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The Devil's River News

Serving Sutton County Since 1890

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SONORA, TEXAS

Thursday, August 22, 2013

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THE DEVIL'S RIVER NEWS



By Butch Taylor

This day started out like most days in Sutton County. As the sun rose over the horizon the landscape was illuminated with a diffused light that added a softness to the landscape. Birds were signing, the sun was shining, and the folks in town went about their

day. For the moment nothing seemed different but actually there was a big difference. Two days before and during the night there had been a dry-lighting storm move across Sutton County far west of Sonora. During this storm a lightning strike hit the top of

a large live oak tree. As the lightning traveled down to the base of the tree it ignited a dead limb that smoldered for a couple of days. The fire in the tree started out small, just barely smoldering, but later the humidity dropped and the wind picked up and the

fire grew. Eventually parts of the burning limb fell to the ground and with sufficient wind and dry fuel, the fire started. In a lot of ways this fire actually started years before when everyone stopped controlling cedar. For years (from the late 1880s until early in the decade of 1990) Sutton County ranchers had managed their land with livestock and used brush clearing techniques such as mechanical, chemical, goats, and fire. But recently more and more land had been sold to non-traditional landowners who did not manage livestock or

der to maintain their livestock tax exemption. Many others did not even run livestock anymore but chose to manage for just wildlife and were able to obtain a wildlife exemption for tax evaluation purposes. These new landowners and even some of the older generation seemed not to care that as time had passed, there was a big change in the vegetation. More and more cedar began to dominate the landscape and it had gotten so thick in some areas, that the land no longer could even be ranched. This

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Friendship, Exercise & Recipe Swapping



By Sarah Teaff, Director of Wellness-Lillian M. Hudspeth Memorial Hospital

Summers are a special time for The Health and Wellness Center. We get to celebrate another year of helping our community live a more active lifestyle. For one particular group, it marks another year of friendship, exercise, and recipe swapping. Not many women get excited about donning a swimsuit and hopping in the water in full view of the entire Wellness Center, but this group does; because it turns out that once they start visiting, nothing else matters...sometimes not even the instructor! For nine years this amazing group of women has committed to living a more active lifestyle and all can testify to its benefits. Many of the class resides right here in Sonora, but many come from as far as Eldorado and Ozona to participate. They have supported each other through broken bones, illnesses, and surgeries; they have cheered when grandchildren and great-grandchildren are born and are there for each other as those same children say their first words, go to college or begin lives of their own. And

for me, they have become my mothers, therapists, and best friends.

Before you read on, I do not want to suggest that these ladies don't work hard, because they do. They are undoubtedly the hardest working group that comes through the Wellness Center. For at least 45 minutes we exercise to strengthen our hearts and work our muscles. It just so happens we tell a lot of stories at the same time. And roll call is essential...we cannot get started unless everyone is accounted for; whether they are in the pool, have taken a trip, or have not been feeling well. It is not a complete class unless Gaile is chattering with someone in a corner or Fae is asking what movement we are on (because she is talking to Gaile) or Beverly is giving advice about computers or cameras (she is one of the sharpest women I know), while Carol is excited to share a new recipe she tried. We each have our distinct expertise! And we are excited about sharing our lives each time we reunite every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. If you were to ask them about class, I am sure they will tell

you about how much fun they have. Sometimes the laughter and chatter is so loud that it drowns out my voice completely and that is okay with me. Because, it is not their job to remember that with each class, they are getting stronger and fitter. It is my job to remind them of that, it is their job to commit and to have fun. What I don't harp on a lot in class is that for the last nine years these women have inspired me; they have helped me to understand that adversity is only temporary and that it is your outlook that is important...and without their guidance and support I would not be as sane as I am today. So, if you run into them and they tell you about class, cheer them on...because they would do the same for you.

If you would like to join us for a class, we start at 8:30am every Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Please call our friendly staff at 387-2521 if you have any questions about the Wellness Center or any other services provided by Lillian M. Hudspeth Memorial Hospital.

ALERT Training



Sonora Police Department recently hosted Active Shooter training. Many agencies attended the two day training hosted by Advanced Law Enforcement Rapid Response Training, ALERT, and Texas State University. Agencies included Sonora PD, Sutton County Sheriff's Office, TXDPS, Texas Parks and Wildlife Game Warden, Sterling County Sheriff's Office, Schleicher County Sheriff's Office, Winkler County Sheriff's Office, Crockett County Sheriff's Office, Reagan County Sheriff's Office, and Fort Stockton PD.

