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The Devil's River News

Serving Sutton County Since 1890

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SONORA, TEXAS

Thursday, February 20, 2014

Fruit Trees Waking Up?

By Pascual Hernandez
Sutton County Agrilife Extension Agent

Page 3

Celebrate 178 Years of Texas Independence on March 1-2

Page 2

Passing On The Farm; Not Everyone Wants It

Page 4

Page 6

Lady Broncos Finish Basketball Campaign at 28-5



On the way to 28 victories, the Lady Broncos defeated 5 state ranked teams, 10 playoff teams and went undefeated in district but ran into (foul) trouble in the Area Round of the UIL playoffs. Breckenridge Lady Bucks defeated the Lady Broncos 65-52 in Winters Friday night to end Sonora's playoff run. Captain and senior Kylie Love scored 12 in Sonora's 20 point fourth quarter charge as the Lady Broncos continued to fight

back. Kylie finished with 24 points and 10 rebounds. Sonora's co-captain Gracie Dozier scored 12 including 6 for 7 from the charity stripe and had 3 assists. Other players in playoff action include Cip Tobias (2 for 2 FTs), Zella Powers (2 points and 5 rebounds), Katie Hartman (3 assists), Sky Jennings (2 points), Briana Jarratt, Tyler Hampton (5 points and 5 rebounds), JoJo Gutierrez (2 points and 4 steals), Naomi Dozier (2 for 2

FTs and 3 steals) and Janelle Vasquez (4 rebounds). The Sonora Lady Bronco Basketball Program won District Championships with the 7th, JV and Varsity teams. The 8th grade team were district runner-ups. Congratulations to all the "Run and Fun" basketball teams, thanks for all the community support and special thanks to all the loyal and loud fans! Go Lady Broncos!

Sonora Bronco Football Honors: Broncos Racking Up the Awards!!

ALL DISTRICT SELECTIONS: District MVP: Chance Campbell.

Coach of the Year: Craten Phillips and staff.

1st Team Offense: QB-Michael Rollert, FB-Elijah Cross, WR-Ricky Martinez, TE-Andres Acevedo, Guard-Ethan Patlan, Tackle-Lionel DeLeon, Center-Jose Longoria. Special Teams, Punter-Andres Acevedo. **UTILITY PLAYER** 1st Team: Cody Barber.

1st Team Defense: DT-Elijah Cross, DT -Ethan Patlan, D End-Dub Latham, Inside LB-Sid Anderson, Outside LB Andres Acevedo, Corner-Gabe Rollert, Corner-Will Dutton.

2nd Team Offense: RB-Sid Anderson, WR-Rhett Guerra, TE-Jonathan

Martinez, Guard-Hunter Hughes, Tackle-Liam Yourgalite, Honorable Mention Offense, Center-Chris Rendon. 2nd Team Sp Teams, Kick Ret-Louie Castro.

2nd Team Defense: DT-Lionel DeLeon, ILB-Scott Gonzalez, Safety-Ricky Martinez, Honorable Mention Defense, ILB-Cody Barber.

AP ALL STATE : 2nd Team Offensive Line-Ethan Patlan, Honorable Mention Defensive line-Elijah Cross, Honorable Mention Offensive Line-Lionel DeLeon

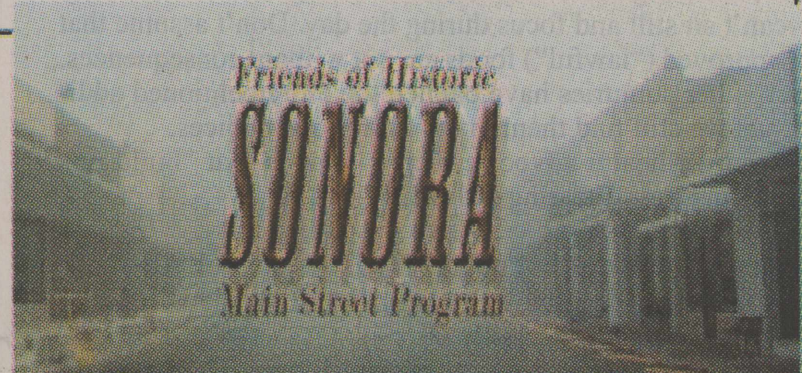
On the All West Texas 2A Team Sonora was represented with 8 selections to the team: RB-Chance Campbell, QB-Michael Rollert, OLine-Ethan Patlan and Lionel DeLeon, D Line-Elijah Cross, LB-Cody Barber, Punter-Andres Acevedo, Utility-Sid Anderson.

ALL WEST TEXAS SUPER TEAM: RB-Chance Campbell, OLine-Ethan Patlan, DLine-Elijah Cross, LB-Cody Barber, Utility-Sid Anderson.

PADILLA COACHES POLL: 1st Team Offense: OL-Ethan Patlan, 2nd Team Offense: OL-Lionel DeLeon, RB-Chance Campbell, 1st Team Defense, DL-Elijah Cross.

