

The Devil's River News

Serving Sutton County Since 1890

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Volume 124 • Issue 2

SONORA, TEXAS

Thursday, January 12, 2012

Students of the Week



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Stock Show Time in Sutton County!

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Happy Birthday.



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Caught



By Ben D. Taylor

Jose Luis Trevino was apprehended by U.S. Marshalls in Del Rio on Wednesday, January 4th around 3:00 p.m. Sutton County Sheriff Joe Fincher was on the scene during the re-capture and later commented that, "Joe Frank Martinez (Val Verde County Sheriff and the Rangers did an excellent job of putting the operation together. They covered all the bases and made sure nobody got hurt."

Trevino was free for about 48 hours before the Texas Rangers received a tip on his location. Texas Ranger Kenneth Wadsworth commented, "The vehicle Trevino was known to

be in was discovered by railroad workers next to the rails. At that point it was just a matter of time before we caught him."

Trevino was apprehended in a trailer house, and with known gang ties his re-capture was approached with care. "We knew he was associated with a pretty rough gang, so safety was very important to us," commented Fincher, "again I cannot stress how good of a job everyone did in catching him".

Ranger Wadsworth commented that, "In the 20 plus years I have been involved with the Texas Rangers (part

of that time spent with a fugitive apprehension team in Odessa) I have never been on an operation that went as smooth as this one did. This operation may have ended in Del Rio but it began almost immediately after Trevino's escape. I was contacted within minutes of his escape, and at that point we immediately began a coordinated operation involving local, state, and federal agencies. Joe Fincher led the operation, and he did an outstanding job handling this entire multi-agency apprehension."

Stock Show Time in Sutton County!

By Pascual Hernandez,
Sutton County Agricultural
Extension Agent



It's that time of year when our youth get busy exhibiting the livestock they've been working for the last few months. It's meant having to gentle animals, halter-break them, weigh, exercise, doctor, and everything else necessary to prepare animals for the show ring.

Our Sutton County show activities begin this Thursday, January 12th with weigh-in at the 4-H Barn from 3 p.m.- 6 p.m. Shows will be at the Civic Center and start at 8:00 a.m. on Friday, beginning with market lambs and followed by the meat goats.

Next in the order will be Angora goats and cattle. The swine show will conclude the day's activities. For any interested, we will offer a "PeeWee Class" for any first or second-grader who wants to try their hand at showing. They will be able to borrow a goat and will have an older youth to assist them. Call the Extension Office at 387-3101 for more details or to sign your youth up for the Pee Wee show. So, make plans to attend the Sutton County Livestock Show this Tuesday.

The buyer appreciation supper is at 6:00 p.m. on Saturday, January 14th. The auction begins at 6:45. We ask any interested buyers to come support the auction if they can.

Participating in stock shows can help youngsters develop self-confidence through competition. They are given the opportunity to learn patience, commitment, and work ethic, but can also learn to overcome obstacles and to deal with disappointment. Livestock exhibition is also an excellent opportunity for family involvement in competitive events which reinforce time and resource management skills. We encourage families new to the program to seek help from us. We are happy to assist you and to help make livestock exhibition a pleasant learning experience.

Artist Tries to Capture Memories of Burned Homes

Courtesy of The Austin American Statesman: Story By Ricardo Gandara

Artist Mary Curtis wants to paint a portrait of every house that burned in Bastrop County—all 1,600 of them-free of charge.

"My son says it's my last hurrah," said the 83 year old watercolor painter. "And he says I'm insane. Maybe he's right. When I think about this, it's actually selfish in some way because I enjoy painting so much."

Thus far, she's done have a dozen 8 inch by 10 inch paintings by studying digital photographs emailed to her. The Austin artist (with close ties to Sonora, Texas) is motivated to paint as many as her health allows.

"What else do I have to do? Sit around and moan and groan and get old? This is the least I can do."

A hip replacement and osteoarthritis have slowed her down recently, but she's invigorated by her new project.

"She's very happy doing this," said her son, Bill Curtis. "At first, I was worried about her taking on something like this, but she's very sincere about it. Obviously, she's in it for the money. She loves to paint and help people."

Curtis' art career did not begin until she returned to college at age 50 to earn a degree in interior design at St. Edwards University.

"I took my first art class and discovered I could paint," she said.

When Texas celebrated its 150th birthday in 1986, she was selected as a Sesquicentennial

Artist of the State of Texas for her meticulously researched and historical art, including renditions of her hometown, Sonora. In 2003 she donated her collection of Austin Street scenes to the Austin History Center. In 2005, the Hyatt Regency Lost Pines Resort commissioned her to paint images of a dozen historical Bastrop homes; they are on display on the second floor of the lobby.

"The resort also has my obituary," Curtis said with a laugh, referring to a shirt biography on a plaque near the paintings. The attentions she's received during the years does not compare to her current project.

"It's the most important thing I've ever done," she said. I just want to give back some joy to people who have had a difficult time. When the wildfires hit Central Texas on Labor Day weekend, it hit home. Several artist friends in Bastrop County lost their homes, including Jo Castillo, who happened to be in New Mexico when her home in the Pine Forest neighborhood burned.

"I know people who lost their whole art inventory, including supplies. It's just heartbreaking," Curtis said.

Curtis got an idea. She'd do watercolor paintings for anyone who lost a home in Bastrop County.

Castillo, who was posting updates on her personal situation on Facebook and her art blog, mentioned the idea on her blog and included Curtis' email address (mary@curtisweb.com). Things got rolling. Several

people sent Curtis pre-fire photos of their homes. "Every time I got one, I'd cry," she said.

It takes her a couple of days to finish a painting once she talks to the homeowners. She loves hearing some of the details missing from the photographs.

"I'm kind of snooty. I want to get it right. Sometimes it was just getting the correct color of something," she said. She gets a lot more. People share personal memories of carefully designed gardens and grandchildren playing in the yard. The stories endear the undertaking to Curtis even more.

The response has been rewarding. John and Lynette Navar, who live and work in Corpus Christi, had a weekend home on McAllister Road that was destroyed. They were one of the first to respond to Curtis' offer.

"The painting aside, let me just say that her offer to share her talents in incredibly sweet," John Navar said.

When Navar received Curtis' painting in the mail, he emailed her: "You captured the essence of our joy, and painting will be a wonderful bridge between the current reality and our memories."

The Thank-you note affirmed Curtis' intent.

"I just want the people who lost their homes to know that someone cares. That's why I'd like to paint them all."

Supreme Court Hears Texas Re-Districting Case

The U.S. Supreme Court heard arguments today about Texas redistricting and now must decide whether the state's primaries must be delayed to buy time for the courts to approve new maps. It appears that the justices have to choose between waiting for the current round of lower court proceedings to play out, pushing back the primaries or choosing an interim map to use now, keeping the primaries on schedule.

The high court took the case in December, after a panel of three federal judges in San Antonio adopted an interim map of its own making for the 2012 primary elections. The Texas Legislature approved maps last year, but those haven't received pre-clearance — required by the federal Voting Rights Act — from another panel of three federal judges in Washington, D.C.

Election deadlines were approaching with no legal political districts in place, and the San Antonio court decided to draw a new map to be used until a permanent map could be approved.

"The justices on the court seemed to agree, at a minimum, that the three-judge court [in San Antonio] was wrong in the procedure that they followed and the conclusion that they reached," Texas Attorney General Greg

Abbott said after the hearing. That's been his argument all along. The state went to the Supreme Court to block the interim court map, saying the Legislature's map — though not pre-cleared — ought to be used for the 2012 elections. The Supreme Court granted the state's stay, barring election officials from using the San Antonio map.