The two day training funded by the Department of Justice brought a level of training that is the national standard for the United States. This training is not limited to a school shooting but covers an active shooter event in various situations. We were fortunate in that Sonora ISD allowed us to use the High School setting for our training. With recent tragedies beginning with Columbine High School and more recently Virginia Tech and Sandy Hook Elementary, this training was developed to better our frontline for patrol officers in the event that an active shooter situation occurs. The skills that officers received can be applied everyday while protecting the public in our small community. The mentality of "we are a small town and it will never happen here" will lead us down a dangerous road if we do not train for an event like this. We pray that we never have to use this skill set but we as a community should feel better knowing that the first officers on scene could make the difference during a life changing event.

Sonora Police Department would also like to thank the following sponsors of our two-day Active Shooter Training. Our sponsors included Stripes 266, Stripes Subway, Frito Lay Ronnie Bowers, Mathews Processing & World Class Taxidermy, Nabors, Sonora Gold Course, and Sonora ISD.

Senior Center Activities


Thurs.
Fri.
Mon.
Tues.
Wed.

Senior Center Menu

Thurs.
Fri.
Mon.
Tues.
Wed.

****ALL MEALS SERVED WITH MILK****


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



Sonora Church Directory

<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>Faith Apostolic Church 120 N. Concho Ave. 206-0277</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>Casa Del Altarero Asamblea De Dios 306 W. 4th St 325-226-1789</p>
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MEMBER 2012

TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

POLICE BLOTTER

7/27/2013: Elkhali, Omar Basem arrested for Travis County Warrant FAIL TO IDENTIFY GIVING FALSE FICTITIOUS INFORMATION

8/13/2013: Mojica, Joel arrested for Val Verde County Warrant ASSAULT CAUSES BODILY INJURY

8/14/2013: Reyes, Maximiano G arrested for Bexar County Warrant THEFT

8/14/2013: Samaniego, Andrea Maria arrested for POSSESSION OF DRUG PARAPHERNALIA

8/16/2013: Reynosa, Brenda arrested for ASSAULT CAUSES BODILY INJURY FAMILY VIOLENCE & OBSTRUCTION HIGHWAY PASSAGEWAY

Continued from Front Page: The Day Hell Let Loose In Sonora

woody plant increase had also led to tremendous declines in the local wildlife populations. Some of the old timers used to tell about how many deer were around, tragically those stories have become a part of local legend. As the cedar forest had grown thicker there was less moisture from rain that was able to reach the soil. Scientists have done studies that have shown that about 50% of the rainfall that falls on a cedar tree does not reach the ground (it is intercepted by the foliage in the canopy or litter under the canopy and evaporated into the atmosphere). At the time this may not have meant much to the people living in town, but that was about to change. The fire was small at first but quickly grew as the wind picked up from the west. A strong front was approaching the area, moving in from the north, and a west wind is normal prior to the arrival of a front. The fire quickly increased in speed and intensity with the dry west wind and

William Chris Vineyards is pleased bring a true taste of the Texas Hill Country to beautiful Sonora, and will pour wines from their award-winning portfolio on September 21 at Sonora's Premier Wine Tasting.

What began as an acquaintance as wine makers in the Hill Country became a collaboration between Bill Blackmon and Chris Brundrett, focusing on a shared wine making philosophy. As the word 'winegrowers' implies, Bill and Chris agree that great wines are not made but grown. They also believe that wine should be inspired by the pleasure that is shared with an extended community of friends and family. The creation of each new vintage depends greatly upon these two priorities. Bill and Chris

were reaching 50-feet into the trees from the head fire. Firebrands (burning pieces of grass, wood, etc.) were traveling hundreds of feet into the air and starting new spot fires ahead and to the sides of the fire front. Soon the horizon was covered with smoke and particulate matter, both being lifted high into the atmosphere. It looked like a tidal wave of flame and smoke was about to crash onto the shores of our city. The Sutton County Volunteer fire department quickly and bravely showed up at the fire, but this fire was different from anything they had ever seen before. While it was a gallant and brave effort-it ultimately was futile.

Death Notice

Sonora- Minnie Alice Skinner, 97, of San Angelo died Sunday, Aug. 18, 2013 in El Dorado. Graveside services will be Tuesday, Aug. 20, 2013 at 1:00p.m. in Sonora Cemetery. Survivors include son James Harley Skinner of

Robert Lee and daughter Sandra Gulden of San Angelo.