Texas Sports Writers Assoc.: Ethan Patlan, 2nd Team Guard, Elijah Cross, 3rd Team, Defensive Line, Lionel DeLeon, Honorable Mention, Offensive Tackle.

The Old Coach: 1st Team OL, Ethan Patlan, 1st Team DL, Elijah Cross.



2014 Nationally Accredited Texas Main Street Programs Recognized

SEGUIN, Texas — Sonora, Texas has been commended for successful annual progress as a designated Main Street community. The Texas Historical Commission's (THC) Texas Main Street Program (TMSP) made the announcement this evening at the winter gathering of Texas Main Street managers in Seguin, an original 1981 Texas Main Street city. Sixty-three designated Main Street programs in Texas were recognized. The TMSP will recommend its Texas selections for 2014 National Accreditation to the National Main Street Center, a subsidiary of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. The national announcement for all designated Main Street programs across the country will be made at the National Main Street conference in Detroit, MI May 18-20.

"National Accreditation and the recognition that goes along with it is a statement that the local Main Street program is working hard and consistently moving forward to achieve downtown revitalization goals that are grounded in historic preservation," said Debra Drescher, TMSP state coordinator. "Over more than 30 years, the national Main Street model — which has been in place in Texas since the inception of the nationwide effort — has been an effective way for communities of all sizes to restore and maintain vitality and economic health in their historic downtowns. We are so proud of the staff and volunteers of Texas' Main Street programs who work hard every day on these objectives and so thankful to the elected officials, city management and other stakeholders who support them in their work. Accreditation recognizes that hard work and progress."

Accredited programs show above average performance in ten categories on an annual report. Selection criteria focus on planning, partnerships, staffing, volunteer effort, preservation ethic, training and program assessment through reporting. The state office also works with programs throughout the year by providing various services based upon local needs.

NATIONAL ACCREDITATION, 2-2

For additional information about the national Main Street effort, visit the National Trust Main Street web site at <http://www.preservationnation.org/main-street/>. For more information on the Texas Historical Commission's Main Street program visit www.thc.state.tx.us.

How Did We Loose Our Fire Culture In West Texas?

By Dr. Charles "Butch" Taylor (Additionally Published in Ranch and Rural Living)

When the first humans appeared on the North American Continent, via the land bridge from Asia, the plains were stocked with large species of animals—giant buffalo, mammoth, elephant, camel, horse—which are now extinct. Armed with only spears, darts, and later, bows and arrows, the hunters probably had difficulty bringing down these huge, tough animals. A common technique was to use fire to stampede the animals over a cliff or into a ravine as well as attract them to burned areas once the immature vegetation began to grow (i.e., modern day food plots). Eventually, for some unknown reason, all the spe-

cies of larger animals disappeared. This left the country open to be occupied by smaller animals. One species of animal was the modern buffalo, or bison, which arrived on the North American continent approximately 12,000 years ago. These buffalo multiplied and spread until, at their peak, they numbered about 40 million head and occupied nearly half of North America. These large numbers of buffalo had a profound effect on the life and culture of the American Indian. Indians observed that buffalo consumed mostly grass and preferred areas dominated

Continued on Page 6




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Wellness Ministry

Did you know there is a flame retardant compound in many citrus flavored sodas and sports drinks that can cause reproductive, behavioral, and central nervous system problems? Food dyes in your beloved Mac and Cheese and Fruit Loops that can cause behavioral and allergy issues? A toxic additive in many restaurant and processed breads that contribute to cancer and thyroid conditions? We are surrounded by franken-food that has been government approved, yet is detrimental to our health. Sadly, consumers are not eating these toxic compounds in small doses, which the FDA considers to be acceptable, but actually rely on many of these questionable foods as cornerstones of their diet. So many of us send our kiddos off to school after a big bowl of colorful cereal and then wonder why they can't sit still and focus during the day. Don't assume that FDA approved ("lawful") foods are not without consequences. In fact, other countries have banned the aforementioned additives, yet we still find them in our daily food choices. Be your own health advocate. Choose foods that "build up" the body instead of tearing it down.

"All things are lawful, but not all things are helpful. All things are lawful, but not all things build up." 1 Corinthians 10:23

Chelsea Blackbird is a Certified Nutritional Therapist. To schedule a Personalized Nutritional Assessment, contact chelsea@dailynutritionist.com or call 512.815.3083. See www.dailynutritionist.com for more info.



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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Thank You

On behalf of the Mario Maximiliano Gamez family, we would like to express our sincere appreciation to all those who have provided such kind support during this challenging time for our family. We would like to especially thank HighMount Exploration and Production LLC, Surber Roustabout, St. Ann Catholic Church choir, the participants in the nightly Rosary prayers, and the Sonora community. There have been kind words, thoughts, prayers, embraces, gestures, food, drinks and financial contributions. And each of these has made a positive impact and has been helpful.

This is the beginning of a new journey as we remember a kind, loving -- father, husband, brother, and grandfather -- and the soul of a wonderful man. We truly thank you for your help as we have begun to travel this road.