Monday's hearing was the first step in deciding how things should proceed.

Abbott, whose office is defending the Legislature's maps, started off with praise for the "sterling job" done by Paul Clement, the attorney he hired to argue before the justices. Abbott, who was a judge before becoming attorney general, said the justices spent some time working out the complexities of the cases and the timetable, asking, for instance, about the consequences of issuing their own ruling before a lower court decides whether or not to pre-clear the maps drawn by Texas legislators.

After watching the arguments, he wouldn't venture a guess about the likelihood of an April 3 primary. "It's very hard to read it," Abbott said. He wasn't alone in that analysis.

"It's hard to know what the final verdict will be," said state Rep. Marc Veasey, D-

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THE DEVIL'S RIVER NEWS



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Senior Center Activities

Thurs. January 12 - Happy Birthday *Pete Bradley*
 Fri. January 13 - Volunteer to Deliver Meals
 Mon. January 16 - *Center Closed* Martin Luther King Day
 Tues. January 17 - Happy Birthday *Antonio Garcia*
 Wed. January 18 - Happy Birthday *Jim Polonis*
John Cooper

Senior Center Menu

Thurs. January 12 - Beef stroganoff, noodles, wheat roll mixed vegetables, winter fruit cup, milk
 Fri. January 13 - Chicken salad sandwich, tomatoes, milk pickles, lettuce, carrot sticks, mac, salad
 Mon. January 16 - *Center Closed* Martin Luther King Day
 Tues. January 17 - BBQ beef on a bun, tator tots, carrots zucchini, Ambrosia, milk
 Wed. January 18 - Breaded chicken breast, peas, pudding baked potato w/sour cream, pineapple, 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).

Editors Note

The Devil's River News welcomes your Letters to the Editor. If you would like to publish a letter, please remember you must include your name and it must be signed. Any letters received without these elements will not be published.

Obituary

Irma Garner Luckie

Sonora- Irma Garner Luckie, 87, died Thursday, December 29, 2011 in San Angelo. Graveside services were Saturday, December, 31 at 10:00a.m. in Sonora Cemetery with Leigh Lloyd officiating. Irma Lenora Luckie was born June 3, 1924 in Big Lake, Texas to Andrew Houston and Lula Lenora (Rouse) Garner. She was the youngest of eight children, who, along with her parents, preceded her in death. She married Reiley Cooper (R.C.) Luckie on November 22, 1946 in Big Lake, Texas. They lived in Big Lake, Sonora, Andrews, and Eunice, New Mexico. Irma and R.C. had two children- Katie Lenora and Reiley Vance. R.C. preceded her in death in 1972.

After graduating from Big Lake high school, Irma attended Sul Ross in Alpine, Texas; worked for Santa Fe Railroad in the Big Lake, Alpine and Sonora depots. She sold Avon for several years in Eunice, winning several prizes for her work. Irma managed the San Angelo Plan Room on Washington Street in San Angelo and worked in the Hemphill Wells post office at Sunset mall. She then went to work for Troy laundry in San Angelo until her retirement. Irma was a member of St. Luke's Methodist Church, where she attended church until she was no longer able to drive. She was a member of the Eastern Star and Daughters of the Republic of Texas (DRT).

Mrs. Luckie is survived by two children: daughter and son-in-law Lenora and Ben Pool, and son and daughter-in-law Vance and Pat Luckie. She has nine living grandchildren, sixteen great and step-great grandchildren, and one great-great step grandchild. She is also survived by her best friend Jackie Decker, who now lives in Round Rock. Irma lived at Christian Village for ten years, after moving from her home on Colorado Street in San Angelo. In November 2009, she began living at Sagecrest Alzheimer's Care Center in San Angelo until her death. We wish to thank Christian Village and the employees of Tucker Unit in Sagecrest for the many blessings bestowed on Irma through the years. Lola and Nettie, who are members of St. Luke's Methodist Church have been great to send mother cards and other messages of love for many years, and we are thankful for people such as yourselves. Also, thank you to the employees of American Sales and Service, Inc., who have helped with mother's care and moves over the years. We would appreciate memorials be made to Sagecrest Alzheimer's Care Center, 438 Houston Harte, San Angelo, Tx. 76902, or Christian Village, 4225 Billie Bolin Drive, San Angelo, Texas 76902.

Obituary

Bonnie Ruth King Alley



Bonnie Ruth King Alley, 82, of San Angelo, passed from this earth on January 4, 2012.

Bonnie was born in San Angelo on January 1, 1930, to Riley and Audrey King of Sterling City, TX, and was the first baby born in Tom Green County in 1930.

Services were held on Saturday, January 7, 2012 at 2PM at the Johnson Funeral Home Chapel with graveside services and burial at the Sterling City Cemetery. Tommy King of San Angelo and Don Davis of Sterling City officiating. The arrangements are under the direction of Johnson's Funeral Home in San Angelo.

She attended schools in Sterling City, then attended Abilene Christian College for a semester, before attending the San Angelo Business School. She attended there for two years and one of the requirements was to maintain an average of 95 or higher.

She was then hired by John Hay, PCA but never got to work there because her younger brother was killed in an auto accident and she stayed in Sterling City to help her parents.

While remaining in Sterling, she worked at Ford Motor Co., then at the US Ag. Conservation Office at the Court House. Her boss at this job was a man fresh out of Texas A&M University and new to Sterling City, Marvin Eugene Alley. (She thought he had a funny name.)

They began dating after about three months, and then he left for a unique job opportunity in Saudi Arabia as a US Farm Manager for King Saud. After two years, they were married on December 6, 1952, and went directly to Saudi Arabia. This was a very new experience for Bonnie as she had never traveled farther than Oklahoma to visit relatives and had never been on an airplane. They lived in the desert in a US compound for a little over two years.

Once back in Texas, they began ranching in Sterling County and were there for about 16 years. During this time, Bonnie gave birth to their only child, Robert Eugene Alley on August 7, 1963.

They moved to Midland where Gene took a job as a land appraiser for the State and Bonnie worked as a teacher's aide. Robert, her only son preceded her in death at the tender age of 18, when he was killed in an automobile accident on October 27, 1981. Her great faith saw her through this horrible time in her life.

Gene and Bonnie continued to stay in Midland and traveled some after he retired in 1989 until his death on January 5, 2000.

Besides her son Robert and husband Gene, Bonnie was also preceded in death by her brother Bobby, her sister LaVerne King Petty, and parents Riley and Audrey King.


Bonnie is survived by her nephews and his wife James Petty and Lulu of Brady, Eric Olson of Midland, Scott Alley of Round Rock and Steve Alley of Houston, her nieces Kim Swaner and husband Kyle of New Braunfels, Lorie Olson Powers and Suzanne Alley Whitworth both of Sonora. She is also survived by several cousins including Courtney and Elaine King of Sterling City, Wayne and Beverly King of Blackwell, Kim and Robyn King of Brady, and Diane and John Scovell of Dallas. She is also survived by several great nieces and nephews as well as great-great nieces and nephews.

Pallbearers were Gary Lee of Fort Worth, Ruben Resendez of College Station, Ben Swaner of New Braunfels, Lonnie Greenfield of San Angelo, Jon Richardson of Odessa, and Tyson Verastegui of New Braunfels.