Main Street Traffic

bottled their first vintage under the William Chris label in 2008, utilizing Old-World wine making techniques to create a genuine expression of the Texas Hill Country's distinctive terroir. The Old-World method integrates farming, tradition, and local culture, and Bill and Chris kept this in mind as they sought out a property to build their winery. Deciding on a pioneer farm settlement in the historic town of Hye, Texas, turned the 1905 farmhouse into a tasting room. With the winery and expanded facilities completed in 2011, they planted the Hye Estate Vineyard next to the winery 2012. Bill and Chris farm and partner with quality vineyards across Texas, from The High Plains to the Hill Country, including the new Brundrett

Family Estate vineyard in San Angelo. William Chris Vineyards is open 7 days per week in Hye, Texas, about 20 miles east of Fredericksburg on US Highway 290. With live music every saturday, a shaded deck, a beautiful heritage oak grove and an acclaimed wine card, William Chris Vineyards is a true Hill Country Wine experience like no other. "We are pleased to share a piece of our world"

Tickets for this event will be available for purchase at the Main Street office, Mercantile on Main, Hodgepodgees, Sew Addicted, Gypsy Chix, and Serendipity Beauty Boutique. The Friends of Historic Sonora Main Street Program 105 N. Concho Ave. * 325-387-2248 * fhsmainstreet@verizon.net

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Hot Weather Problems For The Gardener



By Pascual Hernandez,
Sutton County Agricultural
Extension Agent

As if drought weren't enough, high temperatures also bring other problems for gardens and landscapes. This time of year keeps gardeners busy. Here are a few common problems you may be encountering.

Tomato blossom drop is very common with high summer temperatures. Tomatoes will drop blossoms when daytime temperatures in the summer are above 90 degrees F, so it should come as no surprise as we've been in the 100 degree range. There is really nothing you can do except to wait for cooler temperatures.

We get calls from gardeners who have cracked tomatoes or just-ripening tomatoes with a large black spot on the blossom end. The problem is blossom-end rot and it is not a disease. The major cause of this condition is fluctuating levels of soil moisture during dry spells. The cracking is also caused by uneven growing due to inconsistent watering. So watering your plants consistently with one inch of water per week will help. Using mulches will also help.

You should also keep a lookout for other problems. One is pests. Check pecan trees for shuck worm, stink bug and black aphids and spray ONLY if needed. You should also continue to irrigate trees for kernel filling and stress reduction.

Yellowing of lawns is also common. Most of the time it will be on account of iron deficiency. Iron and sulfur products will correct yellowed chlorotic foliage. Be careful using iron products around sidewalks as they main stain.

Now before you get completely discouraged, relief is around the corner. We're practically in September, and if things go well, our September rains will come. Before you know it, tomatoes in the garden will again retain their blooms and produce fruit into November or first frost. So hang in there.

For additional information or help, contact the Sutton County Extension Office at 387-3101.

Continued From Front Page: The Day That Hell Broke Loose in Sonora

fire retardant on the fire front. The momentum of the fire carried it across dry streams and over the tops of hills and through ravines. Hundreds of thousands of acres were burning and the fire front by now stretched over 50-miles. As night approached, the fire started to slow down and it almost stopped as if it were resting. But the next day the fire woke from its sleep and as the humidity dropped and the wind picked up, the fire continued to spread across the landscape seeking more fuel for its ravenous appetite. And there was plenty of fuel (dry cedar fuel) because after years of burn bans, low numbers of goats, and the perception that prescribed fire was bad, the cedar had reached epic proportions. Besides the large plume of smoke on the horizon, the first evidence of the fire in Sonora was light whiffs of smoke. Then larger amounts of choking smoke boiled into town. The evacuations began with people that have respiratory problems. Soon the sun was eclipsed with dense clouds of smoke and it became difficult to see across the street. Visibility had gotten so bad that wrecks were occurring on Interstate 10 and even some vehicle accidents had been reported on state hwy 277. It had gotten so bad that all traffic was stopped into and out of Sonora. There weren't enough ambulances

to carry all of the critically injured to the Hudspeth Hospital and eventually the hospital had to be evacuated anyway. As the fire front came over the tops of the hills and just at the city limits the intense heating near the ground was rising in an upward-spiraling motion (like a chimney). This created a firewhirl. (In forests, firewhirls have been know to twist off trees more than 3-feet in diameter. They can pick up burning embers and spew them far across the fire line and they can create winds that exceed 70 mph.) As the firewhirl traveled through Sonora both large and small burning pieces of wood were scattered throughout the community. Some of the large, burning limbs were thrown through windows and some of the limbs passed through the outside walls and roofs of homes. As more buildings caught on fire in town the intensity of the fire storm grew with winds reaching over 90-miles per hour. The fire front passed through Sonora rather quickly but the structures in town continued to burn during the night. As the temperature cooled, cold air moved down into Sonora and pushed the warm air in an upward direction causing an inversion. This held the smoke in and on top of Sonora all night. Very few people were able to withstand the dense cloud of smoke and most had to leave. As one old-time resident of Sonora looked around himself white flakes of burned juniper drifted down from the sky and settled on his smoke saturated hat. He lamented "how could this happen?"

