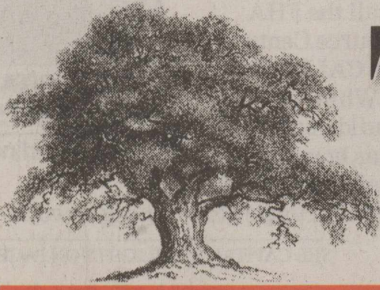


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THE FLU HAS ARRIVED!

Still need a flu shot?
 Flu shots are available in the rural health clinic, Clinic B, Monday through Friday.



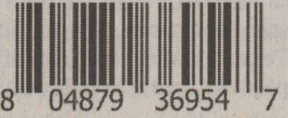
The Devil's River News

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

December 14, 2017

\$1

Volume 128
 Issue 49



Weather Mayhem



The driver of a truck pulling a trailer lost control and slid off of the I-10 400 mm exit ramp Wednesday, December 6, 2017. The truck and trailer slid down the embankment and came to rest in the cement ravine. He did not sustain any injuries as a result of the crash. KIMBERLEY MEYER | THE DEVIL'S RIVER NEWS

Winter Weather Wreaks Havoc on Motorists Along I-10

Winter weather moved into Sutton County Wednesday, December 6, 2017 causing roads to become dangerous for motorists. Multiple traffic incidents involving the I-10 400

mm exit ramp were reported throughout the day - visible by the tire marks and downed signs along the ramp.

As soon as emergency crews cleared one accident,

another incident occurred.

No serious injuries were reported. However, wrecker crews spent the day removing vehicles that slid down the embankment.

A steady rain and dropping temperatures into Thursday produced snow flurries and icy roads. TxDOT crews worked to keep area roads safe for motorists.

'Twas a Week of Christmas Throughout the Town

'Twas a week full of Christmas throughout the town, last week, as local residents enjoyed visiting with Santa, socializing and spreading joy with favorite holiday tunes.

The Sonora Senior Center hosted a holiday social and dinner Wednesday, December 6.

A crowd of people gathered inside the Senior Center to enjoy an evening of socializing, dining and listening to some familiar tunes. Senior Center staff spent

the afternoon preparing a variety of foods, treats and beverages for patrons to enjoy.

The event, made possible through generous donations by local businesses and individuals, including high school students as well as volunteers also featured entertainment by Delaney Ramsdell who sang and played the guitar along with Charlotte Wilson on the piano.

Thursday, December 7, Santa and Mrs. Claus made another stop in town.

Although they had just been on hand at the library, the popular duo made another special stop at the Sonora Bank and Trust.

Girls and boys of all ages had an opportunity to visit with Santa and tell him what is on their Christmas wish list this year.

Reindeer food was also on hand for those who wanted to take some home to leave out on Christmas Eve.

Friday morning, December 8, Sonora Elementary

students cycled in and out of the Sonora Bank, downtown, singing a variety of holiday favorites.

While listening and sometime humming along, patrons also enjoyed sweet treats and warm wassail

All of the past week's holiday events, both free and open to the public, were a few of the ways to promote the excitement of the season and provide a little something for everyone in the community as they celebrate the holidays.

Commissioners

Recognize Eddie Castro

Sutton County Commissioners recognized Everado "Eddie" Castro during their regular meeting Monday, December 11, 2017.

Castro is retiring at the end of the month after working 17-years at the Sheriff's Office.

Castro said he is looking forward to doing more work on his property as well as traveling in the future.

In addition, commissioners welcomed Will Griffin, Enervest Public Relations, who provided the court with a packet of up to date contact information including names and numbers as well as schematic information and a map regarding pipelines located in Sutton County and maintained by Enervest.

The regular consent agenda items were discussed and approved including the minutes of the previous meeting, accounts payable, Treasurer's report and Tax Assessor Collector's report.

In regular business, Chief Deputy DuWayne Castro reported a daily average of 12.7 inmates for the month of November. The cost per meal was \$1.76 and inmate phone fees collected totaled \$407.

He also reported a total of 495 calls for dispatch, 25 civil process received, 8 civil process served and two transports were made to San Antonio, one to Kerrville and one to Del Rio.

In addition, the Sheriff's office collected \$1,055 in fees and deputies issued over 400 citations and warning during November and traffic citations paid to the JP totaled \$30,670.40.



Thalyana, Tres and Eliseo Garza posed for a photo with Santa and Mrs. Claus Thursday, December 7, 2017 at the Sonora Bank and Trust. Each youngster shared a turn in telling Santa what is on their Christmas wish list this year.

KIMBERLEY MEYER | THE DEVIL'S RIVER NEWS

SEE CASTRO ON PAGE 3

Abbott Picks TCEQ to Manage Clean Air Settlement Funds

AUSTIN — Gov. Greg Abbott on Dec. 4 announced his selection of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality as the lead agency for Texas' participation in the Environmental Mitigation Trust.

The trust was established in 2016 and early 2017 by the settlement of certain federal Clean Air Act claims against Volkswagen, Audi and Porsche related to the car companies' use of "defeat devices" to pass emission standard tests. As a participating state, Texas must develop a draft mitigation plan outlining how it would spend its

\$209 million share of the settlement funds in efforts to reduce emissions of nitrogen oxides.

"Our agency looks forward to developing a plan to efficiently administer these funds to help address issues associated with the emission of nitrogen oxides, which leads to ozone formation," said TCEQ Commissioner Jon Niermann. "We look forward to working with all stakeholders to develop a plan that effectively mitigates the emissions from vehicles that did not meet the emission standards."

Comments on the use of the

settlement funds may be submitted by email to VW.settle@tceq.texas.gov.

Hurricane help is offered

Many citizens who live in "Presidentially Declared Major Disaster Areas" — like the nearly 50,000 square miles of Texas hit by Hurricane Harvey — have home loans insured by the Federal Housing Administration.

And of them, those who are having trouble making mortgage payments were encouraged, in a Dec. 4 announcement by Department of Housing and Urban Development Secretary Ben

Carson and Texas Land Commissioner George P. Bush, to contact their service providers to learn about available resources or call the FHA Resource Center at (800) CALL-FHA.

"While we rebuild, many Texas homeowners are facing a second struggle of returning to work

SEE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS ON PAGE 5



STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS
By Ed Sterling

Holiday Cheer

There is too much guilt in the world. Still, I have a propensity to make myself more of it. Lately I've been feeling guilty about holidays. Days that are supposed to be celebrations filled with joy and

Slices of Life



By Jill Pertler

fun fill me with dread and anxiety. I bet I'm not alone.

Holidays often catch me off guard. I'm busy living my simple and ho-ho hum life when — bang! It's a national

holiday, the kids are off school and I was supposed to bake a cake.

At this time of year my angst is exponentiated, or at the very least multiplied. I can't bring myself to get hyped for the holidays. My family has gone so far as to declare me a Grinch, which makes me feel so much better about the situation.

I begrudgingly accept the title because I truly am lacking in the department of holiday spirit.

I don't have time to bake cookies, let alone decorate them with multiple colors of homemade frosting and candy sugar sprinkles. I'm no good at keeping secrets, so the kids always know about their presents ahead of time. I dislike shopping and go to great lengths to avoid crowded malls. I prefer talk radio over holly-jolly Christmas carols. Red and green have never been my wardrobe colors of choice. I see no rational reason to use valuable time to pull out a bunch of lights and decorations to doll up the house only to take them down one short month later. Ditto that for indoor garlands and bedecked fireplace mantles.