Honorary pallbearers were Glen Richardson of Sonora, Courtney King of Sterling City, Wayne King of Blackwell, Kim King of Brady, Alan Price of San Angelo, Van Percy of Midland.

In lieu of flowers the family requests that donations be made to the House of Hope in San Angelo, the Johnson Street Church of Christ Building Fund, the West Texas Boys Ranch, the Sterling City Cemetery Fund, or the charitable organization of your choice.


Family and friends may sign an online register book at www.johnsons-funeralhome.com.



Sonora Church Directory

<p>Primera Iglesia Bautista 504 Santa Clara 387-2035</p> <p>The Church of the Good Shepherd Presbyterian 319 E. Mulberry 387-2616</p> <p>Lighthouse Community Church 1705 N. Crockett 387-9100</p> <p>St. Ann's Catholic Church 229 W. Plum 387-2278</p> <p>Jehovah's Witness 310 St. Ann's St 387-5658/387-5518</p>	<p>Church of Christ 304 N. Water 387-3190</p> <p>First Baptist Church 11 E. Oak 387-2951</p> <p>St. John's Episcopal Church 404 E. Poplar 387-2955</p> <p>First United Methodist Church 201 N. Water 387-2466</p> <p>Templo Jerusalem Asamblea De Dios 306 W. 4th St 387-5713</p> <p>Hope Lutheran Church 417 E. 2nd St. 387-5366</p>
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MEMBER 2011

TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

Wendell A. McAndrew



Wendell A. McAndrew, 77, passed away Wednesday, January 4, 2012, at the Vitas Hospice in San Antonio, Texas. Wendell was born September 29, 1934 in Bertram, Texas to Wendell Everet McAndrew and Bertha Peacock, both of whom preceded him in death. He graduated from Bertram High School, the University of Texas at Austin and earned a MLA Degree from SMU and a MEd. Degree and Superintendent Certification from the University of North Texas. Wendell served Texas public schools for 51 years before he retired in May, 2011. He served in leadership roles in six different school districts including Del Valle, Gatesville, Richardson, East Bernard and as superintendent in Sonora ISD and Medina Valley ISD. His final position was as the Director of the South Texas Educational Cooperative in Uvalde. He was a long-time member of the United Methodist Church and helped found the Medina Valley Methodist Church. He was preceded in death by a sister, Maxine and brothers, Senter and Kenneth. Wendell is survived by Sara Boone, his wife of 43 years; a daughter, Emily of San Antonio; son Patrick and his wife Suzanne of Houston; sisters, Marian Harvey of Richardson, Margaret Tanksley of Bertram, Louise Lilli of Bedford, Dena Williams of Dallas, and Madeline Tempio of San Antonio; and numerous nephews, nieces, and other family members.

A memorial service was held Monday, January 9, 2012 at Alamo Heights United Methodist Church Garden Chapel.

A private interment service will be conducted at a later date in Hillsboro, Texas. In lieu of flowers, the family requested that memorial contributions be made to the United Methodist Church of choice. You are invited to sign the guestbook at www.porterloring.com Arrangements with Porter Loring Mortuary.

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 2:00 p.m. Bible Study
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Wednesdays

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

Special Events
FREE "Marriage on the Rock" Live Simulcast
 6:30-9:30 pm Feb. 10 & 8:30-Noon Feb. 11
Potluck Lunch Sunday, Feb. 12

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

Obituary

Mary Lou Gilly



On Sunday, January 8, 2012 at the age of 80, our beloved mother and "granny" Mary Lou Gilly passed away at the home she loved, in Sonora, Texas where she had lived for over 50 years.

Mary Lou was born on September 18, 1931 to T.W. and Iva Richardson in Stephenville, TX. She married Ben Douglas Gilly on September 24, 1948. They were married for 43 years. He preceded her in death on December 3, 1991.

Mary Lou is survived by two sons, Michael Gilly and wife Sherry of Abilene, Texas and Mark Gilly and wife Sherry of Corpus Christi, Texas. She is also survived by three grandsons Matt Gilly and wife Nichole of Cedar Park, Texas, David Gilly and wife Autumn of San Antonio, Texas, and Jason Gilly of Austin, Texas. She had two great-granddaughters, Ava Gilly of Cedar Park, and Hailey Gilly of San Antonio. Mary Lou is also survived by numerous nephews, nieces, and dear friends.

Mary Lou was one of nine children and she has only two brothers still with us, Raymond Richardson of Borger, Texas and Ralph Richardson of Dallas, Texas.

Mary Lou had a long, successful career in nursing in the hospital and various clinics in Sonora. She loved caring for her patients and often developed strong and lasting relations with each of them.

Mary Lou realized a talent and zeal for painting later in life and passionately pursued her gift and blessed many of her friends and family with her beautiful art.

Mary Lou was a member of the Sonora Church of Christ for over 50 years and devoted herself to her congregation and to her Lord. As long as she was able, she was at the church building every time the doors were open.

There will be a visitation on Wednesday, Jan. 11 from 4:00 to 5:30 pm at the Kerbow Funeral Home at 409 E.2nd St in Sonora Texas. Services will be held at the Kerbow Funeral Home Chapel on Thursday, 11:00 a.m. January the 12th. Graveside services will be immediately following the Chapel service at the Sonora Cemetery

Obituary

Jane Tatum Archer

Jane Tatum Archer, 81, of Sonora, passed away Monday, January 2, 2012, in Eldorado. Graveside services were held at Sonora Cemetery on Tuesday, January 3, 2012, with Rev. Lewis Allen presiding.

Jane was born in Junction, Texas on December 16, 1930, to R.C. and Emmarine Tatum. She graduated from Junction High School and attended Tarleton University where she majored in art. Jane spent time as a florist and bank teller, and was often seen playing golf, a past time she greatly loved.

She is survived by her brother, Rudy Tatum and wife, Joby of Gatesville, Texas; daughters, Becky York of Sonora, and Cindy Fields and her husband, Tryon, of Sonora. Grandchildren are Tanner Fields and wife, Gentry of San Antonio; Sean Fields of Surprise, Arizona; and Kayla Fields of Lubbock. Jane was preceded in death by her parents and an older brother, Bill Tatum.

Becky and Cindy would like to express their deep gratitude and appreciation to Dr. Pajestka and staff, the nurses and staff at Lillian-Hudspeth Memorial Hospital, Schleicher County Nursing Home, and VistaCare Hospice of San Angelo.

Happy Birthday



Jenny

Actos® BLADDER CANCER?

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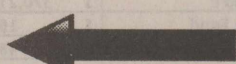
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Bridal Selections
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Steven Frazier & Brea Hughes
Katie & Quincy Crain
Treva Stringfield & Cody Brundige
Cash Jennings & Catherine Warren

Baby
Zed & Ashley Snodgrass

A flower for everyday...

F.Y.I.

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

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

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.