Epilog

What you just read was a glimpse into a possible future. This future has a low probability of actually coming into reality for two reasons. First is that the geography of Sutton County makes a catastrophic fire a long shot, and second is that the rangeland has been managed to reduce the amount of cedar. Just because it's a long shot doesn't mean that the people living in town don't have to worry about this possible scenario. That's what the folks in Rising Star and Bastrop thought before a fire destroyed their towns. Remember-what happens out in the country directly effects what happens in town!

Despite decades of accumulating scientific evidence that fire is critical for maintaining the health and function of grassland ecosystems in Texas, fire has not been restored as a fundamental tool for most of the landscape. The result has been a widespread cedar growth and the destruction and productivity of ranch land and the increase in wildfire danger. Smokey Bear has done too good of a job of selling the idea that fire is bad. Isn't it time to take the shovel out of Smokey's hand and replace it with a drip torch?

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS BUDGET AND PROPOSED TAX RATE

The Sonora IND School District will hold a public meeting at 5:30 PM 08/28/2013 in BOARD ROOM, VOCATIONAL BUILDING, 805 PROSPECT SONORA, TEXAS. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the school district's budget that will determine the tax rate that will be adopted. Public participation in the discussion is invited.

The tax rate that is ultimately adopted at this meeting or at a separate meeting at a later date may not exceed the proposed rate shown below unless the district publishes a revised notice containing the same information and comparisons set out below and holds another public meeting to discuss the revised notice.

Maintenance Tax	\$1.040000 /\$100 (Proposed rate for maintenance and operations)
School Debt Service Tax Approved by Local Voters	\$0.050000 /\$100 (Proposed rate to pay bonded indebtedness)

Comparison of Proposed Budget with Last Year's Budget		
The applicable percentage increase or decrease (or difference) in the amount budgeted in the preceding fiscal year and the amount budgeted for the fiscal year that begins during the current tax year is indicated for each of the following expenditure categories:		
Maintenance and operations	% (increase) or	-4.390000% (decrease)
Debt service	% (increase) or	-60.530000% (decrease)
Total expenditures	% (increase) or	-9.240000% (decrease)

Total Appraised Value and Total Taxable Value (as calculated under section 26.04, Tax Code)		
	Preceding Tax Year	Current Tax Year
Total appraised value* of all property	\$775,513,302	\$673,940,356
Total appraised value** of new property**	\$2,222,795	\$4,991,050
Total taxable value*** of all property	\$746,028,977	\$623,034,281
Total taxable value*** of new property**	\$1,992,302	\$4,612,260

* Appraised value is the amount shown on the appraisal roll and defined by Section 1.04(8), Tax Code.
** New property is defined by Section 26.01(17), Tax Code.
*** Taxable value is defined by Section 1.04(10), Tax Code.

Bonded Indebtedness	
Total amount of outstanding and unpaid bonded indebtedness:	\$1,425,000

Comparison of Proposed Rates with Last Year's Rates					
	Maintenance & Operations	Interest & Sinking Fund*	Total	Local Revenue Per Student	State Revenue Per Student
Last Year's Rate	\$1.040000	\$0.050000*	\$1.090000	\$8,174	\$3,927
Rate to Maintain Same Level of Maintenance & Operations Revenue & Pay Debt Service	\$1.045890	\$0.051270*	\$1.097160	\$7,559	\$4,695
Proposed Rate	\$1.040000	\$0.050000*	\$1.090000	\$7,521	\$4,689

* The Interest & Sinking Fund tax revenue is used to pay for bonded indebtedness on construction, equipment, or both. The bonds, and the tax rate necessary to pay those bonds, were approved by the voters of this district.

Comparison of Proposed Levy with Last Year's Levy on Average Residence		
	Last Year	This Year
Average Market Value of Residences	\$86,236	\$86,061
Average Taxable Value of Residences	\$54,070	\$54,026
Last Year's Rate Versus Proposed Rate per \$100 Value	\$1.090000	\$1.090000
Taxes Due on Average Residence	\$589.36	\$588.88
Increase (Decrease) in Taxes	\$0.00	\$-0.48

Under state law, the dollar amount of school taxes imposed on the residence homestead of a person 65 years of age or older or of the surviving spouse of such a person, if the surviving spouse was 25 years of age or older when the person died, may not be increased above the amount paid in the first year after the person turned 65, regardless of changes in tax rate or property value.

Notice of Rollback Rate: The highest tax rate the district can adopt before requiring voter approval at an election is 1.091695. This election will be automatically held if the district adopts a rate in excess of the rollback rate of 1.091695.

