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# Devil's River News

Serving Sutton County Since 1890

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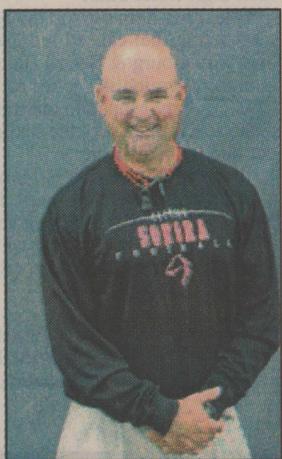
Volume 124 • Issue 4

SONORA, TEXAS

Thursday, January 26, 2012

**Mother Son Date Night**  
January 27, 2012  
Contact the Chamber of Commerce at 325-387-2880 or come by the chamber office at 205 Hwy 277 N. for more information.

## An Interview with Coach Sine



why he was leaving, he said, "Faith, Family, Football and Finance. The same four reasons I came to Sonora from Flatonia." He said he is "excited about starting a new chapter in my life and very thankful for the best three years that I've had in twenty years of coaching." Although he is moving, he said he is going to miss "West Texas football, pep rallies, Friday Night Lights, deer hunting, and the best 2A job in the state."

By: Logan Luttrell

Being a high school coach is sometimes demanding, either because of the players or being offered a new job in a different town. Coach David T. Sine has recently been offered a job in Columbus, Texas, a 3A school, to be the athletic director and head football coach. When Sine was offered this job, he couldn't turn it down.

Sine will be moving February 7, and his contract in Columbus will begin February 8. When Sine was asked

Now that Sine is leaving, everyone is wondering who is going to take his place... Sine said, "I really don't know, but the administration and school board at Sonora have taken great care of my family and I, and they will continue to do what's best for Sonora ISD."

The Sine family would like to thank the school board, administration, and the entire community for giving them this opportunity three years ago. He would also like to thank the current school board for taking care of the Sonora athletes.



Saturday the High School Speech team traveled to Bangs to get some regional level competition. For a second week in a row Sonora came out as the number one speech team at the meet. Results below.

## Highschool Speech Team on A Roll!

Prose: 3rd Marci Parks, 7th Zachary Leonard. LD Debate: 4th Ali Castro. CX Debate: 4th Glenna McKenzie and Brittany Morin. Persuasive: 2nd Ali Castro 6th Kelsey Velez. Informative: 1st

meet he has attended this year. That is a huge accomplishment considering how subjective these events are. Please congratulate all these students on a job well done!

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## Still Time to File

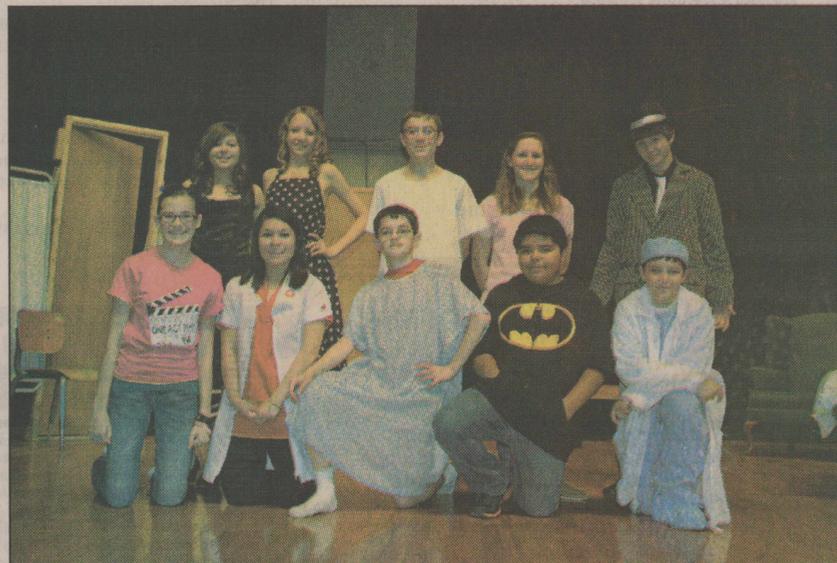
Submitted

County commissioner from Precinct 1, Miguel Villanueva and Precinct 3, Milton Cavaness, are expected to file for the Primaries in order to retain their positions on Commissions Court. In addition, it is assumed that the Sheriff of Sutton County will try and retain his position along with the Tax Assessor, County Attorney and District Attorney. As of this article, it is not known if there are other candidates poised to run against the incumbents.

Registration to run in the Primary for these positions began on November 28, 2011 and will end on February 1, 2012. If you would desire to be elected to one of these positions, you must register with a Party Chairperson prior to December 15. All filing data and rules can be picked up at the Sutton County Clerk office (325)387-3815. Party Precinct Chairpersons will then register candidates for primaries.

The Sutton County Primary Elections, if required, will be March 6, 2012.

## Middle School Shines in One Act



Back row (L to R): Sky McGuffin, Tyler Hampton, Tate Shannon, Julia Pope, Straton Rushing. Front row: Holly Sparks, Kaitlyn Lopez, Dalton Morris, Dakota Castro, Cade Creek

Sonora Middle School drama students, under the tutelage of Shannon Gillispie, gave a highly impressive performance of the "delicious comedy", Rest In Peace. In the play by Pat Cook, a man, actually two men witness the aftermath of their own deaths. Packed

with laughs and a double twist at the end, Sonora students presented this one act play above and beyond expectations. Outstanding!

