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The Devil's River News

Serving Sutton County Since 1890

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SONORA, TEXAS

Thursday, January 2, 2014

Blast From The Past

Published in the June 19,
1969 Edition of the Devil's

River News

Ramirez Boot Shop-One of County's Older Firms-Fast Disappearing Skill



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Sonora Ministerial Alliance/Food Baskets Received Sonora Bank's December Popcorn Contribution



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Algae Research Continues At Pecos

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Youth Program Teaches Value of Community Service



By Pascual Hernandez

Each Christmas, I write about community service because it is inspiring to see people do something worthwhile for others. There are numerous examples, but a good local example is the local Food Basket Ministry. Though it requires adult participation, it focuses on involving youth.

Lewis Allen, pastor at the local Presbyterian church, coordinates with other pastors and local youth leaders to collect food items. Church youth groups and youth organizations such

as 4-H and others, can also initiate food collection drives. Lewis then meets at the Methodist Church with members of the various youth groups to oversee the assembly of food boxes. These boxes are subsequently distributed by other volunteers. It is encouraging to see these young men and women involved in this way. They will reach adulthood with a sense of community service.

The Christmas season is a time when a lot of people want to do good things for

others. It is during Christmas that we are most generous. Volunteering is a great way to help others in their time of need. Just remember, however, that many organizations need volunteers year-round. And it is not always your money that may be needed, it could be your knowledge, skill, or ability.

We are grateful and proud to have all of you who are involved in such worthwhile efforts. Because of this, we look forward to the best that 2014 will offer.

Texas Groundwater-Your Future Conference Set For April 17

SAN ANGELO-Plans have been finalized for The Texas Groundwater-Your Future Conference beginning at 8:45 a.m., Saturday, April 17 in the Texas AgriLife Research and Extension Center auditorium at San Angelo.

The center is located north on U.S. Highway 87. The meeting is free and open to the public. A complementary noon meal will be served and a drawing for door prizes will be held at the end of the conference. The one issue that will be addressed that will have an effect on all the people within the area beginning Sept. 1 is the legislative mandate requiring every state groundwater management area to establish goals for the pumping of groundwater.

By law, the twenty groundwater conservation districts within Groundwater Management Area 7 are required to establish the "desired future conditions" (DFCs) of the aquifers within the 32 counties included in the area by the Sept. 1 deadline.

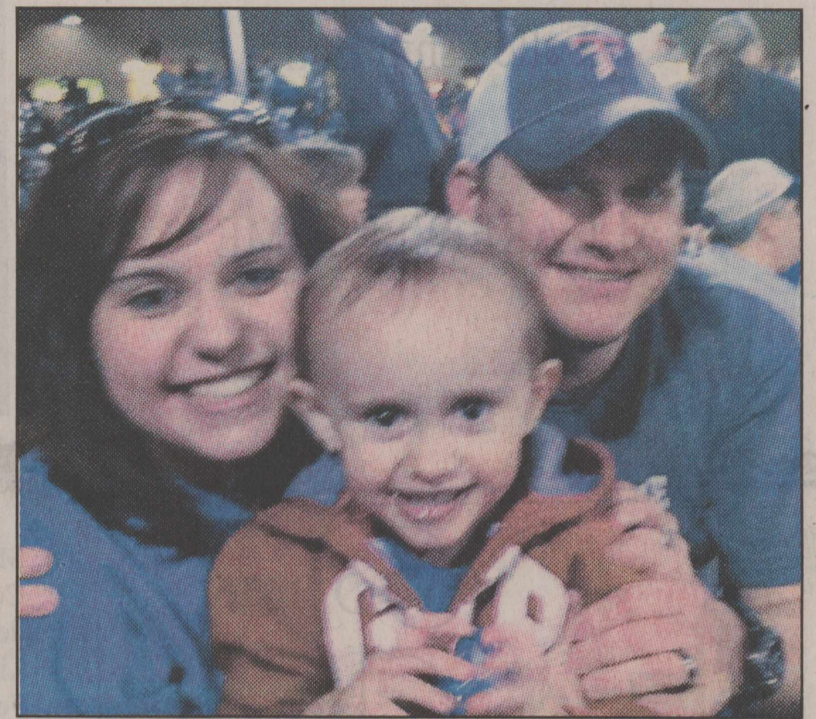
Currently, that means that the districts must set goals for the condition of each aquifer at the end of a 50 year period, including those areas not located within a groundwater district. The board then notifies each district concerning the amount of groundwater that can be permitted for pumping to meet the 50-year goal. The implemented plans must then be reviewed and updated every five years.

Opening remarks will be given by Rep. Drew Darby and the program speakers will include: Dr. Bill Hutchinson, director of groundwater resources for the Texas Water Development Board, Greg Ellis, attorney and executive director of the Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts, Dr. Archie Ruiz, West Texas Weather Modification Assoc. consultant, Dr. Bruce Lesikar, professor and extension specialist with Texas A&M University, Scott McWilliams, Hydrogeologist with the UCRA, and former State Representative Bob Turner.