Fund Balances	
The following estimated balances will remain at the end of the current fiscal year and are not encumbered with or by a corresponding debt obligation, less estimated funds necessary for operating the district before receipt of the first state aid payment:	
Maintenance and Operations Fund Balance(s)	\$12,145,035
Interest & Sinking Fund Balance(s)	\$847,915

F.Y.I

Sutton County Friends of NRA Safe Full of Guns raffle is underway! Tickets are \$10 each with one winner taking home four firearms, to include an AR-15, and a 10 gun fire resistant safe. Tickets may be purchased at Buck N Bass/Sonora Air Cooled Engines, by contacting Tonya @ 325-206-0454 or by contacting any committee member. The winning ticket will be drawn during our 6th Annual Auction/Banquet, Saturday, September 21, 2013. Your support is appreciated

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.

76th LIONS CLUB AUCTION - October 22nd at Sutton County Civic Center. We need monetary donations and items for the auction. Lions Club supports community activities and offers student scholarships each year. Your help is greatly appreciated. For more information, call Janalyn Jones at 226-0067 or Jim Garrett at 206-1060.

Mark your calendars for our Back to School Bash Thursday, August 22nd 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at The Bank & Trust

Elementary "Meet the Teacher" Friday, August 23rd, the Elementary will host "Meet the Teacher" from 9:30 AM to 11:30 AM. Additionally, an "Informational Parent Meeting" for new PK and Kinder parents will be held from 8:30 AM to 9:30 AM in the Elementary Cafeteria.

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

Member FDIC
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M-40069
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School Lunch Information Sonora I.S.D.

Applications for Free and Reduced Lunch will be distributed the first week of school and will also be available at the Child Nutrition's Office. Students, who finished the year (May 2013) on Free or Reduced meals, may eat in the cafeteria until October 7, 2013, on last year's eligibility, after that date, they will not be eligible for Free or Reduced meals until a new application has been filled out and approved.

Only 1 application per household is required

Aplicaciones para el Programa Nacional De Almuerzos y Desayunos Escolares, tambien estan Disponibles en Espanol

New Meal Prices for 2013-2014 Year

- Breakfast (All Grades)
- Lunch
- Free breakfast (Elem.& Intermediate)
- \$ 2.25 Elementary & Intermediate
- \$ 1.75 (Middle & High School)
- \$ 2.75 Middle & High School
- \$.30 Reduced (Middle & High School)
- \$.40 Reduced (All Grades)
- \$ 2.00 Faculty
- \$ 4.00 Adult Employees
- \$ 4.50 Adult Visitor
- \$ 2.50 Child Visitor

Parents, you may prepay into your child's account at any time between meals at any of our 3 campuses. Please make payments directly to the Cafeteria. It is not the responsibility of the Teachers or Office personnel to bring money to the Cafeteria. Payments will not be accepted during the Meal periods!!! You may write (1) check for multiple children instead of (1) check for each. Prepayments on line are also available in the school website.

Charges: Please be prepared to pay at least (1) week of meals in advanced. All Balances will carry forward from May 2013. All lunch charges need to be paid in full before the school year ends. Please call the Campus Cafeteria and speak with the Manager if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
Josie Torres
Food Service Supervisor

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All men dream, but not equally.
Those who dream by night
in the dusty recesses of their
minds, wake in the day to
find that it was vanity: but
the dreamers of the day are
dangerous men, for they may
act on their dreams with open
eyes, to make them possible.
T. E. Lawrence



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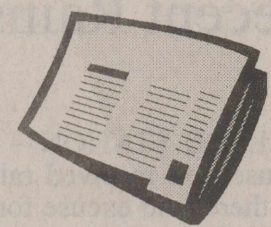


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Junction: 801 Main St. • Kerrville: 1448 Austin Hwy. • 317 Sidney Baker S. 8200 • 231 Junction Hwy. • Adairville: Adairville Communications • Audio Video Solutions • Masons: Mason Gas • Menard: B&W Artwear • Mertzon: Made in the Shade • Ozona: 1002 Ave. F
Robert Lee: Rock Solid Communications • San Saba: Central Texas Communications • Sonora: 2054 Hwy 277 North • Stephenville: 2187 W. South Loop • Our Town Internet Services • Stonewall: Fred Bug Communications

All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing Act which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, or an intention, to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination." Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18. This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination call HUD toll-free 1-800-669-9777. The toll-free telephone number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

The Devil's River News Classified



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Employment

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Apply online at www.girling.com. Or apply in-person at 1423 Coggin, BROWNWOOD, TX, 76804. E.O.E, M/F/D/V.