Deepest gratitude and heartfelt thanks from the Mario Gamez family.

"As for me, I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have longed for his appearing."
2 Timothy 4:6-8

"Death is at once the end of the body's old journey, and the beginning of the soul's new journey."
- author unknown -

Thank You

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our friends and family for all the love and support during our time of loss. We appreciate all the prayers, phone calls, visits, food, flowers and the many ways you have expressed your support.

A big thank you also to the ladies who organized the rosary every night. Jason and Shelly Surber, we cant thank you enough for all you have done for us. Last but not least, we want to extend our gratitude and appreciation to Surber Roustabout, High Mount and their employees and holding a benefit for Mario, along with the local businesses and community members who participated. Mario was overjoyed and beyond grateful when he was told about the benefit. Our hearts are full knowing he was so loved. Thank you and God Bless!

JoAnn Gamez, Yvette Romero &
Jennifer Rodriguez

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 taxpayers. The 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 owner, disabled veteran or a taxpayer, its 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 and property tax issue 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. This includes homesteads donated to disabled veterans. The amount of exemption is determined according to the percentage of service-connected disability. The law also provides a 100 percent exemption for 100 percent disabled veterans and their surviving spouses, beginning in 2009, and for surviving spouses of U.S. armed service members killed in action.

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; ship inventory out of Texas that may be eligible for the "Freeport" exemption; store certain goods in transit in warehouses that are moved within 175 days; construct, install, or acquire pollution control; own and operate energy storage systems; or store offshore drilling equipment while not in use may also be eligible for statutory tax 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 producer's 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 county appraisal district. The city, county, school districts and other local taxing units will use the appraisal district's value to set property taxes for the coming year.

Property Taxpayer Remedies- This Comptroller publication explains in detail how to protest a property appraisal, what issues the county appraisal review boards (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, the State Office of Administrative Hearings or 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 a 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 timber land 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 agriculture 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 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 accrue on unpaid taxes. You may obtain a deferral affidavit at the appraisal district.

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 ARB

For more information about these programs, contact Sutton County Appraisal District at (325)387-2809. Information is also available on the Comptroller's Property Tax Assistance Division website at www.window.state.tx.us/taxinfo/proptax/.

Celebrate 178 Years of Texas Independence on March 1-2

WASHINGTON, Texas - All natural-born Texans and those who got here as soon as they could are invited to a Texas-sized 178th birthday celebration on the very spot "where Texas became Texas" in 1836 when delegates met to make a formal declaration of independence from Mexico.

Washington on the Brazos State Historic Site will host the annual Texas Independence Day Celebration on Saturday, March 1 and Sunday, March 2 on its expansive, 293-acre park grounds located between Brenham and Navasota. The two-day festival features live music, food, traditional crafts, living history presentations, black powder small arms and artillery firing demonstrations, historical encampments and commemorative programs - all with no park entrance or parking fees. Vendors selling a variety of festival foods will be on site.

Independence Hall at Washington-on-the-Brazos is the place where representatives of the people of Texas met to decide their fate and all Texans' future. On March 2, 1836, 59 delegates to the convention listened to George Childress enumerate their grievances against the government of Mexico and the tyrannical rule of Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna.

The delegates were embroiled in a revolution and faced an uncertain future when they met to declare Texas a free and independent republic and created a constitution for the fledgling nation. To honor their sacrifice and dedication, a special commemorative ceremony will open and close Saturday's and Sunday's festivities. The traditional cutting of the giant birthday cake will take place at 2:30 p.m., Sunday, in the park amphitheater.

Guests will step back into history to experience life in Texas in 1836 by visiting with reenactors and witnessing firing demonstrations in the Texas Army camps, and taking a virtual town site tour. Attendees can walk the same trail as Texas' forefathers and pioneer families and witness cooking, weaving and period craft demonstrations.

Texas singer/songwriter Brian Burns, Celtaire String Band and the Texian String Band will provide musical entertainment at the event. Burns, the 2014 recipient of The Daughters of The American Revolution Texas State Media Award, is regarded as one of Texas' top performing songwriters whose work has been covered by a number of legendary artists. More information on Burns can be found at www.brianburnsmusic.com.

The Celtaire String Band, whose members dress in 1800s period clothing, specializes in playing period Americana music on such acoustic instruments as the fiddle, pennywhistle, guitar, mandolin, vocals, banjo, "bass-box," tambourine, auto-harp, spoons, scrub-board and limberjacks. The Texian String Band will be playing music that would have been played on the Texas frontier and heard in the small riverside town of Washington around the time of the revolution.

The state historic site features three attractions: Independence Hall, Star of the Republic Museum, and Barrington Living History Farm) that will feature special activities during the March celebration. The admission fees for the museum and farm will be waived during the celebration weekend. Independence Hall is always open free of charge, however, visitors pay a modest fee for a guided program.