Presentations will include talks on water issues, policy, law, legislation, geology, water quality, weather, rainwater harvesting, riparian areas and brush control. By hosting the conference, the groundwater districts hope to give the general public the opportunity to better understand the water issues we're facing now and in the future.

For more information contact Jim Polonis or e-mail him at: sutuwd@sonoratlx.net

Happy
New Year
From the
Devil's
River
News!!



Meet Sutton County's New EMS Director

John Phelps is the EMS Director for Sutton County EMS and has worked in the EMS field for more than 15 years. He and his family relocated to Sonora in July from San Antonio where he was previously an assistant professor for the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio. John is originally from Odessa, Texas and a graduate of Permian High School. After high school his passion for EMS had begun. He attended Odessa College for his EMT certification and began working in the field. In 2000, John enlisted into the Army, where he was stationed at Fort Hood, TX. Once out of the military, John went on to continue his education in EMS. He received his Paramedic license, a Bachelors of Science in Emergency Medicine from Wayland Baptist University, and is currently in his last semester at Wayland for his Master's Degree in Health Care Business Administration. Also, John attended New Mexico Tech's Energetic Materials Research Testing Center, where he earned an instructor certification with the Department of Homeland Security for Incident Response to Terrorist Bombings and the Understanding and Planning for School Bomb Incident courses. He is the United States Region 4 Coordinator and participates in continuous evidence based research and oversight of education programs for Pre-Hospital Trauma Life Support in 12 states. He is a coordinator for American Heart Association Courses, as well as National Association of Emergency Medical Technology Courses.

John and his family moved to Sonora to enjoy and raise their child in a small town.

At Sutton County EMS our mission is to provide quality health care and services which are responsive to the needs of our community in the spirit of our founders. With a vision to commit our compassion to significantly improve every dimension of healthcare, we will expand upon our role as a critical public safety agency that delivers exceptional pre-hospital emergency medicine in our community. The department will remain at the forefront of EMS advancements, driving progress in clinical care, operations, research, and training.

If you should have any questions about the Sutton County EMS or how you can enter a career as an Sutton County as an emergency professional, you can call John at 387-2521 Ext. 1350 or email him at jphelps@sonora-hospital.org.

Lady Broncos Win On Last Second Shot!


Sonora found themselves down 3 points 54-57 with 50 seconds left in the game. The Lady Broncos pressure defense forced a turnover and Kylie Love received a sweet pass from Cip Tobias to get within one point 56-57. Then Cip stole an inbound pass, the Sonora offense reset and Albany fouled Kylie - who made one of two free throws to tie the game at 57. After an Albany missed shot - Kylie Love grabbed a big rebound, passed to Katie Hartman who found Gracie Dozier flying down the court to score with 4 seconds left in the game to finish with a 59-57 victory. Kylie Love (33) and Gracie Dozier (21) combined for 54 of the 59 points. Tyler Hampton (3 rebounds/4 steals) and Cip (2 assists) chipped in two points each and Katie (3 rebounds/ 1 "charge") added 1 point. Zella Powers (3 rebounds/3 steals), Sky Jennings (3 rebounds/1 steal), Naomi Dozier (2 rebounds/one block) and Janelle Vasquez (4 rebounds/1 steal) all enjoyed playing time at Central High School in San Angelo. Sonora finished their pre-district schedule with a 17-4 record ranked #15 in the state. Happy New Year!

The Community Bible study will be studying

"Sacred Secrets" by Beth Moore

This will be a 5 week study beginning
January 8, 2014
at First United Methodist Church
Fellowship Hall