Employment

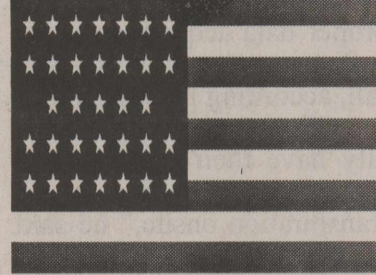
Help Wanted: Dependable fulltime service technician needed in the Sonora Area. Will Train. Must be 18 years of age, have a current Texas driver's license and a clean driving record. FMI call 325-387-3154 or come by 311 W. College St. for an application.

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Public Notice

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS SONORA ISD'S

School FIRST Rating (Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas)

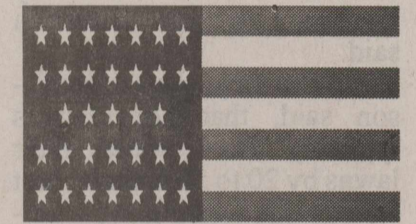
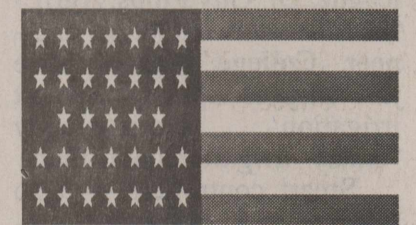
Sonora ISD will hold a public meeting at 5:30 pm, September 16, 2013 in the Vocational Building, 805 Prospect, Sonora, TX.

The purpose of this meeting is to discuss Sonora ISD's rating on the state's financial accountability system

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department is currently accepting Guide Service proposals beginning August 15, 2013 through September 3, 2013 at 5:00 P.M. for Devils River State Natural Area. The Park consists of three units: Del Norte (North Unit), Big Satan (South Unit) and Baker's Crossing (Satellite Unit). Proposals for guided kayaking, canoeing, rafting and shuttle service are being accepted for services at all three Park locations. Persons interested in submitting a proposal may request a Request for Proposal (RFP) Packet by calling (512)389-8637 or writing: Austin Vieh, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, 4200 Smith School Road, Austin, Texas 78744, or by emailing austin.vieh@tpwd.texas.gov.

Public Notice

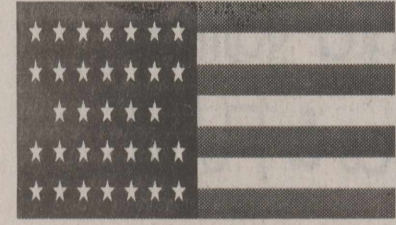
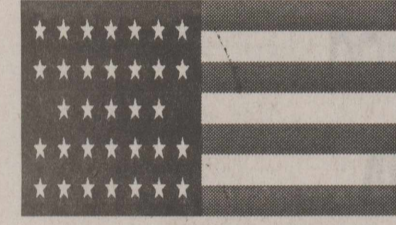
NOTICE OF PUBLIC BUDGET HEARING
The Commissioners' Court of Sutton County, Texas, will hold a public hearing to consider the proposed budget for FY13 on Monday, August 26, 2013, at 9:00 a.m. in the Meeting Room of the Sutton County Courthouse Annex. Any citizen wishing to view the proposed budget may do so at the office of the Sutton County Judge at the Sutton County Courthouse Annex between the hours of 8:30 and 4:00 p.m. Monday-Friday.



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Residential Properties

Sonora	
708 Mesquite	\$27,500.00 Contract Pending
502 Martin Street	\$29,500.00
109 Draw Street	\$95,000.00
1107 S Concho	\$119,500.00
222 Sawyer Drive	\$129,500.00 Recently Remodeled!
504 E. 2nd St.	\$155,000.00 Contract Pending
213 Hudspeth	\$149,900.00 Sold!
111 Sonora Dr.	\$155,000.00 Price Reduced
117 Edgemont Rd.	\$199,000.00
121 Edgemont Rd.	\$298,000.00
124 Castlehill RD	\$350,000.00 New Listing!
1312 PR 2239 - Home w/ 10 acres	\$350,000.00
125 Edgemont Rd.	\$475,000.00
300 Scenic Drive	\$484,900.00 New Listing!