And I've never been able to embrace the dead tree in the living room thing. The tree nearly puts me over the edge. Every year.

All around me, people and families and neighborhoods and towns are jubilant with their Christmas preparations and jolly holiday spirits. They sip eggnog and deck the halls with beaming smiles and overflowing ho-ho-hospitality.

I used to try to compensate for my deficiencies, but the only person I fooled was myself and only a fool does that year after year. Over time I've come to terms with the fact that I stink at holidays — all of them, not just Christmas.

For years I lamented my ineptitudes and wished I could be like everyone else — enthusiastically embracing holiday happiness all while wearing a blinking Christmas sweater.

Then, this year, I had an epiphany. I'm not holiday-intolerant. I'm just easily bored.

The same tree with the same decorations in the same corner of the same room may be filled with nostalgia and warm fuzzies for some, but not me.

I guess I'm too pragmatic to be festive.

But that doesn't mean I don't enjoy this time of year. I just enjoy it in a different way from some (most) people. I do like eggnog and spending time with my family (not necessarily in that order). I enjoy giving gifts (even if everyone knows what they are getting ahead of time). I appreciate the true spirit and meaning of the season.

And, although I may not be filled to the brim with holiday cheer, I wouldn't mind a cup of one.

This year I even decorated a little. I hung the stockings, which I guess qualifies as a bedecked fireplace mantle. I got some poinsettias and a pine scented candle to up the ambience. I even hung a wooden plaque that proclaims "We believe."

Maybe I'm not a total Grinch after all. Who knows, maybe next year I'll even bake cookies.



garyarvel.com

Anchored in Galveston

Surely, the passing of 75 years knocks the edges from the fib of a 15-year-old, as well as a military doctor who ignored height and weight requirements for a youngster on his second try to join the US Navy.

Eddie Janek, reared by his widowed mother during the Depression in West, TX, stood 5'1" and weighed 98 pounds. He had "enlisted" several months earlier, but when authorities learned he was underage, he was sent home.

Soon, though, he hopped a train to Galveston—his home for the past 75 years. There, he "re-upped," this time bolstered by "doctored" Catholic confirmation records. During four years in the Pacific, he landed at both Leyte and Peleliu, where he saw death "up close." He distinguished himself during both WWII and the Korean War...

He has long treasured a sealed, glass-covered box of Presidential Unit Citations, and other medals from the US, Philippines and Korea. Presumably lost when Hurricane Ike ravaged the first floor of his home in 2008, his prized awards were returned a few weeks later.

Texas A&M students, helping with storm clean-up, found the muddied box across the bay from Janek's home. They reported it to President R. Bowen Loftin, who then notified Janek of the students' undamaged "find."

A man whose ever-present faith and unbounded optimism share a double harness, Janek credits many folks who have helped him along the way...

First and foremost was his beloved wife Doris, who was claimed by Alzheimer's disease in January, 2015-14 years after diagnosis. Comatose for more than seven years, Doris had Eddie at her side almost 24/7.

He left her from time to time to attend mass, but only when a trusted person could maintain the vigil.

He's "Mr. Eddie" to most Galvestonians, and he's clearly beloved on the island. Eddie has long been a colorful community figure. He coached youth baseball for 34 years and served 16

years as a County Commissioner until Doris' disease took hold. "When citizens called his office, he didn't invite them to come to the courthouse, he drove out to their place," a friend said...

Janek has survived two wars, a stroke and a heart overhaul. He has also gotten hit by trains and caught under barges. Not until military service did he have access to toothbrushes, telephones and bathrooms. (Returning home a second time would have meant cotton-pickin', and he "didn't 'cotton' to that!")

Much has changed. Seemingly a "kid again," he recently made a tandem jump from an airplane, tumbling (with a professional) from 12,000 feet above his beloved Galveston Island. He made the jump on his 90th birthday. (Helping him celebrate was his friend, State Senator Larry Taylor, who joined him for the jump.) "I'll jump again on my birthdays as long as I can walk," Janek beamed. His three sons and their wives fear that he'll do just that, and his six grandchildren are hoping he will...

Janek, who dutifully looks after his roses, keeps his 1964 (and a half) Ford Mustang convertible in spic-and-span condition. He drives it from time to time, and before you ask, it is indeed red.

Attending a social event recently, he spotted a group of women "in their 60s."

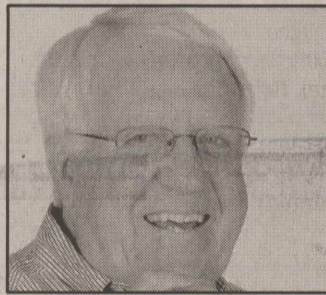
Interrupting, he said, "Ladies, I'm a widower, and I'm lonely. Do any of you have mothers or grandmothers who might go out with me?"

He claims three of them quickly said they weren't busy...

His honors continue to stack up. When the state authorized high school graduation for WWII veterans, he crossed the stage with youngsters nearly 70 years younger. Recently, county commissioners renamed what was formerly the West County Annex Building in Janek's honor. Now, they're building a Galveston sports complex spanning several city blocks. Come April, they'll name it for Eddie Janek, who loves his community as much as it loves him.

As you might expect, Janek claims his cup continues to "runneth over..."

The Idle American



By Dr. Don Newbury

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Surfing in Texas

Ellis Pickett of Liberty is a surfer. "Well there were all those beach movies way back in the sixties and in 1963 my buddy and I went to Galveston for a few days and surfing was already a big craze at that point. I rented a surf-



by Tumbleweed Smith

Rolling Along

board for six dollars for half a day and had so much fun I went back the next day and gave 'em ten dollars for a full day surfboard rental. I was thirteen years old at the time. The next year I got my driver license at age fourteen, the dumbest law ever, and I've been surfing ever since."

He has surfed in a lot of places. "I've surfed all over Texas, from High Island down to South Padre. I've surfed on the east coast, west coast end down to Central America. I've never been to Hawaii. Most of my surfing has been in Texas."

I told him Texas is not known for surfing.

"That is absolutely true. But it is a common misconception. And when people ask me 'where do you surf in Texas' they follow up with the comment 'there's no surf in Texas.'"

He says surfing in Texas is seasonal.

"You go to the beach in the summer, right? You don't surf then. Surfing in Texas is from September to the end of May. During the summer months there is no surf in Texas. The Gulf of Mexico is flat and great for fishing, but the only time there's any surf is when it storms. There was even a movie made about ten years ago and the title was There Ain't No Surf In Texas and it plainly shows that there's plenty."

Ellis estimates that there are about 200,000 surfers in Texas.

"It kinda depends on how you define a surfer. It could be someone who has a surfboard in his garage or someone who surfs on a surfboard every week. You're not going to see that many people in the water with surfboards in Texas. However during a storm that's another story. Now we don't surf during the hurricane. We surf when the hurricane is two hundred miles away and the waves are coming up here. They're very good when they travel that far."

He knows the best surfing spots along the Texas coast.