ALL ARE WELCOME

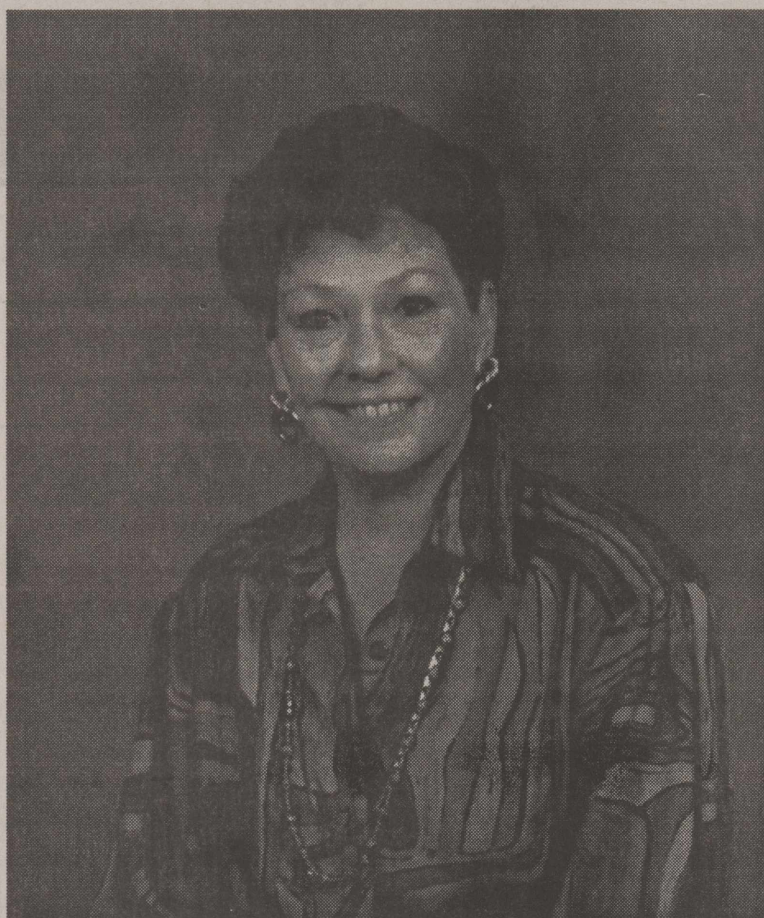


Sonora Church Directory

<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 311 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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Obituaries



Martha A. "Honey" Hicks, 78 passed away Wednesday December 18, 2013 in San Angelo.

Honey was born in Pecos, TX., to Dr. Paul and Marilee Heiser on December 27, 1934. She graduated from Central High School in San Angelo. She was preceded in death by her parents, brother, Paul Heiser and her husband; Lin W. Hicks who passed away in 1980. They were married February 14, 1955 in Maimi, OK. then moved to Dryden, TX., to begin a life of ranching. There they had two sons; Lindsey Paul and Clay. They then moved to Sonora where she spent her time, ranching, raising kids and being a wonderful mother and friend to many people.

She is survived by her two sons; Lindsey Paul Hicks and wife, Carlynn Boyce Hicks and Clay Brown Hicks and wife, Kristen Bushman Hicks, along with her grandchildren; Elizabeth and Tyson Moore of Austin, Lin and Sarah Hicks of Houston, Clayton Hicks of Pearsall and Audrey Hicks of Aledo, great grandchildren; Mcrae and Gate Moore and Cameron Hicks, special friends; Rhonda Floyd and Margaret Renovato and many bridge and card playing friends, all of whom will remember her as the "Honey" that they loved.

Memorial services will be 11:00am January 11, 2014 at the Sonora United Methodist Church with Rev. Lee Floyd, officiating. A luncheon will be served for the family and friends following the services. Arrangements are with Robert Massie Funeral Home.

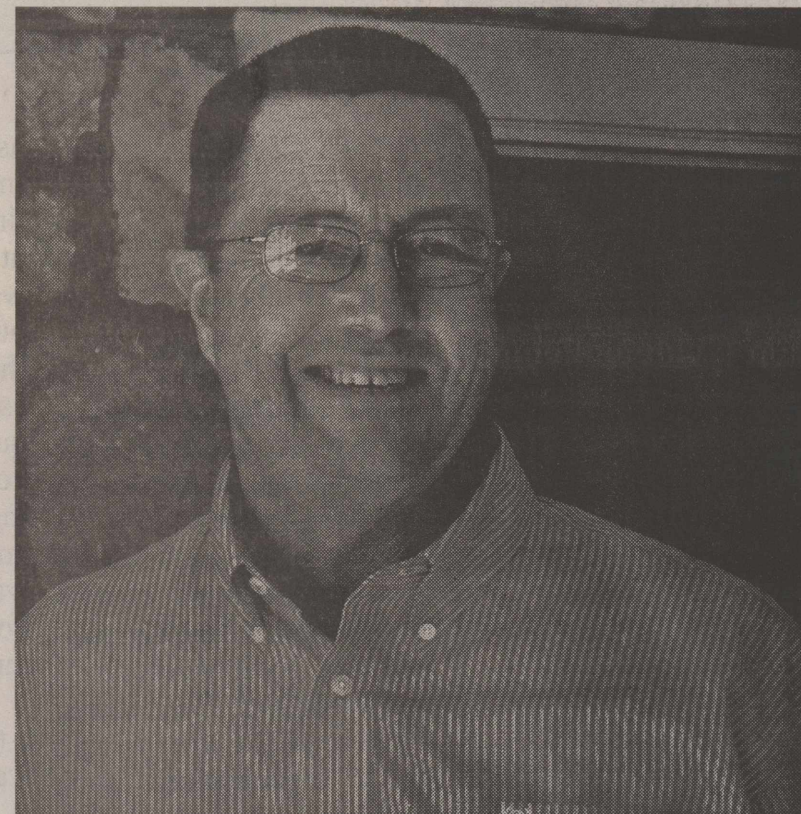
Memorial in Honey's memory may be given to the Sonora United Methodist Church P.O. Box 675 Sonora Texas 76950