During the two-day celebration, the Star of the Republic Museum, which is administered by Blinn College, will open its new exhibit "Weather Wisdom: Forecasting in the Texas Republic." The exhibit will include an assortment of 19th century scientific instruments used to measure wind velocity, atmospheric pressure, temperature and humidity. The 19th century is seen as a transitional period from the use of weather lore (e.g. "when a whirlwind spins to the right, it means dry weather") to the systematic collection of weather data. The exhibit will run through February 2015.

This event is made possible by ExxonMobil, Bluebonnet Electric Co-op, and the Arts Council of the Brazos Valley, The City of Brenham, The City of Navasota, Blinn College, KTEX 106 Sounds Like Texas, the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department (TPWD) and the Washington on the Brazos State Park Association.

More detailed information on the festivities planned for March 1 and 2 will be continually updated at www.birthplaceoftexas.com. The public can also call (936) 878-2214 or email Scott.Mcmahon@tpwd.texas.gov for more information.

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Fruit Trees Waking Up?

By Pascual Hernandez
Sutton County Agrilife Extension Agent

Although we've had some cold spells this winter, this has been a warm, sunny week. As if on cue, some peach tree varieties in our area are blooming. This got me to wondering whether future cold may harm the chances for fruit.

It should be noted that some amount of cold is good and even required by our fruit trees. Most hardy fruit trees need a certain amount of cold winter weather to end

their dormancy and to promote spring growth. When winters are too mild, spring growth is delayed, irregular and slow.

Why are chill hours important? During the fall season, decreasing day length and cooler temperatures induce a tree to produce growth inhibitor hormones that disrupt its growth. It is these hormones that maintain a tree in dormancy during winter. The dormant

buds of many plants require cold weather to grow, flower, and develop properly, but requirements vary by species.

Dormancy is interrupted when sufficient cold temperatures break down the growth inhibitors within the tree. A precise number of cumulative hours of chill (temperatures lower than 45 F), are required to break dormancy. Once the appropriate number of chill hours has been achieved, and only after trees are exposed to longer daylight hours and warm enough temperatures for natural growth processes to begin, will active growth resume in the spring.

Extreme cold during winter dormancy, however, may kill the fruit buds. Winter weather rarely

threatens apple, pear, and plum varieties. The stone fruits—cherry, peach, plum and nectarine—can lose cold hardiness due to extended midwinter warm periods. Damage to the flower buds can be extensive, especially if the warm period is followed by a very cold period.

Selecting fruit tree varieties compatible with our chill hours is important. Some of the peach varieties recommended for this area by Texas A&M Agrilife Extension are: Springgold, Juneprince, Junegold, TexRoyal, Sentinal, Harvester, Redglobe, Summergold, Fireprince, Bounty and Milam.

For more information, contact the local County Extension Office.

Update From The Governor: Obamacare and Texas Business

"Obamacare has been a complete failure. Rather than pointing fingers, President Obama should scrap his failed system and give states the flexibility they need to ensure people have long-term access to quality care. Medicaid is a broken system -- a fact President Obama has conceded in the past -- and pouring millions more people into a system that's already creaking from the strain is far from a long-term solution. Obamacare has resulted in millions losing the coverage President Obama promised they could keep, and that isn't Texas' fault."

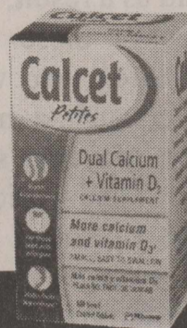
The Texas Taxpayers and Research Association (TTARA) recently released an analysis of Texas' 2014-15 budget, finding that it is one of the leanest in the nation and the state's fiscal outlook is strong.

"The evidence continues to mount that the Texas way of doing business is the best way of doing business," Gov. Perry said. "Our core philosophy of fiscal responsibility has enabled us to address the largest challenges facing our state, like transportation and water, while simultaneously cutting taxes and keeping cash on hand for emergencies. It enables us to meet these challenges from a position of economic strength, with an eye toward continuing our growth well into the future."

"Lawmakers passed a conservative budget that meets the needs of the state, puts us on a sound financial footing, and cut taxes and fees by \$1.4 billion," TTARA President Dale Craymer said.

