

The Devil's River News

Serving Sutton County Since 1890

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SONORA, TEXAS

Thursday, February 14, 2013

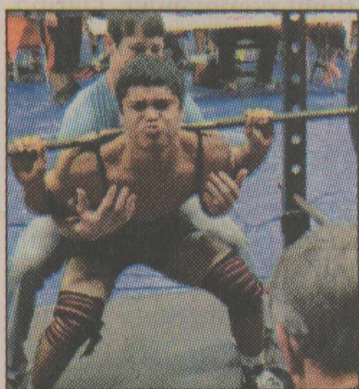
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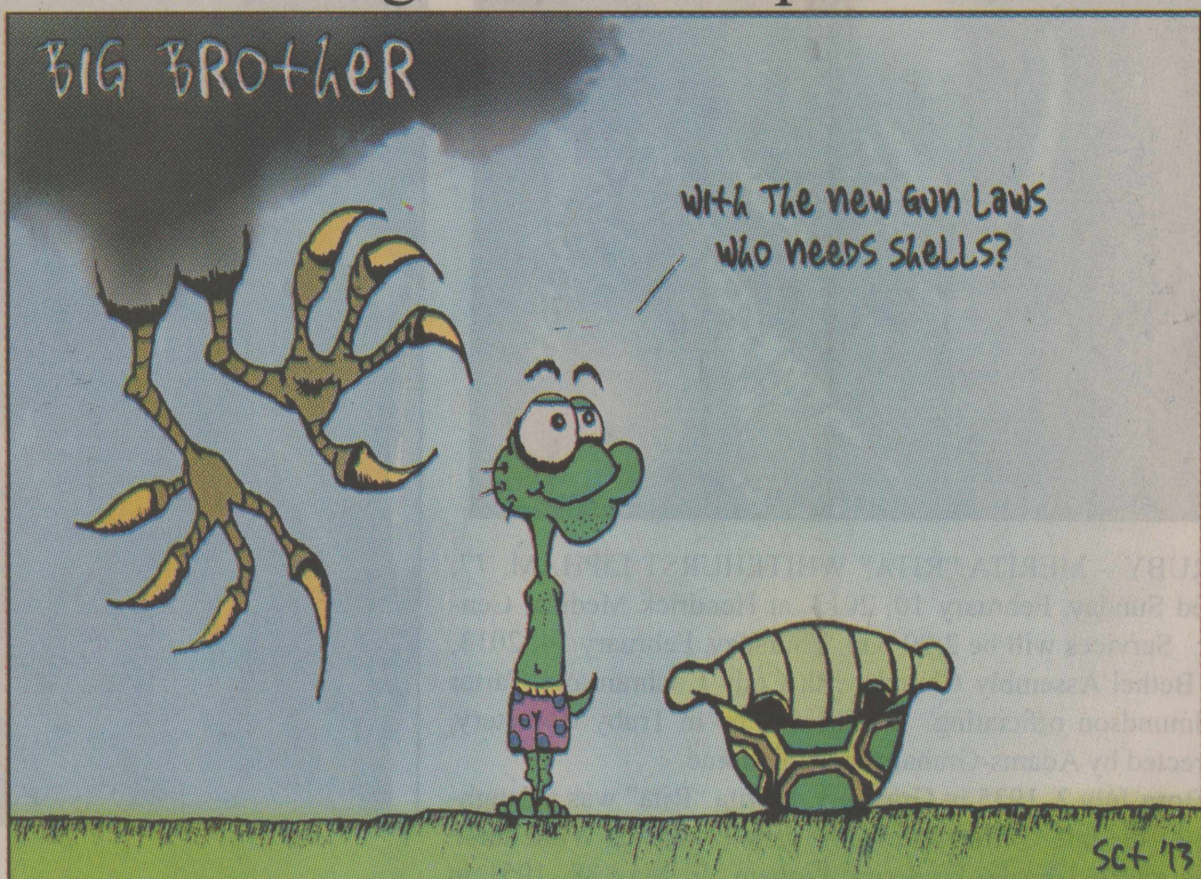
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THE DEVIL'S RIVER NEWS



By Ben D. Taylor

At times having a big brother around is pretty handy. By a function of their older age and size they are very useful in several different scenarios. First, they have the ability to reach higher on the shelf and get you things that normally out of your reach. They are also pretty good at keeping bullies from picking on you and it's nice to know that no matter what kind of trouble you get in, they will always stand by your side. There is, however, a very "not so handy" side of having a big brother.

At times they suffer from the delusion that their smaller siblings can't do anything on their own. In those times they typically become very nosey and bossy. I will be the first one to admit (being the youngest of 3 siblings) that most of the time they are probably right but it's how they go about their "regulations" that usually results in fights. Instead of working with me and trying to understand what problem I am having they usually just step in and grumble, "I have to do everything for you". In those times I very wisely don't say out loud, "well no wonder I can't do anything by myself, because you won't let me". Sometimes little brothers need to be left alone to deal with their own problems because sometimes big brothers do more harm by stepping in. Of all the big brothers in the world there is none that can be more "handy" and "not so handy" at the same time as the U.S. Government.

