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The Devil's River News

OUR ROOTS RUN DEEP & STRONG • COVERING THE NEWS IN SONORA AND SUTTON COUNTY SINCE 1890

August 31, 2017

\$1

Volume 128
 Issue 34



2017-2018 Texas Dove Hunting Season Outlook Promising

For the first time since dove conservation measures were established in Texas nearly a century ago, hunters statewide will have an opportunity to pursue the popular game birds during the first weekend of September.

While the traditional September 1st opener will still be limited to Texas' North and Central Dove Zones, hunters in the southern region of the state will be able to join in the action the following afternoon thanks

to an expansion of the Special White-winged Dove Area across the entire South Dove Zone. Previously, these early 4 days of dove hunting were restricted to an area roughly west and south of San Antonio and Corpus Christi.

"The expansion of early white-winged dove hunting during the first two weekends in September, in effect, create early September hunting opportunities statewide for the first time ever," said Dave Morrison, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

Wildlife Division deputy director.

The regular season opening day in the South Dove Zone will be Sept. 22, the earliest date possible this year under federal guidelines.

Roughly 15 percent of the nation's 300 million mourning dove reside in Texas, along with about 15 million white-winged doves at the beginning of September. Each fall, over 300,000 Texas dove hunters take to the field in pursuit of these

acrobatic, fast-flying game birds. Based on field observations by TPWD wildlife biologists, prospects for the 2017-18 hunting season are fair to excellent across the state as habitat conditions vary depending on scattered precipitation and timing of plants seeding out.

"Texas had above average mourning dove production early in the spring with continued good production where precipitation occurred through the spring and summer," said

Shaun Oldenburger, TPWD Dove Program Leader. "Good croton, sunflower, ragweed, and other highly-selected dove foods were found statewide this year. Where good water conditions and timing of seeding in these plants coincide, hunters should find good hunting in September for mourning doves."

White-winged doves were observed flocking in late July in urban areas across the state with good numbers starting to

SEE DOVE SEASON ON PAGE 10



The Sonora Broncos prepared for the start of their 2017 football campaign with two-a-days and pre-season scrimmages against Mason and Brady. The Broncos open their season against the Ozona Lions, Friday, September 1, 2017, at home in Bronco Stadium. KIMBERLEY MEYER | THE DEVIL'S RIVER NEWS

Sonora Aids in Hurricane Relief

The Sonora Police Department and the City of Sonora, along with the rest of the nation, stand with all those affected by Hurricane Harvey.

Chief of Police Art Fuentes will be delivering cases of water to a drop off point in San Antonio to assist with the Hurricane Harvey relief in Houston as well as the surrounding affected areas.

Citizens who are willing to donate cases of water are asked to please bring them to the Police Station by noon Friday, September 1.

Hurricane Harvey devastated areas in South Texas after making landfall twice this past weekend.

The Category 4 storm, came ashore near Rockport, Friday, evening, August 25th, about 30 miles North East of Corpus Christi, bringing with it 130 mph sustained winds, storm surge and flooding rains.

Harvey made landfall a second time Saturday, near Copano Bay.

Heavy rains have caused catastrophic damage to homes, businesses and other areas along the Gulf coast and inland.

Harris County, home to Houston, is one of those areas significantly affected causing people to be stranded by the historic flooding in the wake of Hurricane Harvey.

More than 30 inches of rain has been recorded in Harris County as of Monday evening.

Officials in Texas said Monday afternoon that at least nine people appear to have died as a result of the storm battering the state.

That toll includes six people in Harris County, home to Houston, one person in Rockport, near where Harvey made landfall and another person in La Marque, near Galveston.

Emergency crews, first responders and disaster relief agencies from throughout the State of Texas have made their way to the areas left in the wake of Harvey. Shelters have also been set up throughout the state for those who were forced to leave their homes behind or lost homes as a result of the storm.

For more information on how to help those affected by Hurricane Harvey call 325-387-3888.

Broncos Look to Pounce on Lions in 2017 Football Season Opener Sept 1.

Known for being rich in pride and football tradition, Sonora is geared up for another season and this year's varsity team, once again, has their sights set on a state title as they begin their 2017 campaign.

The Broncos kick-off the season with a home game against long-time rivals the Ozona Lions this Friday, September 1, 2018 at Bronco Stadium.

The match will be to see if the Broncos are ready to make a run for the playoffs again this year and ultimately a state title.

Despite their opposition Head Coach Jeff Cordell said he is excited about the upcoming season and Friday's game.

"This will be a big game due to the fact it is a I-10 rivalry game," Cordell said. "The Ozona Lions will come into Bronco Stadium with a chip on their shoulder looking to upset state ranked Sonora."

As for his team's preparedness Cordell said the Broncos

will need to have a great week of practice and improve from their last scrimmage to come out with a win.

"Ozona is a much-improved ball club from last year," Cordell said. "They have another year under Coach Freeman and he has the Lions headed in the right direction. They are young but have been impressive in their two scrimmages. Their QB Alec Lara is a difference maker. Don't let his size full you. He is 5'7 - 145 but plays much bigger than his size indicates. They run the veer on offense which puts a lot of pressure on the defense with regards to option responsibilities. Alec runs the veer extremely well. Defensively they are very aggressive and swarm to the football. This will be a good test for the Broncos as they open the 2017 season at home."

Returning Quarterback Kaden Cordell and Running Back Jarrett Jackson are two key components to the Broncos

success this season.

They along with other seasoned players not only understand the concepts of the game but the importance of stepping up and becoming leaders.

Of course, staying healthy is also important to this year's success.

"The Broncos have made strides over the past couple of weeks," Cordell said. "And, we had a good showing in our final tune up against Brady. We are healthy headed into the game against the Lions."

Although last year was a good year for the Broncos, making their way to the region I final before cashing out to Canadian in an overtime thriller, this year the Broncos are determined to make it all the way to state.

This Friday's game will mark the first step on the journey toward the 3A Division II State Championship as the team looks to avenge last year's season ending loss to the Wildcats and that

match is likely again this year.

Special to the season opener, participants of this year's 'Little Bronco Maker' football camp will lead the varsity players onto the field before the start of the game.

Kickoff is slated for 7:30 p.m. and Bronco fans are encouraged to come out and show support for the team.

Of course, the best place to follow the Broncos is in the stands cheering for the team. But, for those who are unable to make it, the game will be broadcast live on KHOS 92.1 FM, the Home of the Broncos, with Virgil Burge and Craig Leonard bringing you call by call from the press box in Bronco Stadium.

A new internet stream URL, <http://khos921.listen2myradio.com>, is now available to accommodate more listeners.

A report following the game, will also be available online at the Devil's River News website: www.devilsriver.news.

City and County Negotiate Interlocal Agreements for Good of Community

For the first time in three years, administrators and elected officials from the City of Sonora and Sutton County met to discuss the details of interlocal agreements during a joint meeting Wednesday, August 23, 2017.

The existing agreements on the agenda included the Senior Center, Dispatch Service, Fire protection, EMS, Trax Van/

Transit and Animal Control. Also discussed was sharing equipment and employees to complete necessary road maintenance in the community as well as fuel pumps at the local airport.

Mayor Wanda Shurley opened talk concerning the Senior Center.

Since 1990, the City of Sonora

and Sutton County have been jointly committed to sharing the costs to sustain the center, a vital element of the community.

Currently, volunteers deliver about 50 meals per day, 5 days a week, Monday through Friday. The need for more volunteers was suggested to help with jobs currently carried out by staff employees.

After some discussion, members of both sides voted to continue the existing interlocal agreement with the Senior Center at a cost of \$50,000 per year each.

Next, members of the group shared their thoughts on sharing the costs for dispatch services.

Presently, the service is used to take all emergency calls

within the city limits as well as the surrounding area including the most rural parts of the county.

The existing agreement maintains that the city and county share the costs associated with providing dispatch services.

Following a discussion, both

SEE INTERLOCAL ON PAGE 10

Hurricane Harvey Assaults Coast, Then Batters Inland Counties

AUSTIN — Hurricane Harvey slammed the middle Texas coast on Aug. 25, hammering the region from Rockport to Palacios before continuing inland as a tropical storm and causing widespread catastrophic flooding.

With wind speeds in excess of 130 miles per hour before landfall at Rockport, the National Hurricane Center in Miami gave the storm a rating of Category 4. As rains and flooding worsened, Harvey was widely reported to be the strongest hurricane to hit Texas since Carla in 1961.

Before the storm hit, Gov. Greg Abbott requested and received a presidential disaster declaration, receiving approval from the Federal Emergency Management

Agency. The declaration cleared the way for individual assistance, public assistance and hazard mitigation to communities in affected counties, where high winds, torrential rains, flooding, tornadoes, power outages and more weather-related troubles affected millions of Texans.

First responders and civilian volunteers by the hundreds went to work rescuing the stranded and rendering aid under severe conditions.

Abbott's original request for a presidential disaster declaration was for 30 counties, including: Aransas, Austin, Bee, Calhoun, Chambers, Colorado, Brazoria, DeWitt, Fayette, Fort Bend, Galveston, Goliad, Gonzales, Harris, Jackson, Jefferson, Jim

Wells, Karnes, Kleberg, Lavaca, Liberty, Live Oak, Matagorda, Nueces, Refugio, San Patricio, Victoria, Waller, Wharton and Wilson counties.

Abbott made an additional request on Aug. 26 to include 20 more stricken counties: Atascosa, Bexar, Brazos, Caldwell, Cameron, Comal, Grimes, Guadalupe, Hardin, Jasper, Kerr, Lee, Leon, Madison, Montgomery, Newton, Tyler, Walker, Washington and Willacy.

