



All Wood Classic



Isaiah Lira is safe on a tumble to third base during Thursday's pool game against the Eldorado Eagles, March 2, 2017. Area teams competed for the tournament trophy during the annual three day Dry Devil's River All Wood Classic hosted by the Broncos. **DANNY MEYER | THE DEVIL'S RIVER NEWS**

Lawmakers Seek ASATR Repeal, SISD Could Lose 30% of State Revenue

Additional State Aid for Tax Reduction (ASATR) is scheduled to end this September and Sonora ISD is one of about 200 chapter 41 school districts at risk for losing necessary state funding to maintain their fiscal year budget.

In 2006, the legislature made a promise to property owners and school districts to cut property taxes and still maintain the same level of per student funding for weighted average daily attendance (WADA) by implementing ASATR.

Ten years ago, Sonora was considered a high value district due to oil and gas production. Increased value meant increased taxes. Taxes that help fund the school district's budget.

"They [Legislature] made a promise that if Sonora took care of the tax payers then they would provide funds to supplement the loss," Aschenbeck said.

Residents and school districts expected them to keep that promise.

However, in 2011, just five years after the bill passed, school districts experienced a reduction in state funding because of a reduction to ASATR. At the same time, the legislature also enacted a repeal of ASATR effective this September 2017.

The legislature has said it will not extend the aid and for Sonora ISD this means a potential loss of as much as 30% in state funding.

This loss coupled with the loss of revenue due to declining student's enrollment, a result of a slowed economy, creates a significant deficit in the district's budget.

Like so many other Chapter 41 school districts, experiencing similar issues, now, state funding is essential for SISD,

SEE ASATR ON PAGE 4

Attorney Speaks on Student Code of Conduct During SISD Meeting

Attorney Robb Decker spoke to school board trustees during their regular meeting Monday, March 6, 2017. In light of recent issues regarding student conduct outside of school activities and not on school property, Decker was asked to clarify the specifics of the Student Code of Conduct, Extra-Curricular Code of Conduct and Authority of the School District with Off Campus Student Actions. A small audience including parents, school officials and law enforcement officers were in attendance. Decker affirmed that the school district may only enforce the rules of student conduct for offenses that occur on school property or during school events.

There was no discussion, visitor comments or action taken.

In other business, Ross Aschenbeck reported on his intent to speak to the legislature on Tuesday, March 07, 2017 regarding House Bill 811. This bill also known as Additional State Aid for Tax Reduction (ASATR) is scheduled for repeal in September. Repeal would mean a significant loss of revenue for Sonora ISD as well as other Chapter 41 school districts throughout the state. Aschenbeck is speaking on behalf of Sonora to try to convince legislators to extend the bill or identify other options to help replace lost revenue.

In addition, Aschenbeck gave an over view of the districts year-to-date revenue deficit which also included a lack of funds due to declining student enrollment.

The Policy Update 107, affecting (LOCAL) policies was read aloud. Policy additions, revisions and deletions were mentioned for

SEE SISD ON PAGE 10

Broncos Takes First Place in Annual Sonora Baseball Tourney

The Sonora Broncos kicked off the annual Dry Devil's River All Wood Classic Thursday, March 2, 2017.

With plenty of cheering fans showing their support for the Broncos as well as players from area teams, batters lined up vying for a grand slam win on day one of pool play and the opportunity to advance to the championship round.

Sonora demonstrated exceptional control on the field and at the plate taking the victory 5-1 over Harper and 10-0 over Eldorado.

In game one, the Broncos took on the Harper Longhorns with confidence. Pitching for the

Broncos, Noah SanMiguel and Isaiah Lira kept Harper to only one score. SanMiguel threw two innings, giving up zero runs, one hit, striking out one, and walking zero. Lira threw two innings and three relief pitchers finished things up. Caleb Galvan, Henry Ramos, and Raully Ojeda managed one hit each contributing to Sonora's 5-1 win over Harper.

In game two, the Broncos defeated Eldorado 10-0. Three pitchers combined to throw a shutout. With bases loaded, the Eagles pitcher walked Caleb Galvan driving a run and the lead for the Broncos in the first inning.

In the fourth, the Broncos

scored another four runs, a triple by Noah SanMiguel, a double by Michael Mungia, and a stolen base by Henry Ramos shut down the Eagles giving the Broncos their second win of the day.

On the mound, Wesley Dutton tossed two innings, surrendering zero runs, two hits, striking out one, and walking zero. Ramos threw two innings, Jalen Lopez struck out the Eagles to finish off the game.

Sonora collected a total of ten game hits. Ramos, Lira and Mungia each collected multiple hits for Sonora. Mungia, Lira, and Ramos all had two hits also contributing to the final score. Sure-handed in the field the

Broncos didn't commit a single error.

Advancing to the Championship game, the Broncos returned to the field on Saturday hoping to victory over their opponent, Mason.

Grabbing the lead in the fourth inning, Sonora defeated the Mason Punchers 12-2.

The Broncos were down 2-1 in the bottom of the fourth inning when Lira doubled, driving in one. Galvan assisted by collecting four hits in four at bats. He also in the second, singled in the fourth, tripled in the fourth, and singled in the sixth.

With eight runs in the fourth SEE BASEBALL ON PAGE 7

8 Lady Broncos Named All-District



Riley Walker
First Team All-District,
Academic All-District



Carly Brown
Academic All-District



Rivers Martinez
Academic All-District



Keeley Moore
Academic All-District



Audry Nolen
Second Team All-District,
Academic All-District



Jackilyn Sykes
Academic All-District



Avery Leamon
Academic All-District



Angela Gonzales
Academic All-District



STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS
By Ed Sterling

“It is abundantly clear to me,” Birdwell said, “that the Congress is incapable of or unwilling to propose amendments that limit its own power or that of the other branches to return our nation to the original spirit of federalism intended by our founders. The mechanism for that is found in Article V of the U.S. Constitution, which requires Congress to call a convention for the purpose of amending the

SEE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS ON PAGE 7

House, Senate Approve Bills to Protect Children in Foster System

AUSTIN — Both houses of the Texas Legislature last week passed bills to improve the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services in response to Gov. Greg Abbott’s call for emergency action to improve child protection programs. Tasked with protecting children, elders and people with disabilities from abuse, neglect and exploitation, the DFPS, part of the Texas Health and Human Commission, has attracted attention in recent years for inadequate funding and staffing to meet obligations. Senate Bill 11, whose primary author is Charles Schwertner, R-Georgetown, was approved by the Senate on March 1. The bill would shift to private contractors the

DFPS’s foster care management mission, but the state would remain the ultimate guardian over foster children, Schwertner said. The bill also contains oversight and accountability provisions to enable close monitoring by the DFPS and the Texas Health and Human Services Commission. Meanwhile, on March 2, the Texas House approved HB 4 by Cindy Burkett, R-Sunnyvale, to provide additional support for family members who care for a child who has been removed from his or her home. Also approved was HB 5 by James Frank, R-Wichita Falls, to give the DFPS more autonomy by making it a separate agency with its own commissioner. In passing HB 4 and HB 5, the House

has taken “important steps toward providing better protection and care for children in terrible circumstances,” Speaker Joe Straus said. **Senate OKs ‘con-con’ bills** The Texas Senate on Feb. 28 approved Senate Joint Resolution 2, an application to the U.S. Congress to call a convention of the states, and SB 21, rules for selecting and controlling delegates to that convention. Joint resolutions must be approved by both chambers of the Legislature, but do not require approval by the governor. Primary author Sen. Brian Birdwell, R-Granbury, said eight other states have passed resolutions similar to SJR 2.

We Just Kept Having Babies

I don’t expect everyone to understand. Don’t even expect approval or a nod. Most smart, logical and common sense-driven people stop somewhere around 2.5 children. We did not. I remember being afraid to tell my parents or friends about the last one. When we finally did tell, some people told me we were making too many or that I was too old. Or, even more daring – and this happened more than once – they asked if our upcoming family member was (at best) a “surprise,” or (at worst) a “mistake.”

I didn’t let any of the judgment get the best of me then. There wasn’t much I could do. Unfortunately for all the on-looking, opinionated bystanders, it was too late. By that time I was already shopping in the maternity department.

We just kept having babies. In the big scheme of things, we are only middle-of-the-road baby makers. We made just four – not even a handful. Lots of families go further to have five, six or into the double digits, even. My dad grew up in a family with 12 siblings. By those standards, four isn’t many at all, not much to brag about.

But now that I am a seasoned mom who has graduated from the reality of the cost of diapers to the reality of the cost of college tuition, I realize four is a lot more than two. Practically twice as many, depending on the exponential factors concerning car insurance rates multiplied by the cost of tennis shoes and divided by (apple) pi.

We just kept having babies. Now many of our friends are becoming empty nesters. They are free to plan trips and purchase RVs and dream about retirement. We dream of retirement while attending sporting events dominated by 14-year olds, one of whom calls us mom and dad.

Our friends completed their parenting stint – the hands-on part of it at least – in about 20 years. We’re in for the long haul. No wimpy 5K-race stuff for us. We signed up for the marathon because we like to pull the band-aid off slowly. I’ve done middle school algebra four times now and I’m finally getting good at it. You know what they say, whatever doesn’t kill you only makes you stronger. I am Hercules.

We just kept having babies. And our love multiplied each time. Like the Grinch’s heart doubling in size with each one. The intense emotion brought with it both joy and worry – also multiplied. Because love isn’t cheap. It leaves you vulnerable and open to the best and the worst possibilities and experiences in life. Babies bring the potential for all those.

Some people hike the mountains, use power tools to make furniture, travel the globe or embrace their passion for gardening together. Life offers infinite adventures ripe for the picking. We didn’t intend to live the life we’ve had. My husband wasn’t sure about children at all at first. I considered stopping at one. Despite those facts, we just kept having babies. They are what we did together. The great marriage project. Our kids were our passion. They are our passion. That, and each other. Because you’ve got to have that – if you want to keep having babies.

Jill Pertler is an award-winning syndicated columnist, published playwright, author and member of the National Society of Newspaper Columnists. Don’t miss a slice; follow the Slices of Life page on Facebook.

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Wonders of the World?

With the rancor running rampant in the world today, it’s remarkable that the Seven Wonders of the World are staying stitched, at least so far.

This day, I cite three personal “wonders,” none of which rises to the level of minutia. They have long been bewildering to me. Perhaps you’d prefer making your own list.

Your call... Recorded messages: We’re all weary of the worn response about how much our calls are appreciated, but are disappointed that typically “associates are busy assisting other customers.”

My curiosity is piqued by this frequent reminder: “Please listen to the following prompts, since some of them may have changed.” Oh, really? Has anyone ever learned – beyond reasonable doubt – that any prompt has ever changed? Further, when one prompt leads to another, to another and to another, are we finally justified in wondering if our calls are all that important?

Is there a better gamble to reach a “live” person quickly than to immediately hit “0” at the outset of recorded messages? I wonder...

Does anyone else tire of TV newscasts invariably beginning with these words, or something akin thereto? “Breaking News.” (Brace yourself. If news gets worse, we may be in for “compound fractured news.”) It’s a given that most items following lead-ins constitute “bad news,” but these unchanging openings cause me to wonder if the networks really believe we “buy” their pitch that each newscast opens at the precise moment a major event occurs.

I dream of the day when some of the newscasts open with “mending news.”...

