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The Devil's River News

Serving Sutton County Since 1890

75¢

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SONORA, TEXAS

Thursday, February 12, 2015

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Sonora Splits District 5 Showdowns



Gracie Dozier Passes on a fast Break.

Photos and Story By Ray and Nancy Glasscock

Win some. Lose some. That was how it went for both the Broncos and the District 5 leading Lady Broncos. After last week's games, the Broncos dropped to third place in district and the Lady Broncos were still leading despite their first district loss. Still, they were ranked 20th by the TABC.

Coach Dozier's win streak was snapped, and the Lady Broncos suffered a district loss to the Coahoma Lady Bulldogs at home. The taller Lady Bulldogs broke Sonora's press and pulled ahead for good at 2:23 left in the game to eke out the 54-49 victory. The Lady Bulldogs outscored Sonora 35-21 in the second half.

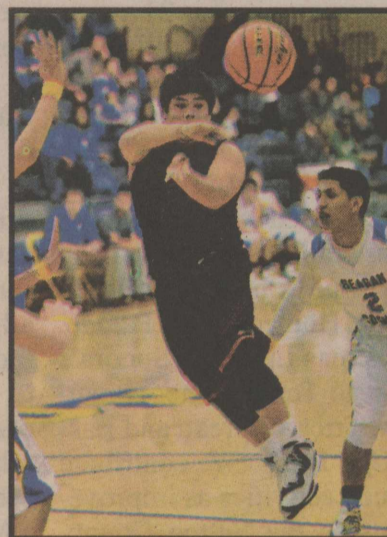
The Broncos defeated Coahoma at home in the nightcap 62-57 despite senior Braxton Iden's 33 points for the visitors. The Broncos trailed at the half by six points after only scoring two points in the first period. After halftime, the Broncos started zeroing in on the basket and outscored the Bulldogs 43-32. Gabe Rollert and John Arredondo each had two, three-pointers in the second half, while Luke James had one. Rollert led the Broncos with 21 points. Arredondo had 8 and James had six - all in the fourth period.

On Friday night in Big Lake,

the Lady Broncos easily defeated the last place Reagan County Lady Owls 72-10. The Lady Owls' offensive plan was to see which player could dribble the ball the farthest down the court prior to turning the ball over. Gracie Dozier led all scoring with 20 points despite a rough night on the free throw line. Junior Janelle Vasquez had 19 points despite being knocked to the floor and slammed into the wall by the tag-teaming Lady Owls. Tyler Hampton had a bonus night of stealing the ball and blocking the few shots the Lady Owls were able to get near the basket. The Lady Broncos are 6-1 in District 5-3A.

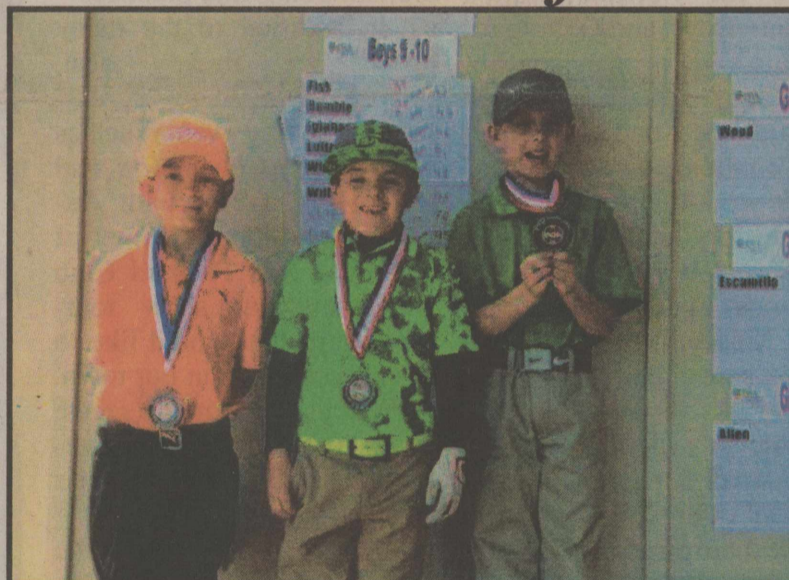
It was a different story for the Broncos. In the first game at home in January, the Broncos kept the score close. Friday night's game in Big Lake was

one the Broncos would like to forget. Turnovers plagued the Broncos from start to finish. Additionally, only Rollert and James were able to penetrate the zone. The Broncos lost 59-41. The Broncos are 6-6 for the season, 3-3 in district.



John Arredondo makes a quick pass.

Ford Dominates NTPGA Golf!!



Dylan Ford played in his first NTPGA Spring Series Tournament for 2015 at Green Tree Country Club in Midland Texas this Sunday.