Lady Broncos Enjoy Sands' Holiday Basketball Tourney

The Lady Broncos enjoyed the Sands' Basketball Tournament over the Christmas break. It was an opportunity to prepare for district and play some new teams. Sonora opened with a good team from Takoha winning 62-46. Sky Jennings made her varsity debut with two 3s! Kylie Love led the scoring attack with 14 with Gracie Dozier (12 points) and Tyler Hampton (12 points) combined for 24 to help the cause. Then in the second game of the day, Sonora fell to #6 ranked and tourney champions Garden City. The Lady Broncos had the holiday blues the entire game. Gracie led the attack with 14 points. On Saturday, with some adjustments from the previous day - the Lady Broncos came out on fire. Gracie scored 23 points (four 3 pointers), Kylie 22 points and JoJo Gutierrez has 10 points on a good shooting morning beating Klondike 74-27. Katie Hartman had a nice defensive performance with 3 steals and took a solid 'charge' that changed the momentum of the game. Naomi Dozier played well with 4 points and 4 rebounds. On the final game of the tourney for 3rd place - the Lady Broncos kept up their good shooting by defeating Stanton 80-49. Gracie scored 25 points, Kylie knocked down 21 with 7 steals, Tyler Hampton filled up the stat line with 9 points, 5 steals, 2 assists, 2 blocks and 5 rebounds and Janelle Vasquez was 3 for 3 with 6 points. Zella Powers played well and consistent in all 4 games averaging 7 points and 7 rebounds including a career high 13 rebound game vs. Tahoka. Kylie Love and Gracie Dozier were all-tournament. Sonora's season record stands at 16-4.



Sonora--Elsie Martin Schwiening "Dodo", 97, passed away December 28, 2013. She was born in Junction, Texas on July 21, 1916 to John Rowland Martin and Stella Achsa McMillan. Elsie graduated from Junction High School in 1933 at age 17. She was married to the late Harold Alfred Schwiening Sr. Elsie was an active member of St. John's Episcopal Church of Sonora, Texas. Although, a life long rancher, she devoted her life to family and friends. Elsie was survived by two children: Corky Schwiening, of Sonora, Texas; Barbara Halbert, of Pensacola, Florida. She is also survived by four grandchildren, seven great grandchildren and three great-great grandchildren. Visitation is Monday, December 30, 2013 at Kerbow Funeral Home. Service will be held at 10 am Tuesday, December 31, 2013, at St. John's Episcopal Church in Sonora. Graveside to follow at Sonora Cemetery.



Wade Announces Intention to Run for Re-Election for the Position of Sutton County Commissioner of Precinct Two

John Wade recently announced his bid to run for County Commissioner of Precinct Two in Sonora, Texas. Wade took over the spot in 1993 after the death of his father Bill Wade who had served as County Commissioner for 17 years. John stated, "For over twenty years I have faithfully served the residents of Sutton County. I would be honored to have the opportunity to be re-elected into this position."

John is a lifelong resident of Sutton County. He is a 1973 graduate of Sonora High School and a 1976 graduate of the Texas Christian University Ranch Management Program. He is member and past president of the Sutton County Predatory Management Association and is a member of the state-wide advisory board to the Texas Wildlife Management Association. John is actively involved in the community and is a member of the First United Methodist Church, where he serves on the Finance Committee, and is also a member of Lions Club. He was also on the advisory committee to help build the Sutton County Public Library. During his tenure of county commissioner he has helped plan and execute numerous budgets. John has been a commissioner that has strived to keep the tax-rate down, yet provide adequate, quality services for the people of Sutton County. He is married to the former Sarah Mahon, who is a Pre-K teacher at Sonora ISD, and they have one daughter, Johnna Gibson, who works as the Director of External Affairs at Sonora Bank and a son in law, Gary Gibson, who is the co-owner of Gibson Water Well.

John would like to ask you for your vote and support in the upcoming election. The republican primary is on March 4th.

The Devil's River News

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Lion's Roar



The Sonora Lions Club Downtown and Queen, Katelyn Gibbens were graced with three outstanding students from the intermediate campus.

3rd grade: Hannah Covarrubiaz

4th grade: Jason Hernandez

5th grade: Koda Davis

Lions Club Downtown and our own Katlin Gibbens welcome four most active students representing SHS STUDENT OF THE MONTH. Sonora High School is most proud to introduce: Freshman SKY JENNINGS, Sophomore: FELIX GUERRA, Junior: ETHAN PATLAN, and Senior: SIDNEY DERMONDY.

With pride and support we wish you all luck with faith in fulfilling your dreams and talents. Our community is most fortunate to have supportive caring parents combined with motivated teachers and coaches. Ethan's favorite subject is sports where he not only gives 100% on the field but in the classroom helping others achieve their goals. Sky was asked what she did in her spare time!!! Sidney signed a letter of intent to play golf for The University of South Carolina. Way to go!!

We must recognize and support each student in our community for their honorary achievements and endless responsibilities in making our school and community shine. We are so proud of you!! Great job!!

Join us every Tuesday from 12:00-1:00 for food and fellowship! You will always leave with a smile!

Sonora Ministerial Alliance/Food Baskets Received Sonora Bank's December Popcorn Contribution



Gary Gruben Presented The Contribution To Lewis Allen

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Precious Resource – Water Groundwater District Responsibility – Manage the Resource

Managing groundwater, our precious resource, is performed locally by a board of five people who make decisions that affect our lives, well-being and prosperity. Sutton County does not have surface water resources to supplement its water needs. Our only source of water, groundwater, sustains us, our livestock, and businesses. If our water were to suddenly disappear the county would become dry desert scrub.