Under the premise of protecting us from ourselves, the Government is evaluating increased gun control measures. Recently President Obama decreed 23 executive orders (bypassing congress) designed to understand and control some of the recent gun related tragedies. Most of them center around increased screening for possession of firearms and studies on mental health. The sixteenth order is the one that has received a lot of attention in some media outlets. "Clarify that the Affordable Care Act does not prohibit doctors asking their patients about guns in their homes". What that means is that if you are enrolled in what is popularly called Obamacare, your doctor can ask you how many guns you have in your home. While this newest measure on

gun control is causing a bit of stir, it is not the first gun control measure in U.S. history. The first gun control laws prohibited slaves (and later freed slaves) from owning and possessing firearms. These laws (called the Black Codes) were generally overwritten in the Civil Rights Act of 1866, and for many years the issue of gun control drifted back into obscurity. There have been attempts by the federal government to restrict the rights to bear arms but over the years the Supreme Court has upheld the Second Amendment. The most notable Supreme Court Cases involving the Second Amendment occurred in 1939 (United States v Miller), District of Columbia v Heller (2008), and McDonald v. Chicago (2010).

The current revival of the Assault Weapons Ban proposes to ban the sale, transfer, manufacturing, and importation of 157 specifically named firearms. Many of the new restrictions center around cosmetic features or after market additions to the weapons including pistol grips, barrel shrouds and magazines that have more than a 10 round capacity. The Assault Weapons Ban focuses mostly on rate of fire rather than the caliber of certain weapons. In July of last year the Justice Department announced that "all gun shops in four South-west border states will be required to alert the federal government to frequent buyers of high powered-rifles". This policy includes Texas, Arizona, California and New Mexico. It requires gun shops to report purchases of two or more of some types of rifles by the same person in a five day span. Specifically it applies to purchases of any semi-automatic rifle that have detachable magazines and a caliber greater than a .22. The reports will be kept by the ATF and the information will be purged after 2 years if there are no investigations associated with the purchases.

The international community is also increasing it's focus on gun control. The General Assembly of the UN has proposed an international arms trade treaty. It's initial design is to restrict the transfer and illicit trade of firearms across borders, but there is some criticism to some of the wording in the treaty. The Baker in-

stitute raised some concerns regarding the use of the word "illicit". "The treaty resolution is to control the "illicit" trade. That leaves "illicit" open for interpretation, and it is not clear what party or parties will set the interpretation. If the U.N. passed a resolution that the manufacture or ownership of any type of gun (or ammunition) was illegal, then all small weapons could be illicit". The report continues by stating, "If gun (or ammunition) ownership is illicit, the treaty could conceivably justify an international effort to put in place "adequate laws" in the United States as deemed acceptable to the U.N. Similar issues arise with the interpretation of "stockpiling". Could the term be defined as a single weapon? More than three bullets"? The current administration has voiced its support for this treaty and the UN council is expected to vote on it in March of this year.

There is no question that there is a problem with bad people using guns in order to satisfy their own twisted goals but it is not a new trend. In World War II the standard issue German army handgun was the Walther P38. Under the proposed Assault Weapons Ban this gun (having an eight round magazine) would be very legal, but that gun was used to murder tens of thousands of Jews during the Holocaust. Additionally the Karabiner 98K (a bolt action rifle) would also be very legal in the current laws. This gun was designed by the German manufacturer Mauser and was used in World War I. This gun (with a 5 round stripper clip) would be legal in New York with a maximum shell capacity of 7 rounds. It was used in wartime and was specifically designed for one purpose. To kill people.

The intention of the weapon's construction and it's components is not as important as the intention of the person wielding it. Right now with the deluge of gun laws being proposed our "Big Brother" is focused on both the wrong side of the gun. The problem does not lie with what comes out of a gun but what goes into the minds of those that wield them.



Sonora Lady Broncos - Undefeated District Champs

The Lady Broncos accomplished their final regular season goal by defeating the Crane Ladybirds 59-48 and finishing district unblemished with a record of 10-0. Kylie Love was a beast and put the Lady Broncos on her shoulders to secure the victory. Kylie had 25 points and 11 rebounds plus 5 assists (season high) and 2 blocks. Jaye Sanchez continues to be the heart and soul of the team adding 13 points, 7 rebounds and 3 steals. In a grind it out game (instead of the usual 'run and fun'), Gracie Dozier finished with 6 points and 5 assists, Avery Nolen had 6 points and 4 rebounds and Abby Creek added 6 points and 5 rebounds. Zella Powers (8 rebounds) and Katie Hartman (3 assists) provided stellar defense to break the game open in the second half in which the Broncos outscored the Cranes 31-19. The Sonora Lady Broncos finish the regular season with an impressive record of 31-2. The Texas Girls' Coaches Association (TGCA) have the Lady Broncos ranked #10 in their latest poll.

Playoff Information

Sonora Lady Broncos play the Lubbock Titans in Sterling City at 6:30 on Saturday 2/9 in a "Preview Showcase". The Lubbock Titans have two players already signed to play college ball. Other games feature Wall (2A/#9) vs Whitharral (1A/#2), Lubbock Cooper (3A/#9) vs Grady (1A/#8), Lubbock vs Wylie (3A/#17) and Christoval vs Cross Plains (1A/#21). The Lady Broncos earned a bi-district bye for winning the district championship. Sonora will play the winner of #11 ranked (TABC) Cisco and Nocona who play Tuesday evening at Brock. The Area Championship Game time and location will be determined after the Cisco/Nocona bi-district game.