### Cast:

Horace (patient and deceased) – Dalton Morris Nurse – Kaitlyn Lopez Hazel (widow of Hor-

ace) – Tyler Hampton Mother-in-law – Sky McGuffin Doctor – Cade Creek Milton (deceased lawyer) – Tate Shannon Bascomb (angel/guide) – Straton Rushing Crew: Julia Pope, Holly Sparks, Dakota Castro

## Railroad Commission Approves Draft Rules to Increase Penalties for Safety Violations

AUSTIN - The Texas Railroad Commission (RRC) today approved draft rules to implement new or amended penalty matrixes to be used as guidelines to be considered by the Commission in determining the amount of penalties for safety violations in six categories: oil and gas regulations, pipeline safety regulations, Liquefied Petroleum (LP)-gas

safety rules, Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) safety rules, Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) safety rules and requirements relating to underground pipeline damage prevention.

The proposed rules include numerous new penalties, as well as increases in existing penalties and enhancements in penalties for repeat offenders. Penalty guidelines at the RRC

have not been updated since 2004, and they have never been adopted as official RRC rules, with the exception of rules for pipeline safety violations. The first penalty guideline schedule was drafted in 1986.

While the proposed rules are only guidelines - final penalties, up to and including the maximum of \$10,000 per

day, remain at the discretion of the Commissioners - putting these guidelines into rule will aid in transparency and communication to industry and the public regarding RRC penalties.

"It is due time that the Railroad Commission adopt formal rules strengthening enforcement penalties," said Railroad Commissioner Da-

vid Porter. "I am especially pleased to see the proposals to increase penalties on repeat offenders. The energy industry overall has a solid record at the Commission, and we shouldn't let these few bad actors tarnish the state's reputation as the gold standard."

THE DEVIL'S RIVER NEWS



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### Senior Center Activities

Thurs. January 26 - Happy Birthday *Arturo Trevino*  
*Rebecca Perez*  
 Fri. January 27 - Birthday Cake for January  
 Mon. January 30 - Happy Birthday *Virginia Ramirez*  
 Tues. January 31 - Happy Birthday *Luan King*  
*Mary Lynn Gosney*  
*Jeanette Cooper*

Wed. February 1 -

### Senior Center Menu

Thurs. January 26 - Herb roasted chicken, potato wedges  
 peas & carrots, wheat roll, strawberries, milk  
 Fri. January 27 - Beef soft taco, Spanish rice, broccoli, milk  
 Mandarin oranges w/topping  
 Mon. January 30 - Rigatoni w/meat sauce, lima beans, milk  
 tossed salad, garlic bread, peaches w/topping  
 Tues. January 31 - Mushroom steak w/gravy, mashed potato  
 peas & carrots, wheat roll, emerald pears  
 Wed. February 1 -

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).

## Obituary

# Joe David Nance



SAN ANGELO ~ Joe David Nance, 57, passed away Thursday, January 19, 2012 after a brief and courageous battle in the ICU at Shannon Medical.

Joe was born on June 14, 1954 in Sonora, Texas to his proud parents Mildred and Cleveland Nance, Sr. Joe excelled in all his studies at the Sonora schools. He especially loved to read, debate anyone on any subject matter, and also spent many private hours on his writings. Joe participated in 4-H, Debate Club, National Honor Society, and graduated as Valedictorian, Class of 1972. He continued his education at Texas Tech University where he graduated in 1976. Joe was a huge sports fan, able to rattle off stats on almost any team/player but was especially a loyal Texas Tech fan. He kept his mind active by working endless crossword and Sudoku puzzles.

Joe moved to San Angelo after graduation and immediately began his career first at St. John's Hospital and then continued on with Shannon Medical in the Radiology Department (night shift) for over 30 years. Joe loved his job, his co-workers so much that he considered them his extended family. They could count on his organizational skills and meticulous eye for details. He was often the one to step in and cover for them on holidays and unexpected emergencies. Joe was always someone you could count on. If he said he'd do something, he'd follow through without expecting anything in return. Often a contrast in character...never interested in "material" things but boy could he surprise with unexpected, great gifts; considered a "brainiac" but also would be the first to jump in to help with dull manual labor when needed. He liked to act as though pets were a nuisance but he fed every stray cat that came up his driveway and kept treats in a cookie jar to sneak to the neighbor and family dogs alike. Joe never succumbed to peer pressure all the days of his life. He was his own person; a true individual. Sure to infuriate some but endearing to others.

Joe will be greatly missed but always loved by all who have known him. He is survived by his loving parents of Sonora; brother, Dennis Nance and wife Debbie of Terlingua; sister, Janice Nance Woods of San Angelo; niece, Kellie Woods Shaw and husband Kevin; and great nephew Greyson of Grand Prairie.

Those who have gone before Joe are his brother, Cleveland Nance, Jr.; paternal grandparents, R.G. and Grace Nance; and maternal grandparents, David and Mildred Zimmerman.

There will be no visitation. A memorial service was held on Saturday, January 21, 2012 at Shaffer Funeral Home's Chapel with Reverend James Stephen officiating. Graveside service were held on Saturday at Sonora Cemetery in Sonora, Texas. Services are under the direction of Shaffer Funeral Home/Sherwood Way.