To prevent this from occurring, maintaining an adequate supply of water available for all to use, the District uses a two-part approach. First, in order to make good decisions on managing this resource the District uses scientific methods to gather data on water levels, rainfall, dye trace studies, and atmospheric conditions. Secondly, based on this data, the District manages the groundwater supply using a set of rules, a drought contingency plan, along with weather patterns, drought conditions, and other environmental events that occur across the county.

The Texas Legislature dictates to the groundwater districts through the Texas Water Code, Chapter 36, how districts are to be set up, managed, as well as govern groundwater resources. The districts, using Chapter 36, as its standard, tailor their rules to the conditions, geology, and hydrogeology of its area. Districts are single county or multiple counties, have different hydrogeological environments, and different water needs; such as irrigation, large metropolitan areas, and ranching, to name a few. Thus, it is understandable that rules are written to fit a wide variety of conditions.

When writing its rules districts do their best to be fair and impartial knowing that groundwater belongs to the landowner who owns the land above it. At the same time the District must regulate this resource so that it is available to everyone within the district. The state imposes constraints that are meant to conserve water and make it available over a protracted period of time, 50 years. To achieve that goal and still be fair to landowners, districts have to determine what is called desired future conditions (DFC), which is how the part of the aquifer they manage will look in fifty years. The DFC can be expressed as some attribute of the aquifer such as: "level of draw-down," or "springflow," or water quality," or some other measure that quantifies the condition of the aquifer after fifty years.

Because of all these changes, the district is revising its rules, which are nearly twelve years old, by updating them and bringing them into compliance with the latest legislative changes.

The District's Board of Directors is reviewing the draft rules, editing, and ensuring they fit the conditions that exist in Sutton County. Once this process is completed, and the Board, is comfortable with them, the District will announce dates and times for public hearings to give the citizens of Sutton County an opportunity comment on them.

SHS New Bell Schedule

Sonora High School
Bell Schedule Spring 2014

Monday through Thursday

First Bell	7:50
1st Period	8:00-8:45
2nd Period	8:50-9:40
3rd Period	9:45-10:35
BREAK	10:35-10:45
4th Period	10:50-11:30
Lunch	11:35-12:15
STAAR/TUT/UII	12:20-12:50
5th Period	12:55-1:45
6th Period	1:50-2:40
7th Period	2:45-3:30

Friday

First Bell	7:50
1st Period	8:00 - 8:45
2nd Period	8:50 - 9:40
3rd Period	9:45 - 10:35
5th Period	10:40 - 11:30
6th Period	11:35 - 12:25
LUNCH	12:25 - 1:20
4th Period	1:25 - 2:10
7th Period	2:15 - 3:00

Wellness Ministry

Once Christmas is over, our minds begin to focus on the new year. But is Christmas really over? Yes the presents are unwrapped, the pies have been eaten, the visitors have left - the trappings are over. But the hope, the joy, and the love - the true gift of Christmas - is fresh and renewed within us. Take this, the SPIRIT of Christmas, with you into the new year. The new year is often a time of self-reflection, goal-setting, and resolution-making, a good time to "reset" or start anew. Make God a part of this process. He is your biggest cheerleader! No one wants to support you more or see you succeed more than God. As you put on your "new self" in 2014, remember the hope, the joy, the wonder, the excitement, and the love of Christmas. It will take you far.

"Put off the old self with its practices and put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator." Colossians 3:9-10

Chelsea Blackbird is a Certified Nutritional Therapist. To join the SONORA SUGAR DETOX January 6-27, contact Chelsea at chelsea@dailynutritionist.com

80% of body composition is based on diet. Do you need a personal trainer or a Personal Nutritionist?
Contact Chelsea Blackbird: chelsea@dailynutritionist.com
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NOTICE OF MEETING OF THE GOVERNING BODY OF SONORA, TEXAS

Smith Neal, Mayor
Sam David Hernandez, Councilmember
Harold Martinez, Councilmember
Justin Mathews, Councilmember
Brenda Bryant, Councilmember

Charles Graves, City Manager
Bella Fay, Assistant City Secretary

Notice is hereby given that a **Special Meeting** of the City Council of the City of Sonora, Texas will be held on **Thursday, January 2, 2014 at 6:00 p.m.** in the City Hall Council Chambers located at 201 E. Main Street, Sonora, Texas, at which time the following subjects will be discussed:

1. **CALL TO ORDER-SPECIAL MEETING**
2. **INVOCATION**
3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES AND TO THE TEXAS FLAG:**
Honor the Texas Flag: I pledge allegiance to thee, Texas, one State under God, one and Indivisible.
4. **DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS**
 - A. **Discussion and Possible Action Concerning The Police Dept. Staffing**
5. **CITIZEN AND VISITOR COMMENTS**
6. **ADJOURNMENT**

This is to certify that I, Betty Hernandez, posted this Agenda on the glass front door of the City Hall, facing the outside at 12:30 p.m. on December 30, 2013.