The Texas Department of State Health Services Zoonosis Control Branch initiated an Oral Rabies Program in the City of Sonora on 2/6/2013. The oral vaccine/bait was distributed through out Sonora targeting rabies in wildlife, specifically skunks. Skunks are a primary source of rabies in Texas. Anyone finding the vaccine/bait units is encouraged to leave it alone as wildlife can smell the human scent. The vaccine will not hurt pets or livestock if they consume or touch any of the vaccine/baits. The bait is non-toxic to humans.

The Texas DSHS and the City of Sonora Animal Control urges everyone to have their pets vaccinated for rabies as required by law. Pets within the City of Sonora should be vaccinated for rabies yearly.

For more information on rabies or questions call (512) 458-7255 or (432) 683-9492 or visit the website at <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/ideu/disease/rabies/orp>.

Senior Center Activities

Thurs. November 29 - Happy Birthday Richard Palmer

Fri. November 30 - Run errands

Mon. December 3 -

Tues. December 4 -

Wed. December 5 -

Senior Center Menu

Thurs. November 29 - Smothered steak, Mashed potato, Mix greens, Roll, Peach shortcake, milk

Fri. November 30 - Chicken Fajitas, Spanish rice, Pinto beans, Flour tortilla, Fruit cocktail, milk

Mon. December 3 -

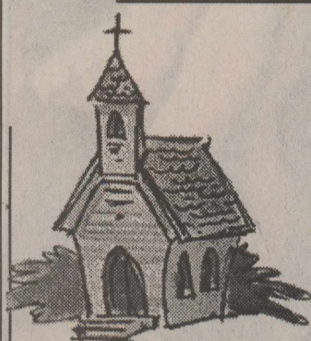
Tues. December 4 -

Wed. December 5 -

Participants in the senior nutrition program must be 60 or older. Meals are served Monday - Friday at 12:00 p.m.

Donations are accepted

(suggested donation for Seniors is \$2.00; \$5.00 for under 60 and all other meals-to-go).



Sonora Church Directory

Primera Iglesia Bautista
504 Santa Clara
387-2035

Church of Christ
304 N. Water
387-3190

The Church of the Good Shepherd Presbyterian
319 E. Mulberry
387-2616

First Baptist Church
11 E. Oak
387-2951

Lighthouse Community Church
1705 N. Crockett
387-9100

St. John's Episcopal Church
404 E. Poplar
387-2955

St. Ann's Catholic Church
229 W. Plum
387-2278

First United Methodist Church
201 N. Water
387-2466

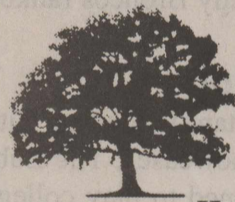
Jehovah's Witness
310 St. Ann's St
387-5658/387-5518

Templo Jerusalem Asamblea De Dios
306 W. 4th St
387-5713

Faith Apostolic Church
120 N. Concho Ave.
206-0277

Hope Lutheran Church
417 E. 2nd St.
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Any erroneous reflection upon the character, standing or reputation of any person, firm, or corporation which appears in the columns of this paper will be corrected upon due notice given to the Editor of this publication. The views expressed in submitted articles are not necessarily the views of The Devil's River Newspaper.



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Obituaries



TRUBY - MERITA "RITA" WHITEHURST LIPHAM, 77, died Sunday, February 10, 2013, at Hendrick Medical Center. Services will be 2:00 p.m. Thursday, February 14, 2013, at Bethel Assembly Church with Cody Cochran and Carter Edmundson officiating. Burial will be in Truby Cemetery, directed by Adams-Graham Funeral Home.

Born July 2, 1935 in Granbury, Merita "Rita" was a daughter of the late Clifton and Addie Jane (Atwood) Whitehurst. She married Leslie Frederick Lipham, Jr. May 28, 1951 in Hawley. In 1983, they started Sonora Chemical & Supply. Leslie preceded her in death in 1996. Merita "Rita" moved to Truby in 2002.

Merita "Rita" was preceded in death by one sister (Sadie O'Bar), two brothers (Cleve Whitehurst and Eugene Whitehurst), one grandson, (Jeremy J. Brown-Lipham) and a daughter -in-law (Marci Morrison Lipham).

Survivors include three daughters, Annette Knox (and husband, Tim) of Big Spring, Donna Kay Shortridge (and husband, Ronnie) of Troy and Debra Lynn Murray of Arlington; four sons, Leslie Frederick Lipham, III (and wife, Erica) of San Angelo, Clifton Cleve Lipham (and wife, Michelle) of Sonora, Curtis Lipham (and wife, Lisa) of Truby and Marty Dewayne Lipham (and wife, Darla) of Sonora; one sister, Dessie Ray of Hawley; one brother, Kenneth Wayne Whitehurst of Winters; 29 grandchildren; 40 great grandchildren; seven great great-grandchildren; 19 nieces and nephews; and numerous cousins.