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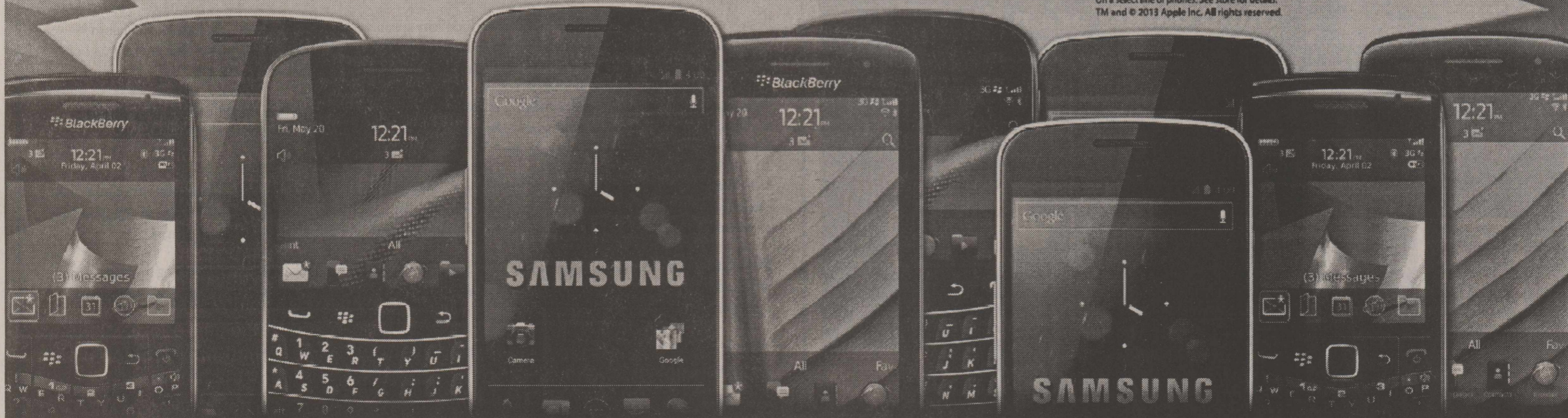
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Passing On The Farm; Not Everyone Wants It

AMARILLO — While tax laws may have made it easier to pass the farm from one generation to the next, changing times have some families looking at the end of a way of life, according to a 30-year veteran of agricultural estate planning Dr. Wayne Hayenga, professor emeritus and Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service specialist from College Station, has traveled throughout Texas for three decades trying to help people pass their agricultural estates on to the next generation.

Hayenga was in the High Plains recently for seven farm and ranch estate planning workshops which attracted about 300 people, most with the same goal in mind. "Every time there are changes to the tax laws, we see more demand for these workshops," he said. "But the people basically just want to figure out how to keep the business going for one or two of the children and make sure all the rest are still taken care of." Hayenga said estate tax

laws have made that easier over the years. Forty years ago, a person could only pass on \$60,000 worth of property tax free and now that's up to \$5.3 million. Also, even if the property increased in value either because of inflation or demand, he said, "we don't have to pay any capital gains tax on it now when someone dies."

However, the continually changing tax laws and the dynamics of the agriculture industry itself are making estate planning anything but a one-size-fits-all deal, said the agricultural economist and attorney.

"Thirty years ago, I could throw something out to 10 farmers that seven or more of them would understand and be able to utilize. Now as farming operations have gotten bigger and different, if you have the same 10 farmers, I could throw out something and maybe only three have the business design that could utilize that idea. The other seven we have to come up with a different plan."

Hayenga likened it to the medical world. "When I was a kid we had the family doctor and he took care of you from your scalp to your toenails. Today we have the

eye doctor, throat doctor, heart doctor, diabetes doctor, foot doctor and dermatologist. Everything is specialized these days."

And just as the operations have changed, so have the families. More often there may be no one interested in running the family farm, he said.

"You may have a 1,000 acres at Dumas and you live there and know the tenants and suppliers and everything there. But if you die and give it to three kids, one in Chicago, one in Houston and one who knows where, they don't know people who can properly take care of it for them. So they worry about that. That asset of yours becomes a worry or a liability for them."

Economies of scale for agriculture also have changed the picture, Hayenga said. Farming was a very labor intensive operation in the 1860s when the Homestead Act was passed.

"For a family with a couple mules and some kids, it was a big job to take care of 160 acres of land and raise corn, cotton, oats or whatever. Now with the machinery, equipment, chemical applications and the irrigation systems required, for a

lot of farmers, I'd say, it is hard to make a living if you don't have 4,000 or 5,000 acres of land and some may have 15,000 to 25,000 acres.

"And rather than using a 40 horsepower Farmall M, the most recent tractor we bought had 485 horsepower, which is 10 times bigger. We can plant 300 acres a day; whereas back when I was a child, my father could plant 15 acres on a really good day."

Farms have had to consolidate to stay in business, and as a result, there are not always those one or two children who want to take over such a major operation, Hayenga said.

"The agricultural ladder I learned about back in college was: you start out farming as a hired man working for a parent or neighbor, then you leased the land, then you bought the land and were an owner or operator, and finally you retired to town and leased to a tenant or let one of your kids take over," he said.

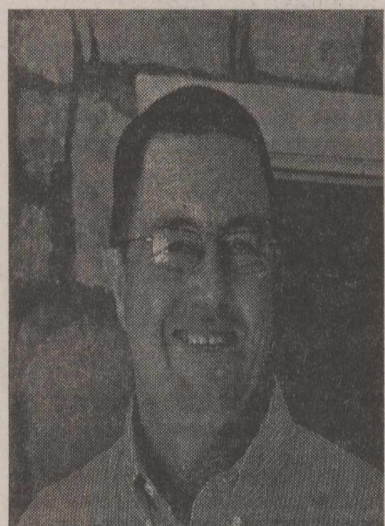
"We don't have that anymore, because particularly in the 70s, a lot of farmers were doing well and they educated their kids — sent them off to college and they

got a professional degree. When they were ready to come back in the 80s, it was a terrible economic time in agriculture. And the question became 'Why give up a good job in Dallas to take a terrible job back on the farm?'"