Dated this 30th day of December 2013.

Betty Hernandez

Groundbreaking Algae Research Continues At Pecos

PECOS – Pecos is usually egg-frying hot, bone dry and much of the groundwater is brackish, but Texas A&M AgriLife Research personnel know the area is prime real estate for conducting algae research, something they've been doing successfully since 2007.

They're good at it too, so good that they've recently been asked to share an \$8 million Department of Energy grant with three other research institutions, officials said.

Shay Simpson, the associate program director of corporate relations for AgriLife Research at College Station who helped orchestrate the Texas grant portion, said the agency's algae program at the Pecos Station has grown from its start when drop-in fuels—those that are interchangeable with conventional fuels—were the focus to 2009. After that, animal feeds took center stage and today, biomass production, along with chemical and nutraceutical or health-related products, are the prime interests.

The University of Arizona leads the partnership funded by the grant called the Regional Algal Feedstock Testbed or RAFT. The other partners are the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, a Department of Energy research facility at Richland, Wash., and New Mexico State University at Las Cruces. These research partners are tasked with find-

ing better ways to turn algae into biofuels, bioproducts and feed by optimizing growth systems to produce more biomass and lipids from the algae. They also are developing water recycling systems and testing new, more efficient species of algae.

The Texas team is headed by Dr. Jaroy Moore, AgriLife Research resident director at Lubbock who administers the Pecos project, and Lou Brown, AgriLife Research project manager responsible for the daily AgriLife Research conducted at the Pecos Station.

"My one thought since the inception of our algae growing project several years ago is that we've continued to make progress and many of our peer institutions and peer researchers continue to look to us for algae production," Moore said. "So far we continue to be funded and funding is directly based on demonstrated performance."

Simpson said the accomplishments to date at Pecos funded by previous grants include evaluating and selecting 38 algae species with high biomass or oil-producing capacity; developing, testing and demonstrating advanced algae production systems, and evaluating and fine-tuning the lipid separation techniques necessary to produce fuel.

"They've also successfully developed improved production scale-up tech-

niques, evaluated potential uses for algae co-products for livestock feed and tested and optimized different algal separation techniques," she said.

Brown whose expertise centers on his ability to find algae species with the best commercial potential, said the RAFT project will allow the Pecos Station to take their previous work to the next level.

"We are going to do some really in-depth studies on the top three to five algae species from among the 38 we've already tested," he said. "We're after those that have consistently shown the most promise for larger scale growth," Brown said. "We want to determine the benefits and pitfalls associated with a particular algae or production system."

One algae species in particular from the genus *Chlorella*, which was a late-comer in previous studies, has consistently made high marks prompting researchers to ask Brown to study it further.

"It does show a lot of potential and several of us are growing it at different sites and we all have different traits we're trying to streamline on that particular species," he said. "Another top contender is *Chlorella*, a strain we isolated in Pecos that grows well in the wintertime and could potentially be used in an off-season crop rotation strategy very similar to a mainstream agricultural cropping system."

Brown said the algae

will be tested using different variables, exposing it to marginal water, for instance waste-water, water too high in salinity for other crops or water used in the oil industry's fracking process.

Feeding or fertilizing algae for maximum production is another of Brown's research areas. He said algae takes up nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium and carbon similar to conventional crops.

"My team has adjusted the different chemicals in the mix and switched them out for cheaper alternatives or done away with them. We've also taken the site-specific water chemistry and used what's already available in the water in place of things we have to add that cost money."

Brown added that their current focus on creating biomass has changed their production systems somewhat, much like a farmer switching from an annual to a perennial crop.

"We're more on a continuous culture methodology now from a cultivation standpoint," Brown said. "Which means we are currently producing biomass for as long as we can, as fast as we can. Unlike our previous research, the lipid is not our primary goal; now it's the biomass."

"Before, we could get a culture or 'crop' out there, move it through the system and get it out. Now we've got to keep a culture out there as long as we can and harvest off of it as often as we can while

still maintaining good growth, keeping the contamination out and keeping the water quality correct.

"I think in the end we'll create a product that's more acceptable to a broader range of technologies. So, I think that area of research has got a lot of potential."

Marine algae species are another area being explored, and Brown likes growing them out in the desert. They fight off all the "native" freshwater algae brought in by rain, wind and dust that can contaminate a "cultivated" freshwater algae crop.

"Our well water runs from 3,500-4,500 parts per million salt," Brown said. "I actually increase the dissolved salts closer to 28,000 parts per million to essentially make it seawater. Luckily, salt is reusable and we're going to continue work on recycling our water. I think we can get close to reclaiming 90 percent of all the water we use except for the evaporation make-up water which is our biggest loss."

Simpson said Texas A&M's algae effort has included 30-plus AgriLife Research scientists and engineers in multiple locations across Texas. The Pecos facility, an arid production scenario with its impaired groundwater, supports the other researchers around the state.