Each of us has a memory of larger-than-life figures believed to best typify THE OLD WEST. How about The Marlboro Man? Roy Rogers? The Lone Ranger?

My vote goes to Dr. Marvin Knight, the

Stetson-wearing, cigarette-smoking surgeon who roamed the Dallas Cowboys’ sidelines for 27 years. He never had a contract with the team, and never cared if he did. Devoid of pretense, he was recognized as a world leader in orthopedic surgery.

No wonder injured players checked into the 18-bed Muenster General Hospital, where Knight preferred to conduct surgeries during his final 16 years of practice. This allowed him to return to his beloved ranch ASAP. Next to “doctoring,” that’s where he most liked to be....

Books could be written – and should be – about this pioneering physician who introduced orthopedic surgery to West Texas. His was a revered name and stories of his experiences are legion. And he was as good at telling them as he was performing surgeries.

Patients came from miles around, particularly for knee surgeries. One he spoke of was a highly successful knee fix-up of an immensely wealthy woman with vast ranching interests.

After several follow-up visits and declared ready to resume normal activities, she mentioned she had yet to receive a bill for the surgery....

“I know,” Dr. Knight said. “I’ve been thinking about sending one, but I can’t decide how much to charge.” The woman bristled. “I’d like to be billed at the going rate,” she snapped.

“Oh, that it could be so simple,” Dr. Knight explained. “More than half of the surgeries I perform are on patients without portfolio.” He said he never expected to get a dime from names on his, uh, “deadbeat list.” She asked what he expected her to do about the ne’er do wells.

“I was thinking of triple-billing you to cover your surgery and for two others who didn’t pay.”

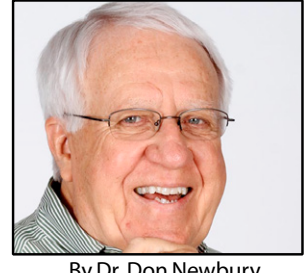
Again, she objected, saying she’d never pay on this basis....

“That’s pretty much the response I expected,” he grinned. “Paying is your option. If you choose not to, I’ll just add your name to my deadbeat list.”

She wrote the “check for three” before leaving the office. When he died at age 91 in 2000, one of the nation’s most distinguished – and most colorful – went on to glory. He may not have been the eighth Wonder of the World, but he came close....

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Medina is the Apple Capital of Texas

Love Creek Orchards in Medina cover twenty-eight acres. “About half of that is orchard and about a third of that is apples,” says Bryan Hutzler, owner. “We’re also the largest propagators of big tooth maples in the state of Texas. So when people come to our orchard and see some trees other than apple, those are maple trees.”

Bryan and his wife Stacie bought the orchard eleven years ago. “The main crop that we grow here are Galas. And our Galas are a little bit smaller and a little bit paler than what you find in stores. We call them Lone Star Little Sugars. The climate here allows our apples to stay on the tree a little bit longer, so they get a lot more sun and come out a little bit sweeter than other people’s apples. Our other varieties are Jonathan, Fuji, Goldina and a few other varieties we’re experimenting with.”

Before buying the orchard, Bryan had worked for a number of companies in big cities. “I’ve always wanted to do something else besides living in the big cities and working for big companies. I ended up in Dallas and that’s where I met the lady who became my wife. This came up for sale so we hopped on it.” He says growing apples is a lot of work. “We joke about this being our retirement, but we’re working harder than ever. We’re all about agriculture and tourism so we’re at the mercy of the weather. On a great year we’re thinking about how awesome and successful we are. Then another year will come by and the weather won’t be so nice. That’s when we start to wonder about what we’re doing.”

The apples are harvested in the summer. “People call us all the time in October and they’re wanting to pick apples. We are very far south here in Texas, so our apple-picking season is in July and early August. So if you want to pick apples, call us in June to find out what the crop is going to look like. Plus, people can check our website, lovecreekorchards.com. I advise you to come in the early morning to pick apples. It’s real hot at 2 PM in July and August.”

The business is year round. In the fall the place is covered up with people and pumpkins. Families go there to take pictures of their kids in a huge pumpkin patch. The pumpkin event is one of the hill country’s largest attractions. In downtown Medina, the Hutzlers own The Apple Store and Patio Cafe. “We’ve got our five-pound apple pies. They’ve been written up in several magazines and have been voted the best apple pie in Texas. We have apple jellies and jams, apple turnovers and strudels, which we make in the store. We only sell one flavor of ice cream and that’s apple from our own recipe. We sell gallons of it every single day. Texas Monthly calls our hamburger among the best in Texas.”

Several motorcycle riders from San Antonio and Austin go to Medina for what they call a pie run. “It a great reason to hop on your motorcycle and drive out here. We love it when car clubs come out, especially the classic car clubs.”

www.tumbleweedsmith.com

Heard Around Town

It’s not good sportsmanship to pick up a lost golf ball while it’s still rolling.

Why does the early bird always get the worm? Because he reads about it in **THE DEVIL'S RIVER NEWS**
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Wesley Dutton takes the mound for the Sonora Broncos during the annual Dry Devil's River All Wood Classic.

DANNY MEYER | THE DEVIL'S RIVER NEWS

Lady Broncos Improve Record to 7-3 for Season

The Lady Broncos improved their season record 7-3 after the first round of games during the Reagan County Softball Tournament Friday, March 3, 2017 in Reagan County.

Sonora defeated Stanton 12-4. The Lady Buffs started the game with a grand slam but it didn't take long for the Lady Broncos to run them down in the second inning evening the score to 4 points each.

Opening things up with an 8-run third inning, the Lady Broncos had enough in the books to seal the fate of the Lady Buffs.

Atop the mound, Katy Jo Wardlaw earned the win for Sonora allowing only 4 runs, 3 hits and striking out 2 over four innings.

Kristin Garrett and Riley Walker each collected multiple hits for Sonora while Nydia Rodriguez, Walker and Garrett each drove in two runs leading the Lady Broncos to victory.

As night fell, the Lady Broncos took on the Eldorado Lady Eagles.

Eldorado took an early lead off of a 2-run homerun by the Lady Eagles third

baseman.

The Lady Broncos immediately answered back with 5-runs of their own in the bottom of the first.

Sonora would maintain the lead and add 13 insurance runs in the bottom of the second inning.

In the top of the third, the Lady Eagles were able to scratch 4 runs across on a two-rally due to defensive errors by the Sonora. Riley Walker nabbed the final out of the inning on a line drive allowing the Lady Broncos another chance to hit.

In the bottom of the third, Valerie Gonzalez and Gaby Zapata both picked up their first RBI's of the season off of ground balls.

Zapata positioned herself to score after stealing second and Wardlaw slammed one past the shortstop and third baseman for a stand up double, allowing Zapata to come around and score closing the game with a score of 21-6.

Cantu picked up the win for the Lady Broncos and improved to 4-1 on the year surrendering 6 runs on just 4 hits and compiled 5 strikeouts.

Sonora Broncos Victory Over Forsan

The Sonora Broncos Baseball team defeated the Forsan Buffaloes 10-2 in their first away game Monday, February 27, 2017.

The Broncos struggled against the Buffaloes through 4 innings before they found their traction and pulled ahead of their opponent.

With 1-0 at the top of the fifth, the Broncos finally collected enough hits to gain their momentum and dominate the game.

A Buffalo error allowing a single by Michael Mungia, a double by Caleb Galvan, and a single by Wesley Dutton sealed their fate in the record books.

Daniel Gonzales, Noah SanMiguel, Isaiah Lira, and Wesley Dutton each collected multiple hits for their

team.

On the mound the pitching crew of Isaiah Lira, Raully Ojeda, Daniel Gonzales and Caleb Galvan held the Buffaloes to 1 hit in seven innings of play.

The biggest celebration came with 7 runs in the seventh inning, securing the Broncos victory over Forsan.

At 2-0 for the season, the Broncos were looking for a Dry Devil's River All Wood Classic championship. The annual tourney began on Thursday, March 2 with pool play and continued through Saturday, March 4 for the winner. All games were held at the Broncos baseball field.

As always, everyone is encouraged to support the Sonora Broncos.



Jackilyn Sykes plays catcher for the Lady Broncos. Sonora improved their record to 7-3 for the season following this past weekends game wins in Reagan County.

DANNY MEYER | THE DEVIL'S RIVER NEWS

Tennis Team Takes Third at Fort Stockton

Warming up their racks for Regional competition, the Broncos and Lady Broncos earned third place while competing Friday and Saturday, February 24-25 in Fort Stockton.

All players competed in singles on day one and doubles on Saturday, day 2.

By a narrow margin, Sonora followed close behind Fort Stockton and Reagan County for their bronze award.

Players from a variety of area high schools including Pecos, Del Rio, Wink, and Permian also took the court seeking a win.

Brian VanWinkle and Blayze Sykes both took second place victories. Van Winkle earned his silver in the boy's singles in flight 1 and Sykes earned his medal in flight 2.

In flight 4, Marcos Talamantes took 4th and Taylor was awarded third in flight 5.

Esteban Marin also secured the consolation in flight 2.

Also, competing for the boys were Carlos Regino, David Delgado and Aldo Deluna.

Sky Jennings, Peyton Matthews and Claire Thiebaud led the girls with 3 first place finishes in flight 1, flight 2 and flight 6 respectively.

Carly Brown earned a silver medal in flight 3, Bianca Fay won third in flight 7 and Kayla Gee also won 3rd in flight 8.

Also, competing for the Lady Broncos were Kaitlyn Gann and Kadee Petty.

On day two, Brian VanWinkle and Esteban Marin teamed up for a third-place victory in boys doubles in flight 1 and David Delgado partnered with Blayze Sykes for a second-place win in flight 3.

In addition, Marcos Talamantes and Dylan Taylor earned the consolation in flight 2

In girls doubles, Sky

Jennings and Peyton Matthews teamed up for a gold medal. It was an exceptional tournament for both ladies.

Claire Thiebaud and Bianca Fay were awarded the bronze medal in flight 3.

Lastly, adding to her two days of accolades, Sky Jennings was also named Tournament MVP for the girls.

Next, the Broncos and Lady Broncos tennis teams travel to San Angelo this Friday and Saturday, March 3-4 to compete in the Regional Team Tournament.

Everyone is encouraged come out and show their Bronco Nation spirit in support of the Broncos and Lady Broncos.



Lenten Lunch Schedule

Lenten lunches will be served at St. John's Episcopal Church, 404 NE Poplar, at 12:00 noon, each Wednesday beginning March 8 through April 5.

The list below indicates the schedule of local churches participating and the date they are providing a meal and a speaker.

March 8 - Presbyterian Church of the Good Shepherd and First United

Methodist Church
March 15 - Lighthouse Community Church
March 22 - St. Ann's Catholic Church
March 29 - First Baptist Church

April 5 - St. John's Episcopal Church

The luncheons are free and open to the public. Donations are also welcome. All proceeds go to the Ministerial Alliance.

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SONORA WEATHER FORECAST

| Thu 03/09 | Fri 03/10 | Sat 03/11 | Sun 03/12 | Mon 03/13 |
|---|--|--|--|--|
| 73/59 | 77/55 | 78/45 | 75/49 | 78/46 |
| | | | | |
| Cloudy/Showers Sunrise 7:00 a.m. Sunset 6:46 p.m. | Clouds/Sunshine Sunrise 6:59 a.m. Sunset 6:47 p.m. | Clouds/Sunshine Sunrise 6:58 a.m. Sunset 6:48 p.m. | Clouds/Sunshine Sunrise 7:56 a.m. Sunset 7:48 p.m. | Clouds/Sunshine Sunrise 7:55 a.m. Sunset 7:49 p.m. |

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Elementary School Students for the week of March 6 - 10, Patricio Perez, Pre-K, Jayce Carrillo, K, Presley Mayfield, 1st, Ignacio Mendoza, 2nd.