"You start at High Island and go south. The more south you go the better it gets. By the time you get to the coastal bend it's great and it's also great on South Padre Island. If you go into Mexico by the time you get to Vera Cruz there's beautiful blue water and the waves are huge down there. When northers blow through Texas and blow the surf flat, five days later there's fantastic, beautiful surfing in Vera Cruz, Mexico. I surf every chance I get."

Ellis has worked for years to prevent erosion on Texas beaches.

www.tumbleweedsmith.com

Heard Around Town

Garrison Kiellor was fired from NPR for sexual harassment, and he left without much of a denial. He always said that the kids in Lake Wobegone were all above average. Well, it seems that the average is having trouble making par these days. Maybe life needs to grade us on curve.

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224 E. Main Street
Sonora, Texas 76950

Ph: 325.387.2507
Fax: 325.853.3378

Email: editor@devilsrivernews.com
Website: www.devilsrivernews.com
USPS 155-920

Kimberley Meyer
Editor

Mary Gartman
Circulation & Production

Kathy Mankin
Business Manager

Randy Mankin
Publisher

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Classifieds are due by Monday at 5 p.m.

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Mike Villanueva presented a certificate of appreciation to Everado "Eddie" Castro Monday, December 11, 2017 during the regular meeting of the Sutton County Commissioners. Everado is retiring effective December 31, after 17 years of service with Sutton County.

KIMBERLEY MEYER | THE DEVIL'S RIVER NEWS



Delaney Ramsdell entertained a crowd of citizens Wednesday evening, December 6, 2017, at the Sonora Senior Center. Local residents enjoyed a Christmas social and dinner while listening to music by Ramsdell and Charlotte Wilson on the piano.

KIMBERLEY MEYER | THE DEVIL'S RIVER NEWS

CASTRO:

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Castro also updated the court on the expected delivery of a new stove for the jail and vehicle that was ordered this past July.

Next, the court reviewed the November report for the JP's Office. Judge Jody Harris was absent.

Harris's report reflected a total of 1,444 new cases. Of those cases, 958 were generated by DPS and 516 by Sheriff's Office. It also showed 23 magistrated, one request for court appointed attorney, one inquest and one arrest warrant.

Seven hundred seventy three cases were closed and a total of \$174,353.23 was collected in fees. Of that amount, \$111,598.72 was retained by the county.

County Clerk Rachel Duran reported \$2,566.90 collected in district court fees, \$8,267.30 collected in county court fees and \$3,532 collected in OPRs for the month of November.

Debra Brown,

librarian, reported a steady increase in the numbers of patrons utilizing the library as well as increased use of the computers and internet services. As well, Santa drew a crowd during his recent visit to the library.

County Attorney David Wallace reported no hot check recoveries for the month of November and ongoing negotiations are still in progress for the Quick Claim Deed between the county and TxDOT.

In other business, the court heard a request from Tammy Fisher on behalf of the Sutton County Historical Society to allow the start of renovations to the original Sutton County jail located on the court house square.

Fisher also provided information regarding the goals of the Historical Society to open the jail for public tours in the near future.

No action was taken and the item was tabled pending further review. Commissioners voted

to approve the Christmas and New Year holidays for the County.

They are Monday and Tuesday, December 25-26 and January 1-2.

The court approved a motion to approve a restriction of aerial fireworks in the county if the law permits.

Finally, the court tabled moving the bulletin board. No action was taken.

In closing, Villanueva read aloud a letter to the editor published in the November 30 issue of the Devil's River News thanking county employees for their work and upkeep of the cemetery.

Without further discussion, the court adjourned.

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

The next regular meeting of the Sutton County Commissioners is set for Wednesday, December 27, 2017 at 9:00 a.m. at the County Annex Building.



Zaida and Dulce Arredondo were all smiles while talking with Santa and Mrs. Claus Thursday, December 7, 2017, at the Sonora Bank & Trust.

KIMBERLEY MEYER | THE DEVIL'S RIVER NEWS



Sonora Kindergarten students sang a variety of familiar Christmas songs Friday morning, December 8, 2017, in the lobby of Sonora Bank.

KIMBERLEY MEYER | THE DEVIL'S RIVER NEWS

Health & Wellness

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Now, a word from LMH

Affordable Care Act (ACA) Open Enrollment Begins November 1 and ends December 15, 2017

Do you have the required healthcare coverage under the Affordable Care Act? If no, did you know there is a penalty paid to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) on behalf of the Federal Government? "The penalty for failing to maintain coverage is either a flat dollar amount or a specified percentage of household income, whichever is greater. For an individual with annual income of \$40,000 and no coverage during the year, the penalty would be \$741, according to a calculator on the IRS website. For a couple with annual income of \$90,000 and no insurance, the penalty would be \$1,732. (Pear, 2017)"

Avoid the penalty by accessing Healthcare.gov for finding and purchasing a plan best suited for individuals and families. Enrollment must be complete by December 15, 2017. Stages of enrollment and coverage are as follows.

November 1, 2017: Open Enrollment started — first day to enroll, re-enroll, or change a 2018 insurance plan through the Health Insurance Marketplace

December 15, 2017: Last day to enroll in or change plans for 2018 coverage. After this date, you can enroll or change plans only if you qualify for a Special Enrollment Period.

January 1, 2018: 2018 coverage starts, if premium paid.

Optional websites available are:

Texas Residents - <http://www.individualhealthquotes.com>

<https://www.healthcare.gov>

<http://www.obamacare-plans.com>.

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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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KHOS Radio

Wishing You a Merry Christmas

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CLASSIC COUNTRY

Sonora, Texas



Elementary School Students for the week of December 11th through December 15th. Ava Matanane, Pre-K, Levi Snodgrass, K, Ricardo Valdez, 1st, Melissa Mota, 2nd, Thomas Ramirez, 3rd, Allison Granger, 4th, Braylin Welborn, 5th.

| COURTESY PHOTO

Sonora ISD Students of the Week



Sonora Middle School Students for the Week of December 11th through December 15th. Cassia Hernandez, 6th, Koda Davis, 7th, Jina Dooley, 8th.

| COURTESY PHOTO

Local Youth Participate in 2017 District 10 Food Challenge Competition

Local 4-H students making up three individual teams took part in the annual District 10 Food Challenge Contest Friday, December 8, 2017, in Kerrville.

Two junior teams, "Fantastic 4", whose members included Laane Abalos, Sicily Gutierrez, Cinthia Huerta, and Jayla Williams and "Glitter Bites", whose members included Grace Moore, Emily Nichols, and Kendall Thorp represented Sutton County.

Additionally, the Intermediate Team of Joe Ivan Abrego, Cainaan Miller, and Gage Owen, Hoppin Jalapeños, spiced

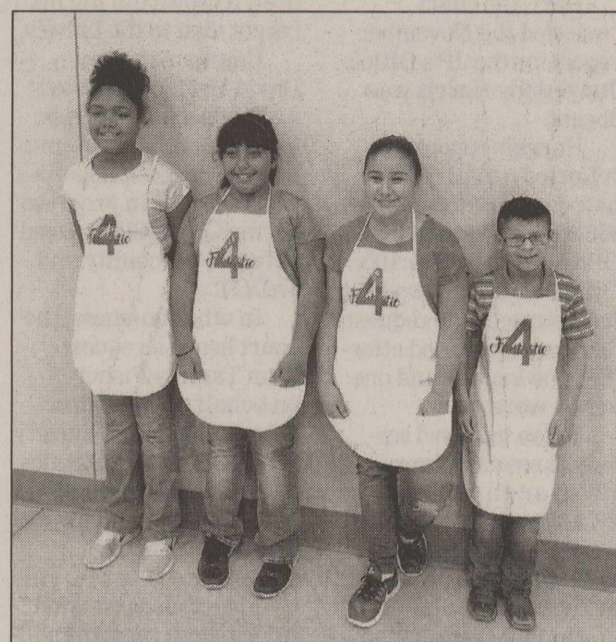
up the competition as well.