With a total of eight players in his age group, this was the largest field of players he had ever played against at one tournament. The large field of players did not phase Dylan as he went on to smoke the competition leaving no doubt who the best player was on that day. He had one bogey, one double bogey, one birdie and six pars to finish the round with a 38, two over par. The closest player came in with a 42, six over par. Dylan struck the ball well and had an awesome day.

Dylan's parents have registered him to play in a US Kids Golf Tournament in San Antonio on the last weekend of this month. This will be new territory for him. Congratulations Dylan and Good Luck in your next tournament.



Hill Country District Junior Livestock Show In Kerrville, Texas

Junior Meat Wether Goat: Class 11 Place 3rd
Kodi Ann Davis 5 th grader at Sonora Intermediate School
Sister Koda Joy Davis is holding ribbon, 4th grade at Sonora Intermediate School. Parents are : Robert and Candy Davis
Grandparents: Clinton and Julie Gamel of Mason, Jim and Jo Davis of Menard, and Jim and Margaret Garrett of Sonora.

Cross Signs to Play at Mary Hardin Baylor



Bronco Senior Elijah Cross visited The University of Mary Hardin Baylor today and has given them a verbal commitment to play football next year.

Sonora Bronco Band Rocks Competition

On Saturday, February 7, Nineteen members of the Bronco band performed various musical selections at U.I.L. Solo-Ensemble contest at Howard Payne University. The results are as follows...

Flute Quartet -1st Division, Olivia Martinez, Hazel Kent, Yesinia Lujan, April Friare. Clarinet Quartet - 1st Division, Kali Mendez, Elyssa Prieto, Marcos Talamantes, Esteban Marin. Bassoon Solo, memorized - 1st Division, Tate Shannon. Alto Saxophone Solo, memorized- 1st Division. Delaney Ramsdell. Trumpet Solo, memorized- 1st Division, Abi Garcia. Other HS participants Juan Miguel Jimenez, Chris Adkins, Melanie Acevedo, Michael Bell, Randy Lozano, JD Garza, Joseph Delgado, Kristin Garrett

The eleven 1st division winners will travel to Austin Memorial Day weekend to play their musical selections at the Texas State Solo-Ensemble Contest. Please congratulate these band members on a job well done.

On Saturday, February 7, 29 members of the Colt band performed various musical selections at U.I.L. Solo-Ensemble contest at Howard Payne University. 58 1st division medals were awarded with a 100% success rate for events performed. The results are as follows...

Wesley Wilson; baritone solo, trombone solo, tuba/baritone quartet, medium ensemble= Four 1st division medals!
Payton Dawson; flute solo, flute quartet, medium ensemble= Three 1st division medals

Ashton Thomas; flute solo, flute quartet, medium ensemble= Three 1st division medals

Melanie Perez; flute solo, flute quartet, medium ensemble= Three 1st division medals

Evan Shannon; tuba solo, tuba/baritone quartet, medium ensemble= Three 1st division medals

Cayley Moss; clarinet solo, medium ensemble= two 1st division medals

Ethan Ham; baritone saxophone solo, medium ensemble= two 1st division medals

Traci Vickers; alto saxophone solo, medium ensemble= two 1st division medals

Rafael Alviso; trumpet solo, medium ensemble= two 1st division medals

Christian Castilleja; trumpet solo, medium ensemble= two 1st division medals

Dylan Hazelton; trumpet solo, medium ensemble= two 1st division medals

Kevin Ramos; trumpet solo, medium ensemble= two 1st division medals

Avery Leamon; French horn solo, medium ensemble= two 1st division medals

Karah Martinez; French horn solo, medium ensemble= two 1st division medals

Ethan Adams; trombone solo, medium ensemble= two 1st division medals

LaShae Garcia; trombone solo, medium ensemble= two 1st division medals

Levi Garrett; trombone solo, medium ensemble= two 1st division medals

Blayze Sykes; tuba solo, tuba/baritone quartet= two 1st division medals

Rivers Martinez; tuba/baritone quartet, medium ensemble= two 1st division medals

Kayla Gee; tuba/baritone quartet, medium ensemble= two 1st division medals

Jesus Chavez; snare drum solo, medium ensemble= two 1st division medals

Harley Daniel; snare drum solo, medium ensemble= two 1st division medals

Christina Garza; medium ensemble- 1st division medal

Danica Jimenez; medium ensemble- 1st division medal

Braden Adams; trumpet solo- 1st division medal

Alex Castilleja; tuba/baritone quartet- 1st division medal
Hailey Guerra; tuba/baritone quartet- 1st division medal



Wellness Ministry

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent, and with that, the spiritual practice of fasting. The idea of fasting seems overwhelming and unachievable to many people. But there are many ways to fast: you can take away a bad habit or add in a healthy spiritual practice. No matter what it is...choose something. Choose something to honor this period that leads us into the miraculous season of Easter. Humble yourself. Give Him more of you. Use the practice of fasting as a daily reminder to strengthen your relationship with the Lord.