Devil's River News Weekly Rainfall Report

| | | | |
|-------------------------|-----------|-------------------------|-----------|
| March 1-7 | 0.04 in. | March 1-7 | 0.12 in. |
| February 1-28 | 1.36 in. | February 1-28 | 1.48 in. |
| January | 2.40 in. | January | 1.68 in. |
| 2017 Year-to-Date Total | 3.80 in. | 2017 Year-to-Date Total | 3.28 in. |
| 2016 | 25.10 in. | 2016 | 29.22 in. |
| 2015 | 23.87 in. | 2015 | 25.31 in. |
| 2014 | 14.32 in. | 2014 | 12.72 in. |
| 2013 | 25.12 in. | 2013 | 25.00 in. |
| 2012 | 16.06 in. | 2012 | 17.82 in. |
| 2011 | 11.50 in. | 2011 | 10.49 in. |
| 2010 | 20.37 in. | 2010 | 17.94 in. |
| 2009 | 21.67 in. | 2009 | 28.44 in. |

Rainfall data collected at LCRA weather station located 14 miles southeast of Sonora. | Rainfall data collected at LCRA weather station located 17 miles east-northeast of Sonora.

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OBITUARIES

Herbert Lawson Jones

May 28, 1946 - March 3, 2017

Junction High School. Herb was preceded in death by one son Darrell "Tooter" Jones. He is survived by his wife Jo Ann Jones, son Duane Jones of Sonora, two granddaughters Kaitlyn and Kera Jones of Del Rio, brother Rusty Jones, wife Carolyn and family of Uvalde. The family suggests memorials be made to West Texas Boys Ranch or The Old Glory Fund at Sonora Bank. A memorial service was held at the Presbyterian Church of the Good Shepherd in Sonora, Tuesday, March 7, 2017.

Herbert (Herb) Lawson Jones, of Sonora, Texas, passed away suddenly at his home March 3, 2017. Herb was born in Junction, Texas to Froggie and Gene Jones on May 28, 1946. He graduated from

Retirement Party for John K Wilson

Wednesday, March 15, 2017
Come and Go starting at 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm

At the Sutton County Courthouse Courtroom



Intermediate School Students for the week of March 6-10, Jennifer Garcia, 3rd, Larissa Hodnett, 4th, Eli Pruneda, 5th.

Fort Lancaster Hosts Special Guided Tour

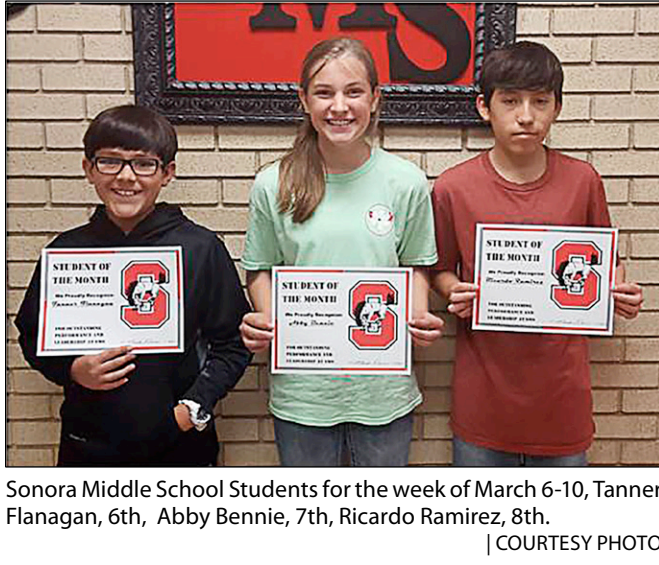
SHEFFIELD, TX — Looking for something fun for the entire family? Visit Fort Lancaster State Historic Site on Saturday, March 11th for a special guided tour of the historic fort ruins followed by a hands-on history display with period weapons, uniforms, and soldier equipment. "The special tour will allow visitors to imagine what it must have been like to live and work at Fort Lancaster during the mid-1800s" Jefferson Spilman, Fort Lancaster Site Manager said. Upon arrival, a soldier will greet visitors and serve as their tour guide. Visitors can walk the trails around the ruins of Fort Lancaster learning about the site's fascinating history and stories. The tour begins at the Visitor's Center at 10:00 a.m., visitors are asked to arrive a few minutes early.

Admission is \$4 for adults and \$3 per child. Fort Lancaster State Historic Site, a Texas Historical Commission property, spans 82 acres and commemorates the remnants of a fort built in the 1850s to protect the road between San Antonio and El Paso. The site contains the ruins of what once constituted a sizable military installation as well as an interpretive trail. The site recently completed a two-year renovation that includes a new Visitors Center with a substantial new gallery exhibit on the north side. The new exhibit presents the story of Fort Lancaster through artifacts, images, scale models, a life-sized camel replica, and introductory video. For more information, call 432-836-4391 or visit www.visitfortlanaster.com.

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Sonora Middle School Students for the week of March 6-10, Tanner Flanagan, 6th, Abby Bennie, 7th, Ricardo Ramirez, 8th.

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ASATR:

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1
Aschenbeck said. Although school administrators knew the bill was set for repeal this September, they failed to develop a plan. In part, this is because of changes, over time, in superintendents and school board members. Aschenbeck stated that he understands how his district failed to develop and follow a plan. Just like students, superintendents as well as school board members move or change their status he explained. "We knew this was coming and should have prepared a plan," Aschenbeck said. Now, we just have to move forward and prepare to adjust our budget. It may mean cutting supplies and personnel. We are already working on this through attrition and cutting supplies. In addition to a reduction in ASATR funds, declining enrollment continues to be an issue for SISD. Fewer students directly impacts the amount of state funding. For example, since 2013 enrollment has dropped from 940 students to 810. The difference means the loss of thousands of state dollars to help fund the district's budget ultimately affecting students. Realizing the impact of revenue loss due to both the ASATR repeal and fewer students, Aschenbeck said they have already made efforts to adjust "The bill to extend ASATR best helps us if we maintained a high enrollment, Aschenbeck said. "Because of the enrollment loss we were already looking at phasing out of ASATR. Property values dropped and student enrollment dropped equally. The same dollar ratio per student today is no longer the same as in 2006. We are down 130 students in the last 4-years. At \$7,400 per student per year that's a chunk of revenue. At some point in time we are going to have to make some crucial decisions to make some reductions. You can't sustain a half a million-dollar deficit year after year. That's not fiscal responsibility." Moving forward he is asking for input from faculty and staff on spending priorities. Everyone is expected to multi-task as they work on continuing to meet educational needs in the future. SISD Superintendent Ross Aschenbeck said he and others throughout the state are actively working with lobbyists and legislators to get the state to extend the funding. Residents can also make a difference by contacting their state representatives and legislators as well as being supportive of the decisions of the school board and administration on necessary changes made to continue to provide education and resources to SISD students "It is a difficult task, but we are working to develop a long-term budget plan and at the same time take measures to minimize any negative impact on students and their education," Aschenbeck said.

Weekly Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

- Poet Khayyam
- Cigar city
- Vertical pole
- Gertrude Stein's flower
- Circa
- Presumptuous glance
- Extorted money from
- Denmark's Victor
- Russian river
- Vacation retreat
- Adorned
- Acquire by labor
- Composition for two
- Controversy
- Sweets, Darling, etc.
- Go astray
- Fixed look
- Frontlet
- Exclamations of dislike
- Save
- Near S. Dak.
- Let's bake ____
- ____ and lonely
- Peer Gynt's mother
- ____ chances:

playing it safe
49. Apples, in Paris
51. Variety of chalcidony
52. Inca country
53. Actress Ritter
56. City of trunk fame
60. Othello's antagonist
61. Freshet
63. Tel ____ , Israel
64. Pitfall
65. Fire stirrer

DOWN

- Spherical bodies
- Breakwater
- Voyaging
- Its waters parted
- Small stools
- ____ liar: chronic fibber
- Additional
- Fighter
- Dined in a cafe
- Great mass
- Tourist spot in India
- Venetian blind part
- Far: comb. form
- Toques
- Schism
- Supposes
- Treat, as in skimming milk<P>
- Heath
- Fracture
- Boxer Carnera
- Form of address
- Expunge
- Japanese wines
- Two of ____
- Winter sports spot
- Room decorators
- Hindu land grant
- Little Dorothy
- Clutches
- Alter
- Church plate
- Southern US tree
- Difficult
- Equal, in Nice
- H. H. Munro
- Egg-shaped
- Small liquid measure
- Class of vertebrates
- Cork sound

"TOURIST SPOTS"

See solution on Page 8

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BIRTHDAYS

Look Who's Celebrating!

MARCH

11th Word Hudson, John Wilson, Nelda Tobias, Gus and Cort Sosa
12th Craten Phillips, Dora Gonzales, Tavia Valliant, Jennifer Surber
13th Mary Adele Balch, Charlie Brown, Robert Mata, Chris Badgett, Anthony Sanchez
14th Kay Stewart
15th Abby Creek, Le Ann Holt, Kay Bosch, Lane Cahill, Warren Wallace, Geneva Parks
16th Karen Fincher, Katy Wardlaw

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14 Earn 3rd place in UIL Academic Meet

Sonora High School UIL Academic scholars participated in the Eldorado meet Saturday, March 4, 2017.

A total of 13 teams took part in the competition.

Fourteen Sonora students showed off their skills earning third place.

Results:

- Math**
Tate Shannon, 1st
3rd place team – Shannon, Henry Ramos, Tully Flanagan
- Calculator**
Henry Ramos, 6th
- Informative**
Juan Miguel Jimenez, 1st
- Feature Writing**
Mollie Taylor, 4th
- Ready Writing**
Delaney Ramsdell, 2nd
Kristy Sanchez, 4th
Mollie Taylor, 5th
- Literary Criticism**

- Tate Shannon, 1st
Delaney Ramsdell, 2nd
Hazel Kent, 6th
1st place team – Shannon, Ramsdell, Kent
- Computer Science**
Tate Shannon, 1st
Kristy Sanchez, 2nd
Summer Hall, 5th
1st place team – Shannon, Sanchez, Hall
- Number Sense**
Tate Shannon, 1st
Henry Ramos, 5th
2nd place team – Shannon, Ramos, Tully Flanagan
- All of the students deserve commendation for their hard work. Sonora math teams travel to Wall Monday, March 6, 2017 to compete. Next, Sonora scholars take part in the district meet, Thursday, March 23.



(L-R) Delaney Ramsdell, Carter Zook, Lane Cahill, and Tully Flanagan

– SHS Students of the Month –

Sonora High School is proud to announce its Students of the Month for February 2017. Tully Flanagan, 9th, Lane Cahill, 10th, Delaney Ramsdell, 11th and Carter Zook, 12th. Students are nominated by the SHS teaching staff and recognized for their citizenship and work ethic in the classroom and extracurricular activities. Congratulations!