Family visitation will be from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, February 13, 2013, at Adams Graham Funeral Home, 732 Ave. I in Anson.

In lieu of flowers, the family request that memorials be given to Hendrick Hospice Care, 1682 Hickory St., Abilene, TX 79601 or to the Susan Kolman Foundation.



Alain G. Boughton, Colonel (Ret), USAF, passed away on Tuesday, February 5, 2013 at the age of 83. He was born July 20, 1929, in Port au Prince, Haiti, the son of Dr. Ivan B. and Juliette B. Boughton. He lived in Sonora, Texas, from 1932 until graduating from high school in 1947. He attended Rice Institute (now University), was a member of Rice's Southwest Conference and Cotton Bowl Championship Team in 1949 (while his father was the Dean of the Texas A&M Veterinary School) and graduated with a BA in Economics in 1952. He joined the USAF as an Aviation Cadet, completed pilot training, and was commissioned in September 1953. His first assignment was to Bentwaters AB in Suffolk, England in 1954 flying F-86A's and transitioned into F-84F's in 1955. He met and married Janet Vince there in 1956. Completing that tour in 1958 they were then assigned to Webb AFB in Big Spring, TX, and Al was an instructor pilot and flight commander. During the 5 years there Jan and Al had two sons: David and Daniel. Two years as an Air Officer Commanding at the U.S. Air Force Academy followed, where their third son Douglas was born. In 1965 Al was assigned as an F-104 pilot to George AFB, Victorville, CA. In 1966 Al was reassigned to fly 01's as a Forward Air Controller and 22 TAS Ops Officer for a year in Vietnam. A three year tour in the Pentagon in the Director of Plans followed, and then a two year tour in the State Department as an Exchange Officer in the Political/Military Bureau. In 1972 he was re-assigned to Reese AFB, Lubbock, TX, and held down jobs as Assistant Deputy for Operations, Deputy for Operations and Duty for Logistics. He was promoted to Colonel during this tour. In 1975 he became the Deputy for Resource Management at Keesler AFB, MS. In 1976 his previous experience in the Pentagon led to his assignment as the Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff for Plans at ATC Headquarters, Randolph AFB, San Antonio, TX. He was then assigned as Commander of the Officer Training School at Medina Base in San Antonio in 1978. In 1979 he received his final assignment as Vice Commander of the USAF Military Training Center at Lackland AFB where he spent the last 4 1/2 years of his extraordinary 31 year military career. He and Jan and their three sons retired to Universal City, TX. His decorations include the: Legion of Merit w/OLC, Distinguished Flying Cross w/OLC, Purple Heart, Meritorious Service Medal w/2 OLC, Air Medal w/15 OLC, AF Commendation Medal, AF Outstanding Unit Award, Army Good Conduct Medal, and Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Bronze Star. Al's wife died in 1998. He is survived by his son David Boughton and his wife Elsa and their children Marisa and Matthew; his son Daniel Boughton; his son Douglas Boughton and his wife Karie and their son Michael; his sister-in-law Patsy and her four children, and several grand nieces and nephews; and his extended In-Law family in England. Colonel Boughton was a distinguished career USAF officer and a caring husband, father and grandfather. Al touched and inspired everyone he met. He was a principled and kind man and left this world a better place and his legacy will live on through his children and grandchildren. He will be greatly missed by his friends and family. Al has taken his final flight and "slipped the surely bonds of earth..."

Visitation will be held on Wednesday February 13, 2013 from 5:00 until 8:00 PM with a funeral service on Friday February 15 at 10:30 AM at Colonial Funeral Home. Interment will follow at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery. In lieu of flowers please send memorial donations to the American Cancer Society.



Sonora- Leonor "Nora" Dominguez, 86 of Sonora passed away Sunday Feb. 10, 2013 at her home in Sonora. Funeral services will be Tuesday, Feb. 12 at 10:00a.m. in St. Ann's Catholic Church. Burial will follow in Sonora Cemetery. Leonor "Nora" Dominguez was born on November 28, 1925 in Del Rio, Texas to Margarita and Pedro Samaniego Sr. Nora Samaniego married Juventino Dominguez, Sr. on January 6, 1953 in Sonora, Texas. She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, oldest son Juventino Dominguez, Jr., and siblings Luis Samaniego, Sr., Maria S. Chavez, Lionel and Enemencio "Chapo" Samaniego. She is survived by her children Irene Dominguez, Carlos Dominguez (Gloria), Armando Dominguez (Teri), all of Sonora, Texas, and Rosemary Weigel (Rick) of Fruitport, Michigan, her brothers Pedro Samaniego Sr. of San Martin California, Arnoldo Samaniego, Sr. of Mineral Wells, Texas, Jimmy Samaniego, Sr. of Jal, New Mexico, and Anna Samaniego of Sonora, Texas. She is also survived by 12 grandchildren and 17 great grandchildren