Ozona	
308 N Ave F, Ozona	\$107,000.00
210 Mockingbird	\$140,000.00
1108 Ave. A, Ozona	\$150,000.00

Commercial Properties

404 Sutton Ave. - Lot - 1/2 Acre +	\$55,000.00
606 Crockett Ave. - Vacant Gas Station	\$64,500.00
411 S Concho - Office/Shop	\$75,000.00
226 E. Main St. - Office	\$87,500.00 New Listing!
511 Cornell St. - Head Start Bldg.	\$150,000.00 New Listing!
201 N Ave E - Ozona	\$200,000.00 Sold!
208 Hwy 277 S - Commercial/Income Producing	\$225,000.00
847 Meridian Dr. - Large Office Bldg./Extra Land	\$240,000.00
232 E Main St. - Mercantile Building	\$298,500.00

Acerage

100 acres -Crockett County-Deer Canyon Ranch S/D	\$65,000.00
100 acres - Crockett County - Rim Rock Ranch S/D	\$70,000.00
100 acres - Crockett County - Rim Rock Ranch S/D	\$80,000.00
100 acres - Crockett County - Rim Rock Ranch S/D	\$85,000.00
100 acres - Crockett County - Rim Rock Ranch S/D	\$95,000.00 Contract Pending
100 acres - Crockett Co. - RRR S/D W/ Improvements	\$95,000.00
120 acres - Crockett County - TX West Ranch S/D	\$108,000.00
112.7 acres - Sutton County - Juno Rd.	\$140,875.00 New Listing!
110.47 acres - Crockett Co.-High Lonesome Ranch	\$200,000.00 Under Contract!
300 acres-Crockett Co.-Deer Canyon Ranch w/improvements	\$255,000.00
655 acres W/ House - Sutton County -Baker RD	\$1,111,000.00
600 acres - Sutton County - Near City Limits	\$1,500,000.00
1550 acres - North Sutton County	\$1,782,500.00 New Listing!
Approx. 1645 acres Val Verde County	\$1,028,125.00
8357.9 acres - Terrell County	\$2,799,897.00

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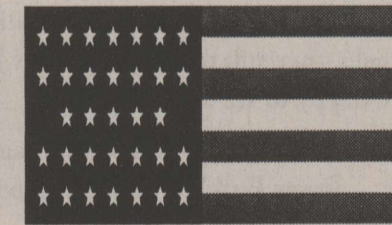
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Recent Rains Are No Reason To Forget About Smart Irrigation

COLLEGE STATION – Just because you received rain in July there's no excuse for being dumb about watering your lawn, according to a Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service expert.

July in Texas is usually one of the cruelest months when it comes to rain, but this July was unseasonably wet, said Charles Swanson, AgriLife Extension irrigation specialist, College Station.

Despite the rain greening up lawns and landscapes, and replenishing lakes and reservoirs, most of Texas still remains under drought conditions, and staying smart about home irrigation remains a good idea, both financially and environmentally, Swanson said.

And Swanson and his colleague, Dr. Guy Fipps, AgriLife Extension irrigation engineer, College Station, have just the prescription for smart irrigation: electronically "smart" irrigation controllers.

Smart controllers — also referred to as evapotranspiration or ET controllers — use weather data to calculate and automatically apply the right amount of water needed by landscape plants, Swanson said.

Studies have shown, Swanson said, that homeowners typically over water their lawns by 20 to 50 percent. Not only is this wasteful of a limited natural resource, it's often not good for the lawn. By taking into account such factors as humidity, rainfall, heat and solar radiation, smart controllers turn on irrigation systems for the correct amount of time to apply only what the home landscape needs. Some controllers can also take into account the particular kind of turf or other landscape plants.

Conventional irrigation controllers are simply timed, and

rely on the user to determine how much and how often to irrigate, often resulting in applying excessive amounts, Swanson said.

"We have learned a lot about ET controllers over the last five years," he said. "We began our first year of evaluation with five products that were readily available in Texas. In 2012 we tested nine controllers, with an additional 10th controller being added to our 2013 evaluation. Word spread with each year's report across the country, and additional manufacturers started contacting us, wanting to be included."

Current manufacturers participating in the study are Hunter, Rainbird, Weatherset, Toro, Irritrol, Weathermatic, ET Water and Irrisoft, Swanson said.

Swanson also noted that the performance of smart controllers has improved a great deal since he and Fipps started testing them in 2006 as part of a user survey in San Antonio.

Early models often applied too much water or, during a drought, not enough. But manufacturers listened, and have been making regular upgrades to controller programming and sensors.

"This past year's results are really exciting because we had our first controller pass during the summer period," Swanson said. "The testing period was divided into summer and fall evaluation periods. For controllers to pass the AgriLife test, they must be within 20 percent of the irrigation recommendations of the TexasET Network for all evaluation periods."

The TexasET Network displays weather information such as current and average evapotranspiration data, and provides irrigation watering recommendations for numer-

ous locations around the state. The network's website is at <http://texaset.tamu.edu/>.

"This year we had no controller inadequacies as the majority of controllers were able to supply adequate amounts," Swanson said. "However we continue to see some controllers have tendencies to over irrigate or apply excessive amounts."