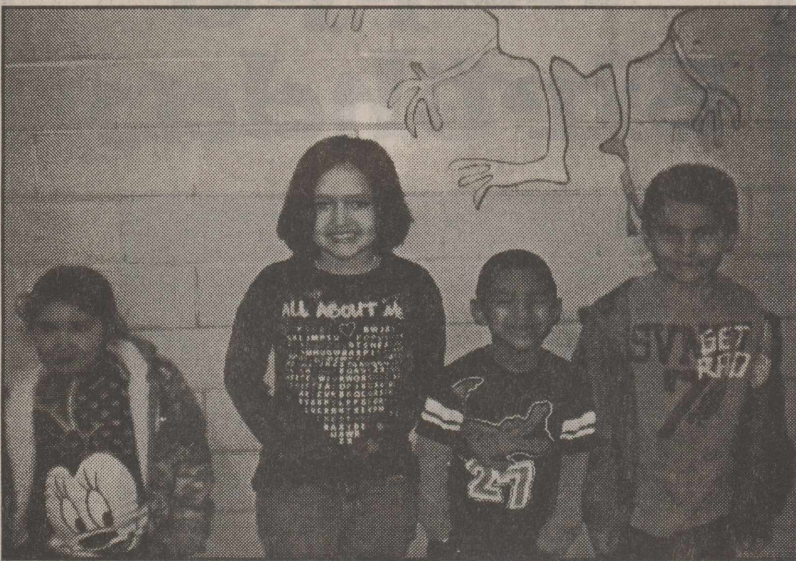
Mother Son Date Night is scheduled for January 27, 2012 at the Sonora Middle School Cafeteria. Please contact the Sonora Chamber of Commerce at 325-387-2880 or come by the chamber office at 205 Hwy 277 N. for more information.

Member FDIC
P.O. Box 798
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325-387-3861

Member FDIC
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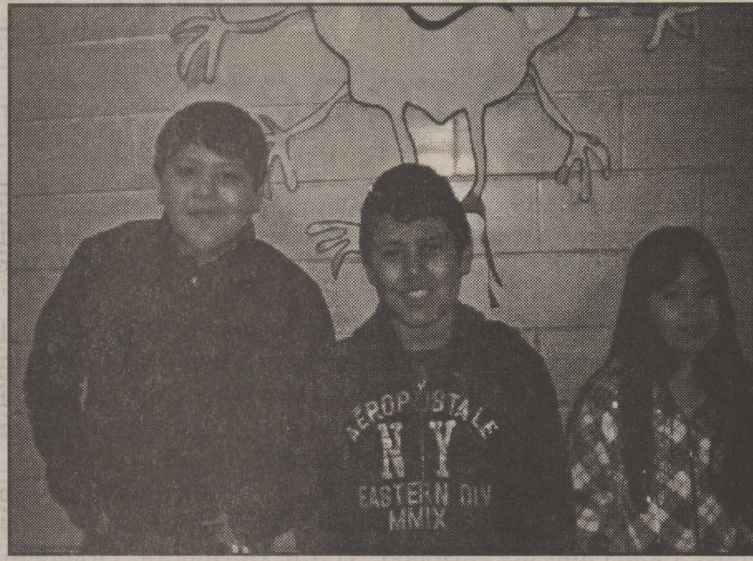
Students of the Week

Elementary School



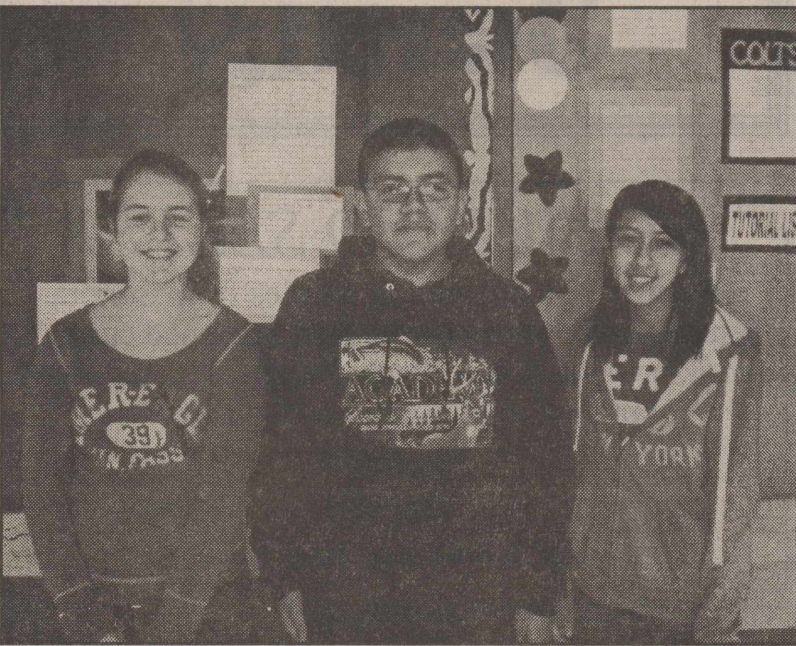
L to R: Naylana Estrada, Amaris Jimenez, Luis Rivas, Romeo Torres

Intermediate School



L to R: Martin Alvarez, Jesus, Gaytan, Carla Mota

Middle School



L to R: 6th-Delaney Ramsdell, 7th-Angel DeLuna, 8th-Alexis Garza

San Angelo Area Foundation Scholarship Application Available January 1, 2012

The San Angelo Area Foundation's 2012 scholarship application is now available through March 1, 2012, for students attending college in the fall of 2012. Interested students can apply at www.saafound.org, by clicking on the "Scholarships" tab.

The San Angelo Area Foundation manages over 80 scholarship funds, created by generous donors for the benefit of students. The student need only complete one online application and each scholarship is awarded based on a variety of qualifications unique to each scholarship fund. Scholarship awards are announced in early May.

If you have any questions during the application process, please contact our office either by email, scholarship@saafound.org or by calling (325) 947-7071.

Time to Begin Work on Texas State-Fish Art Contest Entries: Contest expands to Include Grades K-3, Essays and Invasive species

ATHENS—Student artists across Texas in grades K — 12 take notice: It's time to start preparing your entries for the 2012 Wildlife Forever State-Fish Art Contest.

The contest is open to all students in public, private or home schools. Entry deadline is March 31 each year.

Major changes in the contest for 2012 include: change in the permissible size of artwork to include works 8.5 inches by 11 inches or 9 inches by 12 inches; creation of a K—3 grade level division for artwork only; addition of a national prize for best essays in grade level divisions 4—6, 7—9 and 10—12; and a new category with one national winner for best artwork and essay about an invasive species.

Contest rules, guidelines, entry information and details about the contest changes can be found at <http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/fishart>.

Support for the Texas division of the contest is provided by the Toyota Texas Bass Classic, which makes it possible for the top three Texas entries in each grade level to win cash prizes. First place in grades 10—12 wins \$1,000; second place \$750; third place \$500. Prizes in the 4—6 and 7—9 grade levels are \$100 for first; \$75 for second; \$50 for third.

Additional support for the contest is provided by Strike King Lures, the William E. Armentrout Foundation and Friends of the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center.

One outstanding piece of artwork each year is selected for the Art of Conservation Award, and a commemorative stamp featuring the artwork is produced for sale. Proceeds from sales of the stamp are used to fund conservation projects.

Educators who wish to have their students enter the contest can download the free "State-Fish Art Contest Lesson Plan" at <http://www.statefishart.com>. The interdisciplinary curriculum includes lessons and activities, a species identification section profiling each state fish, a glossary and student worksheets.

Located in Brooklyn Center, Minnesota, Wildlife Forever is a non-profit multi-species conservation organization dedicated to conserving America's wildlife heritage. Working at the grassroots level, Wildlife Forever has funded conservation projects in all 50 states, committing millions of dollars to "on-the-ground" efforts. Wildlife Forever supports habitat restoration and enhancement, land acquisition, research and management of fish and wildlife populations.

We're way the heck out there!