In lieu of flowers please make memorial contributions to the United Way.

## Letter to the Editor

I attended the Sonora City Council meeting on January 17, 2012. The City Council approved a workshop to discuss the City of Sonora's "Schedule of Fees" and other financial items (requested by Leonard Leinfelder, Public Works Director) on January 30, 2012 at 5:00PM. I urge all citizens of Sonora to attend that meeting.

We received a notice that in November 2011 our utility rates would increase. In my opinion, we are paying too much already, and now a new meeting is scheduled to review fees and other financial items.

I would also like all citizens of Sonora to be aware of the City estimating our water usage. Some of the water meters are not being read monthly, instead we are often charged by an estimate that is decided by the City. It was discussed in the last Council meeting. (My water usage was estimated.) If your water usage is being estimated during November, December and January, and you have not used that much water, your sewer charges will be higher than they should be. Water usage should never be estimated. Our water bill is already too high in my opinion. How can our elderly who live on fixed income pay such high water bills?

One other item was on the agenda of the Sonora City Council meeting that caused me great concern. The Firm of Sagebiel, Ravenburg & Schuh (long time Audit Firm for the City) mailed a termination letter of accounting services to the City Council. City Management nor the City Council gave any explanation. I think we, the taxpayers of the City of Sonora, are entitled to an answer.

I do not know what is going on at City Hall. We have lost a number of key employees. I know of at least 4 employees who are no longer working for the city, and we only have 4 City Council members and no Mayor. I think we, the Citizens of Sonora, need to take our city back and stop spending more money than we take in!

Thank You,  
 Brigitte R. Rogers  
 Citizen of Sonora

To the Citizens of Sonora,

Why are taxes in the City of Sonora/Sutton County so high when compared with other Texas locations (Ozona/Georgetown, etc.)?

As I write the check to pay my property taxes, I realize I pay six (6) taxing entities each year for the privilege of living in Sonora. The City property owners, under the age of 65, pay approximately the following amounts for School tax \$1.12/\$100, City tax \$.054/\$100, County tax \$0.35, County FM/FC \$0.07, Hospital tax \$0.14/\$100, Water District \$0.03/\$100. Sonora taxpayers will pay about \$2.5 million dollars in property taxes this year.

The total property tax amounts to about \$2.26/\$100 assessed valuation. I asked myself, "Why so high?". I then compared our taxes with those of our neighbors in Crockett County/Ozona who pay \$1.58/\$100. What other factors are contributing to these escalating taxes?

Lower revenue from the relocation of Multi-Chem, Haliburton, Slumberberger, H&B Drilling and diminished gas/oil-field activity affected all taxing entities.

National Economic downturn affecting jobs and income. We have continued business as we did it in the past, by taxing entities without recognition of diminishing revenues. Response by elected officials seems to be "just raise taxes and fees to compensate for lost revenue instead of consolidation and cutting services".

Sonora City has experienced unbelievable personnel turbulence and management difficulties for the past 5-6 years. Five (5) City Chief Executives in five years, four (4) Mayors in five years (last Mayor resigned and the City has not replaced him), City Council, one member with four (4) or more years of experience and only two of four having attended training at Texas Municipal League. The City lost many key valued employees, have been moved aside or fired in the past six months. Thus leaving a lack of experience and institutional knowledge available in the City. One City manager has been indicted for theft. The accounting firm servicing the City for decades quit! Management challenges abound for our City management team.

The 2011-2012 City budgets of \$1 million General fund dollars reflect a revenue of about \$400 thousand dollars it appears will be made up of by using reserves. The use of reserves to take care of shortfalls in revenue is becoming a standard operating procedure for our elected officials in the City. Additional revenue can only be raised via higher taxes and fees. City taxes for this year were raised to the maximum (\$3.99/\$100) allowed by Texas State law.

Currently, Sonora/Sutton County has 16% of its population below poverty level. The median family income is about \$34,000. Utility bills are very high and will remain high until water/sewer are upgraded and the bond funding dept is paid off.

Sonora Citizens have a right to understand their City's challenges and take action.

Brigitte R. Rogers



## Sonora Church Directory

<p><b>Primera Iglesia Bautista</b> 504 Santa Clara 387-2035</p> <p><b>The Church of the Good Shepherd Presbyterian</b> 319 E. Mulberry 387-2616</p> <p><b>Lighthouse Community Church</b> 1705 N. Crockett 387-9100</p> <p><b>St. Ann's Catholic Church</b> 229 W. Plum 387-2278</p> <p><b>Jehovah's Witness</b> 310 St. Ann's St 387-5658/387-5518</p>	<p><b>Church of Christ</b> 304 N. Water 387-3190</p> <p><b>First Baptist Church</b> 11 E. Oak 387-2951</p> <p><b>St. John's Episcopal Church</b> 404 E. Poplar 387-2955</p> <p><b>First United Methodist Church</b> 201 N. Water 387-2466</p> <p><b>Templo Jerusalem Asamblea De Dios</b> 306 W. 4th St 387-5713</p> <p><b>Hope Lutheran Church</b> 417 E. 2nd St. 387-5366</p>
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 387-2266



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## The Devil's River News

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## MEMBER 2011

## TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

## Actos® BLADDER CANCER?

FDA Reports Increased Risk of Bladder Cancer with Extended Usage

The Type 2 diabetes drug, Actos®, has been reported to increase the risk of bladder cancer to patients with extended usage and increased cumulative dosages. Bladder cancer symptoms may include painful urination, blood in urine, frequent urination and other side effects.