10 WAYS TO FAST THIS LENTEN SEASON:

1. Give up sweets and desserts.
2. Take a 10-minute walk each day and spend it in prayer and gratitude.
3. Fast from meat on Fridays.
4. Commit to reading your Bible – even a little bit – each day.
5. Do a weekly food fast/liquids-only day.
6. Fast from complaining.
7. Vow to eat vegetables every day.
8. Offer a random act of kindness each day – a smile to a stranger, a phone-call to an old friend, a handwritten note thanking your pastor, helping a neighbor, etc
9. Abstain from alcohol.
10. Keep a gratitude journal – write down 3 things you are thankful for each day and praise God for it.

Is this not the fast I choose: to loose the bonds of wickedness, to undo the straps of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Isaiah 58:6

Chelsea Blackbird is a Certified Nutritional Therapist. For more information contact: chelsea@thechristiannutritionist.com or www.thechristiannutritionist.com.

2015 Sonora Speech Meet Results:

Santiago Garza—3rd in Calculator Apps, Jill Buitron—6th in Calculator Apps, Cip Tobias—3rd in Number Sense, Alexa Sykes—6th in Computer Science, James Smith—6th in Literary Criticism, Kristy Sanchez—1st in Ready Writing, Shayna Edwards—4th in Ready Writing, Jeremy Doran—1st in Editorial Writing, 1st in Persuasive, Taylor Lemon—5th in Editorial Writing, 1st in Feature Writing, Hazel Kent—3rd in Novice Prose, Issek Hernandez—2nd in Novice Poetry, Michael Bell—1st in Prose, Kaitlyn Lopez—3rd in Prose, Straton Rushing—2nd in Poetry, Layla Burke—4th in Poetry, Juan Miguel Jimenez—3rd in Informative, Autumn Ayala—5th in Informative.

Team Results
 Calculator Apps—2nd Place Team, Computer Science—3rd Place Team, Journalism—2nd Place, Speech—1st Place.

Overall Sonora took Sweepstakes!!!! Go Broncos!!!!

Bronco Golf Results:

The boy's placed 1st in Del Rio. Josh Galindo got 2nd overall with a 85/81 and Hunter Hughes placed 3rd with a 90/78. Dillon Vaughn shot 92/92 and Jonathon Martinez shot 111/109. The boy's placed 2nd in Kerrville (to 4-A Brownwood.) Hunter placed 1st overall with a 75 and Josh placed 4th with an 80. Dillon and Jonathon both shot 94. We tied Kerrville for 2nd and decided to have a playoff with our #1's to decide it. After they both made a par on the first... playoff hole, Hunter birdied the next one with an amazing approach shot over trees which left him a 4 foot putt.

The JV also played well In Kerrville: Ramiro Reyes (99), Caleb Ritchey (100), Ryker Marshall (106), Ryan Martinez (106), and Ronald Pincence (115).

Letter To The Editor

Main Street Matters

The Sonora Main Street Program has been a part of this community for 21 years. We have worked diligently to provide this town with projects such as the Sonora Welcome Sign and the Bank Vault Park, and in 2012, we also painted the downtown curbs, railings and handicap parking. We host events such as the Homecoming Parade, Christmas Lighting, Sonora's Toast to Texas Wine, Downtown Trick or Treat, and Easter Egg Hunt. We contribute to such activities as improvements to the Sutton County Rodeo Arena, and to the Sonora Golf Club. We sponsor others events such as the Devil's River Music Flood, West Texas Championship Cook-Off, Consuelo Ranch Rope for Warriors, Sutton County Days, and Golfing for Scouts. We've also contributed to an advertising co-op through the Sonora Chamber of Commerce.

We work to preserve Sonora's history and share it with visitors. We are home to the Veterans and Pioneer Families Museum. We strive to make sure that every visitor that walks through our door is able to experience all the wonderful attractions Sonora has to offer. We personally guide them on a historic walking tour through our downtown which includes our museum, the Old Ice House Museum, the Sutton County Courthouse, the old Sutton County Jail, Miers Home, and Depot. We load them up with brochures and maps and make sure they know about the Caverns of Sonora, Eaton Hill Nature Center, and all of Sonora's restaurants and hotels.

We openly support small businesses. Since Bill and I have started working here 5 vacant downtown buildings have been filled and approximately 23 jobs have been created. We maintain the planters, pocket park and welcome

sign. We supply free Wi-Fi for the downtown area which is used by travelers, citizens, and businesses. Recently, we've had an article about outlaw Will Carver published in the Bullock Museum. We stay true to our roots and honor our heroes.