Bronco Powerlifting

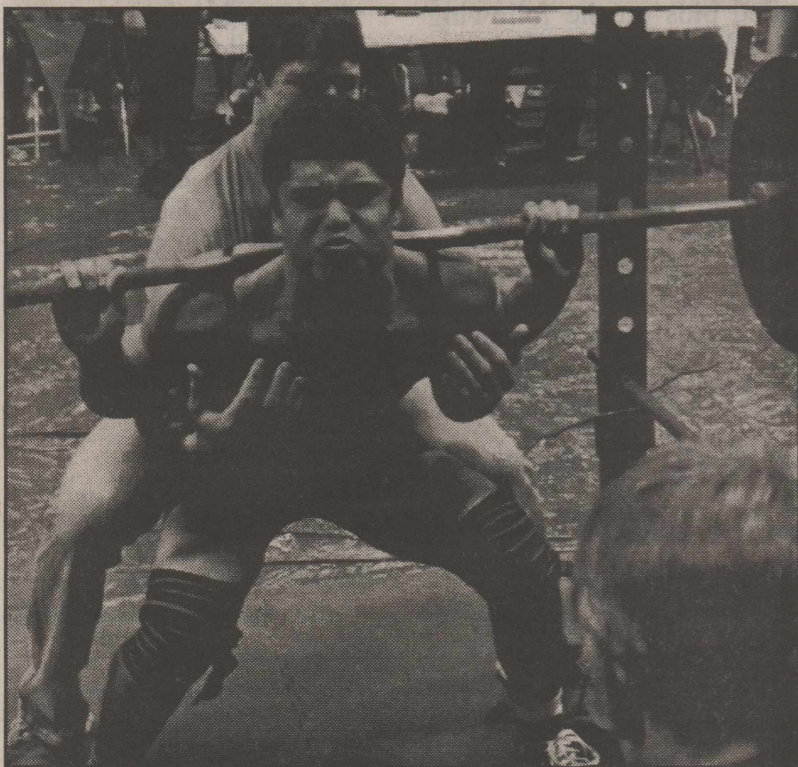


photo by Ray Glasscock

165 lb Class First Place-Brett Castillo Squat 375 Bench 195 Dead lift 450 Total 1020 lbs. The Boys came in Second Place overall.



photo by Ray Glasscock

Kelsey Favila helps the The Sonora girls win first place in the powerlifting competition.

Lion's Roar

President Carl Teaff called the meeting to order following a great meal. He commented on the great attendance. He reported that the new roofs are complete on the scout huts. Program:

The principal of the middle school, Brandon Duncan, introduced Juan Jimenez and Tate Shannon. These eighth graders made up a Robotics team from the Sonora Middle School. They recently were in a competition in San Angelo with about 80 teams present. They advanced to the State Competition which will be in the Houston area in April. The State competition will involve about 300 teams from all over the State. The Robotic competition has to do with the design and programming of robots to perform certain tasks. This year the task has to do with moving checkers around in a certain pattern on a checker board.

Mr. Duncan also announced that the recent band contest resulted in 32 First Division Awards for the Sonora Band.

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Art Classes the 1st or 2nd Monday of each month from 8:00AM to 5:00PM. \$36.00 per class, lunch included. FMI call Ken Rowland 432-238-3121, Lori Stricklan 325-226-2526 or Anita Spiller 325-387-5266.

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



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325-387-3861



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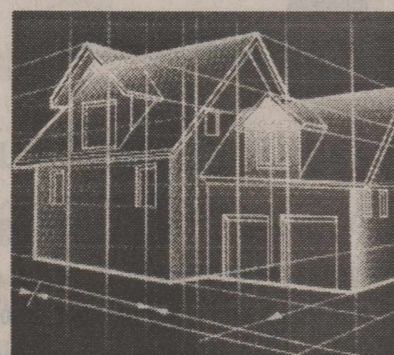
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Check Out AgriLife's Online Bookstore



By Pascual Hernandez,
Sutton County Agricultural
Extension Agent

At some point, we all have a need for information on any given topic. It could be landscape maintenance, weed control, or livestock supplementation. Of course, it's easy enough to google, but we can't always distinguish between fact and opinion. Also, we have to look all over the internet to find what we're looking for. One useful resource, is the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service online bookstore.

The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service publishes and makes available research-based information at the AgriLife online bookstore. Most publications are available as pdf documents and can be viewed online. In order to view most of the electronic publications, you will need to have the Adobe Acrobat viewer installed on your computer. If you do not have it, you can download the latest version from Adobe for free.

The bookstore also has a very small number of electronic publications that are in the Microsoft Powerpoint format. This will be noted in the descriptions for those specific publications. You will need to have Microsoft Powerpoint installed on your computer in order to view these items. You can "browse the shelves" for information on agriculture, business, the environment, family & personal resource management, lawn & garden, emergency prepared-

ness, and more. If you prefer, you can search by topic or if you're looking for a particular publication, you can search by title or publication number.

For classroom teachers, home schoolers, or leaders of after-school programs, the "Resources for Teachers" page is for you! It offers carefully selected Extension publications written by specialists and based on sound research. You can use those materials to develop lesson plans or enrich your curriculum. Topics range from Biology, Plants, and Math, to Character Education, Careers and more.

The A&M AgriLife bookstore site also has an "Ask An Expert" section. There, you can contact an Extension specialist for help with a specific question. If you live in Texas, you will be asked to enter the name of your county so information can be tailored to your geographic area.