Each team was given ingredients but no recipe and asked to prepare a food dish within a 40 minute time period.

The teams presented their dish to a set of judges while discussing key nutrients, MyPlate, food safety, and food preparation.

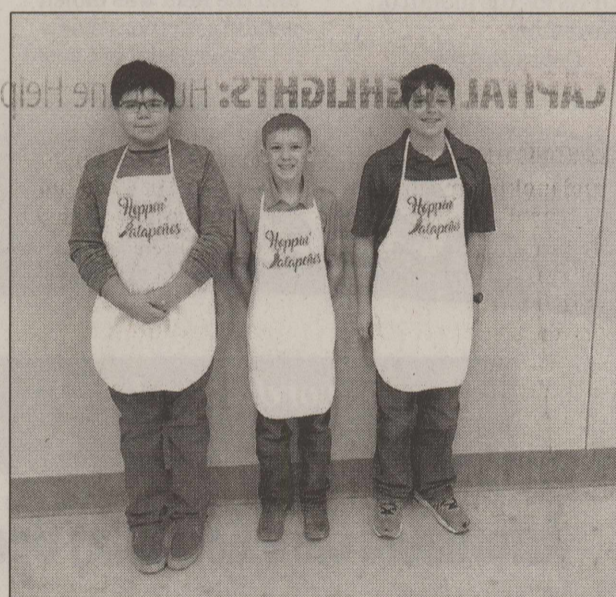
Also, participating on behalf of Sutton County 4-H, Cainaan Miller and Laane Abalos prepared Green Chicken Enchilada Casserole and Banana Bread.

All of the students deserve commendation for their hard work.



Sutton County 4-H Junior Team, "Fantastic 4", including Jayla Williams, Cinthia Huerta, Sicily Gutierrez and Laane Abalos, participated in the District 10 Food Challenge Contest Friday, December 8, 2017, in Kerrville.

| COURTESY PHOTO



Sutton County 4-H Intermediate team, "Hoppin' Jalapeños", including Joe Ivan Abrego, Cainaan Miller and Gage Owen took part in this past Friday's District 10 Food Challenge Contest in Kerrville.

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The Devil's River News

Post Office Sets up Mail Box for Letters to Santa

Each Christmas children all over the world write letters to Santa, and this year the Sonora Post Office is making it easier to mail those letters to him before Christmas.

The U.S. Post Office located at 102 W. Main Street, near downtown, has set up a special mail box inside.

Children may visit the post office during regular business hours and drop off a letter in the designated mailbox inside the front Postmaster Kevin Litterell said.

The letter does not need to have a stamp on the front to ensure delivery, he added. However, if a child wants a response back, a return address is required.

According to the USPS website, the postal service began receiving

letters to Santa Claus more than 100 years ago.

Their involvement was made official in 1912 when then Postmaster General Frank Hitchcock authorized local postmasters to respond to the ever growing number of letters received each holiday season, according to the website.

Litterell said he is excited to offer this special service to the local community and he hopes everyone will participate by dropping off their letters to Santa.

"This is a great opportunity for our community," Litterell said. "The box will be checked daily. Letters will be collected and sent directly to the North Pole to ensure that they arrive in time for Santa to read them before Christmas."

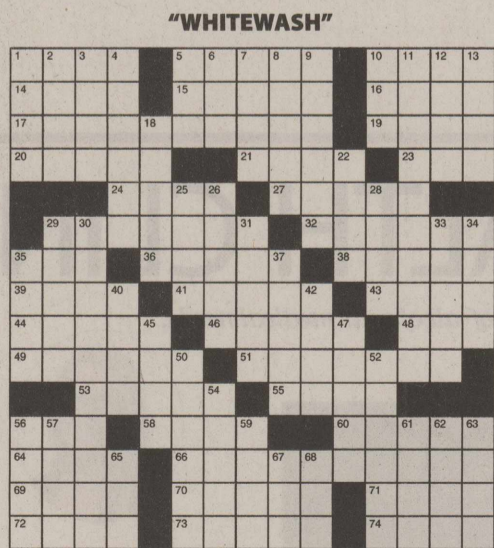
Weekly Crossword Puzzle

- ACROSS**
1. Plate or run
 5. Greek island
 10. Exchange
 14. Harrow's rival
 15. Showing amazement
 16. American river
 17. Official report
 19. Offers
 20. ___ geometry
 21. Cut
 23. Do handwork
 24. Tears
 27. Hindu garb: var.
 29. Suffer from heat
 32. More supple
 35. Exclamation of disgust
 36. Corroded
 38. New Zealand native
 39. Roman poet
 41. Masks
 43. Boat or board
 44. Communications
 46. ___ Academy
 48. Observe
 49. Visions
 51. Nullified
 53. Penned
 55. ___ avis

56. Hardwood
58. Obtains
60. Say strongly
64. Kind of stool
66. Capital of the Yukon
69. Earthen container
70. Fisherman
71. Historic river
72. Donne production
73. Indolent one
74. Eskimo asset

- DOWN**
1. Cuts
 2. Holy Roman emperor
 3. Work hard
 4. Complete
 5. Gullible guy
 6. Turkish title
 7. Relief ___
 8. Begins
 9. Type of story
 10. Show anguish

11. DC showplace
12. Verdi opera
13. Station
18. Roman magistrate
22. Stiffly proper
25. Egyptian god
26. Begin
28. Greek letters
29. Relish
30. Sea monster
31. Fortification
33. Goofed
34. Abundant
35. Tie
37. At no time
40. Precious
42. Heroic tale
45. Urban problem
47. Pine family tree
50. Cooked
52. Claws
54. Light gas
56. At the summit
57. Concert number
59. Farm structure
61. Seed covering
62. ___ of Pines
63. Reward: archaic
65. Block up
67. Wallet item
68. Sooner than



See solution on Page 10.