Through the Texas Main Street Program we have access to a full range of design services from a professionally-trained TMSP staff that includes a licensed architect to help downtown property owners undertake effective rehabilitation and restoration. We also have the right to use a Main Street-specific pool of improvement funds through the Texas Capital Fund of the Texas Department of Agriculture. We attend two training programs a year through TMSP to keep up with current tourism trends and practices.

In addition to the many events we already host, Sonora Main Street is currently planning events such as a 4th of July Celebration, and two 2 day events with Antique Automobiles of America and Lone Star Packard Club which are car show touring groups that would like to spend some time in our town. We are also working to create a grant program to help downtown businesses improve their facades and signage.

We are proud. Proud to serve this community, proud to educate travelers, and proud to call Sonora home.

The City of Sonora has decided to review our program and decide whether or not they would like to continue giving us 3% Hotel Occupancy Tax. Without our 3% our program could likely fail. Without funding, Sonora Main Street could not supply Sonora and it visitors with the services we have in the past. Sonora could not have access to those Main Street-specific improvement funds, Texas Main Street architects, or any assistance through the Texas Main Street Program. Sonora could lose our museum, and the families

who have contributed to the museum would no longer a place to honor their families, both military and early settlers.

Your present City Council consists of Mayor Wanda Shurley, Faye Deel, Terri Johnson, Todd Munn, and Jeremy Dawson. If you feel that you are also proud and that you support our organization and the services Sonora Main Street provides for this town and its citizens, please call, write, speak with your city council men and women. Tell them why you feel we are important. Any effort to support

us is greatly appreciated and will not go unnoticed.

Please attend the Tuesday, February 17th City Council Meeting at 6pm in the City Hall. If you have any questions or comments to discuss with us, please come by the office on the corner of Main and Concho between City Hall and the Sonora Bank or give us a call at (325)387-2248. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Alicia Lowe, Manager

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 Go Broncos and Lady Broncos!

Sonora Church Directory

Primera Iglesia Bautista 504 Santa Clara 387-2035	Church of Christ 304 N. Water 387-3190
The Church of the Good Shepherd Presbyterian 319 E. Mulberry 387-2616	First Baptist Church 11 E. Oak 387-2951
Lighthouse Community Church 1705 N. Crockett 387-9100	St. John's Episcopal Church 404 E. Poplar 387-2955
St. Ann's Catholic Church 311 W. Plum 387-2278	First United Methodist Church 201 N. Water 387-2466
Jehovah's Witness 310 St. Ann's St 387-5658/387-5518	Casa Del Altarero Asamblea De Dios 306 W. 4th St 325-226-1789
Faith Apostolic Church 120 N. Concho Ave. 206-0277	

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2015

TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

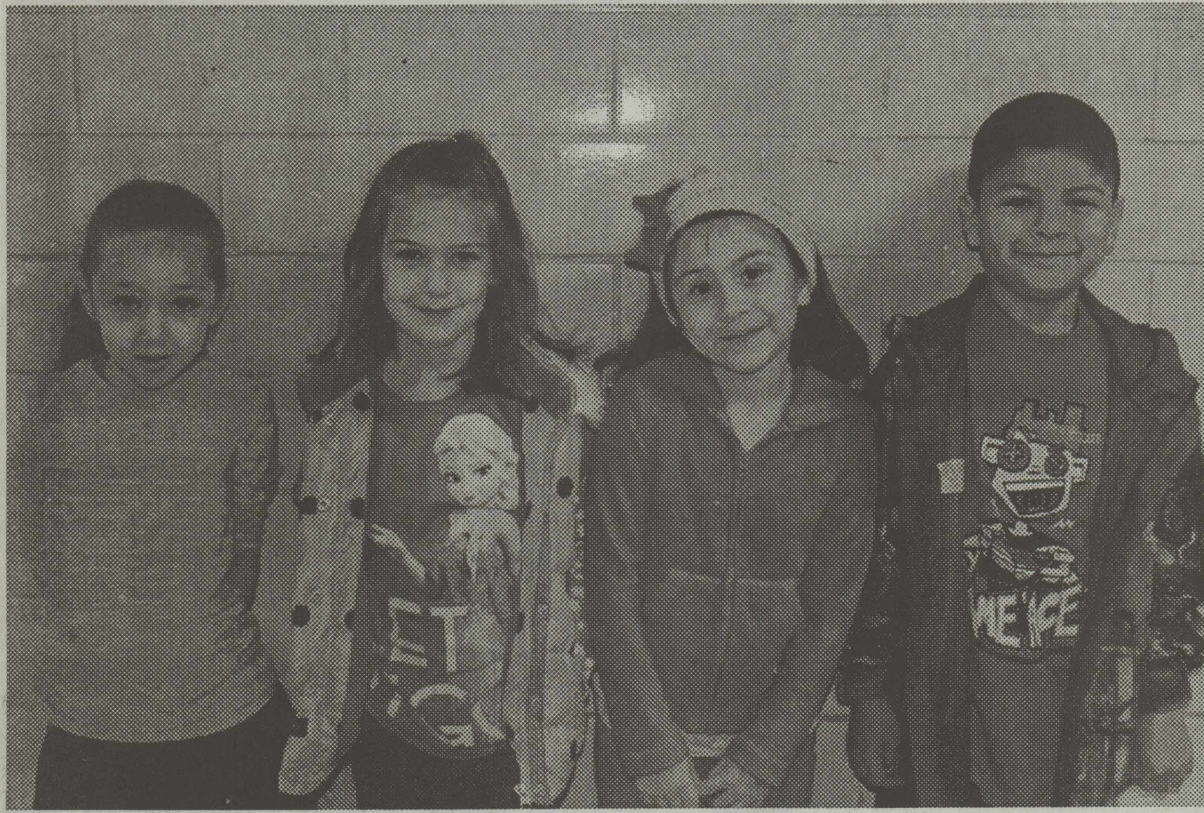
Fair Housing Public Service Announcement Public Service Announcement: Fair Housing, It's the Law