Best yet, many of the publications available can be viewed or downloaded absolutely free. Some, however, do have a cost. Printed copies of many publications are also available from your county Extension office. We can help you find other useful resources as well. Finally, some publications are available in both English and Spanish. The address for the Texas A&M AgriLife Bookstore is <https://agrilifebookstore.org>.

Governor Visits California To Recruit Business to Texas

Gov. Rick Perry will travel to San Francisco, the Silicon Valley, Los Angeles and Orange County, departing Sunday, February 10 and returning Wednesday, February 13, to meet with business leaders in the high tech, biotechnology, financial, insurance and film industries. The governor's trip will be paid for by TexasOne - no tax dollars will be used for his travel and accommodations.

This business recruitment trip follows a week-long radio ad buy in the Golden State promoting Texas' job creation climate. The 30-second spot has been running on six radio stations in the San Francisco, Sacramento, Los Angeles, Inland Empire and San Diego media markets. To hear the ad, please visit <http://www.texaswideopenforbusiness.com/ca.php>.

The governor, along with Texas Economic Development Corp. Chair Bruce Bugg, several local economic development officials and business representatives, including Oncor, BNSF Railway, and the cit-

ies of Allen, Amarillo, Austin, Brownsville, Conroe, DeSoto, Frisco, Houston, Lubbock, Midland, McKinney, Pflugerville, San Antonio and Schertz, will also host a reception for some of the business leaders who have contacted the Governor's Office through TexasWideOpenForBusiness.com since the ad began running.

Public Notices

Sonora ISD will accept sealed proposals for job order contracts based on time and material rates for minor construction, repair, painting, electrical, rehabilitation or alteration of a facility for a contract period of April 1, 2013 thru March 31, 2015. Proposal packets are available at the Admin Office. Sealed proposals will be accepted at the

Admin. Office at 807 S. Concho, Sonora, TX 76950 until March 7, 2013 at 2:00 p.m. at which time said proposals will be opened and presented to the Board of Trustees at the next meeting of the Board at the Vocational Building, 805 Prospect, Sonora, TX. The District reserves the right to reject any or all proposals.

Sutton County Road & Bridge is hereby requesting sealed bids on the following R&B Materials:

- R&B MATERIALS:
- 1) Approximately 90,000 Gallons of AC-5 or AC-1 0 asphalt
- 2) 3500 Tons of Aggre.gate Type B Grade #3

Sealed bids will be opened on February 25, 2013, at 9:00 a.m. at the special meeting of

Commissioners Court at the Sutton County Annex.

"Sealed Bids" must be delivered or mailed to Judge Carla Garner, Box 1212, Sonora, Texas 76950. For specifications, please contact the County Road & Bridge Superintendent, Oscar Jimenez, 325/206-1883 or County Auditor, Maura Weingart, 325/387-5380.

AgriLife Extension Challenges Texans To Save 40 Gallons Of Water Daily

COLLEGE STATION – The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service is strengthening its challenge to Texans to save millions of gallons of water annually as well as money on their monthly water bills. The 40 Gallon Challenge is a program that calls on residents and businesses to reduce their average water use by 40 gallons per day, according to Dr. Diane Boellstorff, AgriLife Extension water resources specialist in College Station.

Boellstorff became involved in the voluntary national program in 2011, serving as the Texas representative. After one year, she and AgriLife Extension economist Dean McCorkle in College Station completed an economic impact study in November, which showed that Texas participants, based on average municipal rates, were saving an estimated \$299,000 a year, in addition to the water savings.

"At the time that we did the impact statement, we were

able to count 80 programs from 89 counties, and participation continues to increase," she said. "For example, the impact statement mentions 1,050 participating households saving 71 million gallons of water annually, but today's numbers are 1,152 participating households saving 80 million gallons annually."

That change has come in only three months. Boellstorff said many AgriLife Extension agents are beginning to deliver the program in their local counties. She is also making presentations to spread the program across the state.

This water resource conservation tool is one of many programs initiated and supported through the Southern Region Water Resource Project, funded through the U.S. Department of Agriculture – National Institute for Food and Agriculture. Dr. Mark McFarland, AgriLife Extension state soil fertility spe-

cialist in College Station, is the project director.

The 40-Gallon Challenge allows Texans to compete against other Americans who are taking the challenge in their states. At the program's website, www.40gallonchallenge.org, Texans can pledge to adopt water-saving practices and see how many gallons of water they can expect to save. The website also shows the most popular practices being pledged, the practices that are saving the most water daily, and counties and states that are pledging the most daily savings, Boellstorff said.

Currently, the top water savers in Texas are "reduce irrigation station runtimes by two minutes," "use a broom instead of a hose to clean driveways and sidewalks," and "fix

a leaky toilet." In Texas, the three counties registered to save the most gallons are Collin, Ellis and Dallas.

Boellstorff credited the higher rate of participation in these areas to work done by Susan Ballabina, AgriLife Extension regional program director for family and consumer sciences, and Clint Wolfe, urban water program manager at the Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension Center at Dallas.

To start saving water and take the challenge, go to the website and complete the checklist of water-saving practices, Boellstorff said. The checklist includes both indoor and outdoor water-saving tips.



