The total cost of this phase is approximately \$259,000 and will be built by JM Lowe & Company of Kerrville. This company is already involved locally with the hospital construction in Sonora, and met the AIC bid requirements. Expected completion date for this phase is just in time for this year's Sonora Outlaw Pro Rodeo!

AIC currently has approximately \$199,000 in funds available or committed and is seeking donations to complete the second phase of improvements. These improvements will improve the economic vitality of Sonora by attracting additional activities and enhancing the quantity, quality and types of events that can be held at the arena. For example, 4-H & FFA activities, arts and craft events, amateur and professional rodeo events, circus, professional bull riding, monster truck rallies, and BMX bike competitions are just a few of the activities that could be scheduled at the Sutton County

Arena once renovations are completed.

Based on an assessment of the estimated number of visitors who would attend a wider venue of events at the Arena year-round and who would

lodge, eat, and shop in Sonora, the Sonora Economic Development Corp. and the Sonora Chamber of Commerce have determined that the annual economic impact could be greater than one half million dollars for the City of Sonora and Sutton County. In addition to the economic benefits, the refurbished and better-utilized arena complex would be a source of entertainment and fun for all Sonora and Sutton County residents.

Tax deductible contributions can be made to the Sutton County Community Trust c/o First National Bank, P.O. Box 798, Sonora, TX 76950, with designation for the Sutton County Arena Improvements. If you have any questions please contact Curry Campbell at 325-277-2571 or any of the Arena Improvement Committee members. Please become a part of this community improvement project today!

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!



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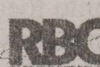


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 600 + Acres, Large Live Oak, Heavy Mesquite, Seller To Pay Water Well Allowance, Abundant Deer and Turkey, Hwy frontage, some minerals, 14 miles E of Sonora, \$1395/Acre

~Commercial Property~
Large Price Reduction
 277 and W. 2nd St.
 Great location & Fenced yard
Bob Caruthers - Broker
 325-226-3003 Anytime

email: bobc@sonoratlx.net

Main Street REALTY

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

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

*****REDUCED*****
 505 Glasscock
 984 square feet
 2/1 w/ carport
 \$71,000

COLDWELL BANKER

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

LISTINGS:
 110 Deerwood Drive - 4 BR/3BA
 1039 Eaton St. - 80'x120' lot
 1011 Eaton St. - 80'x120' lot
 603 Tom Green - 5 BR/3BA
 1107 S. Concho - 3 BR/2BA



308 Railroad
 3 BR, 1 1/2 BA nice older home on a corner commercial lot with large trees! Features a large room previously used as a flower shop with a work room & and a second 1/2 bath. Great home with a lot of character. Come See!!!

Happy New Year
Residential Properties

817 E. 2nd St.	\$89,500
210 Mockingbird Lane, Ozona, TX	\$90,000 Price Reduced!
210 E. 2nd St.	\$99,500
709 & 709B Tom Green Ave.	\$100,000
208 S. Concho Ave.	\$129,900
300 E. College St.	\$159,000
102 Oakwood St.	\$165,000
301 W. Castlehill Rd.	\$169,500
1209 Mesquite Ave.	\$175,000
213 Hudspeth Ave.	\$178,000
105 Sawyer Ct.	\$188,500
111 Sonora Dr.	\$189,500
1105 Ave. C, Ozona, TX	\$229,000

Commercial Properties

606 Crockett Ave. - Vacant Gas Station	\$64,500
226 E. Main St. - In-line Downtown Bldg.	\$90,000
308 11th St., Ozona, TX - Apartments	\$135,000
847 Meridian Drive - Large Office Bldg.	\$295,000
Stadium Park Mobile Home Park w/Several Properties	\$420,000
102 N. Fairway Dr., Ozona, TX - Apartments	\$450,000