To promote fair housing practices, the City of Sonora encourages potential homeowners and renters to be aware of their rights under the National Fair Housing Law.

Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968, as amended, prohibits discrimination against any person on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin in the sale or rental of units in the housing market.

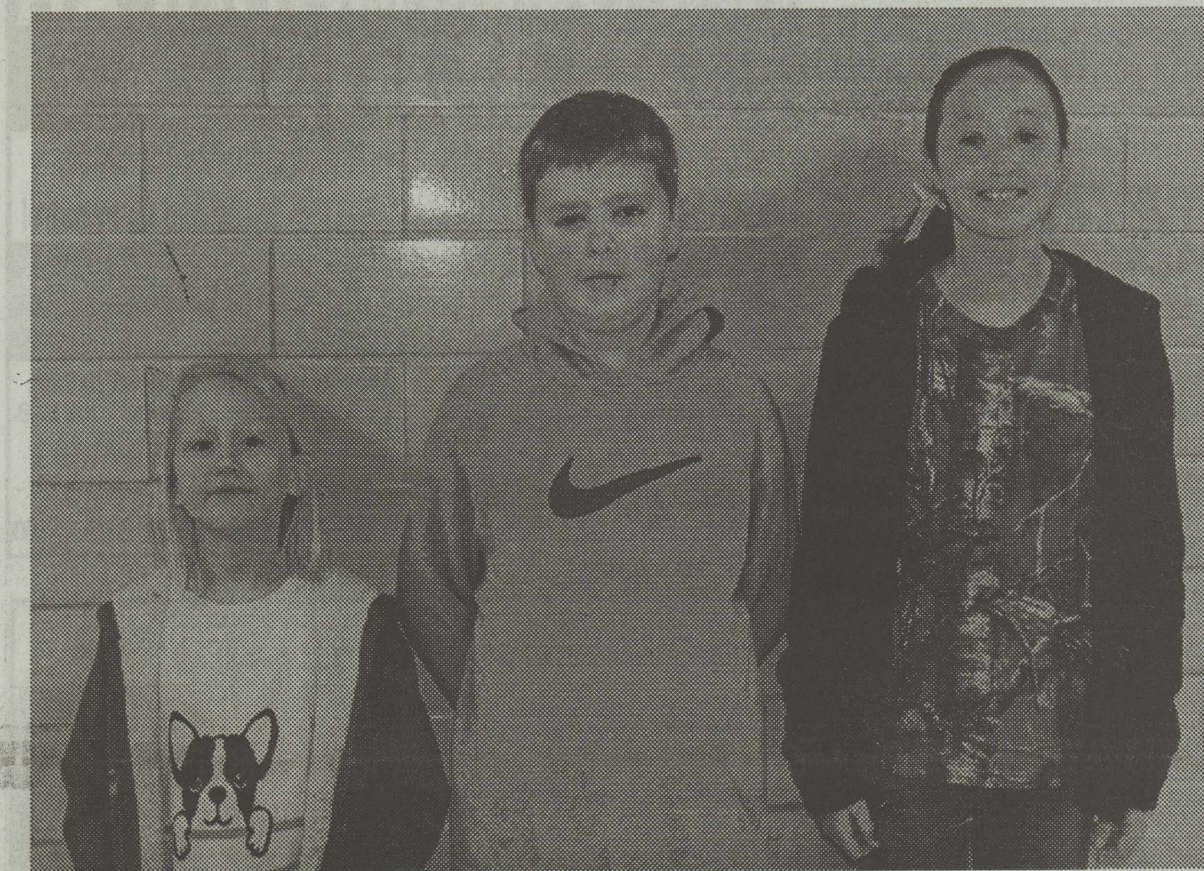
For more information on fair housing or to report possible fair housing discrimination, call the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's toll-free hotline at 1-800-669-9777.