On Aug. 27, the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration predicted ongoing and life-threatening flooding would continue across southeastern Texas with additional rainfall accumulations of 15 to 25 inches expected, and with

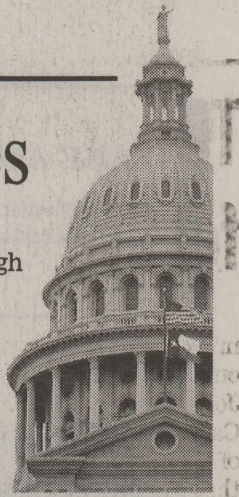
isolated storm totals as high as 50 inches, through Sept. 1.

Judge halts voter law

Laws toughening voter identification requirements continue to violate the U.S. Voting Rights Act, a Corpus Christi federal district judge ruled Aug. 23.

In her ruling, Judge Nelva Gonzales Ramos granted declaratory relief to the

SEE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS ON PAGE 5



STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Ed Sterling

Reporting to You From the Front Lines of a Drug-Induced Cat Fight

It was an all-outcatfight. One like I'd never seen before – at least not between Slices of Life



By Jill Pertler

the two of them, whom I know pretty well. They usually get along, or at least stay out of one another's way. But on this day, the claws were definitely out.

To be fair, their capacity

for sound decision making was off; both of them were a little tipsy. Heck, beyond tipsy. They were higher than kites – or cats as the case may be.

Their judgment was as slurred as their speech may have been – had they been able to speak. But as it was, a meow was all we could expect or hope for. Well, that and maybe a hiss or snarl or screech or purr.

The two felines in question were my pets. And I confess that responsibility for their dual tipsiness rested firmly on my shoulders. I'm their supplier. Ever since last spring when I started my own home-grown operation I've provided them with their stash – of catnip.

It all started innocently enough. I'd tried growing catnip from seed on a number of occasions, but never had any success. Then, in a stroke of luck, I found an already growing sprout at a nursery and planted it in our backyard garden. Last summer, the herb grew from tiny to medium and produced a few stems for us to pick. The cats loved each offering.

Come winter, I expected that would be the end of it.

This spring, however, the plant sprouted anew. It turns out catnip is a perennial and will return to the garden year after year. I couldn't believe my (not to mention my cats') good fortune.

This year, our catnip went from tiny in the spring to enormous by mid-summer. The plant is so plentiful we are able to harvest large stems daily. The cats roll in it and wrap themselves in the leaves; they lie in it; they sleep on it; they nibble on it. In short, they bring themselves to a fuzzy state of euphoria.

They love to get tipsy, or perhaps a better term would be nippy. It's become an afternoon ritual – a peaceful and serene ritual. Until yesterday.

The both of them were pretty nipped up and lying on the patio with their noses buried in the greenery. All was calm. All was bright. Until all heck broke loose.

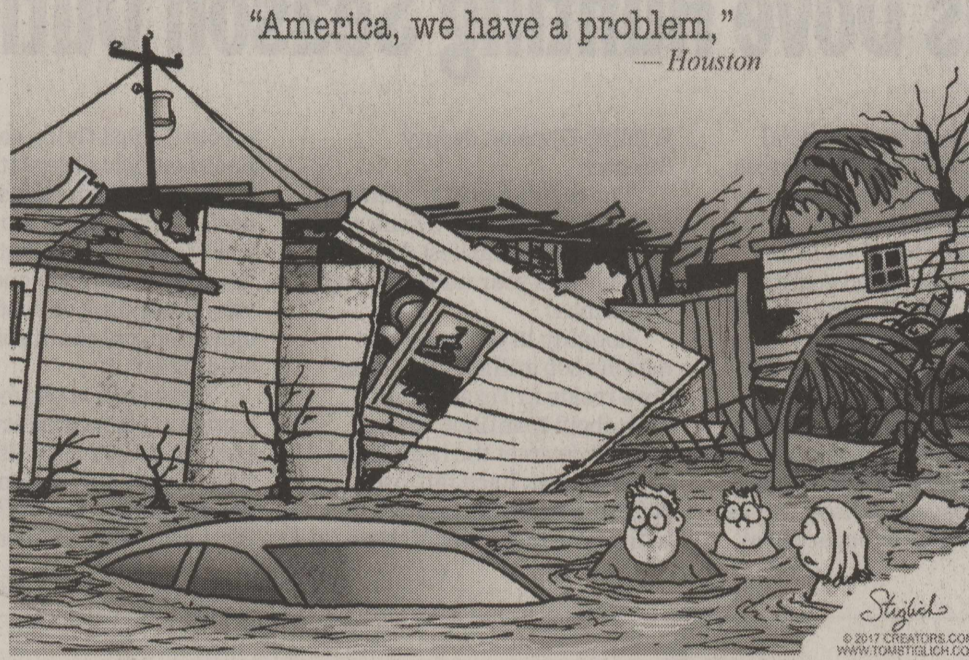
The little girl cat, in a state of tranquil bliss, reached over to put her paw on the shoulder of her older and much bigger brother. He must have interpreted this gesture of kindness as an aggressive move for his catnip because he declared an instant state of war. Meowing and pouncing ensued.

She moved to get away from him and he followed. She was still feeling the effects of the herb, however, and returned to her relaxed perch, seemingly oblivious to his angst. He loomed menacingly and pounced again. She narrowly escaped a tackle, running off into the yard to the safety of a secret hiding spot, howling all the way.

He returned to both his nip and an inebriated sense of supremacy.

A few minutes later, she returned and they each found their own spot on the patio. Peace was restored to the backyard so I went into the house to make supper, feeling just a bit like a drug dealer, yet knowing tomorrow I'd restock them both with their supply.

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.



27 Stops, 1,800 Miles Across Texas Much More Unites Us Than Divides Us

This month, my staff and I did our annual DC2DQ road-trip, hosting twenty public town hall meetings in seven days across Texas – mostly at local Dairy Queens. When I first ran for Congress, folks told me that they never saw their Representative. I promised them that they would never be able to say that about me. Regardless of if you agree with me or not, I will continue to show up in your community, tell you what I have done and why I did it.

DC2DQ is one way that I meet face-to-face with you and your neighbors to do just that. It is also an opportunity for you to meet my staff and receive help with personal cases involving federal agencies like the VA, Social Security, and Medicare.

As a bonus, I happen to love road trips and TX-23 offers some of the most breathtaking scenery in the country.

In between my twenty town hall meetings, we also stopped at schools and local businesses to hear from parents, teachers, and employers about how Washington, DC policies impact them and their families. Overall, we drove almost 1,800 miles from El Paso to San Antonio – and everywhere in between – so that I could answer your questions and learn about what's most important to you.

One of the things we talked about is what's going on in our nation's capital. Yes, Washington, DC is a circus. But despite what you see on national TV, Congress has passed some important bills in the last year and many of which have been bipartisan initiatives. For example, during DC2DQ, folks were surprised to learn about the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) which was signed into law last year, giving control back to states and local communities on how best to educate our children. I was also happy to report on my landmark IT Reform bill that will modernize government technology and deliver better services to Americans. Additionally, folks were surprised to learn that this coming fall, Congress will be focused on passing major tax reform for the first time in decades – something all of us can agree

on. Imagine being able to file your taxes on a postcard-sized sheet of paper – that is the bipartisan goal we will be working towards.

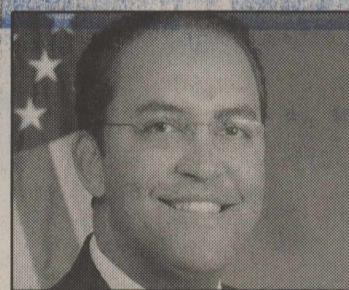
Overwhelmingly, most constituent questions related to North Korea, border security, and trade. We discussed the very real concerns of illegal immigration in border communities and how increased technology and manpower are the keys to gaining operational control of our southern border. Not surprisingly, NAFTA came up repeatedly as countless folks in El Paso, Del Rio and Eagle Pass rely on cross-border trades to feed their families.

But perhaps the most prominent theme that came up over and over, was that many Texans are tired of polarizing political rhetoric and want their elected officials to work together to get things done. Traveling through the diverse 23rd District of Texas is an excellent reminder that much more unites us than divides us. And DC2DQ confirmed that my district is filled with people who agree. In Congress, we must focus on the things that unite us in order to best serve our countrymen nationwide.

I represent the big towns and the small towns. I represent the folks who did vote for me and those who didn't. Meeting with as many constituents as possible is a critical component to my job as Representative and one I take extremely seriously. You can be sure that I'll take your concerns back to Washington and continue to stand tall for the 23rd District of Texas.

A former undercover CIA officer, entrepreneur and cybersecurity expert, Will Hurd is the U.S. Representative for the 23rd Congressional District of Texas. In Washington, he serves on the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, as Vice Chair of the Maritime and Border Security Subcommittee on the Committee for Homeland Security, and as the Chairman of the Information Technology Subcommittee on the Oversight and Government Reform Committee.

Hurd on the Hill



by U.S. Rep. Will Hurd

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A Trip Through the West

It was a perfect eight days, Monday to Monday in July. We left just before eight in the morning, had a picnic lunch near Perryton, then visited Dorothy's house in Liberal, Kansas. Dorothy herself took us through the Land of Oz and even sang Over The Rainbow for us.

When we were planning our trip we made a list of the things we wanted to see along the way to our North Dakota destination. Dorothy's place was one of them.

Rolling Along



by Tumbleweed Smith

We arrived in Dodge City, Kansas around 4:30 and went to the Boot Hill complex where we were thoroughly entertained. We saw an old west gunfight, had a delicious meal, and went to the saloon for a floor show that featured first class entertainment including can-can girls, comedy and songs from Miss Kitty herself. We spent Monday night in Dodge City.