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Updated Property Tax Information Now Available For Texas Taxpayers

Sonora-New and Updated property tax information has just been compiled by Sutton County Appraisal District and is available now to assist with taxpayers. This property tax information is current and covers a wide range of topics, such as taxpayer remedies, exemptions, appraisals and is of value to select groups, such as disabled veterans and persons who are 65 years of age or older.

"Whether you are a homeowner, business manager, disabled veteran or a taxpayer, it's important you know your rights concerning the property tax laws." Said Mary Bustamante, Chief Appraiser of the Sutton County Appraisal District. "You can contact us about property tax issues with full confidence that we will provide you the most complete, accurate and up-to-date available information to assist you."

This includes information about the following programs.

- Property Tax Exemptions for Disabled Veterans** -The law provides partial exemptions for any property owned by veterans who are disabled, spouses and survivors of deceased disabled veterans and spouses and survivors of military personnel who died on active duty. The amount of exemption is determined according to percentage of service-connected disability. The law also provides a 100% exemption for 100% disabled veterans and their surviving spouses, beginning in 2009.

- Property Tax Exemptions- Non-profit organizations** that meet statutory requirements may seek property tax exemptions and must apply to their county appraisal district by a specific date. Businesses that receive tax abatements granted by taxing units, firms that ship inventory out of Texas, and businesses that acquire pollution control property may also be eligible for statutory exemptions.

- Rendering Taxable Property** -If a business owns tangible personal property that is used to produce income, the business must file a rendition with its local county appraisal district by a specific date. Personal property includes inventory and equipment used by a business. Owners do not have to render exempt property such as church property or an agriculture producers equipment used for farming.

- Appraisal Notices** - If a taxpayer's property value increased in the last year, the Texas taxpayer will receive a notice of appraised value from the appropriate local board (ARB) can consider and what to expect during a protest hearing. The publication also discusses

the option of taking a taxpayer's case to district court or entering into binding arbitration if the taxpayer is dissatisfied with the outcome of the ARB hearing.

- Homestead Exemptions** - A homestead is generally defined as the home and land used as the owner's principal residence on Jan. 1 of the tax year. A homestead exemption reduces the appraised value of the home and, as a result, lowers property taxes. Applications are submitted to the appropriate local county appraisal district.

- Productivity Appraisal** - Property owners who use land for timberland production, agricultural purposes, and wildlife management can be granted property tax relief on their land. They may apply to their local county appraisal district for an agricultural appraisal which may result in a lower appraisal of the land based on how much the taxpayer produces, versus what the land would sell for in the open market.

- Property Tax Deferral for Persons Age 65 or Older and Disabled Homeowners** - Texans who are 65 years of age or older, or who are disabled as defined by law, may postpone paying current and delinquent property taxes on their homes by signing a tax deferral affidavit. Once the affidavit is on file, taxes are deferred, but not cancelled, as long as the owner continues to own and live in the home. Interest continues to accrue on unpaid taxes. You may obtain a deferral affidavit at the appraisal district.

- Notice of Availability of Electronic Communication** - Chief appraisers of county appraisal districts and appraisal review boards may communicate electronically through email or other media with property owners or their designated representatives. Written agreements are required for notices and other documents to be delivered electronically in place of mailing.

- Protesting Property Appraisal Values** - Property owners who disagree with the appraisal district's appraisal of their property for local taxes or for any other action that adversely affects them may protest their property value to the appraisal district's appraisal review board.

For more information about these programs, contact the Sutton County Appraisal District at (325) 387-2809. More information is also available from the state Comptroller's Property Tax Assistance Division website at www.window.state.tx.us/taxinfo/proptax/ or contact the Texas Comptroller's Property Tax Assistance Division at (800) 252-9121 and press "2" to access the menu, and then press "1".