Students of the Week



Elementary

PreK – Masiela Valdez, K – Emily Nichols,
1 – Sinise Rodriguez, 2 – Brian Mendoza



Intermediate

3 – Sage Moss, 4 – Hayden Hartman, 5 – Ariana Arispe

House For Sale By Owner

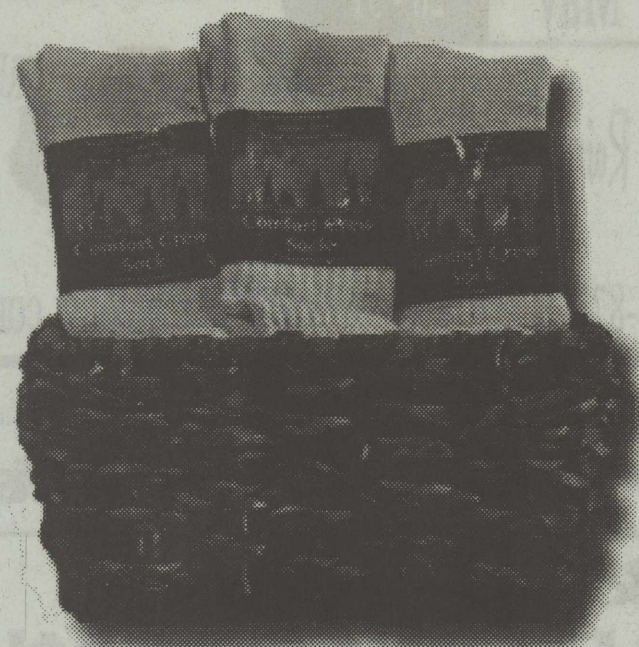


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Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

NOTICE OF APPLICATION AND PRELIMINARY DECISION FOR TPDES PERMIT FOR MUNICIPAL WASTEWATER RENEWAL

PERMIT NO. WQ0010545001

APPLICATION AND PRELIMINARY DECISION. City of Sonora, 450 East Main Street, Sonora, Texas 76950, has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for a renewal of Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (TPDES) Permit No. WQ0010545001, which authorizes the discharge of treated domestic wastewater at a daily average flow not to exceed 876,000 gallons per day. TCEQ received this application on June 11, 2014.

The facility is located at 1585 Private Road 3451, south of Sonora and south of Dry Devils River, approximately 6,000 feet south and 2,000 feet west of the intersection of U.S. Highway 277 and 290, in Sutton County, Texas 76950. The treated effluent is discharged to Dry Devils River; thence to Devils River in Segment No. 2309 of the Rio Grande Basin. The un-

classified receiving water use is minimal aquatic life use for Dry Devils River. The designated uses for Segment No. 2309 are exceptional aquatic life use, public water supply and primary contact recreation. All determinations are preliminary and subject to additional review and/or revisions.

The TCEQ Executive Director has completed the technical review of the application and prepared a draft permit. The draft permit, if approved, would establish the conditions under which the facility must operate. The Executive Director has made a preliminary decision that this permit, if issued, meets all statutory and regulatory requirements. The permit application, Executive Director's preliminary decision, and draft permit are available for viewing and copying at Sonora City Hall, 201 East Main Street, Sonora, Texas. This link to an electronic map of the site or facility's general location is provided as a public courtesy and not part of the application or notice. For the exact location of the facility, refer to the application. <http://www.tceq.texas.gov/assets/public/hb610/index.html?lat=30.551111&lng=>

Texas Game Wardens Arrest Night Hunters near Downtown New Braunfels

AUSTIN – Texas game wardens have arrested two adults and two juveniles for killing three deer and firing as many as 30 rifle rounds in and around Landa and Prince Solms parks in the New Braunfels city limits. "From the evidence we have developed, this appears to be a case of indiscriminate thrill killing," says Capt. Jeff Carter, whose district command includes Comal County. "On top of that, multiple rifle rounds were being fired at night in a populated area. The outcome of this could have been much worse."

State involvement in the case began at 12:20 a.m. today when game wardens Nichole Leonard and Brent Satsky responded to a call for assistance from the New Braunfels Police Department. When they arrived on the scene a short time later, they learned that local officers had stopped a pickup truck near Landa Street and Paradise Alley while investigating a report of gunshots in the area.

Two dead bucks and one doe were found in the bed of the truck, which was occupied by two men and two teenage boys. When officers checked the vehicle for weapons, they discovered multiple empty shell casings on the floorboards.

The game wardens arrested the four suspects and took them to the New Braun-

fels Police Department for further questioning. After receiving permission to search the vehicle they found a .22 caliber rifle hidden under the rear seat.