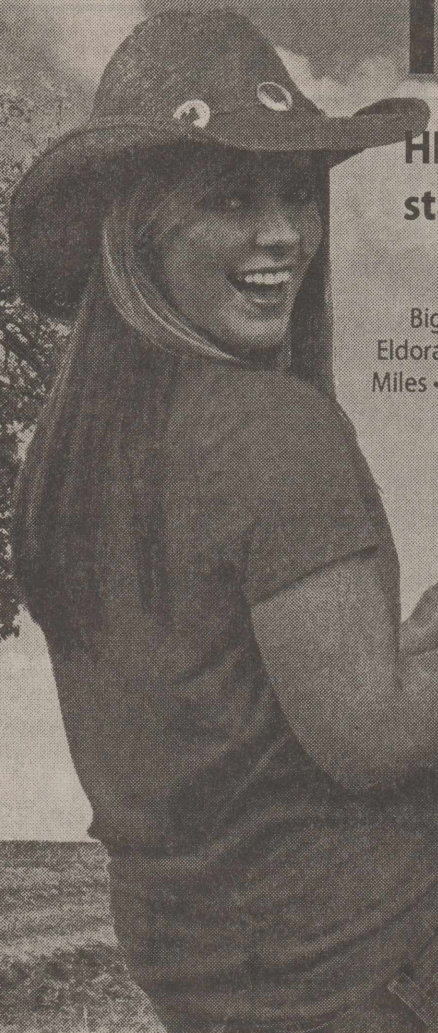
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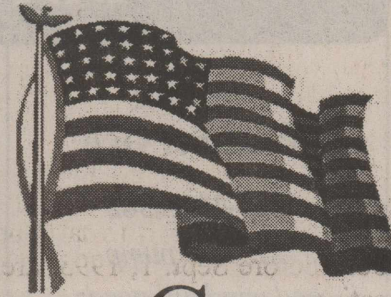
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Conquering Your Fear Of Technology

(StatePoint) No matter if you are young or old, the quickly changing technology landscape can sometimes seem bewildering.

And for older Americans, in particular, mastering the use of computers and the Internet may not come intuitively -- but the technology has boundless potential to enrich lives for grandparents and grandchildren alike. And learning how may be easier than you think.

"If my mother can learn the computer, anyone can," contends Abby Stokes, author of "Is This Thing On?" a handbook for computers and digital devices. Stokes has taught computing to thousands of people, mainly seniors, and believes overcoming a fear of technology is the first step.

Stokes offers some tips and information to motivate anyone to get started (including your mom!):

Catch Up

Email is basically like the postal service, only faster. Take advantage of free services through your Internet service provider, or a com-

pany like Yahoo or Google. Once you get going, you can write your friends and family instantly. For a tutorial, visit <http://abbyandme.com>.

Better yet, talk in real time, face-to-face with loved ones around the globe. For example, a service named Skype lets you do this free of charge.

Share Photos

Use your computer to store your photos and share them online. If you have a digital camera, upload the contents of the memory card onto your computer. If you have a film camera, your printed photos can be scanned into your computer and saved.

Easy-to-use software allows you to crop photos, remove red eyes from family portraits, and make other improvements to your pictures.

Get Information

Surfing the Internet isn't very different than channel hopping on your television set. There's a lot of information out there, and not all of it is useful. In fact, no special credentials are needed to run a website.

A search engine like Google can help you find exactly what you're looking for, whether it's

health research or celebrity gossip. You can access any information you want without visiting a library or newsstand. Many periodicals publish all their content on the web free of charge.

See something you like? You can easily revisit sites you like by "bookmarking" them.

Entertain Yourself

If you love your television set, you'll wind up loving your computer even more. Many television programs run complete episodes online. And if you're a film buff, you're in luck. Online video rental sites are relatively inexpensive and allow you to watch movies online or order DVDs to watch later.

Poker champs and Scrabble lovers will be happy to discover that you can play almost any game you can think of online. You can either play against the computer or against other people sitting at their computers somewhere in the world.

"You don't need to know how it works to work it," says Stokes. So learn to stop worrying and love technology.

REPORT OF COUNTY TREASURER OF SUTTON COUNTY, TEXAS OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES FROM October 1, 2011- December 31, 2011

FUND	BEGINNING BALANCE	RECEIPTS	TRANSFER IN	DISBURSEMENTS	TRANSFERRED OUT	BALANCE
General	\$ 4,587,237.29	\$ 931,418.70	\$ 5,743.26	\$ 1,231,452.29	\$ 81,852.42	\$ 4,211,094.54
FMFC	\$ 736,199.82	\$ 156,611.02	\$ 2,702.20	\$ 177,992.20		\$ 717,520.84
Flood Control	\$ 18,426.84				\$ 5,659.68	\$ 12,767.16
Law Library	\$ (11,918.99)		\$ 8,509.36	\$ 412.50		\$ (3,822.13)
Lateral Road	\$ 3,510.48	\$ 12,156.09			\$ 17.58	\$ 15,648.99
112th D A Hot Check Fund	\$ 487.84					\$ 487.84
State Bond Fees	\$ 480.00	\$ 240.00	\$ 180.00	\$ 594.00	\$ 66.00	\$ 240.00
Employee Benefit Fund	\$ 78,487.69		\$ 17,938.86	\$ 14,555.48		\$ 81,871.07
Sutton County 911	\$ 6,722.33	\$ 12.37				\$ 6,734.70
Appellate Fund	\$ 360.00	\$ 171.00		\$ 370.00		\$ 161.00
Sheriff Seizure Fund	\$ 386,913.47	\$ 1,269.38	\$ 52,522.00	\$ 40,339.38		\$ 400,365.47
					TOTAL	\$ 5,443,069.48
CHECKING ACCOUNTS						
General-B&T	\$ 370,212.20	General-1st Natl	\$ 2,242.06	FMFC	\$ 67,013.63	
Appellate Fund	\$ 161.00	Sutton County 911	\$ 6,734.70	Sheriff Seizure	\$ 40,750.10	
112th D A Hot Check Fund	\$ 487.84					\$ 487,601.53
MONEY MARKET ACCTS						
General	\$ 550,948.00	FMFC	\$ 133,468.60			\$ 684,416.60
C D ACCOUNTS						
General	\$ 3,394,397.37	FMFC	\$ 517,038.61			\$ 3,911,435.98
Sheriff Seizure	\$ 359,615.37					\$ 4,271,051.35
					TOTAL	\$ 5,443,069.48

Oil & Agribusiness

Eqip Ranking Period Ends Soon

TEMPLE, TEXAS, Jan. 10, 2012- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) District Conservationist Tom Payton reminds agriculture producers that the ranking period cut-off date for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is February 3, 2012. Producers interested in EQIP should submit applications to the Sutton County NRCS office by the deadline so their applications can be considered during the first ranking period of 2012.

EQIP — one of the largest programs in the Farm Bill — is a voluntary conservation program that promotes environmental quality and assists producers to meet local, state and federal regulations.

"EQIP is a valuable tool to help Sutton County's agricultural producers implement conservation practices that provide environmental benefits to help sustain agricultural operations," says Payton.

EQIP is a continuous sign-up program that allows landowners or operators to apply for financial and technical assistance for the application of specific conservation practices; but the deadline for the first 2012 funding is February 3, 2012. Contracts are offered periodically depending on budgetary allocations. Applications made after the deadline will be considered in the next funding cycle. Higher priority will be given to those applications that address national, state and local priorities and provide higher cost efficiency.

For more information, including eligibility requirements, call the USDA Service Center office in Sonora at 325/387-2730. Service center locations and program information can be found on the Texas NRCS Web site at www.tx.nrcs.usda.gov.