Sonora Represents Well in Iraan Cactus Relays

The Sonora Broncos were awarded first place and the Lady Broncos earned third for their exceptional performance during the Iraan Cactus Relays, Saturday, March 4, 2017.

Varsity Boys Results:

Shot Put:
Liam Yourgalite, 1st, 48' 11.5"; Michael Solis, 5th, 41' 3.75"

Discus:
Michael Solis, 1st, 163'3"

Triple Jump:
Kaden Cordell, 2nd, 42' 2.5"; Willie Munoz, 4th, 39' 11.75"

High Jump:
Kaden Cordell, 1st, 5' 10"; Kade Creek, 2nd, 5' 6"; Wilson Johnson, 4th, 5' 6"

Pole Vault:
John Deleon, 2nd, 10' 6"

Long Jump:
Jarrett Jackson, 1st, 20' 1"; Drew Buitron, 5th, 18' 10.5"; Carter Zook, 6th, 18' 9"

400 M Relay:
1st place team (Wesley Dutton, Wilson Johnson, Drew Buitron, Carter Zook, Alt: JR Velasquez, Slade Dermody)

200 M Relay:
1st place team (Walker Sine, Willie Munoz, Jarrett Jackson, Drew Buitron, Alt: Michael Solis, Abel Cruz)

300 M Hurdles:
Carter Zook, 1st, 38.12; Willie Munoz, 2nd, 42.15

100 M Dash:
Jarrett Jackson, 1st, 10.90; Kade Creek, 3rd, 11.44; Abel Cruz, 6th, 11.87

200 M Dash:
Kaden Cordell, 4th, 24.14; Michael Solis, 5th, 24.21; Walker Sine, 6th, 24.65

400 M Dash:
Wesley Dutton, 1st, 52.72; Wilson Johnson, 2nd, 53.46; JR Velasquez, 3rd, 54.55

800 M Run:
Slade Dermody, 1st, 2:02.88; Evan Shannon, 2nd, 2:04.24

1600 M Run:
Evan Shannon, 1st, 4:46.06; Slade Dermody, 2nd, 4:55.58

3200 M Run:
Evan Shannon, 1st, 10:37.00; Raully Ojeda, 3rd, 11:07.00

110 M Hurdles:
Carter Zook, 1st, 14.43; Willie Munoz, 2nd, 15.84

100 M Relay:
1st place team (Wilson Johnson, Jarrett Jackson, Drew Buitron, Wesley Dutton, Alt: Michael Solis, Abel Cruz)

Varsity Girls Results:

Shot Put:
Kodee Smith, 4th, 24' 8.5"

Discus:
Shyanne Gamez, 2nd, 82' 9.25"

Triple Jump:
Carly Brown, 1st, 33' 2.25"; Karah Martinez, 2nd, 32' 10.5"; Aleasha Smith, 4th, 27' 9"

High Jump:
Mary Kyle Johnson, 1st, 4' 10"

Pole Vault:
Aleasha Smith, 2nd, 7' 6"

2nd place team (Carly Brown, Angelo Gonzalez, Aleasha Smith, Mary Kyle Johnson, Alt: Karah Johnson)

200 M Relay:
Karah Martinez, Carly Brown, Aleasha Smith, Angela Gonzalez, Alt: Savannah Castro)

300 M Hurdles:
Carly Brown, 2nd, 52.75

400 M Dash:
Mary Kyle Johnson, 1st, 1:04.40

800 M Run:
Mary Kyle Johnson, 1st, 2:29.34

100 M Relay:
3rd place team (Savannah Castro, Angela Gonzalez, Aleasha Smith, Lane Cahill, Alt: Karah Martinez)

JV Boys Results:

Triple Jump:
Braden Adams, 1st, 37' 1"

Long Jump:
Oscar Gutierrez, 4th, 16' 8"

400 M Relay:
1st place team (Manuel Fuentes, Oscar Gutierrez, Brock Aschenbeck, Jansen Morris)

200 M Relay:
3rd place team (Braden Adams, Brock Aschenbeck, Oscar Gutierrez, Alejandro Mata)

300 M Hurdles:
Jansen Morris, 2nd, 48.22; Josh Barrera, 4th, 53.82

100 M Dash:
Zavier Rodriguez, 2nd, 12.07

800 M Run:
Manuel Fuentes, 6th, 2:28.93

3200 M Run:
Manuel Fuentes, 3rd, 13:11.00
Joe Angel Torrez, 6th, 13:52.00

110 M Hurdles:
Jansen Morris, 1st, 18.78

100 M Relay:
2nd place team (Oscar Gutierrez, Braden Adams, Eduardo Infante, Brock Aschenbeck)

JV Girls Results:

300 M Hurdles:
Harley Daniels, 1st, 1:03.87

100 M Dash:
Destiny Seaton, 5th, 16.72

200 M Dash:
Destiny Seaton, 6th, 37.31

400 M Dash:
Christina Garza, 1st, 1:15.81

800 M Run:
Christina Garza, 1st, 2:52.42; Rivers Martinez, 4th, 3:11.64; Brittany Covarrubiaz, 6:55.50

26 SMS Students Set to Compete at State

Twenty-nine Sonora Middle School scholars demonstrated exceptional talent while competing for top spots during the TMSCA Regional Meet, Saturday, March 4, 2017, at Abilene Wylie.

Of these students, 26 achieved scores advancing them to the state competition.

Students earned recognition in multiple areas while meeting the required qualifying score in each tested subject.

Young scholars qualified by achieving the state recommended score, placing 1st, 2nd, or 3rd against the other competing 3A schools or by having one of the top four high scores for the team and placing 1st or 2nd against the other 3A division schools as a team.

All of the students have been working hard since January to improve their scores and chances of advancing to the state contest and deserve applause for their accomplishments.

Results:
6th Grade State Qualifiers:

Mathematics
Ignacio Coronado; Koda Davis; Molly Friess; Alexis Hernandez; Aidan Leamon; Daniela Lozano; Gage; Juan Alvarez-Torres Owen

Number Sense
Koda Davis; Aidan Leamon; Gage Owen; Juan Alvarez-Torres

Calculator
Montse De La Fuente; Fernando (Ari) De Luna; Alma Hernandez

Science
Alexis Hernandez; Aidan Leamon; Juan Alvarez-Torres

7th Grade State Qualifiers:

Mathematics
Abby Bennie; Abigail Duncan

Number Sense
Carson Cahill; Kodi Davis;

Abigail Duncan; Sophia Gutierrez

Calculator
Isabella Arispe; Jessica Campa; Sophia Gutierrez

Science
Catarino Hernandez; Fernanda Lozano; Abigail Mendoza

8th Grade State Qualifiers:

Mathematics
Jaci Dutton

Number Sense
Jaci Dutton; Zachary Joffrion; Aaron Noreiga

Calculator
Jaci Dutton; Zachary Joffrion

Science
Francisco Garza; Zachary Joffrion; Juan Ruiz

Continuing academic excellence, 11 students ready to compete in the number sense category, 8 students will compete in calculator, 12 students will compete in the mathematics test, and 9 students are set to compete in the science category at state.

The TMSCA State meet is set for Saturday, April 22, 2017, in San Antonio.

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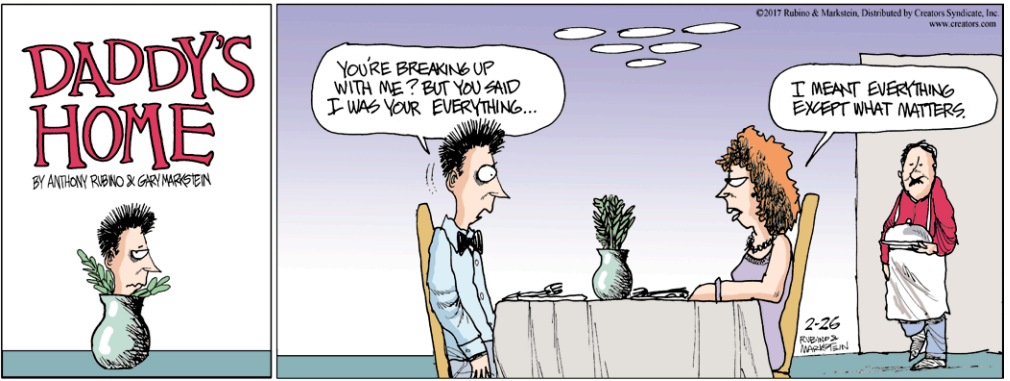
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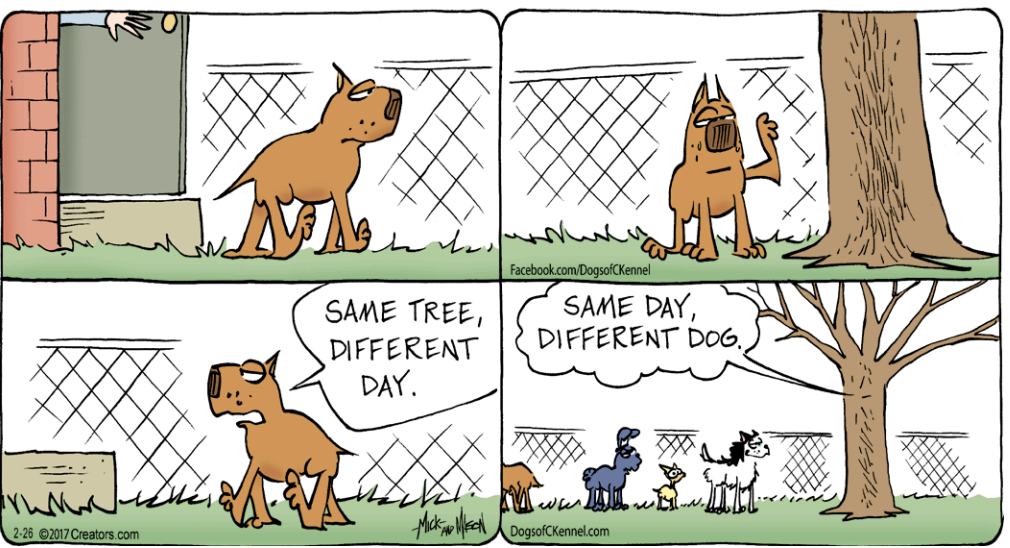
Daddy's Home