Charged with hunting deer at night and hunting from a vehicle on a public roadway, each offense a Class A misdemeanor, were Eric G. Johnston, 25 and Anthony E. Castillo, 39, both of New Braunfels. Both men were booked into the Comal County Jail in lieu of \$3,000 bond each. The two juveniles were released to the custody of their parents pending later prosecution.

PUBLIC HEARING FOR EXPENDING SECTION 4B TAX PROCEEDS

The City Council will hold a public hearing concerning the Sonora Economic Development Corporation expending Section 4B sales tax funds for the following project:

1. Proposed infrastructure project to provide \$225,000 to the City of Sonora for assistance in the costs to improve the City of Sonora's sewer system. These funds will enable the engineering, planning and construction

needed to implement the extension of our current sewer infrastructure in order to promote and enhance the economic growth in the community.

The hearing will be held on Tuesday, February 17, 2015 at 6:00 p.m., City Hall, 201 E. Main, Sonora, Texas.

All citizens are invited to attend and provide the Council with written or oral comments.

Extension Offers Generation Next: School for Next Generation of Ranchers

Registration is now open for the Generation Next: Our Turn to Ranch Schools. Why a ranching school? Census data continues to show the aging of the American producer, with the average age of the American farmer increasing from 57.1 in 2007 to 58.3 in 2012. What's more concerning however, is the slow rate at which new people are entering agriculture.

The Generation Next, Our Turn to Ranch Schools are developed for younger audiences (18-35 years of age, although it's open to all who are interested). As children or grandchildren of landowners, finding your place in the ranching operation can be difficult. This school will cover the basics of how to start an agricultural business, add to an existing ranch operation, market your product, select the right operation for your situation, and tips for how to best manage land with the technologies we have available today.

Participants will also gain ideas about operations you can add to an existing ranch, and learn options for setting up grazing & wildlife leases. They will discuss business types, tax info, & insurance needs.

The registration fee is \$100 (\$25 discount for students) and includes 2 full days of classes from expert instructors, a resource notebook and jump drive, 5 meals, and a Generation Next: Our Turn to Ranch School Completion Certificate at the end of the course.

Schools Available Include:
San Angelo: March 5th-6th
Stephenville: March 12th-13th
Corpus Christi: April 9th-10th

Send your children, grandchildren, or Yourself! Staying tied to the land doesn't have to be difficult.

Participation is limited to the first 50 people per location. To register, visit <https://agriferegister.tamu.edu/ESSM> or call 979-845-2604. For more information, you can also contact Megan Clayton at 361-265-9203 or email at Megan.Clayton@ag.tamu.edu.

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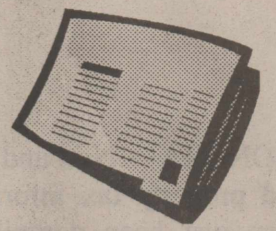
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The Devil's River News Classified



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Want Ad

Will buy old or unwanted horses. FMI call George at (325) 446-6081.

For Sale

Want to buy a 1979 Sutton County History Book? Please Call 325-387-2826 FMI.

Employment

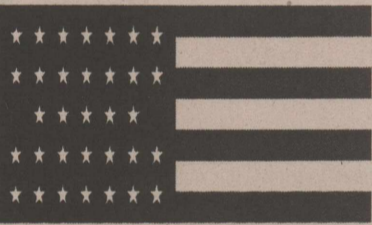
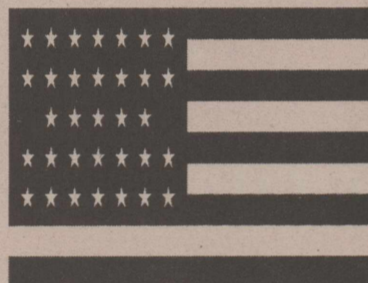
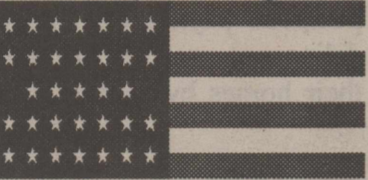
Mr. D's is now accepting applications for cashiers. Come by and pick up application

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Sonora ISD is accepting applications for the position of Cafeteria Support Staff. Applicant must be dependable, be able to work well with others, self-motivated and be able to work flexible hours. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled and may be obtained by contacting the Superintendent's Office at 807 S. Concho or by downloading an application at www.sonoraisd.net. EOE

The Food and Resource Center of Sutton County is accepting applications for a part-time Executive Director. Applicants should have knowledge of and a desire to serve the local community, experience in dealing with the public, and have computer and database management skills. Salary will be commensurate with experience. Applications may be picked up at First United Methodist Church during office hours.



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West Central Wireless is accepting applications for **Part-Time Account Manager** position.