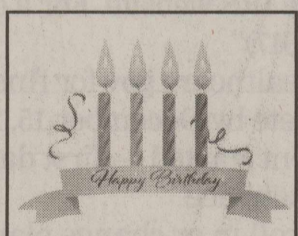
This crossword puzzle is sponsored each week by

Love Funeral Home

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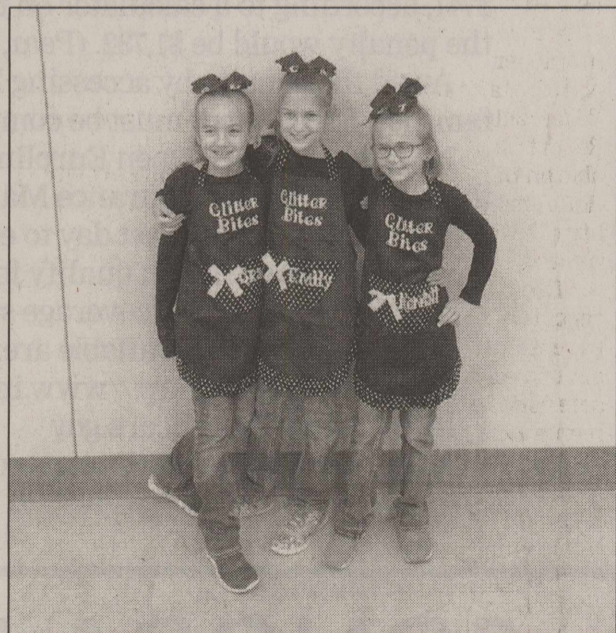


DECEMBER

- 15th Dawn Cahill, Dustin Neff
- 16th Shannon Rushing, Janelle Vasquez
- 17th Dallas Payne, Olinda Jimenez, James Archer, Donna Seymour, Candise Martin
- 18th Juan Vasquez
- 19th Colton Moore, Rex Ann Friess, Teresa Vasquez, Don Surriddge
- 20th Matt Davenport, Tommy Arnwine, Eddie Hernandez, Amelia Butler, Swade Draper, Dave Love, Landon Castro
- 21st Janice Black, Cody Bush.

Send us your birthdays to editor@devilsriver.news

To sponsor the birthday list, please call 387-2507 or email editor@devilsriver.news



Sutton County 4-H Junior Team, "Glitter Bites", including Grace Moore, Emily Nichols and Kendall Thorp participated the District 10 Food Challenge Contest Friday, December 8, 2017, in Kerrville.

| COURTESY PHOTO

Cauthorn and Griffin

Ranch Insurance

Eldorado • Del Rio • Ozona • Sonora

Encouraging Youth Interest in Livestock is Vital to the Future

Texas enjoys the largest youth livestock program in the nation and is also unmatched in livestock project participation.

How many you ask? In Texas there are over 47,000 4-H and FFA exhibitors showing more than 97,000 animal projects annually.

Raising livestock is one of the most unique and rewarding projects the 4-H program has to offer.

However, these opportunities come with incurred costs and inputs. Thankfully, we are blessed with supporters.

So, why contribute to a livestock show?

You may have heard that using livestock as a tool, we can provide opportunities to develop life skills such as work ethic, time & resource management, and self-discipline.

That's true, but there is more to it than that.

Livestock projects allow 4-H'ers to gain valuable knowledge in livestock production systems, animal nutrition, and the responsibility necessary to raise an animal from weaning to finishing.

County fairs were probably started as a means to exhibit local agricultural production, learn about new technologies, and get the word out about what was considered the industry standard for livestock of that day.

It fits the needs of the

agricultural society.

Today, however, most families are several generations removed from the farm or ranch.

As a matter of fact, less than 2% of the U.S. population lives on a farm.

Thus, for many youth, showing livestock will be their only exposure to animal or production agriculture.

Another statistic is that the average age of today's rancher is around 60.

The obvious question becomes: where are the future agriculture producers going to come from?

The good news is that most kids have a natural curiosity about livestock.

Educating youth about livestock husbandry, even within the stock show venue, helps youth understand the management struggles that livestock producers face.

This experience can help make them a more informed consumer.

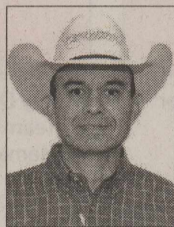
Might even help them consider a career in some area of agriculture.

One final point: the premiums received from the county stock show help many youth with their future educational expenses.

And, it is something they had to work for.

Our own county stock show will be on January 12th.

If you'd like to hear more or contribute, please call the Sutton County Extension Office at 387-3101.



Pascual Hernandez

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 INCIDENTS

DECEMBER 4 - 4:47 PM • Caller requested Animal Control at Del Rio and Savell. Officer responded.

7:54 PM • Alarm Call at the 100 Block of 2nd. Officer responded.

DECEMBER 5 - 4:34 PM • Caller requested Agency Assistance at the 100 Block of 2nd. Officer responded.

DECEMBER 6 - 8:28 AM • Alarm call at the 1,300 Block of S. Crockett. Officer responded.

9:46 AM • Alarm call at the 1,300 Block of S. Crockett. Officer responded.

10:42 AM • Alarm call at the 1,300 Block of S. Crockett. Officer responded.

11:36 AM • Caller requested motorist assistance at the 900 Block of S. Crockett. Officer responded.

11:38 AM • Alarm call at the 1,300 Block of S. Crockett. Officer responded.

1:13 PM • Caller reported accident/wreck on the I-10 W 400 mm exit ramp. Officer responded.

DECEMBER 7 - 7:43 AM • Caller reported a suspicious vehicle at the 600 Block of E. 2nd. Officer responded.

2:02 PM • Caller requested funeral escort. Officer responded.

DECEMBER 8 - 12:40 PM • Caller reported suspicious person at Prospect and E. Crockett. Officer responded.

3:19 PM • Caller requested officer for a civil matter at the 500 Block of N. Crockett. Officer responded.

DECEMBER 9 - 8:28 AM • Caller requested Ministerial

Alliance. Officer responded.

9:04 AM • Caller requested to meet with officer at the 300 Block of W. 5th. Officer responded.

3:56 PM • Caller reported Criminal Trespass at the 1,000 Block of Savell. Officer responded.

DECEMBER 10 - 10:52 AM • Caller requested Animal Control at Tres Amigos. Officer responded.

SUTTON COUNTY SHERIFF ARRESTS

DECEMBER 5 • Patricia Lopera, 46-year-old female of Lubbock was arrested on Lubbock County warrants.

• Roel Leal, 38-year-old male of Corpus Christi was arrested for Unauthorized Use of a Motor Vehicle.

• Maximiano Reyes, 50-year-old male of Ozona was arrested on a 72 hour hold.

DECEMBER 7 • Joaquin Garcia, 25-year-old female of San Antonio was arrested on a Bexar County warrant.

DECEMBER 9 • Fermin Rodriguez, 27-year-old male of Winters was arrested on Mason County warrants.

INCIDENTS

DECEMBER 4 - 11:55 AM • Caller reported a suspicious person on U.S. HWY 277 N. Deputy responded.

1:02 PM • Deputy assisted with traffic control on I-10 at the 400 mm.

2:02 PM • Caller reported a home burglary on the South Service Rd. Deputy responded.

DECEMBER 5 - 1:33 PM • Caller reported a disturbance at the Road Ranger. Deputies responded.

9:20 AM • Caller reported a crash on I-10 at the 405 mm.

DECEMBER 6 - 1:10 AM • Caller reported a grass fire on I-10 at the 434 mm. Deputy responded.

1:12 PM • Caller reported a crash on I-10 at the 400 mm exit. Deputy and DPS responded.

4:04 PM • Caller reported a crash on I-10 at the 400 mm exit. Deputy and PD responded.

DECEMBER 7 - 2:47 AM •

Caller reported a tractor trailer blocking the exit of the rest area west of town. Deputy responded.

10:09 PM • Caller reported a reckless driver on U.S. HWY 277 S. Deputy responded.

DECEMBER 10 - 2:51 AM • Caller reported a vehicle blocking the exit of the rest area west of town. Deputy responded.