There are two main reasons for controllers failing: improper data acquisition or insufficient accounting for rainfall, according to Swanson.

"Some controllers actually have their own weather sensors to calculate evapotranspiration onsite," he said. "Others use a pager to collect weather data from a local public weather station, such as at an airport or research facility."

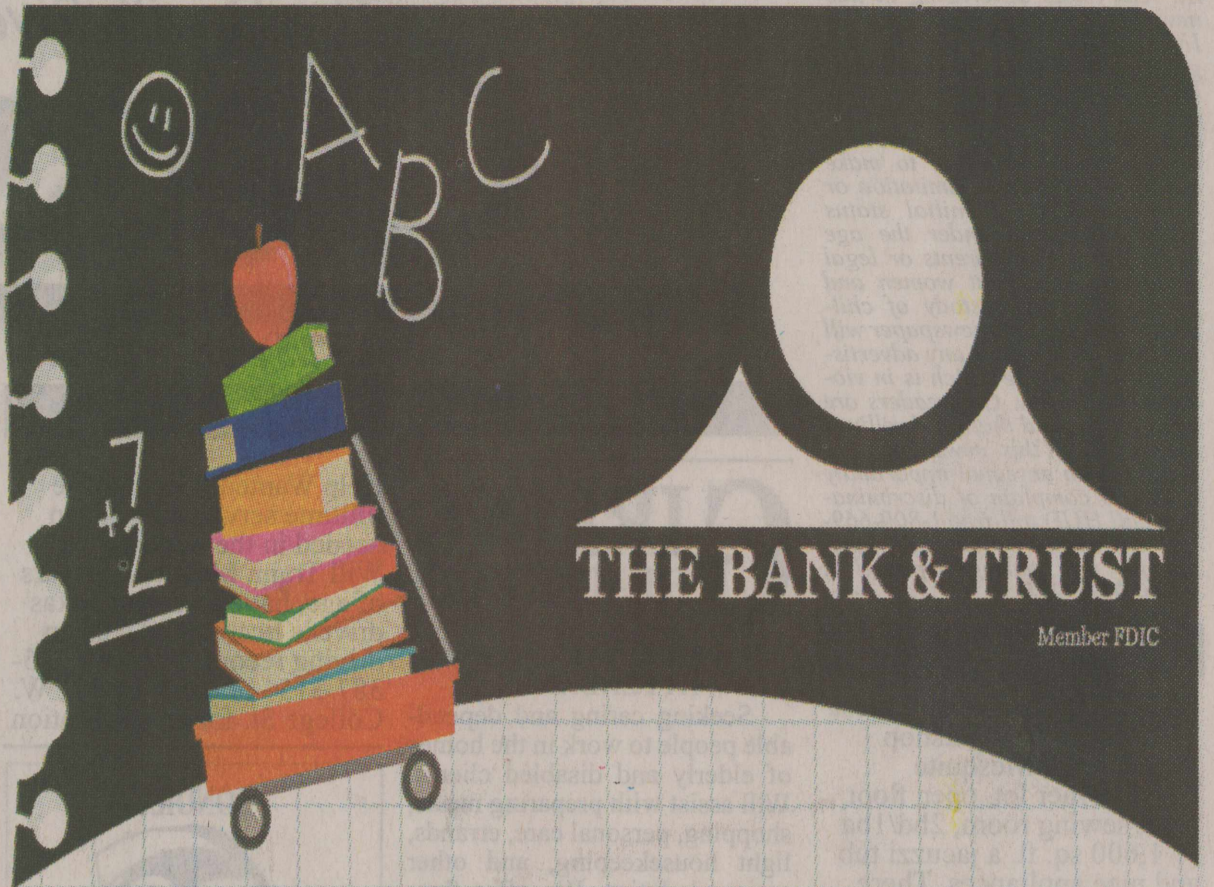
Generally, in the AgriLife Extension tests, the sensor-equipped smart controllers were more reliable than the pager-based controllers, Swanson said. But there was a wide range of performance among the sensor-based controllers too.

Swanson and Fipps said they are not ready to make specific product recommendations at this time. However, the U.S. EPA has listed eight manufacturers and 125 models of controllers that have passed their tests and been given the agency's "WaterSense" label. That list may be found online at <http://1.usa.gov/17TWuQ>.

Swanson said to take the WaterSense list — which is basically "pass/fail" — with a grain of salt.

"The worst performing controller in our tests has a WaterSense label, while our best performing controller to date is not even listed," he said.

All five years of the AgriLife Extension test data may be found at <http://itc.tamu.edu/smart.php>.



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