Acreage

20 acres - Sutton County Estates Lot 5 - Hwy 864	\$50,000
122.416 acres - Sutton County Estates - Hwy 864	\$244,832
84.838 acres - Schleicher Co. - Hwy 190E&CR404	\$115,000
675.714 acres - Crockett Co.	\$912,209
960.77 acres - Sutton County - Bond Rd.	\$1,300,000
1150 acres - Sutton County - Baker Rd.	\$1,719,250

*****REDUCED—Ranch Listing*****
 7400 +/- acres, 12 miles from Sonora
\$650 per acre, surface only
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*****Hunter's Retreat*****
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 300 acres OR 100 acre plots
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Relay For Life Paints The Town Purple

Submitted

A great time was had by all at the 2010 Relay For Life on Saturday, April 17th at the Sutton County Civic Center. The festivities began at 5:30 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall with a Survivor's Dinner that will not soon be forgotten. The survivors were invited to a hamburger dinner to be cooked by the Downtown Sonora Lion's Club only to be surprised with an elegantly decorated fellowship hall; shrimp cocktail was served to begin the evening; followed by steak, mashed potatoes, asparagus, salad and cheesecake for dessert by Linda Love, a cancer survivor herself. A great group of kids from the Sonora Middle School and the Lion's Club Queen, Keeli Taylor, helped to serve the survivors and their guests. The Lion's Club made the Survivors Dinner an evening to remember and Linda Love's catering was superb.

Following the dinner, the Survivors made their way to the Sutton County Civic Center to kick-off Relay For Life at 7 p.m. They arrived to a packed house of fellow community members already enjoying food and games. Relay For Life officially began with the Opening Ceremonies; a welcoming speech was given by Stacy Fisher followed by a blessing from Lewis Allen. The Cub Scouts, with the assistance of Chris Roque, performed the Color Guard and posting of the American Flag. The room overflowed with pride as Tommy and Beverly Arnwine sang the National Anthem before the Sonora Middle School students lead the crowd in the Pledge of Allegiance.

One of the most important ceremonies that took place immediately following The Pledge was the Survivor Ceremony. This year, Dani Dillard and Noemi Samaniego carefully planned out each detail of the ceremony to make sure that each survivor was recognized individually. As their names and the numbers of birthdays each survivor had celebrated since their initial diagnosis was announced, each survivor was given a flower donated by Rosey Bud/Ol'Sonora. A birthday cake donated by Halfmann's Cake Cottage was carried out and the crowd sang Happy Birthday to celebrate the 627 total birthdays that the survivors of Sonora have celebrated since their diagnosis. After blowing out the candles on their birthday cake, the survivors, walked their celebratory lap while Tish Roque and Lizzie Chavez sang a beautiful song. Just before 8:00 p.m. the par-

ty was in full gear...games, food, and fun. Blind Nello entertained the masses with amazing vocals and kept us all moving throughout the night. We kept the teams on their toes with a few games that required participation. Bryan Reyes of Team Multi-Chem won the Sunflower Seed Spitting Contest, Highmount Heroes won the ever entertaining Road to Recovery race, and many laughs were had while Mason Martinez, Team Multi-Chem, ate his competition into the ground in the Cherry Pie Eating contest. Janey Dillard kept the masses going at the BINGO table until 10:30 and then we raffled off 4 - \$25 Visa gift cards, 2 - \$100 Visa gift cards, and the grand prize of a \$500 Visa gift card.

At 9:30 p.m., we all gathered in the walking area for the Luminaria Ceremony which Linda Fisher began by speaking about the meaning of the ceremony. Gloria Lopez followed with a very emotional and heartfelt testimony about her experience with cancer and the American Cancer Society. To finish out the ceremony, we watched the Relay For Life slideshow that Jody Luttrell prepares each year that showcases survivors and those that have lost their battles to cancer. As the slideshow finished, we walked a lap while singing Amazing Grace and reading the names on the luminaria bags. The 30 minutes we spent on this ceremony really brought the devastation cancer has on each one of us into focus. The Luminaria Ceremony gave the motivation to keep going through the night and FIGHT BACK against cancer.