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 9:45 a.m. Sunday School  
 10:55 a.m. Worship  
 2:00 p.m. Bible Study  
*(Nursery provided from 9:30 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.)*

**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

## Earth-Friendly Laundry Tips

(StatePoint) For an eco-friendly laundry day, consider the following:

Be sure to run only full loads of wash. According to Discovery's Planet Green, the average household would reduce their carbon dioxide emissions by 99 pounds a year by running only full loads.

Opt for cold water when possible, and consider a natural gas tankless water heater, which heats only the water you need when you need it. And with a natural gas dryer, you can dry on average two loads of clothes for the same cost as one electric dryer load.

Avoid conventional detergents containing harmful pollutants. Instead, use homemade or natural products.

Remember -- you don't need to dirty up the planet when you clean your clothes.

**Happy 13th Birthday, Cowboy!**



Love,  
Dad, Mom,  
Daniela and  
Gabriela

## With Peak of Flu Season Approaching, DSHS Recommends Vaccination

As the typical peak of the Texas flu season approaches, the Texas Department of State Health Services reminds people to get vaccinated against the flu.

"This has been a fairly mild flu season so far, but that can change quickly," said Dr. David Lakey, DSHS commissioner. "We usually see a significant increase in influenza in Texas in January and February, so this is the time to protect yourself."

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends everyone at least 6 months old be vaccinated against seasonal flu. Getting an annual flu vaccine is the best way to prevent flu from spreading. People should also remember to cover all coughs and sneezes, wash their hands frequently with soap and water or hand sanitizer and stay home if they are sick.

Flu symptoms include fever, coughing, sore throat, aches, chills and fatigue. Most healthy people recover fully, but people 65 and over, pregnant women, young children and people with chronic health conditions are at higher risk for serious complications and even death. It is especially important for people in those high-risk groups to be vaccinated.

To find out where to get a flu shot, people should contact their health care provider, local health department or dial 2-1-1. Flu information and tips for protecting against the flu are at [texasflu.org](http://texasflu.org).

**MOTIVATED SELLER**

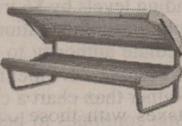
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<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Charles Howard Construction, Inc.</b></p>  <p style="text-align: center;">Oilfield Contractor Asphalt &amp; Concrete Construction email: <a href="mailto:chowardconst@sonoratax.net">chowardconst@sonoratax.net</a> phone: (325) 387-3093 fax: (325) 387-5543 mobile: (325) 206-0497</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Tonya's Domestic Services</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Professional Cleaning</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Residential - Commercial Ranches - Deer Cabins Tonya Bullard - Owner Ozona, TX</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(325)392-9032 (325)226-2376</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Everett's Pharmacy</b> <b>Feature of the Month</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">←</p>	 <p style="text-align: center;">Advertising Works! Call Rhonda at 387-2507</p>

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**Bridal Selections**

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Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.

**Rosey Bud Florist**  
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**Bridal Selections**

Johnna Wade & Gary Gibson  
Steven Frazier & Brea Hughes  
Cash Jennings & Catherine Warren



**Baby**

Zed & Ashley Snodgrass  
Candace & Landry Matthies  
*A flower for everyday...*

**F.Y.I.**

**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.

**Fling Ding Members** Fling Ding Invitations are ready to be picked up. Please see Shanna Petty at First National Bank, 102 Main Street, to pick them up for the dance on February 4, 2012.

**Little Mr. & Miss Cinco de Mayo** registration deadline is April 30, 2012. Contact Jo Ann Hernandez at The Bank & Trust for FMI.

**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.

**Sonora Lions** are ready to sponsor our youth who are disabled or who have TYPE 1 diabetes to attend a 1 week camp. For more information contact Col. Pete Bradley @ 387.6282 or any Lion. Further information on all Lions Camps is online @ Texas Lions Camp. Camp dates are in June for disabled and July diabetes.

**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.



Member FDIC  
P.O. Box 798  
Sonora, Texas 76950  
325-387-3861



Member FDIC  
229 Hwy 277 N  
Sonora, Texas 76950  
325-387-2593

# Students of the Week

## Elementary School



L to R: Aidan Luna, Koda Davis, and Shaylie Streicher  
Not pictured: Aaron Perez

## Intermediate School



L to R: AJ Jones and Scarlot Banfill  
Not pictured: Patricia Padilla

# Lions Roar

# 1,000 Days

Submitted

The Downtown Lion's Club received a donation of \$500 for the Col. Pete Bradley Scholarship Fund. They also voted to help with a student's glasses.

Calendar:

Lion Lewis Allen reminded Lions of the Speech Meet which will be in Sonora on Friday, February 3rd. The Lions will furnish the evening meal of Hamburgers. Cooking will begin at 3pm with the meal served at 4:30.

It was announced that the Broom sale will be on March 27th. These goods are of excellent quality and made by the blind.