Tuesday we drove through Ogallala, Nebraska, saw the old town there and ended up in Scottsbluff. We visited the national monument, which has the longest tunnel in Nebraska (it's not long). We walked around the sandstone cliffs that overlook the town. Later we had a five star meal at The Emporium restaurant.

We took our time and were never rushed. We left Texas with a speed limit of 75. We got to Kansas with a speed limit of 65. In Nebraska, it is 55. At some national parks we visited, the speed limit is sometimes 15 miles per hour.

Wednesday we went to Hot Springs, South Dakota and visited the impressive Fort Robinson, a sprawling frontier outpost during the Indian wars. We took a ride on a horse-drawn wagon while listening to a historian tell us about the place. Lakota Chief Crazy Horse was killed here. He fought with Sioux Chief Sitting Bull against General Custer at the Battle of Little Big Horn in Eastern Montana territory. Later we met up with friends in Hot Springs and visited some other friends who lived there.

Hot Springs has a stream running through it with several places to swim or wade. The city has an impressive dig site where some of the largest mammoths have been found. The dig is all under roof in a gigantic modern building complete with air conditioning.

Thursday, on our way to Mount Rushmore we came to a halt because a herd of buffalo had stopped traffic both ways. The fascinating animals just ambled around the pavement and finally moved off onto the grass alongside the highway. Lots of camera action there. Rushmore makes my heart beat faster. It is a tribute to creativity and ingenuity on a large scale. It's special to me because I interviewed Lincoln Borglum, who finished the giant stone faces after his father, sculptor Gutzon Borglum, died.

We spent a couple of nights in Rapid City, then met some other friends in Sturgis. Saturday we traveled to Bowman, North Dakota, completing my visit to every state. Then we traveled to Wyoming for a visit to Devils Tower. I loved the folk tales of bears and Indians.

On the way home we spent the night in Pueblo, Colorado. It was a week well spent, seeing new places with three different sets of friends. The cities of Spearfish and Deadwood, South Dakota are beautiful. Frank Lloyd Wright said Spearfish had some of the best building sites in America.

www.tumbleweedsmith.com

Heard Around Town

My great-grandfather could remember as a boy coming to West Texas in a covered wagon. Back then, he believed that peanuts grew on trees and that tomatoes were poisonous. As for me, I can remember a time when I believed that there couldn't be a worse phone company than Verizon.



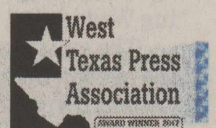
The Devil's River News
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MASKED RIDER PUBLISHING, INC.
224 E. Main Street
Sonora, Texas 76950
Ph: 325.387.2507
Fax: 325.853.3378
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THE DEVIL'S RIVER NEWS newspaper, U.S.P.S. 155-920, is published weekly except the weeks of Christmas and the 4th of July by Masked Rider Publishing, Inc., at 224 E. Main Street in Sonora, Texas.
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to THE DEVIL'S RIVER NEWS, 224 E. Main Street, Sonora, Texas 76950.
SUBSCRIPTIONS: Subscriptions are \$29.95 per year in Sutton County and \$39.95 per year elsewhere in Texas. Out of state subscriptions are \$45.95. Periodical class postage paid at Sonora, Texas 76950.
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Two Local Residents Recognized by Commissioners for Their Outstanding Citizenship in Sutton County

Sutton County Commissioners recognized two outstanding local citizens, John Wade and Dakota Castro, while taking care of business as usual during their regular meeting Monday, August 28, 2017.

On behalf of all of the commissioners, Judge Steve Smith honored John Wade for his 23 years of service as commissioner of Sutton County Precinct 2. Last year, Wade retired his post as commissioner. He served from April 1993 until August 2016.

"John Wade served Sutton County for 23 years and in that time, he showed concern and compassion for the place where he was raised," Smith said. "He loved his work as a Sutton County Commissioner and we thank him for his work which can never be repaid."

Additionally, Dakota Castro was recognized as, "Outstanding Citizen of Sutton County."

While working on his Eagle Scout designation, Castro raised enough money to buy body armor to be worn by local law enforcement officers.

Castro's father Chief Deputy DuWayne Castro accepted a certificate on his behalf.

Taking most of the morning the court approved as well as tabled items included on a lengthy agenda.

In regular business, the court approved the minutes of prior meetings and accounts payable.

Kathy Marshall, County Tax-Assessor Collector, reported at total of \$54,373.79 collected for



John Wade accepts a plaque from Judge Steve Smith, on behalf of Sutton County for his service as a commissioner, Monday, August 28, 2017. Wade served as County Commissioner for 23 years.

KIMBERLEY MEYER | THE DEVIL'S RIVER NEWS

DMV registration fees. Of that amount \$19,665.16 was retained by the county. Additionally, she reported a total of \$17,119.17 collected for property. Of that amount \$14,686.94 was retained by the county.

In other business, commissioners approved to advertise to hire an office administrator for DPS

and agreed to continue the Memorandum of Understanding between Sutton County and the Hospital District.

Next, the court approved to waive the Pavilion fee for TxDOT to host a retirement party for Sally Gonzales.

Additionally, commissioners formally accepted a retirement letter from

Librarian Florie Gonzales.

Next, commissioners approved a motion for no changes made to the Sheriff's fees.

The court tabled the closure and transfer of auto-fund bank account for the Sheriff's Office.

And, commissioners approved payment for counseling of jailers.

Next, commissioners approved the appointments of election precinct judges and alternates for the upcoming November election.

They also approved a contract with ES&S to provide election equipment for use by the County District Clerk.

No action was taken on correspondence sent out in August by the Attorney General's office regarding payment of payroll and bills. The item was tabled pending further review and recommendations by the County Attorney David Wallace.

Finally, Judge Smith reported that he is reviewing 20 applications for librarian and will bring recommendations to hire to the court during the September 11th regular meeting.

With no further discussion or visitor comments the meeting adjourned.

Judge Steve Smith presided over the meeting. Mike Villanueva, Bob Brockman, Fred Perez and Carl Teaff were present.

The next regular meeting of the Sutton County Commissioners is slated for Monday, August 11, 2017 at 9:00 a.m., at the County Annex Building.

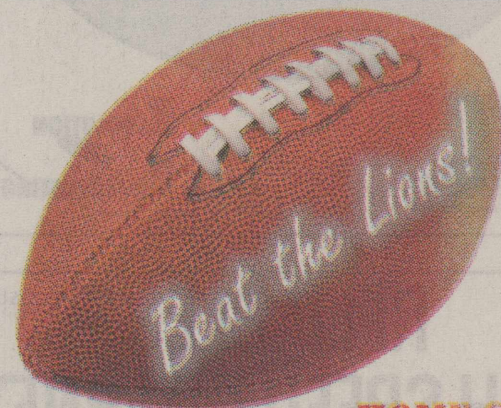


Judge Steve Smith presents a certificate to DuWayne Castro recognizing Castro's son, Dakota, as an "Outstanding Citizen of Sutton County". Castro earned this honor for his contribution to local law enforcement as part of achieving his Eagle Scout Award this past year.

KIMBERLEY MEYER | THE DEVIL'S RIVER NEWS

Go Broncos!

Stay **HUSTLE** Hard



HOME GAME
Kickoff: 7:30 p.m.

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SONORA WEATHER FORECAST

Thu 08/31	Fri 09/01	Sat 09/02	Sun 09/03	Mon 09/04
87/64 Partly Sunny Sunrise 7:14 a.m. Sunset 8:16 p.m.	88/64 Partly Sunny Sunrise 7:15 a.m. Sunset 8:14 p.m.	89/66 Partly Sunny Sunrise 7:16 a.m. Sunset 8:13 p.m.	88/70 Partly Sunny Sunrise 7:16 a.m. Sunset 8:12 p.m.	92/62 Mostly Sunny Sunrise 7:17 a.m. Sunset 8:11 p.m.

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Services provided under the guidance of the medical director:

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- Family support and education
- Spiritual counseling and support services
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Services provided by volunteers:

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- Laundry
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Ray Lindo
Certified
Fitness Professional

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- Equipment orientation
- Functional training
- Resistance training
- Metabolic training
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FMI: Call the Wellness Center at:
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Amanda Lindo
MSN, RN, FNP-C
Nurse Practitioner



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

Monday through Friday
from 8:15 a.m. - 4:15 p.m.

Sonora Medical Clinic B offers extended hours of operation to our community. Clinic B is open from 8 AM - 12 PM (noon) the first Saturday of every month. We also offer extended hours the 3rd Thursday of every month until 7 PM.

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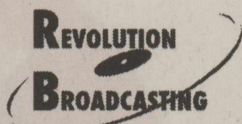
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KHOS Radio

VOICE OF THE SONORA BRONCOS



OBITUARIES

Irma Loeffler October 15, 1946 - August 22, 2017

A Love Letter to Momma



bringing to them. Most importantly, Momma, you taught us about our Father God. You laid us at his feet at a very young age. We were in church so much that when you would wake us up in the morning we would ask, "Are we going to school or church today?"

Your unwavering faith and your infectious joy for the Lord was one of the many reasons that people from all walks of life were drawn to you. You never shied away from the opportunity to share your testimony and the work that God had done in your life.

Over the last few days, I have witnessed the masses come from near and far to say, Goodbye to the woman that has positively influenced their lives in so many ways.

The stories of your love and generosity are countless. We are so very thankful for the constant love, encouragement and devotion you gave to us throughout your 50 years of being our mom.

We are so proud and honored to have had the privilege of calling you, "Momma."