The Pecos algae facility includes eight 50-gallon raceways for initial outdoor testing, two 1,000 gallon,

four 2,000 gallon and three 6,000 gallon raceways for large-scale production. Simpson said the outdoor facility is supported by two indoor laboratories where algae seed are grown and production samples are tested for nutrient and lipid content and general health of the algae. An on-site harvest barn allows collaborators to set up equipment for pilot-scale research.

So, given the recent project funding and continued interest in the crop, what's the future for algae production on a commercial basis in the Pecos area?

Brown feels it will come down to the amount of water available for production, so groundwater availability and recharge rates will have to be closely scrutinized before any large scale operations are launched.

"Once you start going to a really large scale you are going to use a lot of water," Brown said. "Now, you can recycle a lot of that, but the more acres you put into production, the more evaporative water you've got to keep adding."

"We're going to have modelers address the economical size for a commercial farm as part of this project, that's why my priority is to provide data on growth parameters and the inputs needed, so later down the road at the end of the two-year project those questions might be better answered."

Moore said success may also hinge on getting the right algae crop, one for the summer and others for the different seasons.

"There is future potential at Pecos for commercial algae production simply because the water that's used is not competing with municipalities or conventional agriculture," he said. "The land itself is relatively inexpensive and there's plenty of sunlight and available carbon dioxide. All those factors have always been sought after when talking about algae production. But the coast is probably going to be the first choice especially if salt water species are produced simply because you don't have to do anything to the water nor do you have to lift that water very much."

"So, if somebody from Pecos, a producer maybe, might ask if we are still working with algae out there, I'd say 'yes, but don't start getting ready to change your conventional farming operation just yet,'" Moore said. "We continue to make steady progress, and so algae production is going to be continued to be looked at. One of these days it'll work and become a viable crop on the producer level. But right now, I don't know when."

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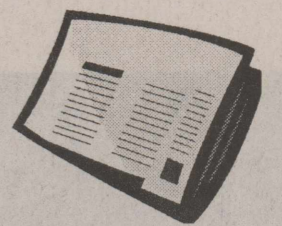
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The Devil's River News

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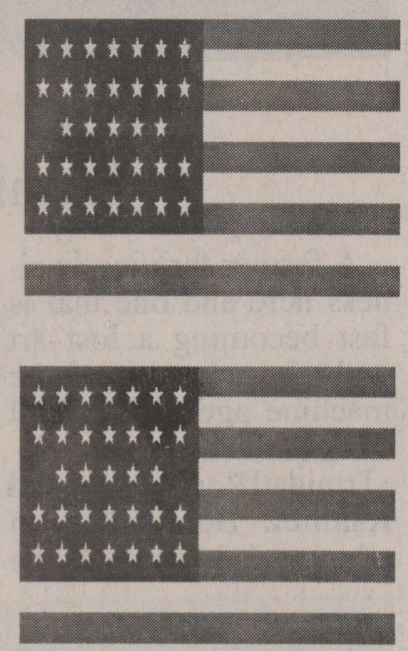
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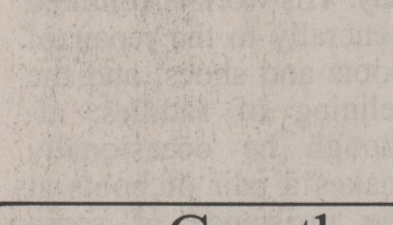
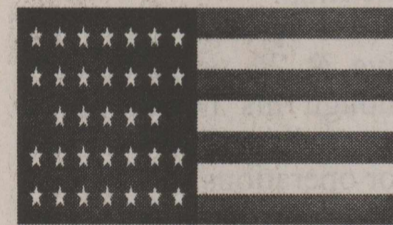
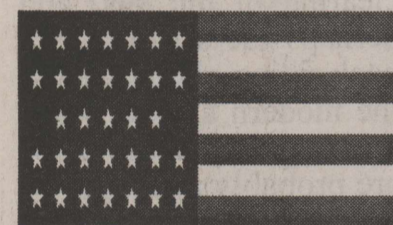
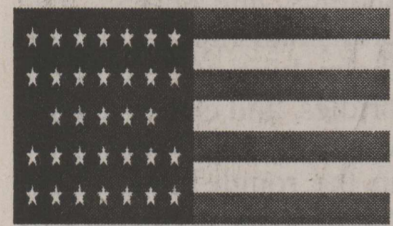
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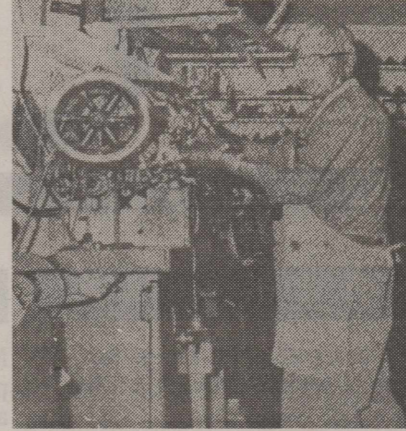
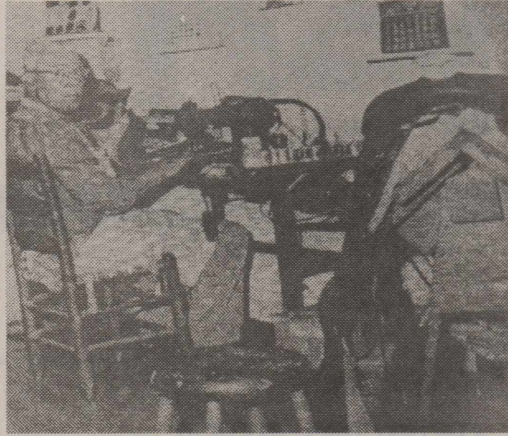
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Blast From The Past