**Learn to Flyfish
March 10 at
Texas Freshwater
Fisheries Center**

ATHENS—Expert fly-fishers and those wanting to learn the sport will gather at the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center (TFFC) in Athens March 10 for a day of teaching, learning and fishing.

Instruction in all aspects of fly-fishing from fly-tying to casting to equipment selection to choosing a destination will be provided by expert fly-fishers. All necessary equipment will be provided, and all activities are free with paid admission to TFFC.

Vendors interested in selling at the event should contact Jim Booker at (903) 670-2266, james.booker@tpwd.state.tx.us.

TFFC is located 75 miles southeast of Dallas at 5550 F.M. 2495, Athens.

For more information or directions visit <http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/tffc> or call (903) 676-2277.

**Texas State Parks
Appeal Raises \$335,000
in First Three Weeks**

**Supporters Reminded: Still
Time to Make Year-End
Deductible Donations**

AUSTIN – More than \$335,000 has rolled in since Texas State Parks appealed for help earlier this month, citing a \$4.6 million revenue shortfall caused by heat, drought, wildfires and a drop in park visitation.

Park leaders today urged supporters to make a tax-deductible donation before the 2011 tax year ends. And they renewed their call for people to visit state parks, touting cooler weather, parks greening after recent rains, and campfires now allowed again in almost every state park.

"We are tremendously encouraged and very grateful that we've received upwards of \$335,000 in barely three weeks, with steady donations continuing to come in," said Carter Smith, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department executive director. "That includes a single generous gift of \$250,000, and we're hopeful that with more like that, we will reach our \$4.6 million goal. But every donation, no matter the size, is important and appreciated."

Park officials continue to stress three ways Texans can help keep state parks open:

- Go to http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/help_parks to make a tax-deductible, year-end donation.
- Make a donation when you renew your motor vehicle registration.
- Finally, because visitor fees pay for about half of park system operating costs, visit state parks often with family and friends.

TPWD has developed a new Spread the Word web page where park supporters can forward a YouTube video appeal, add an "I Love Parks" Twibbon wrapper on their Facebook profile photo, get buttons or banners for websites or blogs, download posters, and find other ways to share the message.

From Dec. 6-27, people had donated \$64,826 online. Another \$20,685 had been mailed in, including one check for \$10,000. And officials said a steady stream of donations continues to come in each day.

All but about 10 of the 94 Texas State Parks have lifted burn bans, a big change since nearly two-thirds of the parks were not allowing ground campfires this fall because of drought and wildfire danger. Check each park's web page online for the latest information.

As one way to encourage park visits, Texas is participating in the national First Day Hikes program set out by the National Association of State Parks Directors (NASPD). For the first time in Texas, 48 state parks across the state will offer a wide variety of hikes and nature walks on New Year's Day. First Day Hikes in Texas vary in difficulty and fitness levels, and range from short, leisurely nature walks through forested trails and along boardwalks, to special bird watching hikes, to climbs into the mountains of the Chihuahuan Desert.

To learn about the various Texas State Parks and their offerings, or to make online camping reservations, visit <http://www.texasstateparks.org>. Or call state park information at 1-800-792-1112, option 3, between 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

**Boater Ed Now
Required for
Operators Born
After September 1, 1993**

AUSTIN – Anyone looking forward to operating a motor-powered vessel, sailboat or personal water craft on Texas public waters this year needs to have completed a state-approved boater education course if born after Sept. 1, 1993.

While the new law became effective last year, Texas Parks and Wildlife suggests starting off the new year with a boater education course to make sure you're good to go when the water warms up and Texans begin heading to the state's many lakes and streams for fishing or recreational boating. Prior to passage of the new law, only boat operators ages 13-17 had to take a boater education course.

The mandatory boater education law requires certification for anyone born after Sept. 1, 1993 who operates a vessel with a motor of more than 15 horsepower or a wind-blown vessel measuring more than 14 feet in length. While all boaters are encouraged to take boating safety education, those born before Sept. 1, 1993, are exempt from required certification.

Texas' state-approved boater education courses are available as one-day classroom training or online. The classroom course takes about six hours to complete and the online course has a three hour time commitment. Costs start at \$20 for both courses. Information about boater education, including schedules of upcoming classroom courses, is available at http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/learning/boater_education/.

Potential new boaters looking for bargain instruction can get the required training from a TPWD boater education employee for \$5 at the Jan. 19-22 Austin Boat Show at the Convention Center. Interested persons may call 512 389-8141 to register for the class.

Boaters falling under the boater education requirement will be required to carry a valid ID and documentation of having taken and passed a boater education course. Failure to meet the requirements is a Class C misdemeanor, and violators have 90 days to complete a boater education course to have the charges dismissed.

The 82nd Texas Legislature during its regular session also clarified the definition of a vessel to encompass such craft as standup paddle craft, kayaks and canoes. In Texas public waters everyone onboard a vessel that measures less than 26-feet in length must have a life jacket available and kids under 13 must wear one.

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Rig Report
January 6, 2012

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New 9000' Approach Operating Baker -A- #117 Nabors Drilling #709 1/28/11 O/G Ver Od
New 9000' Approach Operating University 42-13 #15 Ringo Drilling I Lp #17 1/19/11 3 2150' O/G Ver Od
9600' Burk Royalty Company Harris #1 Ringo Drilling I Lp #19 1/15/11 7 2510' O/G Dir Od
6500' Eog Resources University 40-14 #4 H Cactus Drilling #102 1/13/11 9 O/G Hor Od
9000' Approach Operating West #2315 Nabors Drilling #709 1/10/11 12 O/G Ver Od
9000' Approach Operating Cinco Terry -M- #901 H Nabors Drilling #714 1/3/11 19 O/G Hor Od
9000' Walter O & G Corp M Smith -15- #1 H Patterson Uti #471 12/5/10 48 10585' O/G Hor Od

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To the citizens of Sutton County,
I want to thank you for your support in the past and I ask for your continued support as I seek re-election for County Commissioner, Precinct 3.
I have 162 hours of continued education in classroom credits and 11 years experience as Commissioner of Sutton County. I appreciate the opportunity to serve you, the citizens, as your representative in County government.

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BRONCO SPORTS

Broncos Take On Ingram For Last Non-District Game

The Mighty Broncos loaded up one more time and traveled to Ingram. The warriors accomplish good things last year, winning their Bi-Championship and then losing to Eastland. They return 4 starters from that team and played very well in the 1st half. The Warriors jump to a early 9-0 lead but, were answered by 5 from Hudson, 5 from Cross and 7 from a big man Pope. The 1st quarter ended 20-17 in the 2nd we couldn't buy a basket, and went in down at half 20-23. When the 2nd half started our Defense was our main factor we shut down one of the their best shooters allowing him only 5 pts in the 2nd half. The Broncos lost 37-40 but, played very well down the stretch. Scoring Imoni Cross 11, Word Hudson 8, Braxton Snyder 1, and High pt. Cadesman Pope with 14. The Broncos will start District in Ozona Friday.