### Texas Lion Camp:

The camp is in Kerrville and is for Diabetic and Disabled children. For more details call Col. Pete Bradley at 387-6282.

### Program:

Anita Spiller and Jackie Baker brought the program on a class they are teaching to people learn English. This class began with 3 students and presently has 23. It is made up of self motivated and hard working individuals and meets in the mornings to study and learn. The class has boosted self confidence in the students and employability.

(Commentary by three Texas state reps on the President's State of the Union Speech)

Last night, President Obama addressed the nation regarding the current "state of our union." His speech, like the many he has given in the past, focused on dividing our nation, claiming hollow victories and deflecting attention from his own failed economic record.

While President Obama was speaking, a significant milestone was passed. Yesterday marked 1,000 days since the Democrat-controlled U.S. Senate has passed a budget. For more than three years, President Obama and the Senate Democrats have refused to be bound by a budget of spending priorities.

President Obama would like us to believe that our country's economic woes are the fault of the current Congress. The President knows that's not the truth, and our economy will not begin to recover and grow until he takes responsibility for his very expensive, failed policies and charts a new course.

Our country is not in its current economic situation because — as the President believes — we tax folks too little. We cannot begin to grow our economy if we continue to keep job creators on the sidelines because of the burdens of ObamaCare, gross federal over spending and laborious regulations.

Congressman Quico Canseco was correct when he said, "we've seen our nation's credit rating downgraded, heard warning after warning about the perilous fiscal path our nation has been headed down, and watched the European debt crisis unfold as a preview of what could happen to the United States. Yet, we're right back where we've been before. Instead of considering a proposal to cut spending and put our nation back onto a sustainable fiscal path, President Obama is asking us to borrow more money so we can keep on spending."

We represent a broad swath of Texas — from San Antonio to the Hill Country and west to El Paso. The counties that make up our districts are very diverse, but one similarity is that Congressman Quico Canseco represents part or all of them.

Congressman Canseco has fought hard to improve our country's economic climate, voting for a budget that cuts current spending levels by \$6 trillion, reducing regulatory burdens that are choking job creation, and voting to give the President the immediate authority to create over 20,000 jobs by approving the Keystone XL Pipeline.

Rather than chart a course of fiscal responsibility, President Obama continues to believe that we can spend our way back to prosperity. Government spending is now equivalent to 40 percent of GDP and the U.S. debt now exceeds the size of our economy.

Of course, there is a time for politics. But not when over one million Americans are out of work. The president should work together with members like Congressman Canseco who have created private sector jobs and understand how to get our economy moving forward again.

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## Sutton County Junior Livestock Show

# Mother Son Date Night

January 27, 2012

7 p.m. - 9 p.m.

Sonora Middle School Cafeteria

\*Boys: Pre-K through 8th Grade\*  
Bring your mom or special someone to our

\* All Sports Party \*

\* Tickets: \$7 in Advance - \$10 at the Door  
Advance tickets can be purchased at the Sonora Chamber of Commerce  
\* Photos start at 6:30 p.m.



Raffle tickets: \$1 each For a 4 GB Flash MP3 Player  
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**Hill Country Junior Livestock Show Results**

Submitted by:  
Chance Campbell,  
Sutton County 4-H Reporter

Sutton County made a nice showing at the recent District stock show held in Kerrville last week. Members participated in Market Lamb, Market Meat Goats, Swine and Angora Goat projects. The following participants had great results. In lambs, Damon Evans had a 9th place lightweight Finewool. Zachary Leonard had a 14th place lightweight Finewool, and Robert Chavez had a 10th place middleweight mediumwool. In meat goats, Macie Friess showed a 2nd place and a 3rd place meat goat in her perspective classes. Danny Pechacek had a 9th place goat, and Stella Ingham also showed a 9th place goat.

In the swine show, Darby Ramsdell had a 3rd place Class 2 Dark OPB gilt, while Delaney Ramsdell had a 2nd place Class 2 Dark OPB gilt. Rebeckah Owen showed the 3rd place Class 1 Light OPB gilt, and her brother Reagan Owen took 9th place in Class 1 with his Light OPB gilt.

In the Angora goat show, Lane Cahill took 7th & 10th places with her commercial doe kids as well as placed 5th & 6th with her commercial yearling does. Senior, Sterling Hall placed 6th with his commercial aged doe.

We would like to congratulate all the 4-H and FFA members who showed in Kerrville and wish them well as they make their way through the rest of the stock show season.

**Defendant Pleads Guilty in 9-Year-Old Boating Fatality**

BURNET — Travis Aaron Marburger has pleaded guilty in 33rd Judicial District Court to a third-degree felony charge of failure to stop and render aid involving a fatal accident, ending a nine-year-old case that began with a 2002 boat crash on Lake Buchanan that claimed a Lampasas teenager's life and injured two others.

"On behalf of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and the Law Enforcement Division, we are glad to have this case finalized and justice served," said TPWD Lt. Col. Craig Hunter. "Most importantly we hope it will help bring some closure to the victims and their families after all these long years."

District Judge Guilford L. Jones accepted the 37-year-old Marburger's guilty plea and assessed his punishment as a 10-year sentence to Texas Department of Criminal Justice, Institutional Division; the sentence is probated for 10 years. Marburger will serve 100 days in jail as a condition of probation, pay a \$1,500 fine and \$7,488.58 in restitution to the families, and will relinquish all hunting and fishing privileges for the duration of his probation.