My momma was surrounded by her children and her sister when she went to meet Jesus on Tuesday, August 22nd at 9:03 a.m.

She was survived by her caring sister, Romelia Castillo, her loving husband of thirty years, LeeRoy Loeffler, who she lovingly referred to as "Mi amor" or "My honey", her devoted children Tina DeValk, Rachel (Cal) Lambert, Ernest (Jennifer) Adams and Rita Adams, her wonderful stepchildren Reggie (Cindy) Loeffler, Teresa (Brooks) Walker and Shad Loeffler, her 20 grandchildren who loved their, "Tita" so very much and her 6 great grandchildren who will hear stories of their remarkable great-grandmother for years to come.

We miss you, Momma but because of your unwavering faith, we will see you again.

You will forever be in our hearts,
We love you,
Tina, Rachel, Ernie and Rita

Oh, how the angels must have sang when you danced your way through the pearly gates of heaven!

I can just hear our Father God now, "Well done my good and faithful servant, well done."

It has been difficult to let you go but we know that you are basking in the love of our Father and filling heaven with the smell of your baked goodies.

We may not have inherited your gift of cooking or baking but what we did receive from you was the priceless gift of strong character. You had high expectations for us but modeled those expectations daily.

One of these was the value of hard work. Many are not aware that due to financial issues, you did not have the opportunity to attend high school but despite this obstacle, you were the successful business owner of the most popular bakery in the Texas Hill Country.

Irma's donut shop was featured on the show, The Texas Hill Country Reporter where your goodies drew droves of people from around the state to have one of your famous sticky buns or cinnamon rolls.

Your donut shop was also selected to the Who's Who Among America's Favorite Restaurants not just once but twice!

You taught us not to give up on our dreams and aspirations, Momma because YOU never did. You taught us to be generous with our love and time as well.

I have countless memories of visiting the elderly at the local nursing home. We would hand out cookies and provide some entertainment by singing to them.

You would look so proudly at us because you knew the joy that we were

David Ramos Sanchez June 23, 1960 - August 27 2017

David Ramos Sanchez, 57, passed away on Sunday August 27th 2017. Visitation was held at Love Funeral Home in Sonora on Tuesday and Wednesday, August 29-30.

Funeral services were held at St. Ann's Catholic Church at 10:00 Wednesday the 30th, followed by interment in Sonora Cemetery.

David was born to Maria Ramos Sanchez and Luciano Yanez Sanchez on June 23, 1960, in Sonora, Texas.

He was a graduate of Sonora High School. David was a lifelong

resident of Sonora and worked in the West Texas oilfields his entire life. He was a self-taught welder and semi-carpenter who used his skills to build his own home with his talents.

David was very much a car and motorcycle enthusiast all of his life.

Survivors include his son, David Sanchez Jr. of Sonora, his wife Adriana, and their daughter Haley Athena Sanchez, his daughter Nanette Sanchez of Austin and his brothers Ismael R. Sanchez (Emo), and Luciano R. Sanchez III (Luke) also of Sonora.

Celebration of a New Ministry at St. John's Episcopal Church

The Rev. Casey S. Berkhof will be installed as Rector of St. John's Episcopal Church on Wednesday, September 13, at 6:00 p.m. during a special service.

The service is open to the public and all will be welcomed to St. John's Parish.

The Right Reverend David Reed, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of West Texas, will preside and a reception in St. John's Parish Hall will follow the service.

Although Father Casey has been a part of the St. John's Parish Family for several weeks now, the service, called The Celebration of a New Ministry, marks his official installation as

parish Rector.

Father Casey and his wife Michelle moved to Sonora in July when Casey was called to serve as Rector of St. John's Parish.

Prior to serving as Rector at St. John's, Fr. Casey served as Assistant Rector at St. Philip's Episcopal Church in Uvalde, and as Vicar at Church of the Ascension in Montell and Holy Trinity Church in Carizo Springs.

The St. John's Parish Family is excited about Fr. Casey's ministry in Sonora and Sutton County, and they invite everyone to meet him and Michelle and welcome them to our community at this special service.

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Sonora Community Bible Study
Wednesday, September 6th
5:30 pm
Finding I Am
by Lysa TerKeurst
First United Methodist Church
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Childcare provided • All are Welcome

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FAST SERVICE
THE DEVIL'S RIVER NEWS

Aurora V. Bernal September 22, 1934 - August 17, 2017



Aurora V. Bernal, 82 went to be with The Lord on Thursday, August 17, 2017. Aurora was born on September 22, 1934 in Sonora. She was married to the late Felipe Bernal Jr. on March 27, 1952 and had three

children. Aurora was a huge fan of the Dallas Cowboys and her all-time favorite player was Emmitt Smith.

She is preceded in death by her husband, Felipe Bernal Jr., and her son, Richard V. Bernal.

Aurora is survived by her daughter, Elizabeth, "Lesia" Bernal Galindo, grandchildren, Makayla Galindo Snyder, her husband Brain Snyder, Danielle Elizabeth Galindo, and Boomer Galindo and two great-grandchildren, Hollis Richard Snyder and Luke Kenneth Snyder. The family held a private graveside ceremony Saturday, August 26, 2017.

Weekly Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS
1. Hindu prince
6. Small piece
10. Part of a bird's bill
14. Mature insect
15. Listen to
16. Maple genus
17. Ricochet
18. Radio voice
20. Kind of curve
21. Symbols of New England
23. Carols
24. Support
25. Twirl
27. Order of players
30. Lifeless
31. Wolframite
34. Parisian theater
35. Sign of the zodiac
36. Mindanao native
37. Dizzy or Paul
38. Weeping daughter of Tantalus
39. Capture
40. Long fish
41. Blue dyes
42. Fastens
43. Overhead trains
44. Magic verse
45. Two-base hit
46. Peel

DOWN
1. Long grain or wild
2. Wine pitchers
3. Vases
4. Past
5. Frank Howard specialty
6. Winner
7. Fowl
8. John
9. Expert
10. Decree
11. homo
12. Fishing accessory
13. Blunders
19. United Sp.
22. Cut off
24. Peasant
25. Central Europeans
26. Call for
27. Henry Cabot or John
28. Perfect
29. Draws closer
30. Vacuum tube
31. Island Indian
32. Not ____: don't mention it
33. Oversight
35. Article of food
38. Part of speech
39. Greek letters
41. Twist
42. Advertisements
45. Patriotic grp.
46. Parts
47. Baseball goals
48. Urge
49. ____avis
50. Wordy
51. Dry
52. Scots-Irish
53. Puckerer
54. Old World deer: pl.
56. Soul: Fr.
57. New York City ballplayer
59. Busy one

"BATTER UP"

See solution on Page 10

This crossword puzzle is sponsored each week by
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BIRTHDAYS
Look Who's Celebrating!

AUGUST
31st Ronnie Cox, Sharon Holman, Florie Gonzales, Jeanie Lawson

SEPTEMBER
1st Molly Morriss, Smith Neal, Clint Cearley
2nd Marco Gutierrez, Levi Pool, Charles Moss
3rd Teresa Harris, Deedie McIntyre, Marco Gutierrez
4th Sherry Ingham, Sid Anderson, Bryndon Robles
5th Cades Pope, Franciso Reyna
6th Anna Samaniego, Bryn Humphrey, Glen Love, Lydia Gallindo
7th Randy Sparks, Reynaldo Perez

Send us your birthdays to editor@devilsriver.news

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Devil's River News Weekly Rainfall Report

Month	Year-to-Date Total	2017 Year-to-Date Total	2016 Year-to-Date Total
August 1-29	1.82 in.	18.56 in.	17.42 in.
July	4.21 in.	25.10 in.	29.22 in.
June	3.07 in.	23.87 in.	25.34 in.
May	3.68 in.	14.32 in.	20.14 in.
April	1.23 in.	25.12 in.	25.00 in.
March	0.79 in.	16.06 in.	17.82 in.
February	1.36 in.	11.50 in.	20.11 in.
January	2.40 in.	20.37 in.	17.94 in.
2017 Year-to-Date Total	18.56 in.	21.67 in.	20.09 in.

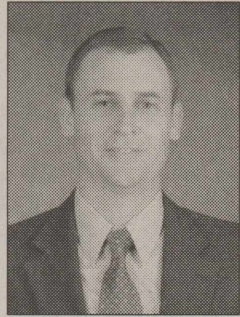
Rainfall data collected at LCRA weather station located 14 miles southeast of Sonora. Rainfall data collected at LCRA weather station located 17 miles east-northeast of Sonora.

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Thirteen New Laws Make it out of the Special Session

In mid-August, the 30-day special session of the Texas Legislature concluded.

The special session was called by Governor Abbott to address a series of his top priorities, and I am pleased to report that we passed legislation that will impact thirteen of those priorities.



Andrew Murr

Here is a brief run-down of the new state laws passed during this special session:

Teacher Retirement Health Coverage

During the regular session of the legislature in the spring, we added \$350 million in the budget to increase the contribution rate and address the shortfall in TRS-Care, the health care program for retired teachers.

In this special session, we added another \$212 million to further buy down premiums and assist those under TRS-Care in taking care of adult dependents with special needs. I was a co-author of this legislation and believe it is critical that we live up to the promises we have made to our retired teachers.

School Finance Commission

House Bill 21, which I also co-authored, provides the framework to establish a Texas Commission on Public School Finance.

I am very excited about this commission because it is the first tangible step I've seen towards ending the Robin Hood school finance system and changing the way in which we finance public schools so that we no longer saddle property owners with an unjust tax system that punishes them for owning their piece of Texas.

As you may recall, I authored House Bill 285 in the special session which would have entirely eliminated the portion of a property owner's tax bill dedicated to the maintenance

and operation (M&O) of school districts and replaced it with an increase in the state sales tax.