The Sonora Lady Broncos Finish Pre-District Schedule with 17 Wins

The Sonora "Road Warriors" Lady Broncos played 17 road games with only 4 home games and finish their pre-district schedule with an 82-24 victory at Comstock. The Lady Broncos (17 wins - 4 losses) shot lights out Tuesday night making 33 of 65 shots including 5-8 from three land (Macie Freiss 2-2, Gracie Dozier 1-1, Brianah Creek 1-2 and Avery Nolen 1-3). Sonora also converted 11 of 17 free throws. Three Lady Broncos scored in double digits with Gracie Dozier leading the way (19 points, 7 steals and 5 assists) with Brianah Creek (18 points and 6 steals) and Jaye Sanchez (14 points and 5 assists) shooting well. All nine Lady Broncos saw significant playing time with all nine players scoring. Logan Smith (7 points and 3 steals), Kylie Love (6 points and 8 rebounds), Macie Friess (6 points from downtown), Abby Creek (6 points and 3 rebounds), Avery Nolen (5 points and 3 assists) and Paige Sykes (1 point plus 5 rebounds) all contributed to the team effort. The Sonora Lady Broncos start district this week being picked 5th in district behind Wall, Brady, Ballinger and Grape Creek. Beware 'District 7', the Lady Broncos are up for the challenge.

JV Broncos Drop A Close One To Christoval

On Tuesday, the JV White Lady Broncos traveled to Christoval to take on this opponent for the 3rd time this season. After falling to Christoval on the previous occasions, these girls had some unfinished business to settle. It took a while to shake off the cobwebs from the Christmas break, but luckily the girls came ready for business. Brandi Wright started the Lady Broncos off strong by scoring in our opening possession. Sonora and Christoval had a back-and-forth battle for the lead the entire game with no team leading the other by more than 4 points at any time.

Key moments for Sonora was Veronica Gaytan's 3-point shot to tie for the lead and Abby Nolen's free throws she made at clutch moments in the second half. Alexa Sykes did an amazing job of posting up, rebounding, and making shots despite the physical nature of Christoval's defense. The girls stayed true to their varsity counterparts and executed our "run-and-gun" style perfectly. The result was many steals from the Christoval offense which resulted in points for Sonora. The game was an edge-of-your-seat nail biter to the end. The Lady Broncos held a 1 point lead and inbounded the ball with 20 seconds left under the Christoval basket. Although Christoval tried to foul us in the last few seconds, the referees didn't call it and the Lady Broncos kept the ball until time expired. This was a great game to end our regular season and we are excited to begin district play today in Ballinger at 4:00. Our next home game will be on Tuesday at 4:00 verses Wall. We hope you will come out and show your support to this exciting group of girls. Go Big Red!!

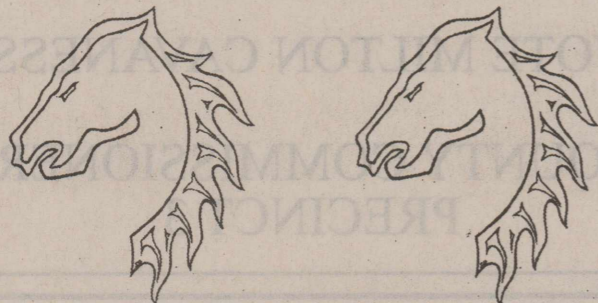
Abby Nolen:	9 points
Selena Trevino:	3 points
Veronica Gaytan:	3 points
Alexa Sykes:	10 points

Sonora	27
Christoval	26

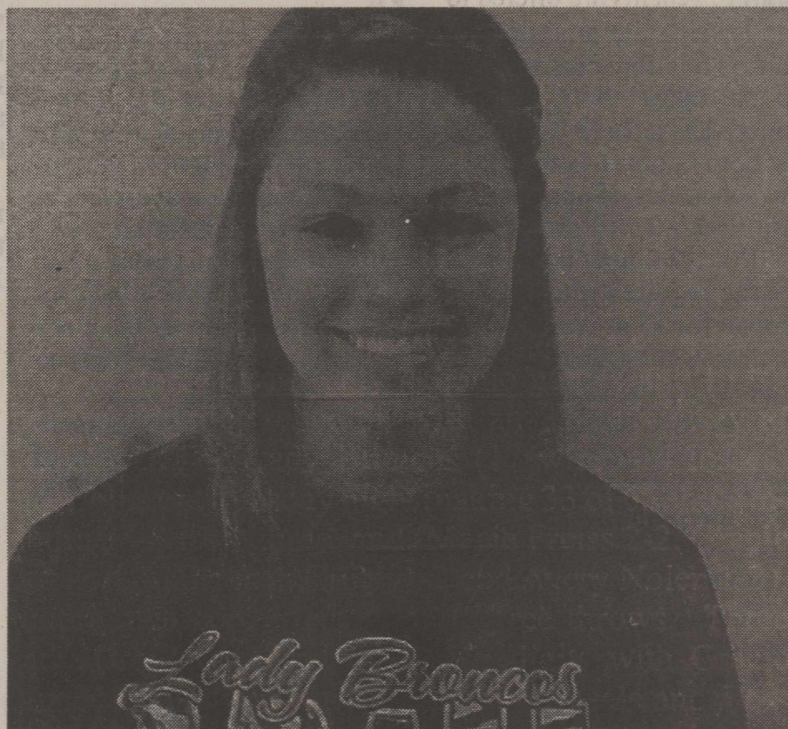
Lady Bronco Spotlight



Name: Brianah Creek
 Grade: 12
 Basketball Number: 22
 Position: Guard
 Favorite Professional Athlete: Mya Moore
 Favorite Team: San Antonio Spurs
 What do you like best about basketball so far this year: I like the way we run the ball and play at a fast pace
 What is your favorite thing about being a Lady Bronco: My favorite thing is the fans supporting us
 Who would you trust the most to "hold the rope": I would trust my whole team



Lady Bronco Spotlight



Name: Abby Creek
 Grade: Junior
 Basketball Number: 23
 Position: Forward
 Favorite Professional Athlete: Cat Osterman
 Favorite Team: The Texas Rangers
 What do you like best about basketball so far this year: I like our high-energy way of playing.
 What is your favorite thing about being a Lady Bronco: I like our support system
 Who would you trust the most to "hold the rope": Everyone kind of holds the rope in their own way. We each have our own individual strengths and we play them and that's what makes us be a great team as a whole.

Good Luck To Bronco Basketball During District Play!

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The Devil's River News Classified Ads

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EMPLOYMENT NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that Sutton County is now accepting applications for a full time/ or relief driver(s) for the Thunderbird Van. Applicant must provide valid Texas Drivers License and must have a good driving record. Must have clerical and computer skills, and must enjoy working with young children and adults as well. Health, dental, vision, life and vacation and sick leave benefits are offered to full time employee. Applications can be obtained and returned to the auditor's office. Applications will be accepted until position is filled. Sutton County is an equal opportunity employer.

For Rent

Commercial Property
For Rent: Former site of Ol' Sonora Trading, next door to Sonic. FMI contact Tom Clifton at 972-415-8502

For Rent: Private trailer house lot for rent. FMI call 387-3154.

Public Notices

Notice is hereby given that the Sutton County Hospital District will receive bids for depository of the District's funds for the period commencing March 1, 2012, and ending January 31, 2014. Any banking organization qualifying under the laws of the State of Texas as a depository of municipal funds may submit a written application, sealed and marked, "Depository Bid". Such applications shall be received in the office of the Hospital District, Attention: Keith L. Butler, CEO, P.O. Box 455, 308 Hudspeth Avenue, Sonora, Texas 76950-0455, no later than 3:00 p.m. on February 9, 2012. Applications will be opened and reviewed at this time. The Board of Directors will review and take action on the bids on February 13, 2012, at 6:00 p.m. The Directors reserve the right to accept the bid that offers the most favorable terms and conditions for handling of the Hospital District funds and shall have the right to reject any or all bids and to waive informalities.