Also, Hayenga said, as more of the farm youth moved away and married someone from the big city, it wasn't as easy to get everyone to agree they wanted to move back to the farm.

"We want our kids to want what we give them, but that doesn't always work," he said. "What I have seen lately is the heirs have started to squabble — they just can't seem to agree. Instead of having land in Dumas, they may prefer a larger retirement plan or to increase the size of their home, and prefer to just sell off the farm."

"We sometimes hear people say they had to sell the farm to pay the estate taxes. But, mostly that's not true; just some people don't want the farm."



Vote to Re-Elect John Wade in the Republican Primary March 4
County Commissioner Precinct 2

My name is John Wade and I am running to be re-elected to the office of County Commissioner of Precinct 2 in Sutton County. After the passing of my dad, who held the office for 17 years, I was appointed to the position of County Commissioner Precinct 2 in 1993. But, in order to hold that position through two opponents I had to gain the respect and confidence of not only the voters of Precinct 2 but all of Sutton County.

This is a very unique heritage, one family for 37 years helping out the citizens of Sonora and Sutton County. Respect, confidence and caring is what Sutton County is all about. I am asking for your vote and support in the upcoming election. Please remember that early voting starts 18th of February and ends 28th of February. The Primary Election is the 4th of March.

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A Special Message from Conservative Leader Karen Harris

These are unique times and I am a uniquely qualified servant leader. I remember the day I decided to run after having been asked to do so by several elected officials over the years. A young lady in front of me reached down to pick up her baby. A feeling of grief washed over me as I wondered what our beloved Texas will look like when that baby is a young adult. I'm concerned about the future of my grandsons and will protect the futures of your children and grandchildren. Godly and constitutional standards are being removed from our places of government, our schools and our communities.

I live on a now dry Medina Lake. No one has to tell me how important it is to protect our water and property rights because they're tied to our economy. As your representative in Austin, I will make sure that your interests are protected and your values are defended.

I have lived on both the Canadian and Mexican borders, giving me a unique perspective from which to serve you. My physician husband of thirty years and I have owned and operated small medical service businesses. We have seen socialized medicine in Detroit transported across America through Obamacare. I will do everything I can to stop its harmful effects in Texas.

I have been vetted and endorsed by respected conservative organizations and leaders, among them Texas Right to Life, Texans for Fiscal Responsibility, Young Conservatives of Texas, David Barton of WallBuilders, Jonathan Saenz of Texas Values, Kelly Shackelford of Liberty Institute, Texas Home School Coalition, the Llano Tea Party and Texas Eagle Forum. I am A rated by the NRA. I have testified before the Texas Senate and have been speaking out about conservative and moral issues for over 30 years.

Because of my proven conservative record, Governor Rick Perry appointed me to two positions—the Health and Human Services Commission Council and to a Texas Education Association Advisory Committee. I have spent time in Austin and know what happens on the House floor and sadly, behind closed doors. We can and must do better.

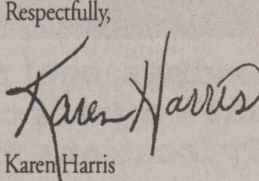
Some people from other states call Texans bigots and say we do not care for those in need. That has not been my experience as a black Republican. Texans are a loving, compassionate people who want to give a hand up in the form of jobs and opportunity. And Texas remains the best, last hope for our nation.

As an Executive Board Member of the Texas Federation of Republican Women, I know how rare a black conservative woman is. I am unashamedly a woman of faith, pro-life, pro-traditional marriage, pro-Second Amendment, pro-religious liberty, pro-small government and pro-"we the people." And let's face it. I'm Wendy Davis' and Barack Obama's worst nightmare.

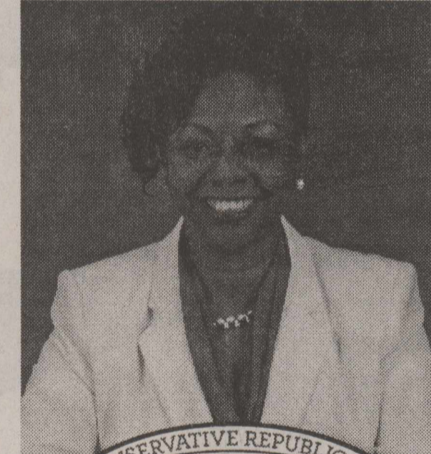

We need to push back government intrusion from our lives. Serving you is my highest priority—not climbing the political ladder. I don't need accolades from leaders. I am a servant leader, one who listens and acts with conviction. I will courageously uphold the US and Texas Constitutions as well as our rural, Hill Country, Texas values.