Courtroom testimony from Marburger was presented today and included a statement of admission from Marburger under oath and victim's impact statements from the families. Marburger had been indicted by a Burnet county grand jury last year on charges of manslaughter and tampering with evidence.

**Now Is Best Time Of Year To Aggressively Control Wild Pigs**

OVERTON — From now until spring green-up is one of the best times of the year to control wild pigs, according to a Texas AgriLife Extension Service expert. One factor is that hungry wild pigs are on the move and more likely to be out in the open to forage for food this time of year, said Dr. Billy Higginbotham, AgriLife Extension fisheries and wildlife specialist, Overton. Wild pigs, aka feral hogs, browse wooded areas, graze pastures and root up planted crops for food, Higginbotham said. They also scavenge and raid deer-feeder sites. From January through spring green-up, many of these food sources are not as available.

"Native foods such as acorns disappear as winter wears on, and many deer hunters do not continue to supplement their deer population after hunting season," Higginbotham said. "As a result, the wild pigs will be increasingly on the move and more susceptible to baiting as they search for food."

Another reason to step up control efforts of wild pigs this time of year has to do with the animals' breeding behavior, he said. "Wild pigs are one of the most prolific large mammals in the world," Higginbotham said.

According to a 2011 study, the average age of a sow having her first litter is about 13 months, he said. Mature sows will have an average of 1.5 litters per year, and the average litter size is 5.6 piglets.

"Though sows can have litters any month of the year, there always seems to be a peak in farrowing during the early spring," Higginbotham said. "This is an added incentive for landowners to strike as soon as possible before even more pigs hit the ground."

Landowners have the choice of several control methods for wild pigs. These include trapping, snaring, dogging and shooting, both aerially and on the ground, he said. But because of the large amount of cover afforded by forest and brush in many parts of Texas, trapping and shooting remain the most effective options for landowners in such areas.

"A 2011 survey of 700 landowners in 139 Texas counties by AgriLife Extension detailed the frequency of control method utilized," Higginbotham said. "Of 36,664 wild pigs removed in 2010 by survey respondents, 57 percent were removed through trapping and 24 percent via aerial and landowner shooting. Hunting was responsible for removing another 11 percent of the pigs taken. Catch dogs removed 6 percent of the total while 2 percent were removed through the use of snares."

Landowners remain the first line of defense because Texas is 95 percent privately owned land," Higginbotham said. "We are not going to eradicate wild pig populations with the current legal control methods, but research has clearly demonstrated that the economic impact wild pigs have on agricultural operations can be significantly reduced by the control methods we do have."

**Time to Think About Pruning Trees**

By Pascual Hernandez,  
Sutton County Agricultural  
Extension Agent



You've always said that pruning should be done in the dormant season. There are three advantages to pruning at this time of the year. First, wound closure is most rapid if it's done just prior to when new shoots emerge. Second, there are few insects and disease spores to infest pruning cuts. Third, deciduous trees have dropped their leaves, so it's easier to see what you're pruning! Light pruning to remove a few small branches of trees can be done at any time of year.

We should note that not every tree needs pruning. So, what are the primary reasons to prune? 1) To remove dead wood. 2) To shape the tree by removing low-hanging limbs, asymmetrical limbs, etc. 3) To remove narrow "v-shaped" limb crotches that are prone to split under a crop load or in ice or wind storms. This is essential in training young trees to develop into strong mature trees. 4) To thin out crowded, heavily shaded limbs and branches in order to allow more light into the trees. This is particularly critical to fruit and nut trees since branches that receive little sunlight will not form fruit buds. 5) To invigorate the growth rate of the branches that remain after pruning. This is important in stimulating older, low vigor fruit trees to produce fruit bearing shoots.

However, some get the urge to "top" landscape trees with the assumption that the trees will be better off. On the contrary, topping is one of the worst practices that can be employed against shade trees. Topping refers to cutting back branches to stubs and sometimes all the way to the trunk. This severely injures trees and sets them up for attack by diseases and insects.

Severe topping causes a proliferation of buds at the point where the branch was cut. Shoots then arise from these buds, forming a dense mat at the end of the branch. This dense growth is shallowly attached and subject to easy breakage by wind storms. This new mass of growth also puts a strain on a tree's root system since food reserves have to go to support it. Thus the tree's root system is weakened and overall vigor is reduced, making the tree more susceptible to attack from insects, diseases, and other environmental conditions. Unfortunately, many trees are senselessly topped rather than pruned.

Topping also reduces tree's life expectancy and therefore affects its value in the landscape. Knowledgeable appraisers will severely reduce the value of a topped tree. Good pruning practices will retain a tree's natural form and enable it to be a much greater asset to the landowner. Considering how long it takes a tree to reach full size, proper pruning care should be a top priority for the homeowner.

For additional information, visit the Sutton County Extension website at <http://sutton.agrilife.org>.