This would have provided real property tax relief by cutting the average homeowner's property tax bill by almost half.

Unfortunately, my bill never made it to the floor of the House for a vote, but I am encouraged that the new commission will consider my legislation and other creative solutions to finally address the skyrocket cost of property taxes.

Additional State Aid for School Districts

House Bill 30 provides a supplemental appropriation for school finance. Most importantly it allocates \$150 million in A.S.A.T.R. grants for school districts who will experience a loss of revenue during the 2017-18 or 2018-19 school years because of a reduction in tax revenue for the district.

I supported this legislation because it will impact several school districts in our area, and it's important that we continue to properly fund our schools until we find a permanent solution to the school finance mess. This bill also allocates \$40 million for grants to school districts and open-enrollment charters schools that provide innovative services to students with dyslexia and autism.

Pro-Life Legislation

Three pieces of pro-life legislation were passed in this special session, all of which I co-authored. House Bill 214 removes mandatory coverage for elective abortions from health insurance plans, regardless of whether it is a government plan or a private plan.

Texas is now the 25th state to pass limits on coverage for abortions in health insurance.

House Bill 13 requires hospitals and clinics to

SEE MURR ON PAGE 7

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.

SUTTON COUNTY SHERIFF INCIDENTS

AUGUST 21 - 4:17 PM • Caller reported domestic disturbance on I-10 at 418 mm. Deputies and DPS responded.

8:46 PM • Caller reported debris in the road way on I-10 at 417 mm. Deputy responded.

AUGUST 22 - 8:52 PM • Caller reported a stranded motorist on I-10 at 421 mm. Deputy responded.

10:16 PM • Caller reported an 18 wheel truck on fire on I-10 at 416 mm. Deputy and SVFD responded.

AUGUST 25 - 1:07 PM • Caller reported a stranded motorist on I-10 at 403 mm. Deputy responded.

4:18 PM • Caller reported a stranded motorist on I-10 at 409 mm. Deputy responded.

AUGUST 26 - 1:00 AM • Caller reported loud music on South 2nd St. Deputy responded.

SONORA PD ARRESTS

AUGUST 26 • Joe Alex Rodriguez, 18 year-old male of Sonora. Arrested for Consumption of Alcohol by a minor.

• James Todd Telles, 19 year-old Sonora. Arrested for Consumption of alcohol by minor.

INCIDENTS

AUGUST 21 - 7:01 PM • Caller reported suspicious activity near wool house. Officer responded.

9:48 PM • Caller reported suspicious vehicle at La Mexicana. Officer responded.

AUGUST 22 - 11:30 AM • Caller reported hazard in roadway 1100 block of Savell. Officer responded.

1:21 PM • Caller requested an officer at 1300 block of S. Crockett. Officer responded.

10:13 PM • Agency assist EMS at 100 block of Sonora Dr. Officer responded.

AUGUST 23 - 10:52 AM • Caller requested welfare check at Days Inn. Officer responded.

3:04 PM • Caller reported illegal dumping at Holiday Host. Officer responded.

6:30 PM • Caller reported hazard in roadway at 100 block of Glasscock. Officer responded.

10:16 PM • Caller requested to meet an officer at Sheriff's Office. Officer responded.

AUGUST 24 - 1:12 PM • Alarm call at 200 block W. Castlehill road. Officer responded.

1:25 PM • Agency assist requested at Texas Comptrollers Office. Officer responded.

2:20 PM • Caller requested to meet officer at PD. Officer responded.

AUGUST 25 - 5:22 PM • Caller requested assistance near Sonora Fire Hall. Officer responded.

7:02 PM • Caller reported disturbance at 100 block of Deerwood. Officer responded.

9:37 PM • Caller reported disturbance at Days Inn. Officer responded.

10:22 PM • Caller reported disturbance at Days Inn. Officer responded.

11:56 PM • Agency assist requested at Days Inn. Officer responded.

AUGUST 26 - 1:12 AM • Agency assist requested for loud music call. Officer responded.

9:39 PM • Agency assist requested at 397 mm. Officer responded.

11:01 PM • Caller reported cruelty to animal at 1000 block of S. Crockett. Officer responded.

AUGUST 27 - 3:22 PM • Caller reported loud music at Warzone Fitness. Officer responded.

8:17 PM • Caller requested traffic control for AirMed at LMH. Officer responded.



Sonora ISD Menu

PK-5th : Free Breakfast & 2.60 lunch
Middle & High School: \$2.10 Breakfast & \$3.00 lunch
*Menu Subject to Change

Monday September 4 LABOR DAY SCHOOL HOLIDAY

Tuesday September 5 Breakfast

Sausage Kolache, Yogurt or Cereal, Crackers, Fruit Juice, Fruit, Milk

Lunch

Breaded Drumsticks, Texas Toast Triangle, Baby Carrots, Corn, Fresh Grapes, Cookie, Milk
After School Program
Fruit Yogurt

Wednesday September 6 Breakfast

Waffles, Sausage, or Cereal, Toast, Fruit, Juice, Fruit, Milk

Lunch

Crispy Tacos, Fresh Veggie Cup, Charro Beans, Salsa, Lettuce, Apple Pineapple D'Lite, Milk

After School Program

Baked Chips, Juice

Thursday September 7 Breakfast

Breakfast Pizza, or Cereal, Crackers, Fruit Juice, Fruit, Milk

Lunch

Chicken Nuggets, Mashed Potatoes, Garden Salad, Vegetables, Roll, Pears, Milk

After School Program

Crackers, Cheddar Fish, Juice

Friday September 8 Breakfast

French Toast, Sausage, or Cereal, Toast, Fruit Juice, Fruit, Milk

Lunch

Hamburger Garnish, Oven Fries, Baby Carrots, Orange Smiles, Milk
After School Program
PBJ, Milk

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CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS: Voter ID Law

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

plaintiffs, who primarily represent Latino and black voters, in the form of a permanent injunction against enforcement of the 2017 law.

In the case Veasey v. Abbott, originally filed in 2011, plaintiffs alleged SB 14, the voter I.D. law passed by the Texas Legislature in 2011, violates Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act. The suit also claimed Texas law violates the U.S. Constitution's Article 14, due process and equal protection, and Article 15, banning racial discrimination. Section 2 prohibits state and local officials from adopting or maintaining voting laws or procedures that purposefully discriminate on the basis of race, color or membership in a language minority group.

In 2016, the New Orleans-based U.S. Court of Appeals for the 5th Circuit affirmed Ramos's finding that the law is discriminatory. The appeals court remanded the case to her court for further consideration, and Ramos, in accordance with an instruction by the Fifth Circuit, issued an interim remedy to eliminate or reduce the discriminatory effects of SB 14 in time for the 2016 general election.

Earlier this year, the Republican-dominated Texas Legislature crafted and passed SB 5, ostensibly to purge SB 14 of its discriminatory provisions. But Ramos said in her ruling last week that SB 5 falls short of that. She ordered

plaintiffs and defendants to file memoranda by Aug. 31 stating whether they wish to schedule an evidentiary hearing.

Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton on Aug. 25 filed a motion with the 5th Circuit, asking that Ramos' injunction be overturned.

Rate for notes is low

Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar on Aug. 22 announced the recent sale of \$5.4 billion in Texas Tax and Revenue Anticipation Notes received a net interest rate of 0.96 percent.

Money from the sale of "TRANS" is used to help fund expenditures such as public-school payments made early in the fiscal year before the arrival of tax revenues later in the year, Hegar said.

Texas received the highest possible short-term credit ratings from Wall Street, which helped drive down the cost of borrowing, Hegar added.

Jobless rate decreases

The Texas Workforce Commission on July 18 announced the Texas economy expanded for the 13th consecutive month with the addition of 19,600 seasonally adjusted non-farm jobs in July.

Also, the Lone Star State's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell to 4.3 percent, down from 4.6 percent in June, and annual employment growth for Texas was 2.4 percent — double the annual growth rate compared to a year ago.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

CITY OF SONORA PUBLIC NOTICE BUDGET HEARING

The City Council will hold a public budget hearing on September 11, 2017, at 6:00 p.m., at City Hall, 201 E. Main, Sonora, Texas.

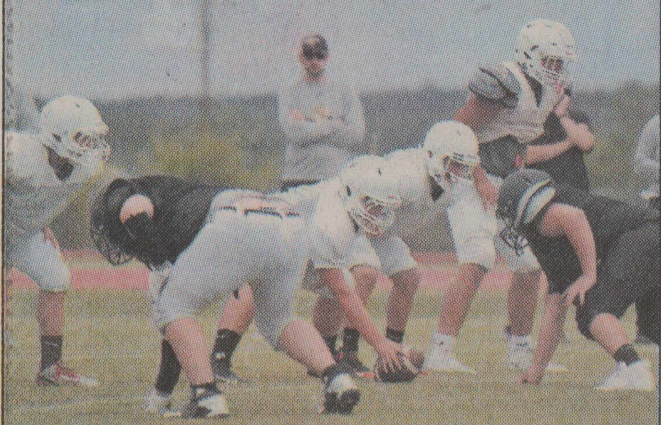
All citizens are invited to attend and provide the council with comments and ask questions concerning the city's proposed 2017-2018 Budget.

The public can inspect the proposed budget at City Hall, Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.

The budget will raise more revenue from property taxes than last year's budget by an amount of \$30,854.38 which is 3.72% increase from last year's budget.