Throughout the entire evening, we had 6 teams that provided food and games to keep everyone up and having fun. The determination through the last few months really paid off with a BANG. It was evident that both young and those not so young were enjoying themselves. A Big Thanks to - Church of the Good Shepherd, Best Food, raised \$1298 - HighMount Heroes, Top Overall Team, raised \$8781.19 - SHS Student Council for a Cure, Best Campsite, raised \$1982.39 - Team Multi Chem, Most Spirited, raised \$2012 - First National Bank Gold Diggers, Best Activity, raised \$2001.10 - Pink Angels, Ms. Relay Winners, raised \$2355.18. Each team played a very important role in the success of the 2010 Relay For Life and the \$20,293.86 we raised over the last few months. Congratulations on a fun and successful Relay For Life.

Viva Sonora 3rd Annual Cinco de Mayo Celebration: May 1, 2010



Viva Sonora held their 3rd Annual Cinco de Mayo Celebration on Saturday, May 1, 2010. Viva Sonora board members are Jo Ann Hernandez, Michelle Faz, and Juanita Gomez, Advisory Board Member Eddie Arteaga and Committee Board Member Lori Galindo. The 2010 sponsors were The Bank and Trust, Sonora Chamber of Commerce, Eddie and Diana Arteaga and Amis Gift Shop. Approximately 1200 people attended the celebration, making 2010 the biggest Cinco de Mayo.

The festivities begin with a parade at 9:00, beginning from East Oak Street, onto North Crockett Ave continuing to the Sutton County Park. Several participants decorated their vehicles and dressed in the traditional Cinco de Mayo attire. At 10:00 Father Chris Roque, gave the invocation and the 2009 Cinco de Mayo Queen, Crystal Hidalgo, declared the food and vendors booths open.

For the 3rd consecutive year, Ninfa Gaytan and Family, Sam Mata and Family, Martha Gaytan and Family, have been a part of this celebration, cooking great food for all to enjoy. Joining them this year were the Faz Family, Tovar Family and La Elliott School Reunion Committee. Several arts and crafts were available both from local and out of town vendors.

During the day, Viva Sonora had several groups providing entertainment. The United Freestyle Stunt Team from Fort Worth, Texas with their professional BMX Bike Artists, Mariachi Angeles Dorados from San Angelo with the talented young group of

mariachis and the United States Army Recruiting Station from San Angelo with the climbing wall. Local entertainment was provided by folklorico dancers from the Sonora Academy of Arts headed by Lizzie Chavez.

Little Mr. and Little Miss Cinco de Mayo were announced after Kayla Garcia interviewed the children and judges: Father Chris Roque, 2008 Cinco de Mayo Queen Krysti Mendez and 2009 Cinco de Mayo Queen Crystal Hidalgo made their final decision. 2010 Little Mr. Cinco de Mayo is Christopher Martinez and 2010 Little Miss Cinco de Mayo is Annika Alissa Galindo. Other participants were Montserrat Citlaly De la Fuente and Jayla Da'Shae Williams. The crown was donated by Amis Gift Shop. The belt buckle was donated by Viva Sonora.

The evening commenced with the crowning of our 2010 Cinco de Mayo Queen, Adriana Ysenia Faz. Her sponsors were the Sutton County SteakHouse, La Mexicana Restaurant and Taco Grill. The crown was donated by Amis Gift Shop. The Cinco de Mayo Celebration ended with music by Juan Ramos Y Puro Principe from San Antonio, Texas. A cash bar during the day and evening was provided by La Mexicana-Brenda Sanchez and Tabitha Sanchez Abrego. The 2010 Cinco de Mayo Celebration would not have been possible without the blessings Viva Sonora has received from our Lord, Jesus Christ throughout the year. Viva Sonora is extremely grateful for everything Sierra Gomez does for us. We want to thank Tommy Gomez and Joe Galindo for your help, Houston Powers for the trailer, Parker Lumber for the lumber, George Hernandez for tables and United Energy for the barrels.