Candidates must have strong communication skills as well as excellent sales experience and the ability to perform multiple tasks simultaneously. Enjoys working with the public and has great customer service skills. Windows, Excel and Internet experience essential. Bilingual a plus. Must have a valid driver's license. Hours are Monday - Friday 12:30-6:00.

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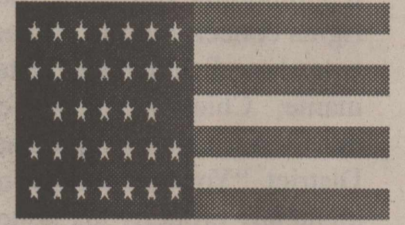
Owned and Operated by
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325-277-6883

Foreman · Todd Emery 325-277-0979

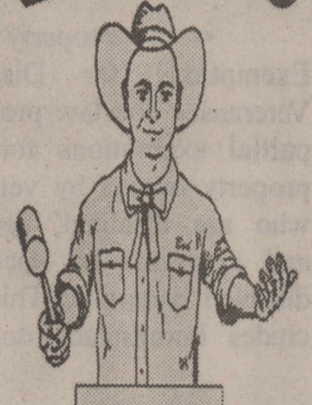
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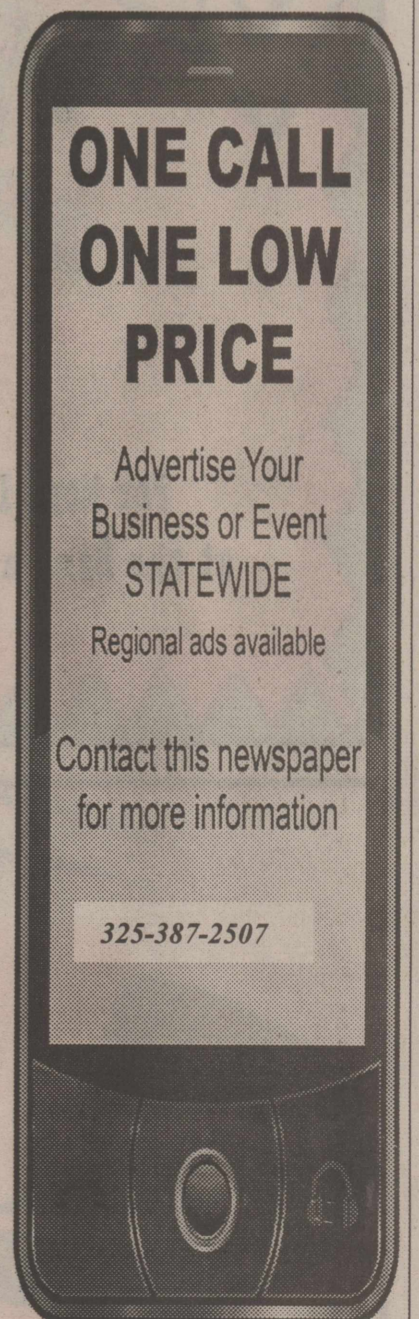
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Updated Property Tax Information Now Available for Texas Taxpayers

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

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

This includes information about the following programs.

Property Tax Exemptions for Disabled Veterans - The law provides partial exemptions for any property owned by veterans who are disabled, spouses and survivors of deceased disabled veterans. This includes homesteads donated

to disabled veterans by charitable organizations at no cost to the disabled veterans. The amount of exemption is determined according to 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 property; own and operate energy storage systems; or store offshore drilling equipment while not in use may also be eligible for statutory exemptions.

Rendering Taxable Property - If a business owns tangible personal property that is used to produce income, the business must file a rendition with its local county appraisal district

by a specified 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 board (ARB) can consider and what to expect during a protest hearing. The publication also discusses the options 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 the home and, as a result, lowers property taxes. Applications are submitted to the appropriate local county appraisal district.

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

Residence Homestead Tax Deferral - Texas homeowners may postpone paying the currently delinquent property taxes due on the appreciating value of their homes by filing a tax deferral affidavit at their local county appraisal district. This tax relief allows homeowners to pay the property taxes on 105 percent of the preceding year's appraised value of their homestead, plus the taxes on any new improvements to the homestead. The remaining taxes are postponed, but not cancelled, with interest accruing at 8 percent per year.

Property Tax Deferral for Persons Age 65 or Older or Disabled - Homeowners - Texans who are age 65 or older or disabled, as defined by law, may postpone paying current and delinquent property taxes on their homes by signing a tax

deferral affidavit. Once the affidavit is on file, taxes are deferred, but not cancelled, as long as the owner continues to own and live in the home. Interest continues to accrue on unpaid taxes. You may obtain a deferral affidavit at the appraisal district.

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's website at www.window.state.tx.us/taxinfo/proptax/.

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For More Information Call Jo Ann Hernandez at the Bank and Trust at 325-206-0366 or 325-387-2593

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