From Left to Right:
Trinidad with boots: Although custom made boots are becoming harder to buy Trinidad Ramirez still delivers a few pair each year.
Trinidad sitting front of sewing machine: Here repair work is done, including re-lining of the saddle shown in the foreground.
Trinidad and his wife: The Ramirez's stand behind the counter in the front entrance to the store. The family has made their home in living quarters connected to the Boot Shop since 1940.
Trinidad working with machine: Ramirez uses this machine for fancy, and also the plain stitching that is used in making a pair of custom made boots.

Published in the June 19, 1969 Edition of the Devil's River News

Ramirez Boot Shop-One of County's Older Firms-Fast Disappearing Skill

A former thriving business here and one that is fast becoming a lost art with the advance of the machine age, is the skill of boot-making. Trinidad Ramirez opened Ramirez Boot Shop in what was known as the

old Mercantile Building after moving here from Ozona, in 1937. He was born in Mexico, October 1, 1893, and came to the United States in 1919. He and Mrs. Ramirez married in Mexico, October 1, 1916.

Arriving in Texas from Mexico, he went to work for Jack Piner in Ozona, in a boot and saddle shop, and worked there continuously until he decided to enter business for himself. He moved to Sonora, and opened a boot and repair

building in connection with living quarters on Main Street, and he has lived and worked there since that time. His children, Fela (Mrs. Salome Perez Jr.) and his son, David grew up among the pungent odor of dyes, and

the pleasant smell of new leather. David went to work at an early age for his father and learned the trade. He was killed in the Pacific during World War II, and the Ramirez's had his body returned for burial in the local cemetery. Their daughter has three children, two girls and one boy, and they live close by.

not only in boot making, but in repair work of saddles, and shoes. The craftsmanship included the making of head stalls, bridles, and chaps. Chaps were worn by all cowboys in the rough brush country to keep a man's legs from getting scratched when riding through mesquite bushes and other thorny bushes. With the clearing of the land and perhaps the art of horseback riding giving way to the modern age of riding the range in pickup, chaps are probably not worn by many men anymore.

At one time during the booming years before the labor situation became acute, Trinidad said the shop turned out thirteen pairs of boots weekly. Now due to his advanced age and his health condition, he tries to make delivery on about twenty five pairs yearly.

During the busy years he had three boot makers working full time, and three "learners", besides him and his wife. Orders from customers came from all over the United States, and he still has those records of his former customer's measurements.

It is interesting to note the steps for "building" a pair of shop made boots. In placing the initial order with Ramirez, the customer placed his feet on a journal type book on the floor, and outlines of both feet were traced. Notations were made as to a disfigurement, such as, corns, bunions, etc. Exact measurements were taken for the ball of the foot, low instep, high instep, and heel. Trinidad says that the left and right foot of many people differs in size, or perhaps one foot had been broken or was slightly deformed - all these things were noted in order to insure a perfect fit.

Orders consisted of all types of boots - fancy stitching, leather inserts dyed different colors, initials and many intricate designs; however, the majority was ordered because of the comfortable fit of a shop made boot, and the rugged wear. Then the boots sold for \$22.50 a pair, which probably seemed expensive according to living standards and wages in the 30's. Now the price has increased considerably - ranging from \$75.00 upwards.

Many who trained under Trinidad mastered the skilled art of working with leather,

Some of the young men who learned from Trinidad moved on to the big cities where a few still work and follow the trade - one lives in Austin, two in San Angelo, and one in Del Rio. Tomas Moreno, another Sonoran who trained under Trinidad, was also killed in the fighting of World War II. Trinidad has a large, color picture of his son and Moreno in uniform taken together, which hangs on the shop wall.

With the departure of his nephew, Jesus Ramirez, who moved to Fort Worth, to work for General Dynamics, he has since worked alone in the shop. He remains fairly active at 76 years of age, though his health broke somewhat after two major operations within nine months a short while ago. He says he tires easily, and is no longer able to follow his profession for many hours during the day. His work is confined generally to the repair of boots and shoes, and the relining of saddles, although he occasionally makes a pair of boots at the insistence of some long-standing customer.

It is quite different to visit the shop now and several years ago when the clamor of hammers rang out, and the whirl and whine of the motors from the big sewing machines with their constant hum, along with the smell of leather, made one realize that his was indeed a busy place.

Factory made boots line the shelves now where once the shop made boots stood, and most of the noise is made by the shrill whistle of a mynah bird (a gift to Trinidad), but the poignant memories of busier days are still very much in the thoughts of Trinidad and his wife.

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