Devil's River News Weekly Rainfall Report

Month	Rainfall (in.)	Month	Rainfall (in.)
December 1-11	0.95 in.	December 1-11	0.88 in.
November	0.17 in.	November	0.13 in.
October	0.11 in.	October	0.07 in.
September	3.83 in.	September	3.05 in.
August	1.82 in.	August	3.66 in.
July	4.21 in.	July	3.79 in.
June	3.07 in.	June	0.41 in.
May	3.68 in.	May	2.92 in.
April	1.23 in.	April	2.48 in.
March	0.79 in.	March	1.00 in.
February	1.36 in.	February	1.48 in.
January	2.40 in.	January	1.68 in.
2017 Year-to-Date Total	23.62 in.	2017 Year-to-Date Total	21.55 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.

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.

Sponsored By:

Texas Farm Bureau Insurance
Ruth Wallace (325)387-6504

SONORA WEATHER FORECAST

Thu 12/14	Fri 12/15	Sat 12/16	Sun 12/17	Mon 12/18
60°/29°	61°/35°	64°/43°	62°/35°	68°/37°
Plenty of Sunshine Sunrise 7:32 a.m. Sunset 5:43 p.m.	Sunshine Sunrise 7:32 a.m. Sunset 5:43 p.m.	Times of Sun and Clouds Sunrise 7:33 a.m. Sunset 5:44 p.m.	Times of Sun and Clouds Sunrise 7:33 a.m. Sunset 5:44 p.m.	Plenty of Sunshine Sunrise 7:34 a.m. Sunset 5:44 p.m.



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Emergency Repairs • Water Heaters
Water, Sewer and Gas Re-piping • Fully Stocked Truck
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Master Plumber M-38127

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CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS: Hurricane Help

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2
and making mortgage payments. To help these Texans, the General Land Office is proud to team with our disaster recovery partners at HUD to help those who need help avoiding foreclosure or assistance in financing repairs to damaged homes," Bush said.

The Federal Housing Administration, an agency within the Department of Housing and Urban Development, insures more than one quarter of home loans in Texas.

Report cards are posted

State Education Commissioner Mike Morath on Dec. 7 announced Texas' 2016-2017 School Report Cards are available on the Texas Education Agency website, at <http://tea.texas.gov/perfreport/src/index.html>.

The purpose of the report cards is to inform parents and guardians about a school's characteristics and achievements, combining parts of other recently released accountability reports to provide campus-level information detailing student and campus performance.

The School Report Card includes the following information for each campus in Texas:

- 2017 state academic accountability rating;
- Campus distinction designations;
- Attendance rates;
- Enrollment figures;
- Dropout rates;
- Class size averages;
- State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness results;
- ACT/SAT results;
- and
- Per-student financial expenditures.

These campus reports, required by the Texas Legislature and prepared by the Texas Education

Agency, will be sent to the parent or guardian of every child enrolled in a Texas public school by local school districts.

State revenue total is up

State Comptroller Glenn Hegar on Dec. 4 said state sales tax revenue totaled \$2.78 billion in November, 11.1 percent more than in November 2016.

"The double-digit growth in sales tax revenue compared to last year was fueled, in part, by increased collections from oil- and natural gas-related sectors. Recent higher oil prices have spurred increased well drilling and completion. Collections from retail trade and restaurants were also up, reflecting growth in consumer spending," Hegar said.

Total sales tax revenue for the three months ending in November 2017 was up 9.5 percent compared to 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. Motor vehicle sales and rental taxes, motor fuel taxes and oil and natural gas production taxes also are large revenue sources for the state.

Hegar distributes revenue

Comptroller Hegar on Dec. 6 announced he would send cities, counties, transit systems and special purpose taxing districts \$695.2 million in local sales tax allocations for December, an amount 10.8 percent more than in December 2016. Allocations were based on sales made in October by businesses that report tax monthly, according to the Office of the Comptroller.

New Year's Eve Dance

featuring

BRutherZ

December 31, 2017

8:30 p.m. until 12:30 a.m.

Sutton County Civic Center

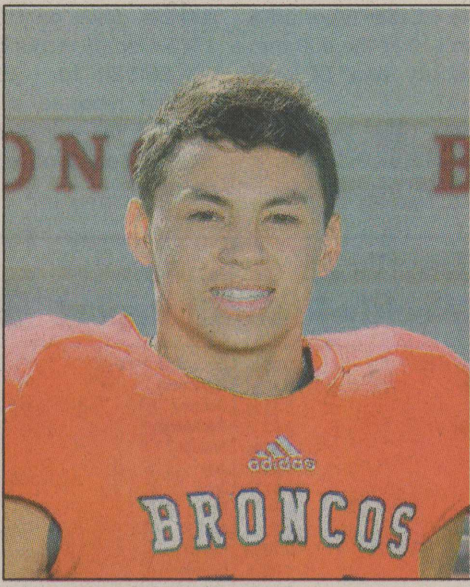
BYOB
No Glass

Tickets \$20

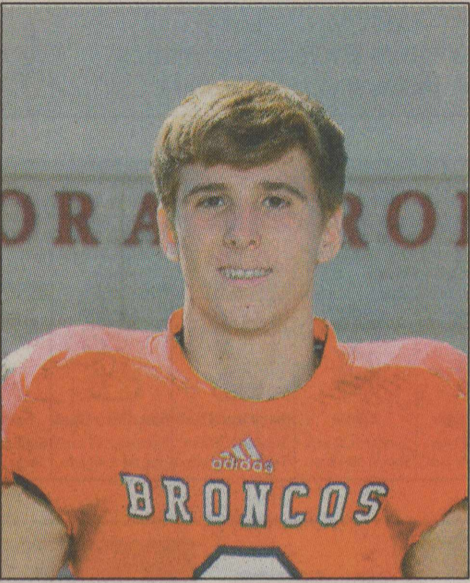
at the door or in advance at the Sonora Chamber of Commerce

Sponsored by Sonora Chamber of Commerce FMI: 325-387-2880

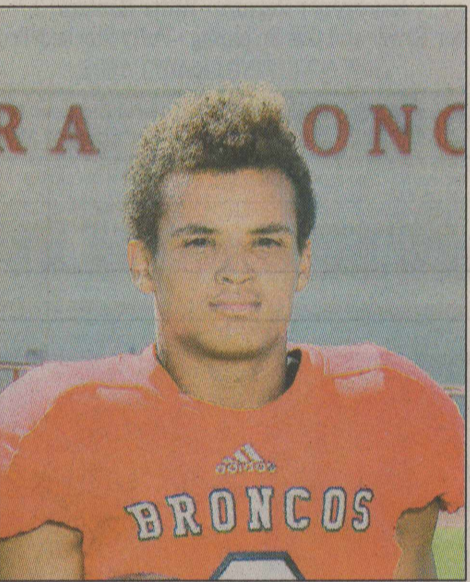
2017 All District Football District 3AAA-Division II



Kaden Cordell, Senior
MVP
Academic All District



Hunter Bunch, Junior
Defensive MVP
Academic All District



Jarrett Jackson, Senior
Offensive MVP
Academic All District



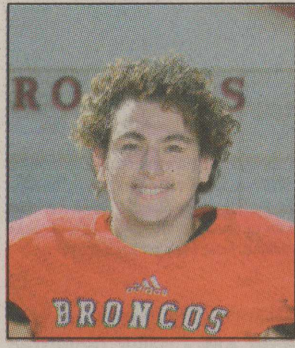
Head Coach Jeff Cordell
Coach of the Year