New Hospital Addition Grand Opening:

Facilities Built At No Cost to Taxpayer



On Sunday October 17th the Lillian M. Hudspeth Hospital hosted an open house to celebrate the grand opening of their new facilities. I sat down with hospital CEO Keith Butler and asked him to give me the history of this particular project.

"We looked at building the addition 2 years ago. When we first started looking at building an addition we had thought about building a new wing at the same time. We knew back in 2008 we leased a MRI trailer, and once it got out in the community that we were doing this it's utilization really went up. There was no doubt that we could support that technology in this town.

As 2008 ended we had started talking about the plans the economy nose dived. The income at the hospital took a big nose dive, but there is no way you can budget for that. So we had to decide if we want to pull the trigger on this project. We finally decided that we could engineer the building where we could add a wing further down the road, but in the new space we would allow for some additional holding beds. We also have multi-purpose procedure rooms where we can do the GI services and speciality clinics (cardiologists, nephrology, and neurosurgery). This area can actually hold 4 beds if the hospital gets full. Its called surge capacity.

As time went on and the economy didn't really improve we had to make a decision. We had the money in place to build the project, there were no jobs in town. If we went ahead with the project (and got a good price on it) we would also be creating jobs here in town. So we decided to go ahead and follow through with the project.

The building itself was estimated at 3.5 million dollars, the architects we have used in the past came back and told us that they could save about 10% off of that estimated cost. When it came time to open the bid we had 7 bidders, the first bid we opened was 1.1 million dollars under the estimate (33% savings). All of the rest of the bids were within 3% of each other. All the companies were well known businesses, but there just aren't that many jobs out there for them. When you start out a project saving 1.1 million dollars its a good thing.

We had already worked hard in the last half of 2009 picking

out equipment. You have to do that first because the building has to be designed around the equipment you use. We started construction in the first week of January. A local company did all of the concrete work, and the plumbers used local folks for assistance on their various projects. All the out of town contractors and subcontractors all stayed in hotels, and ate at the restaurants so there was some pretty decent money being spent here in town locally.

The total project (with the equipment) was 6.2 million dollars, and we are actually going to come in under budget. It's completely paid for with no tax increase, no bond, and no indebtedness at all-which is true with everything we have done with this hospital.

We now have 8200 square feet of facilities which includes a variety of things. We built a new patient courtyard, mobility court (outside exercise area for our swing bed patients), and new chapel. The building is divided into two parts-we have a procedure space, and an imaging side. The procedure side is where our GI lab is, where we can do colonoscopies and endoscopies where there is no longer a reason for patients to have to go to San Angelo for those procedures. We have a 4 bed space for speciality clinics. Right now we have a cardiologist, two nephrologists, a neuro-surgeon physician, and we are looking at hopefully getting an orthopedist and a optomologist to come down here during the week.

The imaging space includes digital mammography, ultrasound and stress lab, and our new MRI. The digital Mammography is new technology, and that's going to be a great service. Our MRI is the biggest and best magnet in the state if not in the whole country. It's generations above anybody else. You can do just about anything on it, including breast imaging."

Butler also commented that while this project was completed, the hospital is continuing its progressive view towards the future.

"This building was engineered to handle a new wing (another 12 beds). We are going to do a feasibility study probably by the end of the year is to build senior living and assisted living."

Now Seeing Patients in Sonora

Shannon Clinic in San Angelo is proud to announce the following physician will be available in Sonora monthly for evaluations and consultations at Lillian M. Hudspeth Memorial Hospital.



Anthony DeMory, M.D.
Nephrology

Beginning January 7

Dr. DeMory received his medical degree from the University of Chicago before completing both his residency and fellowship at the University of Chicago Hospital in Illinois.

Dr. DeMory joined Shannon Clinic in 2006 and serves as the Medical Director for Shannon Dialysis.

To schedule an appointment or for more information, please call Shannon Clinic at (325) 658-1511 or 800-530-4143.

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*Midnight Countdown

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