by Tony Rubino and Gary Markstein



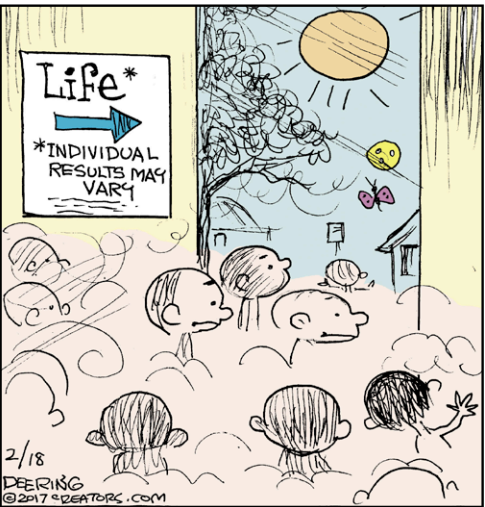
Dogs of C-Kennel

by Mick and Mason Mastroianni



Strange Brew

by John Deering

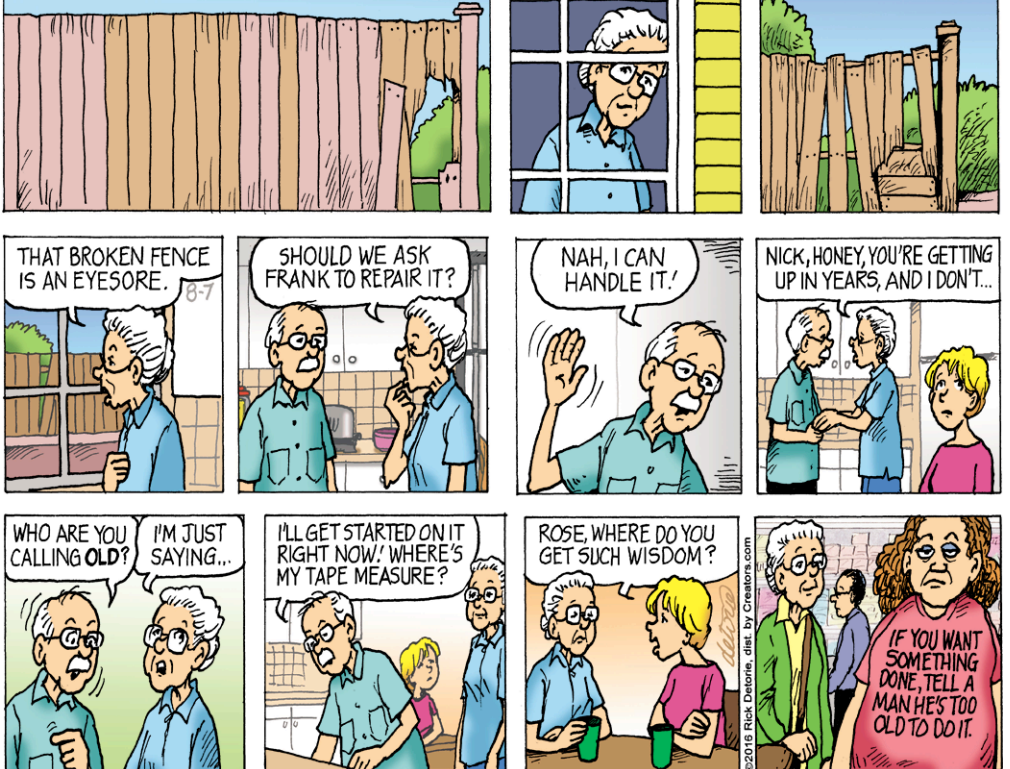


Strange Brew

by John Deering

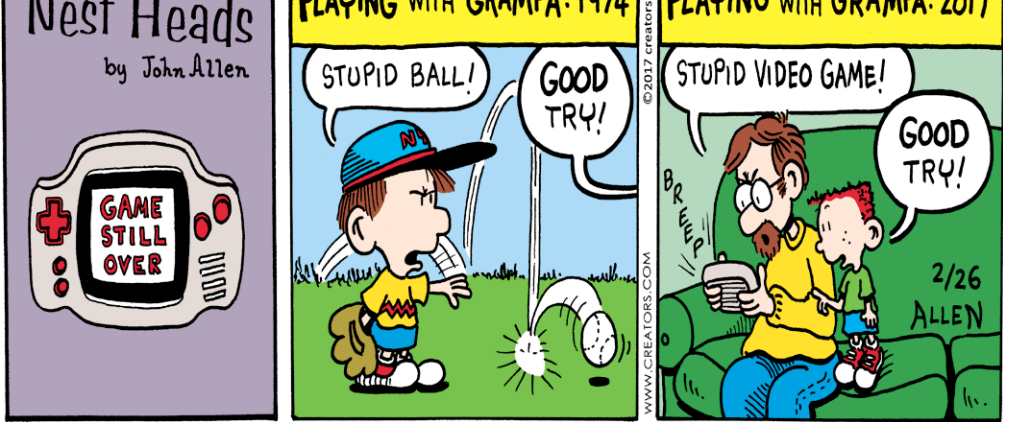


ONE BIG HAPPY



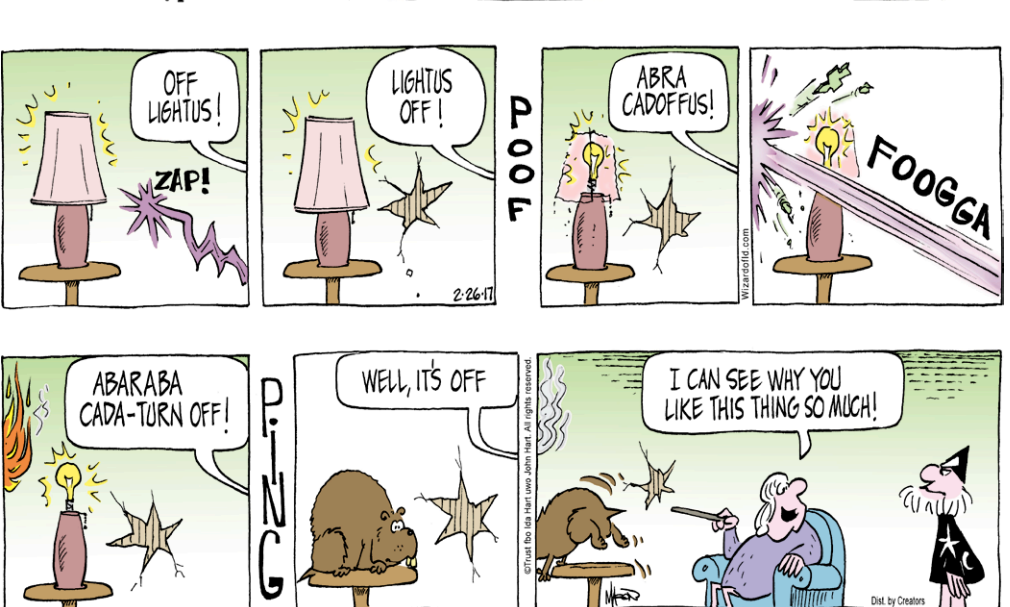
Nest Heads

by John Allen



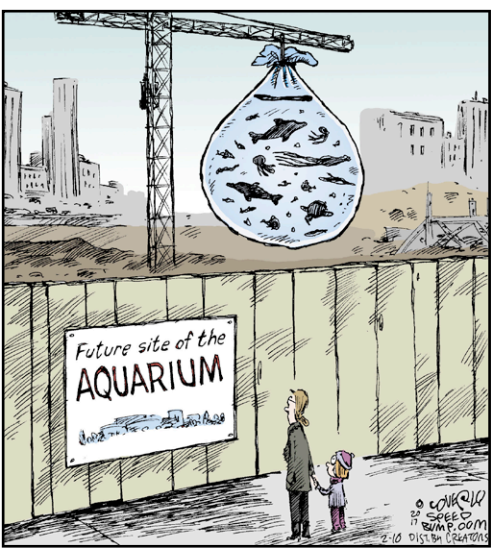
Wizard of ID

by Parker and Hart



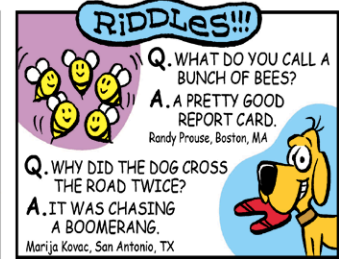
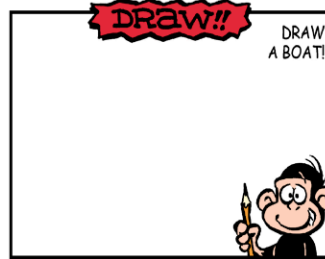
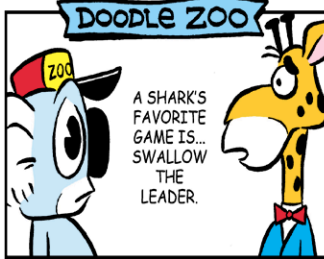
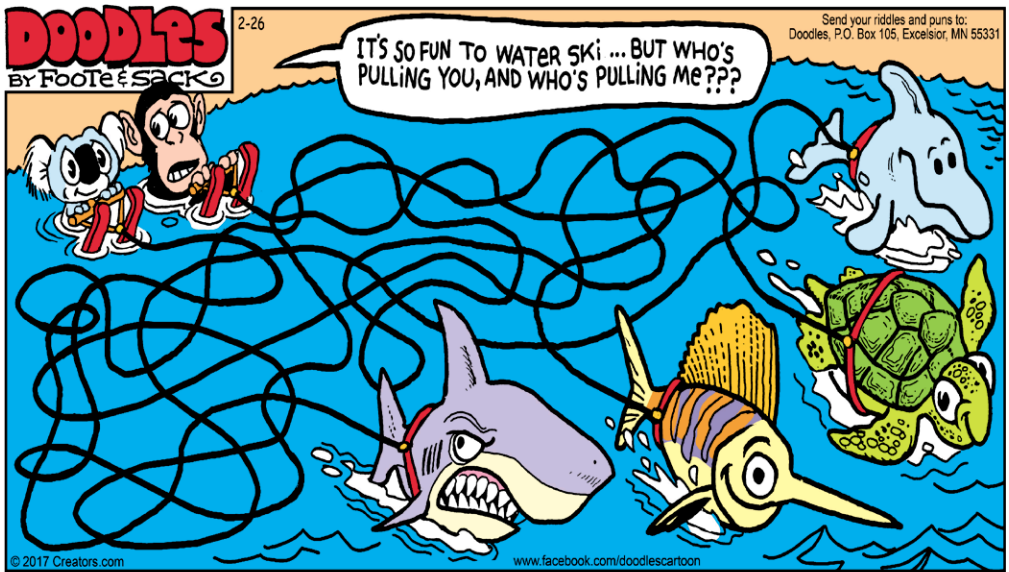
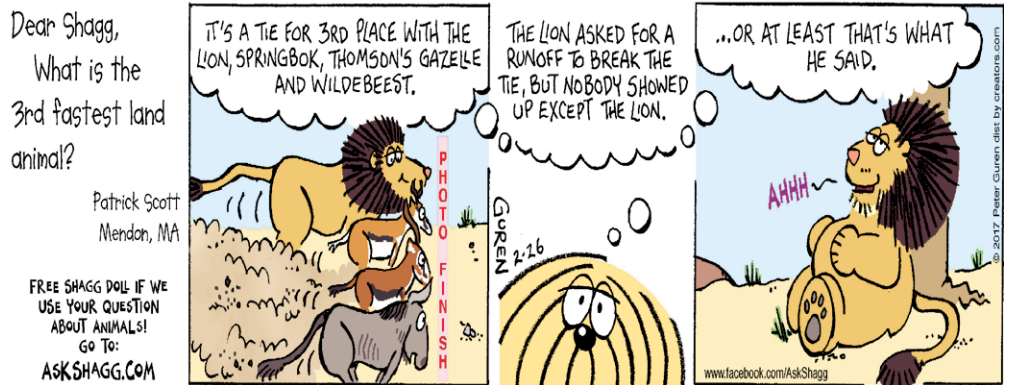
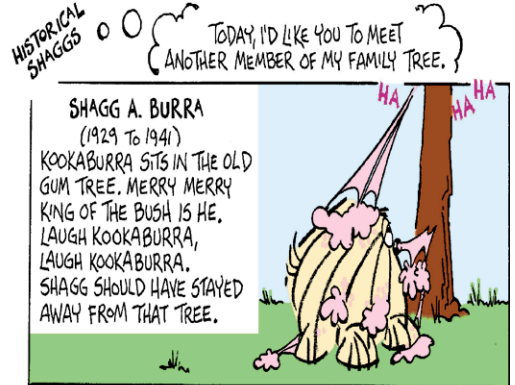
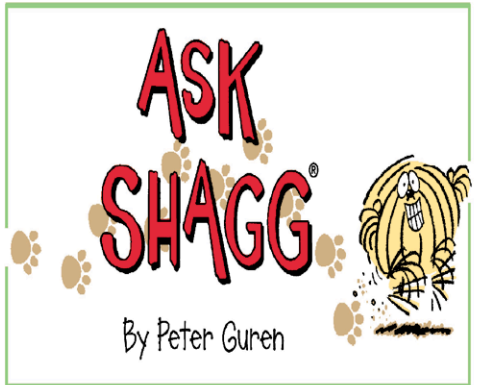
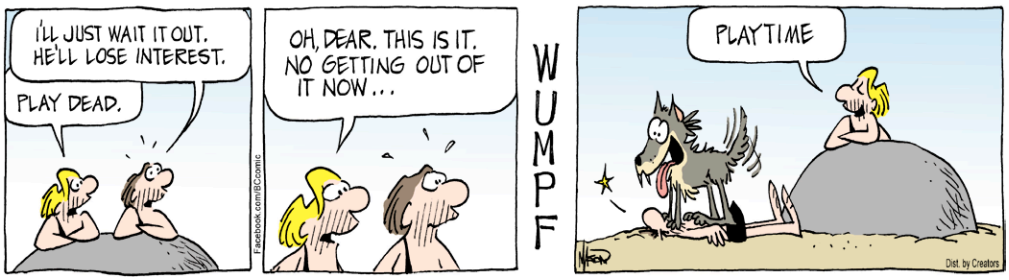
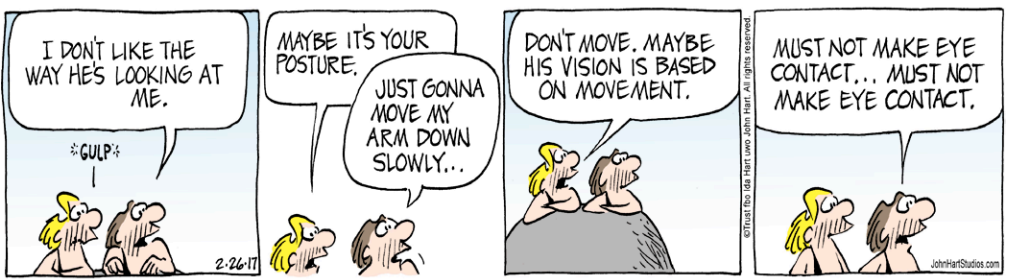
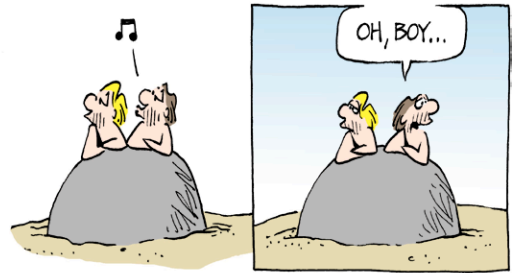
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Speed Bumps