I humbly ask for your support, your vote and your prayers. As your State Representative I will do my utmost to serve you with integrity and honor.

Respectfully,



Karen Harris

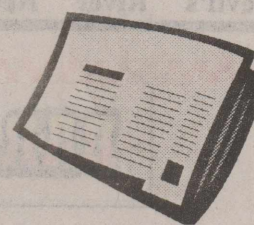



www.KarenHarris.org

Pol. adv. paid for by Karen Harris for State Representative, P.O. Box 693, Pipe Creek, TX 78063.

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.

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Employment

Notice is hereby given that the City of Sonora is now accepting applications for 2 positions for Laborer. Applicants should have a valid Texas Driver's License, be able to maintain and repair property of the municipality. Applications can be picked up at City Hall, 201 E. Main, Sonora, Texas 76950 and should be returned to City Hall. Applications will be accepted until the positions are filled. The City of Sonora is an equal opportunity employer.

Employment

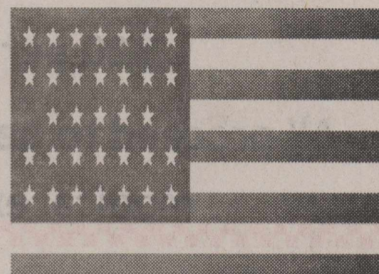
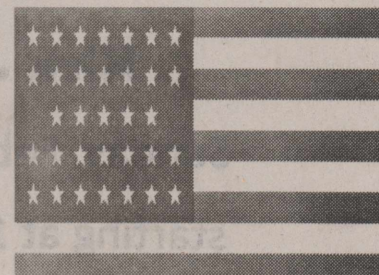
Mr. D's is now accepting applications for cashiers. Come by and pick up application

For Rent

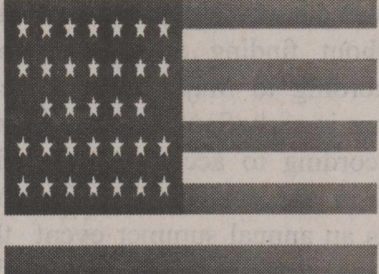
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Notice is hereby given that Sutton County is now accepting applications for part time or relief driver for the Thunderbird Van. Applicant must provide valid drivers license and must be able to travel out of town. Applications can be obtained and returned to the auditor's office. Applications will be accepted until position is filled. Sutton County is an equal opportunity employer.

Residential Properties - Sonora	Price
112 Uno Street	\$29,500.00
306 E. Pecan	\$45,000.00
1201 Tayloe	\$69,500.00
109 Draw Street	\$95,000.00
1206 Glasscock Ave.	\$109,500.00 Sold
1302 Tayloe	\$118,500.00
312 Brookside	\$125,000.00 Under Contract
925 E. 2nd St.	\$169,500.00 Under Contract
116 Deerwood Dr.	\$179,500.00
681 FM 864 House on 1.5 acres	\$250,000.00
1312 PR 2239 House on 10 acres	\$350,000.00
Residential Properties - Ozona	Price
1105 Ave. C - Ozona	\$260,000.00
Commercial Properties	Price
404 Sulton 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	\$67,500.00 Price Reduced
511 Cornell St. - Head Start Bldg.	\$135,000.00
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	\$275,000.00
Acreage	Price
100 acres - Crockett County-Deer Canyon Ranch S/D	\$65,000.00
100 acres - Crockett County - Rim Rock 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 Co. - RRR S/D W/ Travel Trailer	\$95,000.00
100 acres - Crockett Co. - RRR S/D W/ Improvements	\$95,000.00
112.7 acres - Sutton County - Juno Rd.	\$132,423.00 Under Contract
209 acres - Crockett County - Horseshoe Ranch S/D	\$209,810.00
134.97 acres - Crockett Co. Hershey Ranch S/D	\$250,000.00
655 acres W/ House - Sulton County -Baker RD	\$1,111,000.00
600 acres - Sulton County - Near City Limits	\$1,170,000.00
1550 acres - North Sulton County -	\$1,782,500.00
Approx. 3300 acres Val Verde County	\$2,062,500.00
1686 acres - Val Verde Co. - High fenced w/ Lodge	\$2,149,650.00

View all listings at www.SonoraTexasRealEstate.com/

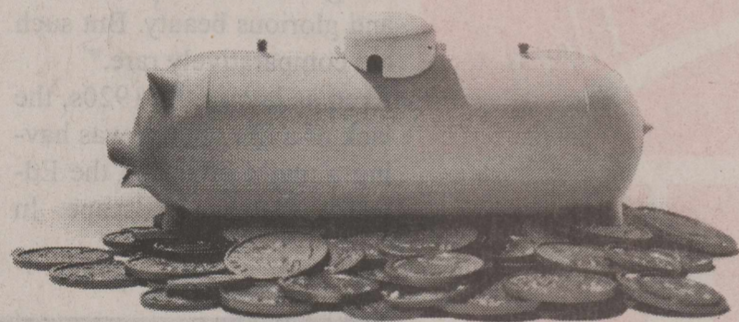
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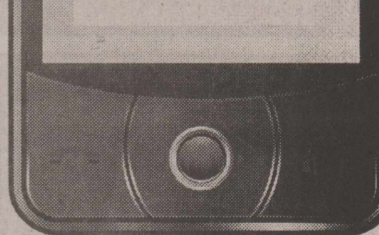
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Continued From Front page: Fire Culture