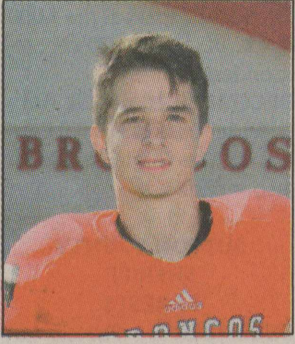
Coach Charles Bunch



Coach Creighton Henderson



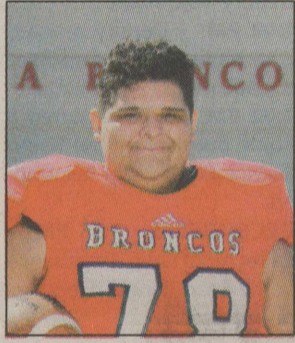
Christian Ramon, Senior
1st Team Defense
Academic All District



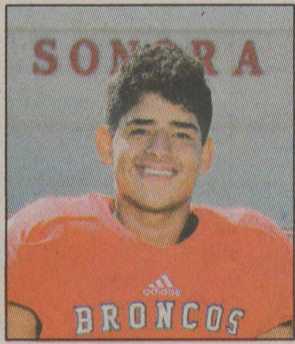
Jansen Morris,
Sophomore
2nd Team Defense
Academic All-District



Wilson Johnson,
Sophomore
2nd Team Defense
1st Team Offense
Academic All District



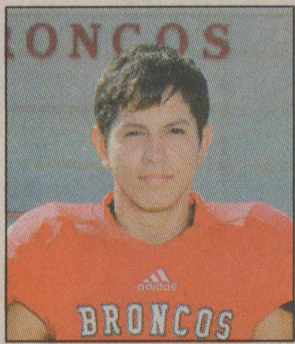
Noe Estrada, Junior
1st Team Offense
Academic All-District



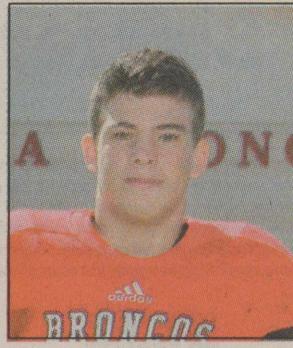
Aldo DeLuna,
Sophomore
2nd Team Offense
Academic All-District



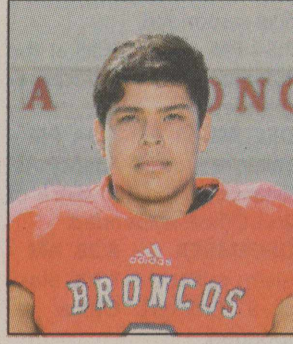
Blayze Sykes,
Sophomore
Honorable Mention, Defense
Academic All-District



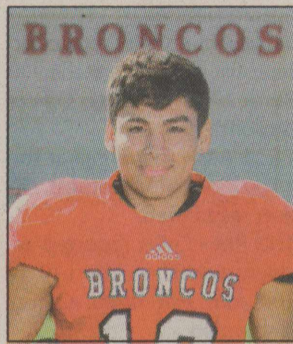
Xavier Rodriguez, Senior
Academic All-District



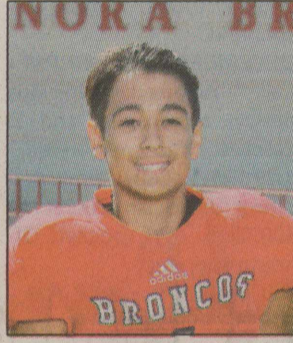
Brock Aschenbeck,
Sophomore
1st Team Defense
Academic All District



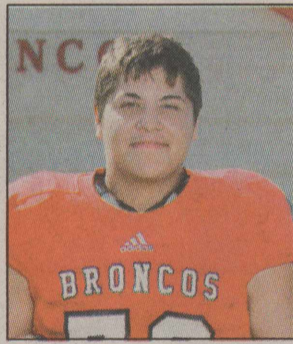
Carlos Mendoza, Junior
2nd Team Defense
Academic All District



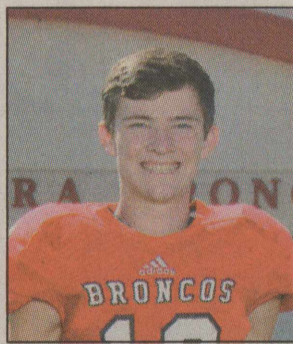
John DeLeon, Junior
2nd Team Defense



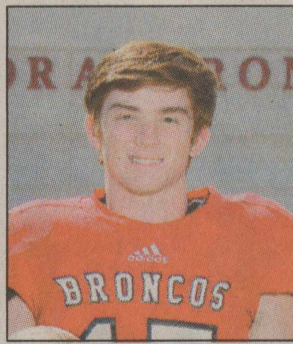
Daniel Gonzales, Junior
2nd Team Specialists
Honorable Mention, Defense
Academic All-District



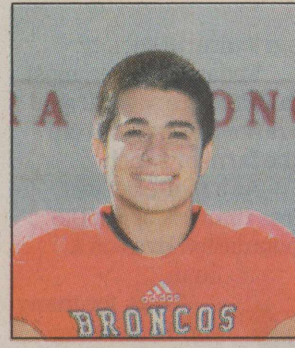
Martin Alvarez, Junior
Honorable Mention, Defense



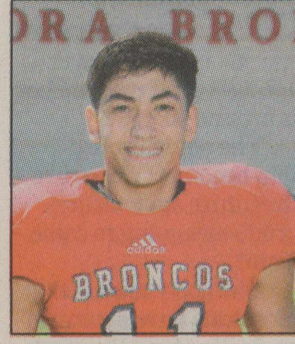
Evan Shannon, Junior
Honorable Mention, Offense
Academic All-District



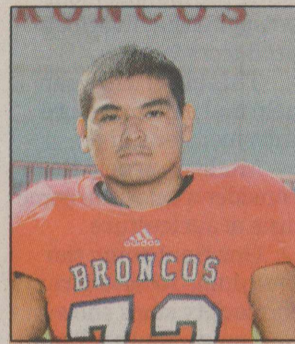
Dylan Taylor, Junior
Honorable Mention, Offense
Academic All-District



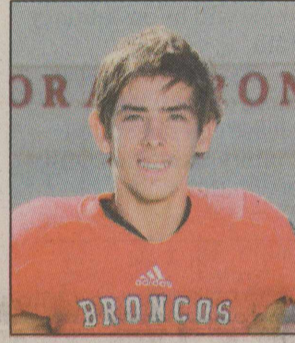
Brandon Martinez, Junior
1st Team Defense
2nd Team Specialists



Hector Mendez, Senior
2nd Team Defense
Academic All District



Juan Baez, Junior
1st Team Offense



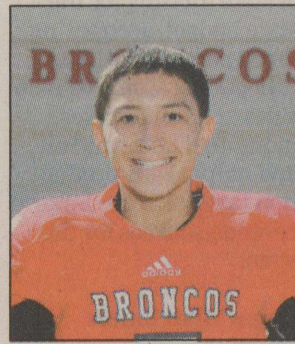
Willie Munoz, Junior
1st Team Offense
Academic All-District