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Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.

SEE SOLUTIONS ON PAGE 8

ZIG-ZAG

THE ORIGINAL WORD MAZE PUZZLE

SHORT

BLANK

ALL WORDS TO BE CONSTRUCTED PERTAIN TO THE ABOVE TOPIC TO YOUR ADVANTAGE ONE WORD HAS ALREADY BEEN TRACED. YOU MUST TRACE THE THREE REMAINING WORDS, USING ONLY THE LETTERS DESIGNATED BY THE DARKENED CIRCLES. WORDS MAY BEGIN AND END FROM EITHER COLUMN BUT EACH LETTER CAN ONLY BE USED ONCE.

EACH PUZZLE HAS A DIFFICULTY RATING (ABOVE). FOUR STARS SIGNIFY THE HIGHEST DEGREE OF DIFFICULTY.

GIVEN BELOW ARE THE POINT VALUES FOR EACH WORD. YOUR WORDS MUST CORRECTLY MATCH THESE POINT VALUES.

CUT

1-10



Health Care Scams

Here's how they work:

You see an ad on TV, telling you about a new law that requires you to get a new health care card. Maybe you get a call offering you big discounts on health insurance. Or maybe someone says they're from the government, and she needs your Medicare number to issue you a new card.

Scammers follow the headlines. When it's Medicare open season, or when health care is in the news, they go to work with a new script. Their goal? To get your Social Security number, financial information, or insurance number.

So take a minute to think before you talk: Do you really have to get a new health care card? Is that discounted insurance a good deal? Is that "government official" really from the government? The answer to all three is almost always: No.

Here's what you can do:

1. Stop. Check it out. Before you share your information, call Medicare (1-800-MEDICARE), do some research, and check with someone you trust. What's the real story?

2. Pass this information on to a friend. You probably saw through the requests. But chances are you know someone who could use a friendly reminder.

Want to know more? Sign up for scam alerts at ftc.gov/subscribe.

If you spot a scam, please report it to the Federal Trade Commission.

- Call the FTC at 1-877-FTC-HELP (1-877-382-4357) or TTY 1-866-653-4261

- Go online: fie.gov/complaint

Your complaint can help protect other people. By filing a complaint, you can help the FTC's investigators identify scam artists and stop them before they can access to a friend's hard-earned money. It really makes a difference.

The Blotter



The Blotter is a summary of the previous week's activity by the Sonora Police Department and the Sutton County Sheriff's Office. For practical reasons of time and space, The Blotter does not include every call made to the police department or Sheriff's Office, nor does it include routine security checks, minor traffic stops or routine patrols. Accidents of major impact may be reported separately. Subjects reported to have been arrested are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

SONORA PD NO ARRESTS REPORTED INCIDENTS

FEBRUARY 27 - 10:55 AM • Abandon vehicle call LMH parking lot. Officer responded.

11:50 AM • Lost cell phone call Road Ranger. Officer responded.

12:20 PM • Truancy call 1000 block of S. Crockett Ave. Officer responded.

12:22 PM • 9-1-1 EMS call 400 block E 2nd. Officer responded to assist.

3:31 PM • Requesting to speak to an officer on 700 block of Menard. Officer responded.

5:15 PM • Welfare concern call on Mesquite and Cornell. Officers responded.

FEBRUARY 28 - 6:51 PM • 9-1-1 EMS call at middle school gym. Officer responded to assist.

7:52 PM • Accident/wreck call at Road Ranger. Officer responded.

MARCH 2 - 10:22 AM • Theft call at 600 block of S. Crockett. Officer responded.

5:40 PM • 9-1-1 EMS call at 1900 block of Tayloe. Officer responded to assist.

6:34 PM • Officer requested at 800 block of St. Ann's. Officer responded.

8:24 PM • Disturbance call at 100 block of Lorene. Officer responded.

8:40 PM • Disorderly conduct call at 300 block of Calle Nuevo Leon. Officer responded.

11:45 PM • Loud music call at 800 Block of St. Ann's. Officer responded.

MARCH 3 - 10:08 AM • Officer requested at LMH. Officer responded.

1:43 PM • Theft call at 200 E. Main. Officer responded.

5:59 PM • Welfare concern at 300 block of Hwy 277 North. Officer responded.

9:50 PM • Accident/wreck call near Road Ranger. Officer responded.

MARCH 4 - 1:17 PM • Suspicious person call at Road Ranger. Officer responded.

8:08 PM • Illegally parked vehicle call at Laredo Taco. Officer responded.

9:40 PM • Reckless driver/hit and run call at 500 block of Hwy 277 North. Officer responded.

10:18 PM • Suspicious person call at Days Inn. Officer responded.

MARCH 5 - 10:49 AM • Suspicious person call at Family Dollar. Officer responded.

11:11 PM • Agency assist at Stripes Subway. Officer responded.

SUTTON COUNTY SHERIFF ARRESTS

FEBRUARY 27 • Federico Torres, 28-year old male of Uvalde. Arrested on a Sutton County warrant.

- Jeremy Lennon, 30-year old male of Austin. Arrested on a Sutton County warrant.

FEBRUARY 28 • Diana Linares, 25-year old female of Houston. Arrested for Possession of Drug Paraphernalia and Tampering with Physical Evidence.

- Terence Stewart, 33-year old male of Houston. Arrested for No Driver License and False DL/ID.

MARCH 1 • Sam Smith, 56-year old male of Odessa. Arrested for Driving While Intoxicated.

MARCH 2 • John David Martinez, Jr, 34-year old male of Del Rio. Arrested for Theft of Property between \$30,000 and \$150,000.

MARCH 4 • David Ramirez, 50-year old male of Sonora. Arrested for DWLI and Possession of Controlled Substance.

INCIDENTS

FEBRUARY 27 - 10:02 AM • Deputies assisted another agency with a stolen recreational vehicle.

FEBRUARY 28 - 7:24 AM • Deputy responded to loose cows on RR 3130 (south service road).

8:26 AM • Deputy responded to multiple calls in reference to mail boxes being vandalized around the county.

MARCH 2 - 12:55 PM • Deputies responded to a stolen vehicle on Hwy 277 South from a local business.

MARCH 3 - 8:29 AM • Deputy responded to a two vehicle accident on I-10 at 395 mm EB.

1:01 - PM • Deputy assisted EMS with a medical call on the south service RD.

MARCH 4 - 5:00 PM • Deputy responded to a theft call at the baseball fields/county park.

BASEBALL:

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

inning, the crowd roared with certainty of a win.

Lira doubled, driving in one, Daniel Gonzales also doubled, driving in one run, Galvan tripled, driving in two runs, and Levi Garrett singled, driving in one run. Two errors allowed the Punchers to score two runs but it wasn't enough to change their fate.

Pitching for the Broncos, Gonzales tossed two innings surrendering two runs, two hits, striking out one, and walking one. San-Miguel tossed one inning, surrendering zero runs, zero hits, striking out one, and walking zero.

With a total of 15 hits in the game, the Broncos celebrated their team effort and tournament victory.

With a score of 3-11, TLCA earned the Consolation Game over Eldorado and Kerrville JV was awarded 3rd place for their 3-12 win over Harper.

Taking a day to cool off their bats, the Broncos return to action Tuesday, March 07, 2017 for a non-conference game against the Llano Yellowjackets.

Game time is set for 7:00 p.m. at Jacket Field. The JV game time is set for 4:30 p.m.

State Sales Tax Revenue Totaled \$2.4 Billion in February, 2017

(AUSTIN) — Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar said today that state sales tax revenue totaled \$2.4 billion in February, 4.4 percent more than in February 2016.

"Growth in sales tax revenue was due to increased collections from most sectors of the economy," Hegar said. "While tax collections from oil- and gas-mining remain subdued, receipts from telecommunications, construction, services and retail and wholesale trade increased significantly."

Total sales tax revenue for the three months ending in February 2017 was up by 2.8 percent compared with the same period a year ago.

Sales tax revenue is the largest source of state funding for the state budget, accounting for 58 percent of all tax collections in fiscal 2016. Motor vehicle sales and rental taxes, motor fuel taxes and oil and natural

gas production taxes are also large revenue sources for the state.