PUBLIC NOTICE YOUR RIGHT TO KNOW

Sonora Broncos Varsity & JV Football



Photos by KIMBERLEY MEYER | THE DEVIL'S RIVER NEWS



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Broncos Set for 2017 Season

The Sonora Broncos Varsity and Junior Varsity football players kicked up the turf during a final pre-season scrimmage Thursday, August 24, 2017 against the Brady Bulldogs. Ready for the 2017

campaign, the Broncos are set to open 2017 season with a non-district match against I-10 rival Ozona this Friday, September 1. Game time is set for 7:30 p.m. at Bronco Stadium. GO BRONCOS!



Sonora Elementary School Students for the week August 28 - September 1, Ally Fernandez, PreK, Andi Archer, K, Carlos Lopez, 1st, Miranda Montoya, 2nd. | COURTESY PHOTO

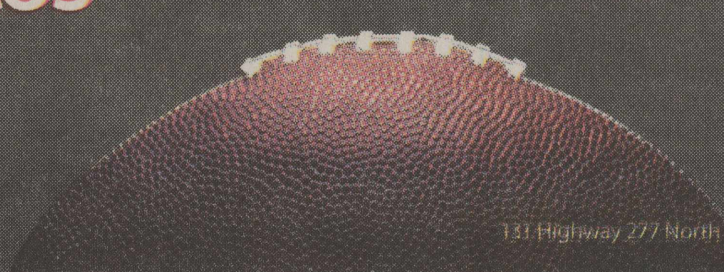
Sonora ISD Students of the Week



John Rey Acevedo, 3rd, Brody Bryan, 4th, PJ Ramirez, 5th. | COURTESY PHOTO

LEAVE NO DOUBT

SONORA BRONCOS
 vs.
 ozona
 Sept. 1, 2017



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Timing is Everything

Timing is everything—especially when it comes to rainfall. Summer rains help our warm-season perennial grasses, both the wanted and unwanted kinds. Let's look at a couple of grasses we've gotten calls on.

We'll start with grassburs. There are many different species in Texas, and these weeds of pastures and lawns grow in various soil types. This plant can grow upright or low and spreading on the ground. The leaves are flat and thin and can reach a length of 7 inches and a width less than 1/4 of an inch.

The burr is actually a seed "capsule" that usually contains from 1 to 3 seeds. This capsule provides a protective environment for the seeds until growing conditions are adequate. Sandburs generally start germinating in late spring and continue to germinate until late summer or early fall. Sandbur blooms during the summer and fall. This weed continues to grow until the first hard frost.

We often think of grassburs as being warm season, annual plants. However, many species are perennials. These plants are more difficult to eradicate, since they have already developed a substantial root system the previous year.

This plant can provide good forage for livestock before the burs develop, but the spines on the burs are very stiff and can cause injury to the mouths of the animals that might feed

upon it.

The most important consideration for control is recognition of grassbur in the early stages of growth. Young plants are easier to kill.

Our second grass is Green Sprangletop (*Lep-
tochloa dubia*) and grows on rocky hills. It is a good grass to include in a native grass mixture for seeding overused or damaged ranges. Because of its use in roadside seeding, this grass is common on our roadsides.

The stems are wiry with flat bases and flat sheaths, while its leaves are slightly rough. The leaves, while not abundant, are wide, generally flat and fairly long. The spreading, "sprangled" appearance of the seedhead gives it its common name. The large, green panicle has five to twelve spikes and droops and turns pale after maturity. It blooms from May to November.

Green sprangletop is a perennial, warm-season, native that grows from 12 to 36 inches tall. This highly palatable grass provides good grazing for livestock, and fair grazing for wildlife.

This grass is not long-lived, but under favorable conditions maintains itself well by re-seeding. It establishes quickly and offers some soil cover and protection to other species that are slower to establish. Over time, slower-establishing and longer-lived species will start to dominate the site and green sprangletop will decline in population.



Pascual Hernandez

MURR:

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

report any complication or injury resulting from an abortion separate from a general complication of maternal health.

This will allow the state to better track the impact abortions have on women across Texas.

And finally, House Bill 215 requires physicians to document and report the method by which a minor obtained authorization for an abortion, and also requires physicians performing a third trimester abortion due to severe fetal abnormality to certify the type of abnormality identified.

Mail-In Ballot Fraud

I co-sponsored Senate Bill 5, and also co-authored its House companion, House Bill 184.

The new law increases existing penalties for those who knowingly and intentionally deceive, mislead or misinform voters, and it increases safeguards for mail-in ballots to ensure their integrity against voter fraud.

Municipal Annexation

Senate Bill 6 seeks to end the abuse of annexation power that some larger cities have exercised in recent years.

The bill will only allow certain cities to annex properties in their E.T.J., requires property owner and resident approval in certain situations, and requires an election for annexation by voters in the area in other situations.

It also includes provisions to protect business owners from municipal regulations that could force them to close.

Credit for Tree Mitigation Fees

Some cities impose "tree mitigation" fees on property owners.

House Bill 7 requires those cities to compensate those property owners with credits for trees planted.

These credits will help encourage the planting of more trees and offset the amount of the mitigation fee.

Similar legislation passed almost unanimously

during the regular session ending in May.

Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Task Force

Senate Bill 17 directs the Health and Human Services Commission to address the most common causes of maternal death and study options for reducing severe maternal morbidity costs.

This includes a variety of initiatives from information sharing between agencies and health care providers to screenings for substance abuse and domestic violence to improving quality in the Medicaid program.

I co-sponsored this bill and co-authored its House companion, House Bill 9.

Sunset Legislation

I supported both Senate Bills 20 and 60 in order to allow the continued operation of the Texas Medical Board, the Board of Examiners of Psychologists, the Board of Examiners of Marriage and Family Therapists, the Board of Examiners of Professional Counselors, and the Board of Social Worker Examiners.

Had we not passed these bills, then the boards in question would have ceased to exist as of September 1, ending oversight of these professions.

DNR Orders

Senate Bill 11 and House Bill 12 clarifies that an attending physician may issue a Do Not Resuscitate order on a patient if that patient's death is imminent, it is medically appropriate, and it does not conflict with the wishes of the patient.

I co-authored House Bill 12.

As you can see, it was a busy 30-days in Austin, but I believe we passed some sound pieces of legislation that addressed a majority of the Governor's priority items.

As always, it is a privilege to represent you in the Texas House of Representatives, and I welcome your comments and opinions.

Please visit my website at www.AndrewMurr.org or contact our District Office in Kerrville (715 Water St.) at (830) 257-0432 and let me hear from you.

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING SUTTON COUNTY APPRAISAL DISTRICT BUDGET

The Sutton County Appraisal District will hold a public hearing on a proposed budget for the 2018 fiscal year.

The public hearing will be held on September 12, 2017 at 8:00 a.m. at the Sutton County Annex Building meeting room.

A summary of the appraisal district budget follows:

The total amount of the proposed budget.	\$436,719
The total amount of increase over the current year's budget.	\$4,047
The number of employees compensated under the proposed budget.	3
The number of employees compensated under the current budget.	3

The appraisal district is supported solely by payments from the local taxing units served by the appraisal district.

If approved by the appraisal district board of directors at the public hearing, this proposed budget will take effect automatically unless disapproved by the governing bodies of the county, school district, city, water district and hospital district served by the appraisal district.

A copy of the proposed budget is available for public inspection in the office of each of those governing bodies. A copy is also available for public inspection at the appraisal district office.

300 East Oak Street, Suite 2
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NOTICE OF 2017 TAX YEAR PROPOSED PROPERTY TAX RATE for SUTTON COUNTY

A tax rate of \$0.676819 per \$100 valuation has been proposed by the governing body of Sutton County.

PROPOSED TAX RATE	\$0.676819 per \$100
PRECEDING YEAR'S TAX RATE	\$0.680127 per \$100
EFFECTIVE TAX RATE	\$0.676819 per \$100

The effective tax rate is the total tax rate needed to raise the same amount of property tax revenue for Sutton County from the same properties in both the 2016 tax year and the 2017 tax year.

YOUR TAXES OWED UNDER ANY OF THE ABOVE RATES CAN BE CALCULATED AS FOLLOWS:

property tax amount = (rate) x (taxable value of your property) / 100
For assistance or detailed information about tax calculations, please contact:

MARY BUSTAMANTE
SUTTON COUNTY Tax Assessor-Collector
300 E OAK STREET, SUITE 2, SONORA, TX 76950
(325) 387-2809
mgbustamante@verizon.net
www.suttoncad.com

CITY OF SONORA Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Increase

The City of Sonora will hold two public hearings on a proposal to increase total tax revenues from properties on the tax roll in the preceding tax year by 9.508861 percent (percentage by which proposed tax rate exceeds lower of rollback tax rate or effective tax calculated under Chapter 26, Tax Code). Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property and the tax rate that is adopted.

The first public hearing will be held on September 11, 2017 at 6:00 PM at CITY HALL.

The second public hearing will be held on September 18, 2017 at 6:00 PM at CITY HALL.

The members of the governing body voted on the proposal to consider the tax increase as follows:

FOR:	CODY GANN, JUANITA BARRERA, NORM ROUSSELOT
AGAINST:	NONE
PRESENT and not voting:	NONE
ABSENT:	MANUEL MARTINEZ

The average taxable value of a residence homestead in City of Sonora last year was \$91,813. Based on last year's tax rate of \$0.610000 per \$100 of taxable value, the amount of taxes imposed last year on the average home was \$560.06.

The average taxable value of a residence homestead in City of Sonora this year is \$99,696. If the governing body adopts the effective tax rate for this year of \$0.630086 per \$100 of taxable value, the amount of taxes imposed this year on the average home would be \$628.17.