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by grass. They also realized that fire as needed to maintain open prairies. Fire was an important tool to manipulate the vegetation with the purpose of improving buffalo habitat. Without fire, the alternative food source for potential forested areas was deer and squirrel meat. Numerous written accounts support the use of fire by the Indians including the following statement from an early pioneer: "In the spring the Indians throughout the buffalo country burned off the old grass in places where they had not used a fire drive in the previous autumn." Early Anglo Texans and Fire Two major changes occurred across Texas and much of the western United States during the period from about 1700 to 1900. Grazing by free-roaming animals (i.e., buffalo)

changed to grazing by relatively free-roaming livestock and ultimately confined livestock. Concomitant with this change was the influence of early settlers on the frequency, timing, placement and extent of fires. "One certain indicator of the importance of prairies to early settlers in eastern Texas was their practice, observed in even the earliest years of colonization, of regularly setting fire to the grasslands. This practice, perhaps inherited from the Indians, supposedly destroyed weeds and dead grass, so as to make room for the new grass. In addition, the fire removed all bushes and young trees, thereby preserving the prairie from encroachment by the forest. Indeed, it is fairly well agreed that most of the prairies in the eastern half of the United States were created by Indian clearing activity and maintained by annual firing. For the Indian, preservation of prairies meant that grazing bison would remain in the area, while for the Anglo-American, annual burning of the grasslands assured ample forage for the herds of cattle typically owned by the frontiersmen." An early settler in the area reported in 1834 "that prairies are all burnt over twice a year - in mid-summer, and about the first of winter." A well documented fact is that before the Civil War, over 75 percent of the Caucasian population in the southeastern United States consisted of pastoral herders of Celtic origin from England, France, and Spain, where fire had been an important part of their nomadic culture. This fire culture still remains throughout

most of the Southeast today but is lacking in many other U.S. regions, including most of Texas.

It's interesting why the practice of firing the prairies didn't take hold with the early ranchers in West Texas. Since a number of these early ranchers came from East Texas or regions in the south eastern states where fire was used on a frequent basis, they certainly had the opportunity to bring a fire culture with them. They also had the opportunity to witness fire in their new home.

Quoting Walter Prescott Webb in "The Texas Rangers," page 315: "... the whole country from the Llano via the head of the Guadalupe and Frio to the Nueces had been burned, and there were few places where water and grass could be found together. 'I have traveled a whole day at a time without finding any grass,' according to Major John B. Jones in early Sept 1874."

According to accounts written in the early 1880s, fire was an annual summer event in the western region of the Edwards Plateau. "As often as not the fire ran uncontrolled, destroying a million acres of grass down to the roots and wiping out the herder's plans to graze his flock through the winter."

In 1854 Olmstead commented on the suppressed growth of live oaks near Austin in "A journey through Texas," page 130:

"The live oaks are often short, and even stunted in growth, lacking the rich vigor and full foliage of those further east. Occasionally a tree is met with which has escaped its share of injury from prairie burnings and northers, and has grown into a symmetrical and glorious beauty. But such are comparatively rare."

Even as late as the 1920s, the lack of a fire culture was having a major effect on the Edwards Plateau landscape. In

1923, V.L. Cory became a botanist at the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station at Sonora where he met an elderly cowboy who told of driving a flock of sheep from Junction, Texas, through the area of the Experiment Station and on to Juno 50 years before (circa 1873) when the vegetation was much different. Cory reported the cowboy's description as the following:

"... There were no fences, nor was the country timbered then, as is now the case. This valley and all the other valleys then were free from woody plants; and the entire country was a prairie of tall bunchgrass, reaching at least to ones stirrups... The only short-grass was around water holes and in depressions in the valleys."

When asked about the abundance of juniper 50 years before, he remembered the cowboy's reply as: "These were few in number and confined to the headers (the gully or ravine-like beginnings of the branches of the draws, or drainage courses, on the escarpment bordering the valleys)... but now the tall grass has gone, trees have spread everywhere, and the valleys, once having grass only, now are occupied chiefly by weeds, thorny shrubs, and prickly pear."

It is interesting why both the botanist and cowboy did not mention the relationship between fire and grasslands or lack of fire and increase in woody plants. It's as if fire was not considered an option; maybe a reason for this is the semi-arid rangelands of the Edwards Plateau were so different from the more humid regions further east.

However, there were some in the Edwards Plateau who understood quiet well what had happened.

Continued in Next Week's Edition

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- Retired as a Lt. Colonel from United States Air Force
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