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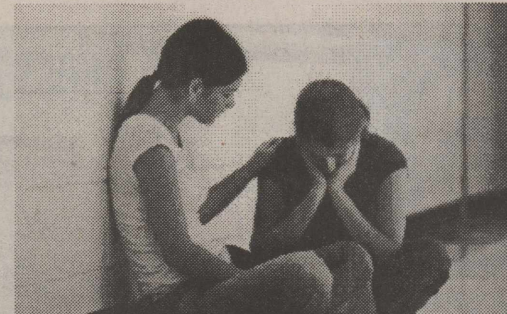
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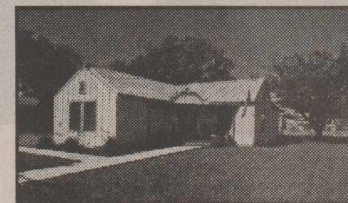
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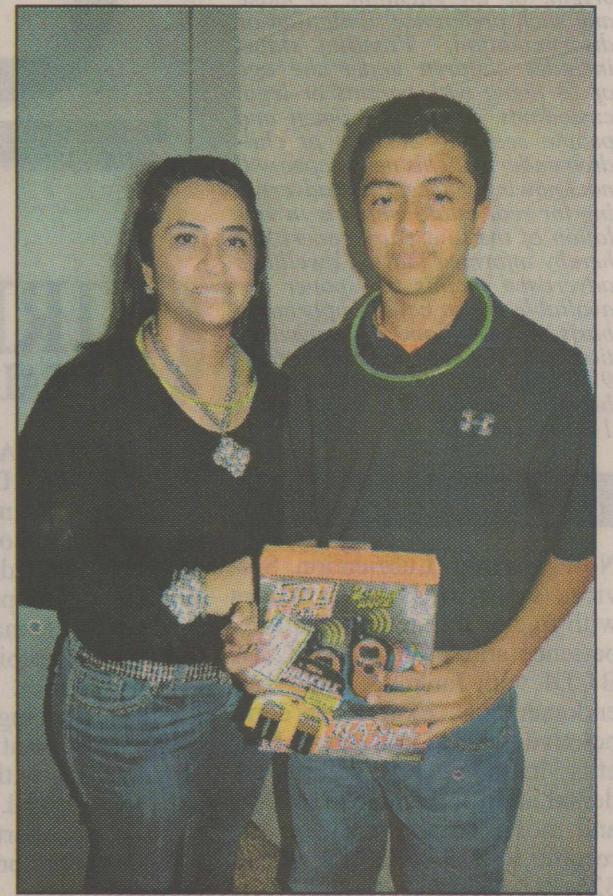
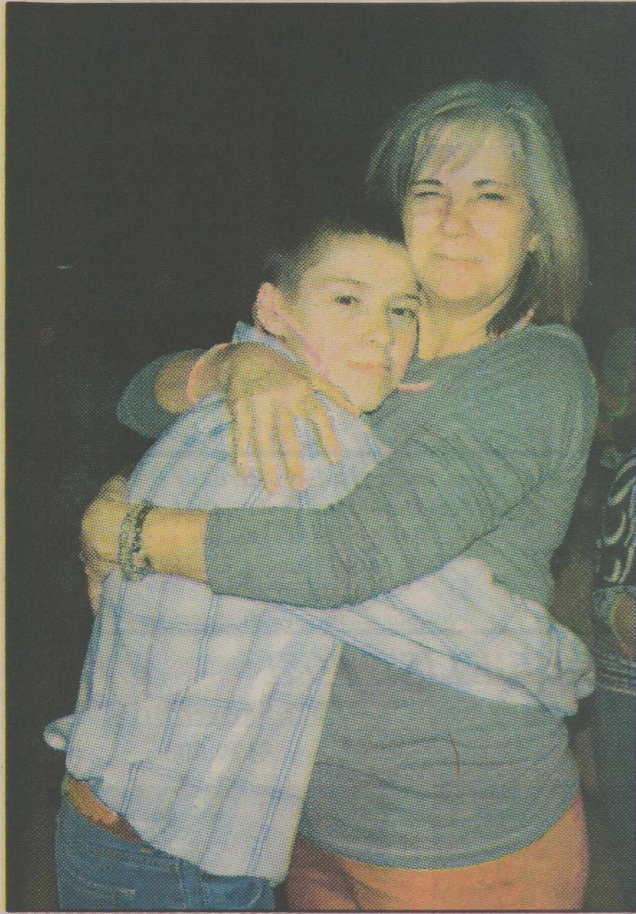
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Chamber Chatter: Mother Son Date Night



By Donna Garrett

The Sonora Chamber of Commerce held its annual Mother-Son Date Nite on Thursday, January 24, 2013. The dance was held in the Middle School Cafeteria. Music was provided by "Pay it Back, Pray it Forward Productions", Jody Luftrell and Ben Taylor. This was probably the best dance so far, with about 150 ticket sales. It is always fun to take our sons, grandsons, nephews, and friends and have a night out. We believe this is a great opportunity to bond with your son, while teaching them how

to dance. Our children grow so fast and we should treasure every moment we can with them. Janell Sparks with Sparkle Images was there taking photos. The photos will be in by Friday for you to pick up at the chamber office. We are located right next door to the Dairy Queen and across the street from the Sonic. Every year we try to come up with a door prize and we sell the tickets for just one dollar. This year we purchased Spy Gear Walkie Talkies. The proud winner of those was

Michael Mungia. Congratulations! Miss Cinco de Mayo 2012-2013, Kali Mendez was there volunteering and selling the raffles tickets, so we would like to thank her for volunteering her time. 2013 Miss Cinco de Mayo candidate Veronica Sanchez volunteered and helped serve the punch and cookies. We would like to thank all our volunteers and the chamber board of directors for helping put on this wonderful event.

We are gearing up for our annual Daddy-Daughter Date

Nite which will be held at the Sutton County Civic Center on Friday, February 15, 2013 from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. Tickets are on sale now at the chamber office.

The annual Sonora Chamber of Commerce Banquet will be held on April 11, 2013. Ballots will be mailed out soon to all members in good standing. If you would like to vote for any of the nominees and are not a member, stop by and visit with Tibba and she will be happy to sign you up.



photo by Nancy Glasscock

Hagen Kennedy signed a Letter of Intent to play football at Hardin Simmons University



photo by Nancy Glasscock

Kade Wimberley signed a Letter of Intent to play football at Angelo State University.



photo by Nancy Glasscock

Ricardo Regino signed a Letter of Intent to run Cross Country at Odessa College.



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