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# BRONCO SPORTS

## JV Wins Two in a Row

By: Coach Brown

Sonora JV boys defeated the Grape Creek Eagles 61-18 giving the Broncos a 2-0 record in district. The scoring was led by Alec Samaniego and Rhett Guerra with 10 a piece. Hagen Kennedy and Elijah Cross 8, Chance Campbell 7, Blake Esparza and Andy Samaniego 4, John Lopez 3, and Brett Castillo 2. This brings the Broncos season record to 8-3. The boys will travel to Brady this Friday.

## Boys Jr High Basketball Dominates District Play

Both 7th grade Boys basketball teams continued their dominance in district play by defeating the Grape Creek Eagles. The Red team started out slow, leading 11-6 at the end of the first quarter. From that point on the Colts played excellent defense and defeated the Eagles 52-13.

The 7th grade white team played excellent defense as well. At the end of the 3rd quarter the Colts held an 18-17 lead. From then on the Colts really turned up their play and defeated the Eagles 30-20. The Colts travel to Brady next Monday with the White playing first at 4:00.

### 7th Grade Red and White Leading Scorers

- Jacob Gonzales 11 Pts.
- Grady Bush 4 Pts.
- Michael Solis 10 Pts.
- Liam Yourgalite 4 Pts.
- Raully Ojeda 6 Pts.
- Rafael Mendez 4 Pts.
- Kade Creek 6 Pts.
- Halston Sawyer 4 Pts.
- Noah San Miguel 4 Pts.
- Josh Galindo 4 Pts.
- Isaiah Lira 4 Pts.
- Drew Buitron 2 Pts.
- Ariel Lugo 4 Pts.
- Tate Shannon 2 Pts.
- Caleb Galvan 4 Pts.
- Jose Hernandez 2 Pts.
- Cade Krieg 2 Pts.
- Dakota Castro 2 Pts.
- Juan Miguel Jimenez 2 Pts.
- Andrew Martinez 2 Pts.

## Boys Basketball Team Falls to Grape Creek

By Lamar Evans

Tuesday the Grape Creek Eagles came to town. The Eagles were led by three young men who scored all but three pts on their team. The Eagles defeated the Broncos 53-57 in a District show down. The Broncos were lead by Hudson with 17, Cross was right behind him with 16, Pope hit 9, Wimberley 5, Payne 5, Jimenez 4. The Broncos go 1-1 in District play and travel to Brady Friday night.

## Lady Broncos Win One and Lose One

Tuesday evening the Running Lady Broncos defeated Grape Creek 63-54. Sonora scored 20 points in the 4th quarter to finish off the Lady Eagles. The difference in the game was Sonora's pressure defense and free throws. The Lady Broncos forced 30 turnovers and made 24 of 32 free throws (75%) to secure the victory. Brianah Creek led all scorers with 22 points and she also had 7 steals. Jaye Sanchez was in charge of the offense scoring 10 points and dishing out 7 assists. Kylie Love (10 rebounds), Abby Creek (8 rebounds) and Jaye (7 steals) anchored down the defense. Avery Nolen, Macie Freiss, Jaye and Brianah (2) all hit three pointers. Friday evening the Lady Broncos could not get their high octane offense on track. The defense forced 26 turnover, but Brady shot lights out in defeating Sonora 69-38. Jaye Sanchez had 10 points and 2 assists. Macie Freiss and Gracie Dozier handed out 3 assists each and Abby Creek pulled down 10 rebounds. The Lady Broncos made 11/15 free throws (73%). The Sonora Lady Broncos are 19-7 and 2-3 in district.

## Lady Colts Bring Home Tournament Trophy

The Lady Colts brought home some hardware last weekend from McCamey. The 8th grade brought home a 3rd place trophy after winning a hard double overtime game and the 7th grade brought home the Consolation trophy with only 5 girls. Sonora (7th grade) 6

Kermit	38
Sky Jennings	2pts
Sylvia Salazar	2pts
Bethany Aguero	2pts
Sonora (7th grade) 27	
Big Lake	13
Sky Jennings	15pts
Nydia Rodriguez	6pts
Bethany Aguero	4pts
Bianca Fay	2pts

Monday night the Lady Colts traveled to Grape Creek. After only winning by 2 points at half time the 7th grade Red team had a great 3rd quarter making the score 16-3. They held the Lady Eagles scoreless in the 4th quarter to go on and win 18-3.

Holly Sparks	10pts
Sylvia Salazar	6pts
Jessica Paredes	2pts

The 7th grade Black team learned how to play with heart as they went into their first overtime of the season. They were able to take plenty of shots against the Lady Eagle's zone but had a hard time getting them to fall. They also learned how important free throws can be in clutch situations.

## Polar Bear Classic

On Saturday, January 14, participants in the Polar Bear Classic were greeted by a wonderful afternoon. The Polar Bear Classic is the annual fund raiser for the Sonora High School golf teams. The course is set up so that all holes play as a par 3. Teams play a scramble format.

Money raised through entry fees and donations from various individuals and businesses go to the golf program to help in purchasing equipment and help out in attending golf tournaments. The prizes that are given out are donated by various businesses in and around Sonora. All donations are greatly appreciated by the Sonora High School golf teams.