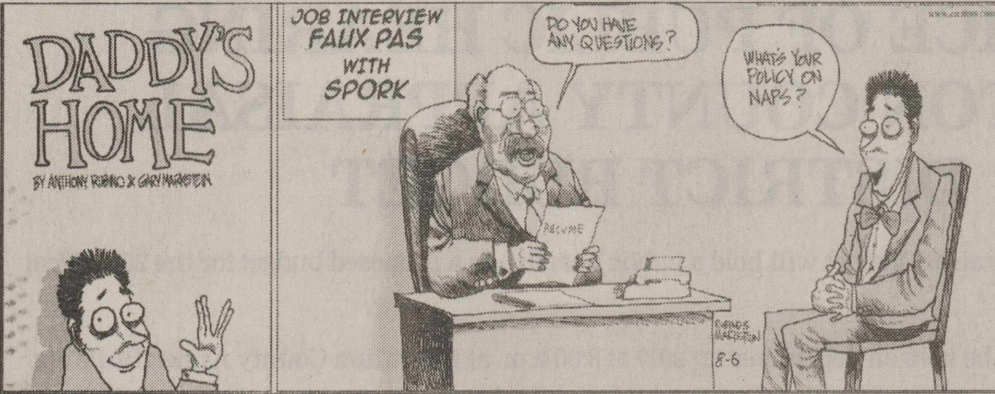
If the governing body adopts the proposed tax rate of \$0.690000 per \$100 of taxable value, the amount of taxes imposed this year on the average home would be \$687.90.

Members of the public are encouraged to attend the hearings and express their views.

DRN Comics

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



Nest Heads

by John Allen



Wizard of ID

by Hart, Mastroianni and Parker

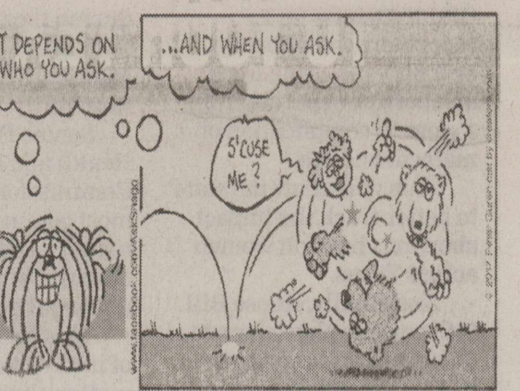
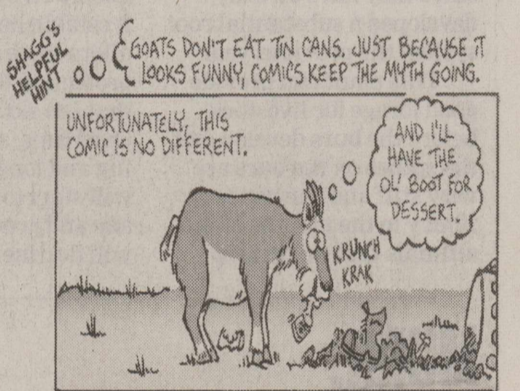
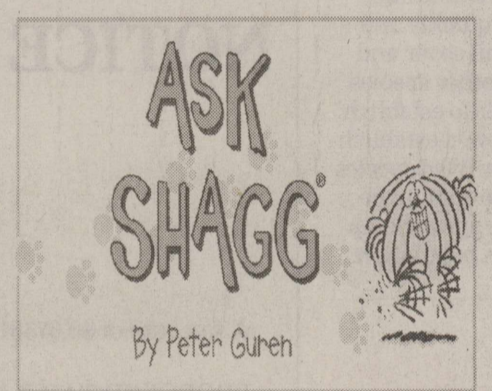
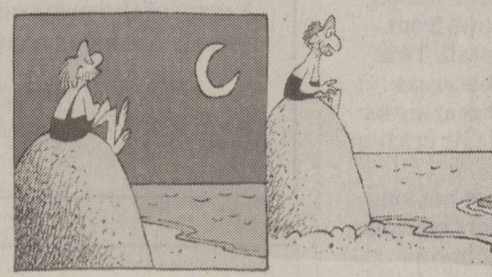
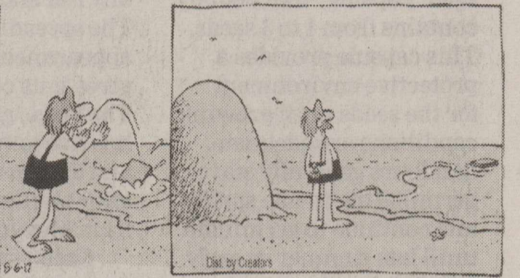
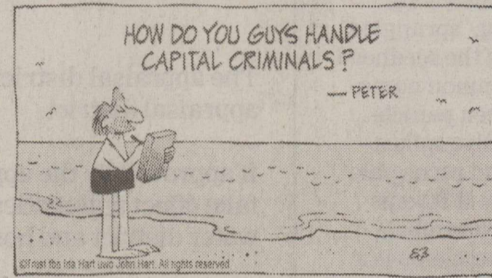
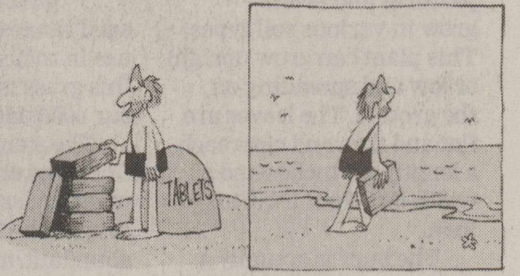
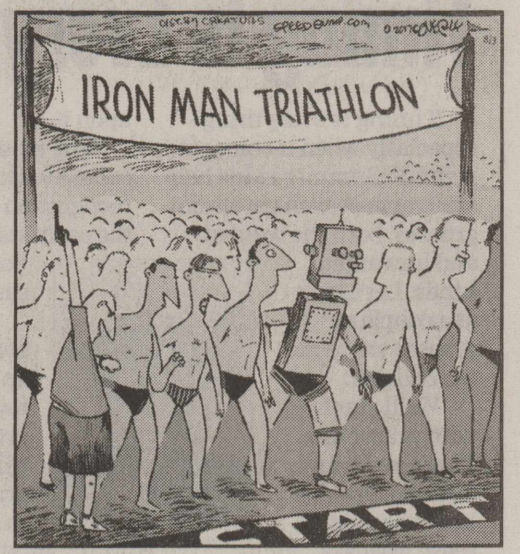
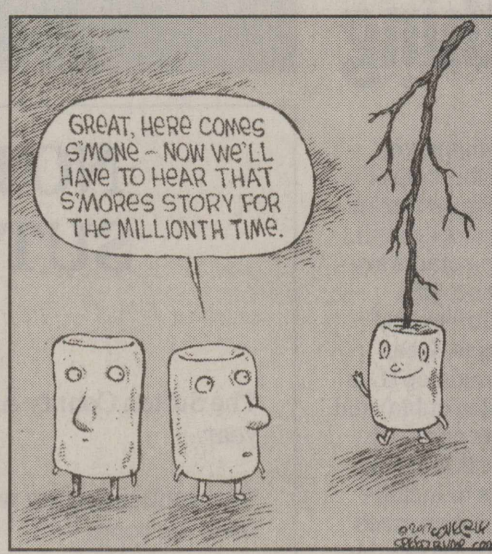


Speed Bumps

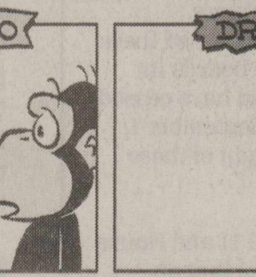
by Dave Coverly

Speed Bumps

by Dave Coverly



Doodles



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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 10

ZIG-ZAG

THE ORIGINAL WORD MAZE PUZZLE

UP

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.

1 (A) 1 (A)
2 (B) 2 (B)
3 (C) 3 (C)
4 (D) 4 (D)
5 (E) 5 (E)
6 (F) 6 (F)
7 (G) 7 (G)
8 (H) 8 (H)
9 (I) 9 (I)
10 (J) 10 (J)
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13 (M) 13 (M)
14 (N) 14 (N)
15 (O) 15 (O)
16 (P) 16 (P)
17 (Q) 17 (Q)
18 (R) 18 (R)
19 (S) 19 (S)
20 (T) 20 (T)
21 (U) 21 (U)
22 (V) 22 (V)
23 (W) 23 (W)
24 (X) 24 (X)
25 (Y) 25 (Y)
26 (Z) 26 (Z)

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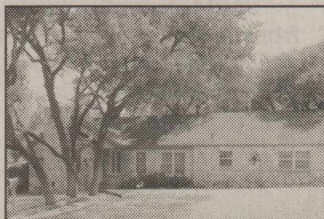
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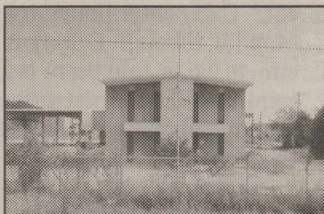
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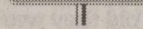
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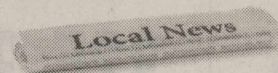
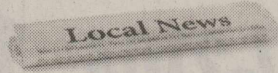
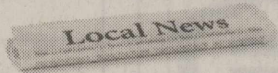
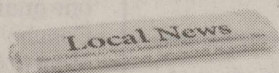
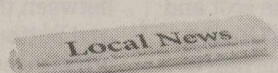
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Cowboy Poetry

The Monument

It sits in the court house square,
Does not matter exactly where.
It is there for posterity to see,
The names of the men who defended our country.
A section for each big fight,
And can be read day or nite.
The first is from France 1917,
They called it the last war to be seen.
The next section is called for the Big II,
They left the country more than a few.
Fought on land, sea and in the air,
The largest of names in uniform is there.
Section number III is for the Korean history,
They sailed across the sea to that old country.
Told they were fighting for our democracy,
Later found it all was controlled politically.
The last section was for fighting in the rice paddies,
They left here as sons, uncles, brothers and daddies.
This is the shortest section of all,
For some answered God's call.
This is a beautiful marble monument
Carrying the names of those who went.
Gave up the peace of this great place,
To go across and look the enemy in the face.
This stone will last forever,
Showing the names of those who were brave.
Their names are carved in stone,
Showing they did not go alone.
This stone shows the courage of this little town,
The ones who stayed wore a frown.
For four great wars this small county,
Gave up over 600 men who received no bounty.
It is there for all their heirs to see,
Knowing they were a part of our history.
Faded away into our past,
The names of those brave men will last and last.