Public Notices

Sonora ISD will hold a public hearing concerning the AEIS Report at the school board meeting January 16, 2012 at 5:30 PM in the Vocational Building, 805 Prospect, Sonora, TX.

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104 & 106 Central	\$54,000	Contract Pending
817 E 2nd St.	\$82,000	
302 Water Ave	\$85,000	
308 W 1st St.	\$92,500	
304 E Plum St.	\$93,000	
702 E Poplar St.	\$98,000	
306 Brookside St.	\$140,000	
213 Hudspeth St.	\$159,900	Sold
111 Sonora Dr.	\$165,000	
105 Sawyer Ct.	\$182,500	
118 Deerwood Dr.	\$190,000	
907 E. 2nd St.	\$335,000	

Eldorado

308 E. Murchison, Eldorado	\$125,000	
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Ozona

616 Ave I, Ozona	\$125,000	Contract Pending
1105 Ave. C, Ozona	\$192,500	Contract Pending

Vacant Lots

504 E. Plum St.	\$10,000	
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Commercial Properties

606 Crockett Ave. - Vacant Gas Station	\$64,500	
103 W. 4th St., Iraan, TX - 5 Lots w/metal bldg.	\$185,000	Contract Pending
847 Meridian Drive - Large Office Bldg.	\$260,000	
208 Hwy 277 S. - Commercial/Income Producing	\$285,000	
5 Acres Hwy 163 Ozona, TX	\$125,000	

Acreage

20 acres - Sutton County Estates Lot 5 - Hwy 864	\$40,000	
30 acres - Sutton Co, Estates	\$45,000	
63.353 acres - Exotic Ranch - Crockett Co.	\$449,000	
95 acres - Texas West Ranch - Crockett Co.	\$94,525	
122.416 acres - Sutton County Estates - Hwy - 864	\$244,832	
100.546 acres - Sutton County - Hwy 864	\$201,092	
100 acres - Crockett County	\$95,000	
50 acres w/3BR/2BA Home - NW Kimble Co.	\$165,000	Sold
158.66 acres - NW Kimble Co.	\$269,722	
640 acres - NE Sutton County	\$736,000	
675.714 acres - Crockett Co.	\$912,209	
960.77 acres - Sutton Co. - Bond Rd.	\$990,000	
1456.252 acres - Sutton County - SCR H10	\$1,419,845	
Approx. 3300 acres - Val Verde County	\$2,475,000	

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Continued from Front Page: Supreme Court

The U.S. Supreme Court heard arguments today about Texas redistricting and now must decide whether the state's primaries must be delayed to buy time for the courts to approve new maps. It appears that the justices have to choose between waiting for the current round of lower court proceedings to play out, pushing back the primaries or choosing an interim map to use now, keeping the primaries on schedule.

The high court took the case in December, after a panel of three federal judges in San Antonio adopted an interim map of its own making for the 2012 primary elections.

The Texas Legislature approved maps last year, but those haven't received pre-clearance — required by the federal Voting Rights Act — from another panel of three federal judges in Washington, D.C.

Election deadlines were approaching with no legal political districts in place, and the San Antonio court decided to draw a new map to be used until a permanent map could be approved.

"The justices on the court seemed to agree, at a minimum, that the three-judge court [in San Antonio] was wrong in the procedure that

they followed and the conclusion that they reached," Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott said after the hearing.

That's been his argument all along. The state went to the Supreme Court to block the interim court map, saying the Legislature's map — though not pre-cleared — ought to be used for the 2012 elections.

The Supreme Court granted the state's stay, barring election officials from using the San Antonio map.

Monday's hearing was the first step in deciding how things should proceed.

Abbott, whose office is defending the Legislature's maps, started off with praise for the "sterling job" done by Paul Clement, the attorney he hired to argue before the justices. Abbott, who was a judge before becoming attorney general, said the justices spent some time working out the complexities of the cases and the timetable, asking, for instance, about the consequences of issuing their own ruling before a lower court decides whether or not to pre-clear the maps drawn by Texas legislators.

After watching the arguments, he wouldn't venture a guess about the likelihood of an April 3 primary. "It's very hard to read it," Abbott said.

He wasn't alone in that analysis.

"It's hard to know what the final verdict will be," said state Rep. Marc Veasey, D-

Prescribed Burn Alliance Formed After Record-Breaking Wildfire Season



SAN ANTONIO—Following a record-breaking wildfire season, the Texas A&M Institute of Renewable Natural Resources, Texas AgriLife Research and the Texas AgriLife Extension Service have assisted prescribed burn associations throughout the state in forming the new Texas Alliance of Prescribed Burn Association.

Lopez said prescribed burning, or the controlled application of fire to the naturally occurring buildup of fuels in a predetermined area, has been used for years to improve and manage forests and rangelands, improve wildlife habitat and reduce the risk of devastating wildfires.

"This statewide alliance, comprised of 11 prescribed burn associations, is particularly important after the wildfire season Texas just had," he said. "Texas reported over 30,000

wildfires with nearly 4 million acres burned. More than 2,000 homes and an additional 2,000 other types of structures were lost."

"The alliance will promote education and training, and increase the practice of safe prescribed burn techniques," said Larry Joe Doherty, the alliance's new president. "Prescribed burning techniques safely applied can reduce the dangers of fuel buildups that lead to the terror of wildfires and its destructive forces. At the same time, we are honoring our duties as good land stewards by improving wildlife habitat and agricultural production."

Jim Kenton, alliance vice president, said the alliance will work collaboratively with private landowners, county governments, federal and state agencies, and natu-

ral resource organizations to foster the acceptance and use of prescribed burning in Texas.

"Many of the devastating fires were especially dangerous because volatile fuels had been allowed to accumulate in forests and rangelands," Kenton said.

Individual ranchers and range managers, federal and state agencies, The Nature Conservancy and wildlife associations have all used prescribed burns sporadically since the 1970s, according to alliance officials. In 1997, Texas' first prescribed burn association, the Edwards Plateau Prescribed Burn Association, was established.

Before the newly formed alliance, the 11 prescribed burn associations, which are typically nonprofits owned and operated by more than 1,000 private landowners, worked mostly on their own, Doherty said.

"Without uniformity in training and using privately purchased fire equipment, they assisted their neighbors in safely conducting prescribed burns," he said.

Lopez said the institute, AgriLife Research and AgriLife Extension received a funds through a Natural Resources Conservation Service Conservation Innovation Grant to help form the alliance. Funds also were used to design and develop a prescribed fire website to serve the burn associations and de-

velop web-based training for individuals wanting to attain prescribed-burning certification.

"Many private landowners understand the benefits of prescribed fire, but lack the experience or confidence to frequently apply prescribed burns," Lopez said in reference to the need for training. Alliance officers are Doherty, president; Kenton, vice president; Dave Redden, secretary; and Stan Graff, treasurer.

Susan Durham, the South Texas Prescribed Burn Association president, encouraged landowners to organize a prescribed burn association and join the alliance.

"The South Texas Prescribed Burn Association recently reorganized along with neighboring prescribed burn associations and reached out to the experts organizing the Texas Alliance of Prescribed Burn Association for assistance," Durham said. "We found an overwhelming response from them all, offering whatever resources we needed. The alliance is about making Texas safer, not about making a profit."

For more information on the alliance and to learn more about the benefits of prescribed fire, go to <http://pfire.tamu.edu>.

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