In the team competition, the 1st place team members were: Joe Garza, Daniel Robeldo, David Robeldo, William Robeldo, and Oscar Escalante. 2nd place team members were: Devoe Smith, Virgil Burge, Katie Chesser, Sam Hughes, and Frannie Tackel. 3rd place team members were: Randy Sparks, Holly Sparks, Gary Hardgrave, Don Spiller, and James Barton. Other participants were: Raul Chavarria, Clyde Dukes, Larry Payne, Chad Tuttle, Jody Boggs, Corey Stevens, Luis Martinez, Rocky Huichapa, Gator Perez, Mike Sanchez, Jesse Parades, Genaro Marin, Joe Marshall, and Chris Nunez.

Prizes were given for each hole. Winners of these prizes were:

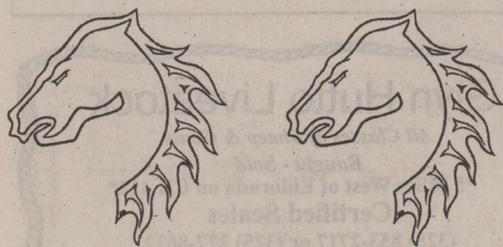
Hole #1 (closest to pin) Gary Hardgrave, Hole #2 (longest Putt Made) Oscar Escalante, Hole #3 (closest to pin) Oscar Escalante, Hole #4 (longest putt made) Daniel Robeldo, Hole #5 (closest to pin) Daniel Robeldo, Hole #6 (longest putt made) Gary Hardgrave, Hole #7 (closest to pin) Luis Martinez, Hole #8 (longest putt made) Sam Hughes, Hole #9 (closest to pin) Chad Tuttle.

We want to thank the following for their generous donations to our Polar Bear Classic: Rosey Bud Florist, Grandma's House, Parker lumber, Snowflake Donuts, Devil's River News, Mercantile, Betty's, Steakhouse, Comfort Inn, Sonora Golf Club, KJ's Bar B Q, Everetts Pharmacy, Sonic, Gray Wireline, Renegade, Bentwood Country Club, JMC transport, Creek Swabbing, Balch Ranch, James Barton, Virgil Burge, Randy Sparks, Eugene lasky, EI's light Service, Reliable Equipment Company, Frannie Tackel, Devoe Smith, C.R. Sproul, Inc., Sam Hughes, Dean/louise Dermody, Nancy Davis, Mercantile, First National Bank, Papatote Water Well Service, Phillip Miller DDS, and Jet Specialty.

We want to thank Renegade for furnishing the meal and Brant Myers, Juanita McBride, and Shelly Hughes for cooking and serving. On behalf of the golf teams, we want to thank everyone that made our fundraiser tournament a huge success. Thank You!

## Correction Box Scores Showed Ozona Winning.

On Monday the 8th Grade lady colts took on the Ozona lady Cubs. It was a rematch the lady colts were waiting for after a last minute loss the previous time. It was a very aggressive game from the start. It was a really good game that came down to the last minute, but the lady colts were able to hold on and earn the win 15-12. The B team also played and it was a very aggressive game. They got off to a fast start taking a 4-0 lead early, before an ozona lady cubs team got hot and defeated the lady cubs. 30-12



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The City of Sonora is now accepting applications for the position of Senior Citizen's Center Site Manager. To obtain an application and list of job descriptions, please come by City Hall, 201 E. Main Street, Sonora, Texas 76950 or call (325) 387-2558. Applications will only be accepted until January 26, 2012.

(325) 387-2507

**Help wanted:** Housekeepers, Please apply in Person at the Day's Inn.

Sonora ISD is accepting applications for the position of Elementary Cafeteria Manager. Bilingual skills preferred, but not required. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled and may be obtained by downloading an application at [www.sonoraisd.net](http://www.sonoraisd.net) or by contacting the Superintendent's Office at 807 S. Concho. EOE.

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Said application made to the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission in accordance with the provisions of the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Code, Rodolfo A Campos, mgr/mem

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## Public Notices

Frontier Mini-Storages and Dunes Mini-Storages located on Hwy. 277 S., in Sonora, Texas, Sutton County will be holding a public sale on February 10, 2012 to satisfy a landlord's lien, at 10:30 a.m. (NO EARLY SALES), weather permitting. This is the tenant's first notice of "intent to sale" concerning their property. Seller reserves the right to withdraw property from sale at any time. As of January 25, 2012, the following tenants are: Sherry Taylor, Annette Thornton, Rosalba Gloria, Trinidad Guerra, Mary Arredondo, and unknown tenant in Frontier Storage #1. If you feel there is an error, please call B-3 Properties - Sonora office at 387-2104 immediately. \*\*This is not a garage sale. The unit will be bid out as a whole. Only CASH will be accepted. A generic summary of items in each unit is, clothes, household furniture, appliances, tools, sports equipment, bicycles, stereos, computers, TVs, radios, books, miscellaneous items, office equipment. If your bid is accepted, you MUST remove all items from that winning unit immediately after processing proper paperwork and payment. Please call 387-2104 for any questions regarding this notice.

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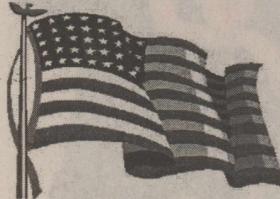
For Rent: 2BR/2BA house for rent. FMI call 210-414-7543.

## For Rent

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

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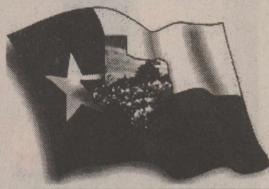
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