-Joe N. Brown-

Hospital CEO Expected to Propose Budget Cuts in 2018

The Sutton County Hospital District (SCHD) Board of Directors and John Graves, CEO, are committed to finalizing a budget for 2018 no later than October and many factors are being considered to help ensure a positive outcome.

A draft budget will be reviewed in September and recommendations for changes will be added before the final review and approval in October.

When asked what the major concerns in 2018 are Graves said, "major concerns are outmigration or community disinvestment, significant increased costs for employee health insurance, government cuts to Medicare and Medicaid reimbursements, possible discontinuation of the local paramedic outreach 1115 waiver program, and high levels of patient bad debt and charity. All these conditions or threats have a direct impact to the bottom line."

In preparation of these threats the Hospital Board of Directors approved a tax increase of 4.99 cents to .240624 per \$100 value during an open meeting held Monday, August 14.

Public hearings are scheduled for September 11 and September 25.

The SCHD Hospital District has the lowest tax rates among its closest peers geographically, according to Graves. Schleicher and McCamey County hospitals each have maximized their tax rate to .75, Kimble County's Hospital tax rate is now at .373, and Rankin Hospital's tax rate is .3008, per \$100 value as of 2016.

Outmigration and community disinvestment is the greatest threat to LMH's future Graves said as well as residents choosing to receive healthcare services outside of Sutton County.

Outmigration has increased 12 percent since 2012 significantly damaging the bottom line or net position of the hospital district.

Patient revenue alone will have decreased an estimated \$1.8 Million by the end of 2017 from 2012 while expenses will have increased an estimated \$1.5 Million, reflecting a \$3.3 Million negative swing.

Until this year, revenue from government subsidies and taxes have held steady coupled with a significant gain in unrealized income

from the SAAF Charitable Fund.

However, the latter is wholly dependent on the strength of the financial market.

Specific to federal and state budget cuts beginning in 2018 LMH stands to lose between \$700,000 and \$1Million in government subsidies.

This includes an estimated reduction in Medicaid funding of \$400,000 resulting from the Texas 85th Legislature, thus reducing the overall state Medicaid fund by \$2 Billion.

Revenues from the local paramedic outreach 1115 waiver program which represent between \$300,000 and \$600,000 are set to expire on December 31, 2017 and healthcare leaders and lobbyists are pushing hard to get the program extended.

Charity care will reach an estimated \$533,000 by the end of 2017.

Additionally, bad debt, which is monies owed by patients who do not qualify for charity care is estimated to reach \$1.7 Million.

And, finally, LMH's employee health insurance liability will more than double in 2018 from the \$371,000

paid in 2017.

What this mean is that with decreasing revenue projections, less government subsidies, rising employee health insurance costs, and sensitivity of the financial market the hospital district could face a negative net position in 2018.

A great deal of the financial burden LMH is facing will gain some relief with the already board approved revenue strategy, the proposed tax increase, and budget cuts, according to Graves.

Budget cuts Graves plans to include in the 2018 budget proposal include a compensation freeze for all employees, a second in three years; a staff rightsizing and attrition plan to cut costs up to \$275,000.

"These things and other budget cuts will be considered," Graves said. "Nothing in the budget is final until the Board approves the proposal in October. However, there is much to be done between now and October but the direction is clear in terms of cutting costs and move towards a positive and successful revenue strategy."

DOVE SEASON:

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

move to more rural areas in early August, according to Oldenburger. Mourning dove populations are concentrated around water and food resources in August during the traditional hottest part of the year.

See the Youtube link at <https://youtu.be/hB9WcubkAg> for more dove hunting season details.

2017-18 Dove Season Calendar

North Zone: Sept. 1 - Nov. 12 and Dec. 15-31.

Central Zone: Sept. 1 - Nov. 5 and Dec. 15 - Jan. 7, 2018.

South Zone: Sept. 22 - Nov. 8 and Dec. 15 - Jan. 21, 2018.

The daily bag limit for doves statewide is 15 and the possession limit 45.

During the early two weekends for the Special White-winged Dove Days (in the South Zone), hunting is allowed only from noon to sunset and the daily bag limit is 15 birds, to include not more than two mourning doves and two white-tipped doves.

During the general season in the South Zone, the aggregate bag limit is 15 with no more than two white-tipped doves.

Hunters are reminded that licenses went on sale Aug. 15 for the 2017-18 hunting seasons and can be purchased through the agency's 28 field offices, at more than 50 state parks and over 1,700 retailers across the state. Licenses may also be purchased online

through the TPWD website or by phone at (800) 895-4248. Call center hours are Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and there is a required \$5 administrative fee for each phone or online transaction.

The online transaction system is available 24/7.

Hunting and fishing regulations for the new season can be found in the 2017-2018 Outdoor Annual, available in print form at license retailers, online and in the free Outdoor Annual mobile app available for Apple and Android devices.

In addition to a hunting license, anyone born after Sept. 1, 1971, must successfully complete a hunter education training course.

Those under 17 and those 17 and older who purchase a one-time deferral license may hunt legally in Texas if accompanied by a licensed hunter 17 years or older who has passed hunter education or who is otherwise exempt. Accompanied means being within normal voice control.

SOLUTION TO PUZZLE ON PAGE 4

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City of Sonora

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Monday September 4
CENTER CLOSED
LABOR DAY

Tuesday September 5
Sandwich, Lettuce,
Tomato, Onion, Coleslaw,
Banana, Cookie, Milk

Wednesday September 6
Meatballs, Brown Gravy,
Oven Potatoes, Peas,
Carrots, Wheat Roll,
Fruited Jell-O

Thursday September 7
Barbecue Pork on a Bun,
Potato Salad, Beans,
Cinnamon Apples, Milk

Friday September 8
Tuna Salad, Cucumber,
Tomato Salad, Wheat
Bread, Fruit Cup, Oranges,
Milk

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The TPWD Hunter Education certification is valid for life and is honored in all other states and provinces. More information on hunter education certification is available online.

A Migratory Game Bird endorsement and Harvest

INTERLOCAL:

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

sides approved to continue the interlocal agreement as is and agreed to share the costs equally.

Next, city and county leaders approved to continue the interlocal agreement regarding Fire and EMS. Both Fire and EMS respond to emergency situations within the city limits as well as in the outlying county areas.

All present approved a motion to continue the existing memorandum of understanding and split the costs to sustain both services.

The City of Sonora assumed fiscal responsibility for the Sonora Volunteer Fire Department and the County accepted the fiduciary responsibility for the EMS, as agreed upon in the past.

It was also noted that the costs for equipment such as vehicles and rescue equipment are offset by funding through grant monies and assistance from Lillian M. Hudspeth Hospital District.

Next, Judge Steve Smith shared comments regarding Trax Van/Transit currently in place in the community. The transit van provides public transportation to and from areas around town, in the county and some nearby surrounding areas as designated.

He noted the recent acquisition of a new transit van capable of seating 15 passengers and supporting a dual wheelchair lift.

The existing agreement showed annual costs shared between the City of Sonora, Sutton County and Concho Valley of Governments.

Those present approved the continued partnership and shared annual costs to provide transportation to those in need with an amendment to change the billing to monthly.

Identifying a total cost of \$37,695 per year, the breakdown included the City of Sonora at one quarter of the cost, Sutton County at one quarter of the cost and Concho Valley of Government (COG) at one half of the total cost.

Next, they approved a memorandum of understanding, with an

amendment, for Animal Control services within the community.

Under the agreement, the City of Sonora will front the costs to provide Animal Control both within the city limits and outlying rural areas including Sinaloa and Loma Alta for rabies, vicious animals, unrestrained animals and trapping.

Expenses for services outside of the city limits will be billed to the county for reimbursement.

Calls for animal control in county areas must be recorded on the dispatch log and the Animal Control Officer is required to act on the authority of the Sheriff before responding to calls in the county.

Additionally, it was agreed that the interlocal agreement follow the City's animal ordinance and transparency from the animal shelter as to the costs for boarding as well as destruction of animals not claimed within the allotted time be made available.

Finally, equipment, labor and costs for maintaining city and county roads was discussed at length but no agreement was drafted and no action was taken.

Likewise, talk regarding the airport was tabled pending further information.

Wrapping up their agenda and a substantial effort towards continued partnership for the good of the community leaders agreed to meet again within a year before adjourning.

On behalf of the Sutton County, Judge Steve Smith, Mike Villanueva, Fred Perez, Carl Teaff, Bob Brockman, Maura Weingart and Sheriff Oscar Chavez were present. Representing the City of Sonora, Mayor Wanda Shurley, Norm Rousselot, Juanita Barrera, Ed Carrasco, Betty Hernandez, Peter Duran and Chief Art Fuentes were present.

The next joint meeting between the City of Sonora and Sutton County will be announced in the future. All meetings are open to the public and interlocal agreements are available to the public upon request.

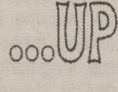
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