In February 2017, Texas collected the following revenue from those taxes: motor vehicle sales and rental taxes — \$373.2 million, up 0.3 percent from February 2016; motor fuel taxes — \$289.7 million, up 1.1 percent from February 2016; and oil and natural gas production taxes — \$277.7 million, up 150 percent from February 2016. The increase is, in part, due to refunds that went to natural gas severance taxpayers in February 2016, which resulted in artificially low tax collections during that period.

For details on all monthly collections, visit the Comptroller's Monthly State Revenue Watch.

For an audio clip of Hegar's statement on this month's sales tax revenue, go to the Comptroller's website.

CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS: Convention

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

nation's founding document if 34 states formally petition for it. Any amendments approved at that convention are adopted if 38 states ratify it."

DSHS gives Zika update

The Texas Department of State Health Services on Feb. 28 announced that as of Feb. 24, six Zika virus cases have been confirmed in Texas for calendar year 2017.

DSHS posts updates at TexasZika.org every Tuesday on the number of Zika virus disease cases in Texas by the patient's county of residence.

Cases confirmed this year, by county, are: Bexar, 1 case; Brazoria, 1; Cameron, 2; Lubbock, 1; and Smith, 1. Statewide, some 310 cases were confirmed in calendar years 2015 and 2016.

Perry joins Trump cabinet

The U.S. Senate on March 2 confirmed Rick Perry as secretary of the Department of Energy.

"America has been blessed with vast natural resources and the technology to utilize them," Perry told his new employees the next day. "I am committed to helping provide stable, reliable, affordable and secure sources of American energy. An America-first

energy strategy is important to create jobs and grow the economy."

Perry also took a moment to poke fun at himself for not remembering, during a presidential debate in late 2011, the name of the Department of Energy in a list of federal agencies he said he would eliminate if he were elected president. In his March 3 remarks, Perry expressed his appreciation of the department's work and pledged to be a strong advocate for it.

Perry served as governor of Texas from December 2000 to January 2015.

Sales tax revenue grows

Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar on March 2 announced state sales tax revenue totaled \$2.4 billion in February, 4.4 percent more than in February 2016.

"While tax collections from oil and gas mining remain subdued, receipts from telecommunications, construction, services and retail and wholesale trade increased significantly," Hegar said.

Sales tax revenue is the largest source of state funding for the state budget, accounting for 58 percent of all tax collections in fiscal 2016. Total sales tax revenue for the three months ending in February 2017 was up by 2.8 percent compared with the same period a year ago, Hegar added.

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San Angelo—Brady—Sonora
Lexi Villareall, HIS Hearing Instrument Specialist

Card of Thanks

It is with immense gratitude that I take this opportunity to publicly thank the multitudes of Sonorans that were an integral in helping me complete my Eagle Scout project.

First, thank you to our local Boy Scouts chapter, and all the many leaders who have helped me through my scout journey.

Next, thank you to our local Lions Club that not only provides a building for scouts, but also provides encouragement and guidance to actively help the youth in our community.

Moreover, thank you to my family, and friends who positively influence my life daily, and didn't grumble when I asked if they could help.

Also, thank you to Mr. Will Alison for all his help and guidance, as I began my Eagle Scout project! Thank you, Mr. Kissire, Mr. Aschenbeck and the SISD School Board for supporting my idea, and allowing me to carry it out. Thank you to my grandfather, Juan Jimenez & Mr. Jose DeLuna who loaned me power washers. Thank you to the staff at Parker Lumber, who offered a million helpful tips, ordered paint, and even donated a water hose to the elementary for use with my project.

Finally, I extend a huge appreciation to the people listed below for dedicating chess or checkers pieces for my project. I could not have completed the project without them.

Thank you all.

Juan Miguel Jimenez, Eagle Scout

St. Ann's Catholic Church
 JJ's Auto Service / Bear & Foxy
 The Bank & Trust
 Sonora Downtown Lions Club
 Sonora Elementary
 Sonora Broncos
 Taco Grill
 La Mexicana Restaurant
 OAP Family 2016 / The Anatomy of Gray
 Wallace Law Office
 Sonora Police Department
 Everett's Pharmacy
 Sonora Bronco Band
 The Knights of Columbus
 Sam Dillard, Agent / State Farm Insurance
 Armer & Andi's
 Seredipity Salon
 Old Sonora Ice House Ranch Museum
 Burkes Kissire
 James Geske
 Cayden & Chloe Guerra
 Marco, Davis, & JR Jimenez
 David Andrus
 The Edwards Family
 The DeLuna Family
 Mike, Pam, & Zach Hailey
 Paul & Greta Ramsdell with Darby & Delaney
 Elyssa Prieto
 The Crenwelge Family
 Ann Morris
 Lance & Shanna Castro with Landon, Kadee, & Jillian
 Brandon & Kaci Wilhelm
 Kylie Reiner
 The Zapata Family
 Ramon & Juanita Estrada
 Miranda Renteria
 Zeke & Janna Martinez
 Abigail Solis
 Charlotte Wilson, Educator
 Mike & Kay Friess, with Macie
 Alex Renteria
 Kodi Ann & Koda Joy, Robert & Candy Davis
 Marla Luna
 Denice Arispe
 Rachel Agüero
 Jennifer Nichols
 Esteban & Araceli Marin
 Edward & Arcelia Carrasco
 Bronson Scenkel
 Jayla D. Williams
 Leandro "Cinco" Agüero
 Andi & Kason Archer
 Netza, Noe, Naylana, & Neno Estrada
 In Memory of Ladainian Matthew Saiz
 In Memory of Sulema Lozano
 In Loving Memory of Esperanza Arredondo

& Robert D. Estrada
 In Loving Memory of Freddie Gandar
 In Memory of Fidencio Vasquez
 In Loving Memory of Joe C. Perez & Chris Perez
 In Memory of Felipe Bernal, Jr. & Richard Bernal
 In Memory of Raul Leal
 In Loving Memory of Daniell Herrera, Sr., from Bub & Blaze
 Class of 2017 - Mollie Taylor
 Stevie Strong! - Sheridan Walther
 Joseph C. Delgado, Class of 2017
 David E. Delgado, Class of 2020
 Good Luck, Liam Yourgalite, Class of 2017!
 Brock Aschenbeck, Class of 2020
 Tate Shannon, Class of 2017
 Evan Shannon, Class of 2019
 Logan Sine, Class of 2015
 Walker Sine, Class of 2019
 Kayla Garcia, Class of 2008
 Rascal / 08-24-2009
 Bianca Fay, Class of 2017
 Haley Smith, Class of 2020
 Jessica Smith, Class of 2022
 Carson Cahill, Class of 2022
 Lane Cahill, Class of 2019
 Sydney E. Robles, Class of 2017
 Sabian E. Robles, Class of 2019
 Derek VanWinkle 2009
 Brian VanWinkle 2019
 Jaye Sanchez, Class of 2013
 Riley Sanchez, Class of 2008
 Ross Sanchez, Class of 2003
 Julian Gallardo, Class of 2016
 Noah & Samuel Hale, "Mimi's Boys"
 The Leamons / Sean, Dana, Avery & Aidan
 The Duncan Family / Brandon, Chasey, Abby & Eian
 Guy, Jess, & Berklee Barnett
 Esau, Andrew, Brandon, Alyssa, Leticia & Manuel Martinez
 Peter & Pat Gomez, and all their clan!
 Owen & Emory Jones
 Maura Hernandez Weingart / Javier, Chris, & Michelle
 Cassi Cole
 Barry & Janice Black
 Gabriel & Rosa Ramirez / Justin Hernandez
 Idolina Chavez & Family
 Brady Vyvlecka
 Conner Vyvlecka
 Buddy, Kyle, & Wesley Barker
 Teresa's Family / Selena, Bryana, & Angel
 Kimberly Gonzales
 Caleb Gonzales
 Pam Munn
 The Valkonens

City of Sonora



Senior Center

MONDAY March 13
 Cold Tuna Salad, Wheat Bread, Green Peas, w/Red Peppers, Cake, Milk
TUESDAY March 14
 Soft Taco, Spanish Rice, Pinto Beans, Fruit Mix, Cookie, Milk
WEDNESDAY March 15
 Chicken Parmesan w/Pasta and Sauce, Mix Veggies, Garlic Toast, Pudding, Milk
THURSDAY March 16
 Chicken Fried Steak w/Gravy, Mashed Potatoes, Okra, Tomato, Gumbo, Rosy Pears, Milk
FRIDAY March 17
 Chicken Guisada, Beans, Salad, Corn Bread, Rocky Road Pudding, Milk

For transportation to and from the center call 325-387-3941.

SOLUTION TO PUZZLES ON PAGE 6



- 7 CUT
- 11 BREAD
- 13 STORY
- 16 CHANGE

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SOLUTION TO PUZZLE ON PAGE 4

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Texas AgriLife Ext. To Offer Pesticide Applicator Training

With spring not far away, it will soon be time to control unwanted vegetation.

However, if you are considering herbicides, here are some things you should know: Some chemicals are designated general-use pesticides and can be purchased "over-the-counter", while others are restricted-use pesticides and require a pesticide applicator license.

Private applicator licenses are required in order to use or supervise the use of restricted or state-limited pesticides or regulated herbicides in the production of agricultural commodities.

For those seeking a pesticide applicator license, there will be training on March 28th beginning at 9:00 a.m. at the Sutton County Extension Office.

This license is good for 5 years, and is renewed by procuring continuing education credits and submitting the renewal fee.

It's not all about using pesticides. We begin with

a discussion of "Integrated Pest Management (IPM) in Agriculture".

IPM is a pest population management system that anticipates and prevents pests from causing damage.

IPM is also an ecological approach to pest control.

What are the components of IPM?

They include correct pest identification, population monitoring, biological control, use of pest-resistant plants, cultural and structural changes, and when appropriate, the judicious use of least-toxic pesticides.

The intent of IPM is to use tactics that include pesticide alternatives that reduce the total amount of pesticide chemicals used thereby lessening the opportunity for pests to develop resistance.

Please call the Sutton County Extension Office at 387-3101 if interested in the training so that manuals can be ordered for you.

Please order by March 21st to allow time for delivery. Cost for training and manuals is \$50.



Pascual Hernandez

Great Texas Wildlife Trail Maps Collection Completed

AUSTIN - Drive on the wild side of the prairies and forests with two newly updated Great Texas Wildlife Trail maps. The updated Prairies and Pineywoods East and West maps mark the completion of the entire collection, displaying more than 920 wildlife-viewing sites all across Texas.

The nine wildlife trail maps invite nature lovers to discover the best of Texas' native wildlife including birds, butterflies, bats and more throughout different regions of the state. Highway signs mark the wildlife-viewing sites, or print maps with GPS coordinates to guide them can be purchased. An interactive version of the map is also available online to explore the region.

Included on the interactive map is the "Sonora Loop" that includes stops at the XBar Ranch in Schleicher County, the Caverns of Sonora, the Eaton Hill Nature Center and Preserve in Sonora and the Jarrett Juno Ranch in Val Verde County.

To view all nine Great Texas Wildlife Trails maps or to purchase a printed map, visit the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) website. Each regional map details

several smaller trail loops for easy driving trips throughout Texas. The maps also list contact information, entry fees and operating hours for attractions along the trails.

To commemorate the launch of the new maps, TPWD and community partners from the City of Bonham and Fannin County will hold a public event at Bonham State Park Tuesday, March 7, from 1-2 p.m. The park is part of the Prairies and Pineywoods East map on the newly created Bois D'Arc Loop. The new maps will be unveiled and representatives from the community and sites along the trails will be available with information about wildlife-viewing opportunities in the region. Visitors to the park can enjoy swimming and fishing in the man-made lake, as well as camping, picnicking, hiking, mountain biking and boating. Some points of interest at the park include Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) constructed footbridge, pump house, dam and fireplace.

The new wildlife maps were made possible in part from the support of a number of sponsors, including the Wildlife Diversity Conservation License Plate Program.

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

Sutton County Underground Water Conservation District (SUTUWCD)

Public Hearing
 Application for Permitted Wells - City of Sonora

March 20, 2017
 Monday
 9:00 AM.

City Hall Building
 City Hall Council Chambers
 201 East Main Street.
 Sonora, TX 76950

The Sutton County Underground Water Conservation District (SUTUWCD) will hold a public hearing on an application for two permitted wells by Edward Carrasco on behalf of the City of Sonora. The application filed with the District is requesting to drill two water wells with the well capacity of 40 gallons per minute each on 2 acres north of Loop 467 at the intersection of Exit 404 off Interstate 10. In compliance with the SUTUWCD rules, the City of Sonora is filing for an exception to spacing and density requirements set out in Section 4.013 of the rules.

In accordance with Rule 4.007, public comments will only be accepted by the SUTUWCD in written form and must be turned in or mailed to the District office by close of business March 15, 2017. The District is located at 301 S. Crockett Avenue, Sonora, Texas 76950. For any additional information or questions, please contact the SUTUWCD at 325-387-2369 or email sutuwcd7@verizon.net.

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 325-387-2507

Reader Recipes

"Marie's Pralines"

The Sonora Woman's Club was organized in 1916 with thirty-two members. The purpose of the club is to promote the culture and entertainment of its members and to furnish a medium through which they might work for the general good of the community. Throughout the years, the members have produced six cookbooks including their most recent publication, "The Centennial Cookbook." You can't go wrong with this delicious recipe submitted by Linda Johnson.

- 1 1/2 cup sugar
- 1 Cup (8 oz.) dark brown sugar
- 3/4 Cup Evaporated milk (*Marie prefers Pet brand*)
- 1 Teaspoon Vanilla
- 1 Tablespoon butter (*add when you add vanilla*)
- 4 Tablespoons white Karo syrup
- Pinch of salt
- 2-3 Cups pecans (*Marie uses 2 1/2 cups*)

Combine all ingredients except vanilla and butter. Stir over low heat until sugar is dissolved. Increase heat to medium and stir until mixture reaches a soft boil stage. Remove from heat, add vanilla and butter. Beat by hand until mixture begins to thicken and loses gloss. Drop by spoon onto waxed freezer paper.

Honey Bees Not Buying Groundhog's Late Spring Prediction

BY STEVE BYRNS
TEXAS AGRILIFE

SPLAT! West Texas honey bees are on the move, so motorists shouldn't be surprised if their windshields are strafed by a hapless swarm in coming weeks, said a Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service entomologist.

Dr. Charles Allen, of San Angelo, said the unusually warm February, touted as the warmest on record here, has put honey bees in the mood to travel.

"It's a sign spring has arrived, at least to the bees," Allen said. "Usually the number of swarms goes up if the area had sufficient rainfall the previous fall, a situation much of Texas enjoyed."

Allen said the itch to move can stem from a

number of factors. Overcrowding in the colony, warm temperatures, a shortage of food, sudden availability of nectar and pollen, or even the presence of honey bee parasites can cause honey bees to swarm.

"But beyond these factors, swarming is the primary way honey bees increase the number of colonies in an area and spread to new areas," he said. "Typically, the old queen and about 60 percent of the bees in a colony leave, while the remaining bees stay and raise a new queen."

Swarms fly from the colony and usually collect in a high place not too far from their former home, he said. There, they form a ball or mass of bees attached to a branch or other structure with the queen safely in

the middle. From the mass, scout bees can be seen coming and going in search of a new home. Swarms may stay for only a short time, or as long as a day or two, depending on the length of time it takes to find suitable new quarters.

"It is a common misconception that swarms are dangerous to people," Allen said. "Though a swarm may appear as a fearsome seething mass of angry insects to the uninformed, the truth is that bees, and wasps too for that matter, sting almost exclusively to defend their young or brood. Swarms don't have 'baby bees' to protect, so even the most irritable, pugnacious Africanized honey bees are docile during a swarm. Like the boll weevil in the old song, swarming honeybees

are 'just huntin' a home.'"

That said, Allen warns that in Texas most wild bees nowadays are Africanized, so as soon as the queen starts laying eggs and a brood starts to develop, their attitude quickly shifts. The workers, now with young to protect, will become defensive and will attack anything they see as a threat.

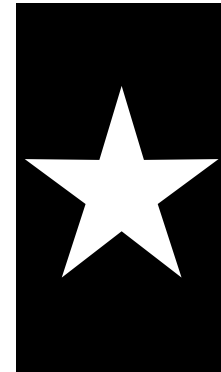
Because of the hyper-aggressive African genetic makeup most wild honey bees now have, elimination or removal by a beekeeper in and around homes is a "must do" to keep families and pets from being stung, Allen said.

"Since bees do not orient well in darkness, late evening, early morning or the middle of the night are good times to remove or

eliminate wild bee colonies near homes," Allen said. "Honey bees need polarized light such as the sun provides, to be able to locate things. So a flashlight, which does not emit polarized light, works well in the dark as the bees are unable to orient in its light. And since they are cold blooded and less active when the temperature is cold,

removal or elimination is less dangerous on a cool to cold night."

Allen said he does not advocate destroying colonies unless there is a danger to humans, livestock or pets. He said some AgriLife Extension offices have a list of beekeepers who might be contacted for bee removal. Barring that, most exterminators also deal with bee issues.



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NEED PASTURE

NEED PASTURE FOR 100-400 HEAD OF COWS AND CALVES. CALL FRED PEARCE 432-940-7069. P13

PUBLIC NOTICE

APPLICATION HAS BEEN MADE WITH THE TEXAS ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE COMMISSION FOR A (BG) WINE AND BEER RETAILER'S PERMIT BY LALA'S MEXICAN RESTAURANT, TO BE LOCATED AT 207 GLASSCOCK AVE., SONORA, TX 76950.

OWNER OF SAID CORPORATION IS MARIA HERNANDEZ.

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EMPLOYMENT

WAREHOUSE WORKER WANTED FOR RAFTER W FEED, SONORA. APPLY IN PERSON APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE AT 201 CEDAR ST. 325-387-3042. P6-10

WANTED - SWAB UNIT OPERATOR, APPLY IN PERSON AT THE GLOVER COMPANY AT 2973 110 EAST OZONA, TX. M-F; 8-5 (NEAR TRUCK STOP) P9-12

EMPLOYMENT NOTICE

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Nydia Rodriguez snaps up a hit to the outfield during Saturday's match up between Sonora and Reagan County, March 4, 2017. JL MANKIN | THE DEVIL'S RIVER NEWS



Dekota Morrow takes a swing during Saturday's tournament game between Sonora and Reagan County, March 4, 2017. JL MANKIN | THE DEVIL'S RIVER NEWS



Danyse Cantu winds up the pitch for the Lady Broncos, Saturday, March 4, 2017 during the championship playoff game between Sonora and Reagan County. JL MANKIN | THE DEVIL'S RIVER NEWS

RC Tournament Slips Away from Lady Broncos, 4-9

The Lady Broncos went undefeated on the first day of competition during the Reagan County Softball Tournament this past weekend.

Unfortunately, they watched the game slip away early and could not recover suffering a 4-9 loss to Reagan County on the final day, Saturday, March 4, 2017.

The Lady Owls gained an early lead in the first by capitalizing off of walks and wild pitches. However, the Lady Broncos were able to end the first inning by only allowing one run to cross the plate. The Lady Owls' pitcher, Yulissa Balderas, kept the Lady Broncos' off balance for the first two innings.

Reagan County scored five runs in the second inning off of 4 walks, 2 hit by pitches, and one single putting them in the lead 6-0 over Sonora.

Determination drove the Lady Broncos to achieve a run across in the top of the third due to errors by the Lady Owls infield. However, the Lady Owls came back with an additional three runs across the board advancing the score 9-1 in their favor.

Finally, the Lady Broncos picked up their game in the fifth with a two-out rally. Riley Walker came up to the plate swinging to start a rally on a line drive to left field for a stand up double.

Nydia Rodriguez then

followed with a double of her own to center field, allowing Walker to come around and score.

Dekota Morrow then hit a single down the left field line advancing Rodriguez to third base.

With runners on first and third and two outs, Kristin Garrett hit a line drive shot to left center, just out of reach of the diving left fielder.

Both Rodriguez and Morrow crossed home plate ahead of Garrett's stand up double.

Audry Nolen kept up the momentum with a hard chopper in the infield that slipped away from the Lady Owls second baseman.

Unfortunately, Reagan County forced a strike out ending Sonora's streak of luck.

Despite out hitting the Lady Owls five to two, Reagan County was able to hold on to their 4-9 lead to end the game.

None the less, the Lady Broncos were applauded for demonstrating good team effort and skill on the field.

Leading Sonora in offense, Katy Jo Wardlaw, Walker, Garrett, Morrow, and Rodriguez each managed one hit.

With a record of 7-4 on the season, the Lady Broncos looked to finish off preseason strong with a rematch against Ozona at home on Tuesday, March 7th.

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

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CDC (LOCAL): Other revenues – gifts and solicitations; CJ (LOCAL): Contracted services; DC (LOCAL): Employment practices; DEE (LOCAL): Compensation and benefits – expense reimbursement; DFAA (LOCAL): Probationary contracts – suspension/termination during contract; DFBA (LOCAL): Term contracts – suspension/termination during contract; FEA (LOCAL) – Student welfare – wellness and health services; FJ (LOCAL): Student fundraising; GE (LOCAL): Relations with parent organizations.

In regular business, the board approved the consent agenda items as presented including the business

manager's report, Tax Assessor/Collector, board financial reports and the minutes of the February 9 and February 15 meetings.

Trustees approved the annual review and approval of Sonora ISD Investment Policy. They also approved the Instructional materials Allotment and TEKS Certification for 2017-18 as well as a budget amendment reflecting donations made to the district by individuals and local businesses.

Board members approved the named election judges and workers for the upcoming school trustee election set for May 6, 2017. Early voting will take place at the Sutton County Annex Building and voters may cast their ballots on election day at the Sonora ISD Administration building.

Board member also approved the May board meeting date of May 15, 2017 to include canvassing the election also.

Trustees took a short recess to eat dinner before going behind closed doors to discuss and consider the evaluation and duties of the athletic director.

The board returned to open session and no action was taken before the meeting was adjourned.

Board President Dawn Cahill presided over the meeting. Trustees Amber Killough, Cynthia Perez, Shanna Petty-Castro, Jesse Bustamante, Jerry Jimenez and Brady Johnson were present.

The next meeting of the Sonora ISD Board of Trustees is set for April 10, 2017 at 5:30 p.m. in the Vocational Building.

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We are looking at establishing and evening and weekend clinic. Please let our staff know your thoughts.



Amanda Lindo
MSN, RN, FNP-C
Nurse Practitioner



Rebecca "Beckie" Sullivan,
MSN, RN, FNP-BC
Nurse Practitioner



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