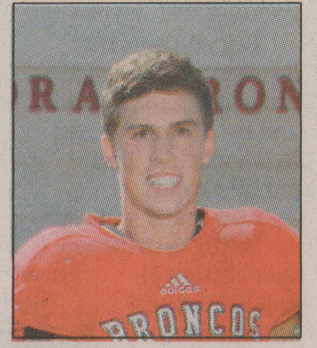
Ray Kimbrell, Senior
Honorable Mention, Defense
Academic All-District



Marcos Talamantes, Senior
Honorable Mention, Offense



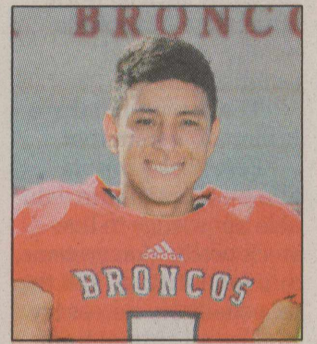
Brian VanWinkle, Junior
Honorable Mention, Offense
Academic All-District



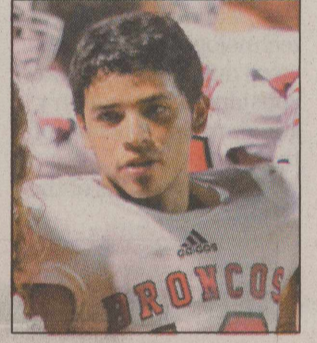
Wesley Dutton, Junior
1st Team Defense
Academic All District



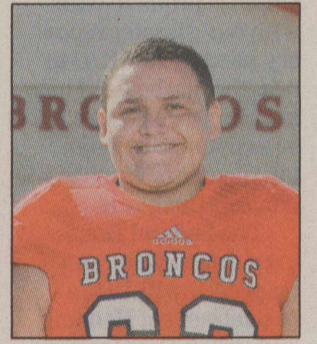
Mark Chavez, Senior
2nd Team Defense
Academic All District



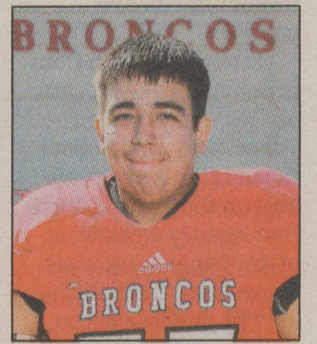
Abel Cruz, Senior
2nd Team Offense
Academic All-District



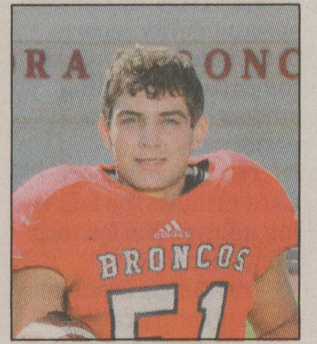
JR Velasquez, Junior
2nd Team Offense
1st Team Specialists



Dominique Solis, Junior
Honorable Mention, Defense



Thomas Talamantes,
Sophomore
Honorable Mention, Offense
Academic All-District



Logan McDonald, Junior
Academic All-District



Coach Caleb Perez



Coach David Gallegos



Coach Eddie Favila



Coach Greg Connors



Coach Luke Sheets



Coach Guy Barnett



Coach Jay Immel



Blayze Sykes takes a shot and scores 2 points for the Broncos during the varsity game between Sonora and Junction Saturday, December 9, 2017. The Broncos were awarded the Bank & Trust Basketball Tournament Championship Trophy following their 60-43 victory over the Eagles Saturday.

KIMBERLEY MEYER | THE DEVIL'S RIVER NEWS

LADY BRONCOS
Varsity
December 9, 2017

SONORA
v.
ELDORADO
16-43

SONORA 02-06-06-02=16
ELDORADO 00-14-22-07=43

SCORERS: Karah Martinez 2; Aleasha Smith 4; Jackilyn Sykes 8



Karah Martinez dribbles the ball to the net and takes a shot during Saturday's varsity game between Sonora and Eldorado, December 9, 2017. The Lady Broncos participated in the annual Bank & Trust Basketball Tournament in Sonora.

KIMBERLEY MEYER | THE DEVIL'S RIVER NEWS

LADY BRONCOS
Junior Varsity
December 7, 2017

SONORA
v.
JUNCTION
28-20

SONORA 04-04-12-08=28
JUNCTION 06-03-04-07=20

SCORERS: Esmeralda Salazar 4; Alyssa Martinez 2; Clarissa Rodriguez 4; Chayenne Haynes 4; Dekota Morrow 7; Kodee Smith 3; Yesenia Garza 2; Fernanda Gonzalez 2

LADY BRONCOS
Junior Varsity
December 8, 2017

SONORA
v.
OZONA
36-11

SONORA 12-12-02-10=36
OZONA 02-00-07-02=11

SCORERS: Esmeralda Salazar 4; Alyssa Martinez 6; Shyanne Gamez 4; Clarissa Rodriguez 10; Chayenne Haynes 8; Dekota Morrow 2; Fernanda Gonzalez 2

LADY BRONCOS
Junior Varsity
December 8, 2017

SONORA
v.
RC
29-18

SONORA 04-06-12-07=29
RC 02-04-04-08=18

SCORERS: Sianne Alviso 4; Fernanda Gonzalez 2; Rivers Martinez 2; Alyssa Martinez 3; Dekota Morrow 6; Clarissa Rodriguez 8; Chayenne Haynes 2; Yesenia Garza 2

LADY BRONCOS
Junior Varsity
December 9, 2017

SONORA
v.
JUNCTION
22-21

SONORA 06-09-04-03=22
JUNCTION 05-04-05-07=21

SCORERS: Sianne Alviso 2; Fernanda Gonzalez 2; Alyssa Martinez 6; Dekota Morrow 1; Clarissa Rodriguez 4; Yesenia Garza 3; Esmeralda Salazar 4

LADY BRONCOS
Junior Varsity
December 9, 2017

SONORA
v.
RC
26-27

SONORA 08-12-02-04=26
RC 06-11-05-05=27

SCORERS: Alyssa Martinez 7; Dekota Morrow 6; Clarissa Rodriguez 8; Chayenne Haynes 5

BRONCOS
Varsity
December 9, 2017

SONORA
v.
JUNCTION
60-43

SONORA 08-26-17-09=60
JUNCTION 10-10-10-13=43

SCORERS: Abel Cruz 13; Blayze Sykes 2; Evan Shannon 13; Jalen Lopez 15; Kaden Cordell 9; Marcos Talamantes 4; Willie Munoz 4



The Sonora girls junior varsity basketball team was awarded third place in the Bank & Trust Basketball Tournament this past Saturday, December 9, 2017. The ladies competed against area high school athletes in the annual three day competition. Pictured (L-R) Front Row: Alyssa Martinez, Yesenia Garza, Sianne Alviso, Dekota Morrow and Chayenne Haynes. Back Row: Coach Troy Wellmann, Kodee Smith, Esmeralda Salazar, Shyanne Gamez, Adriana Villalobos, Fernanda Gonzalez and Clarissa Rodriguez.

[COURTESY PHOTO]

Lady Colts Swoop Owls 36-23

By LaTisha Sheets

The Lady Colts defeated Reagan County 36-23 Monday, December 11, 2017, on their home court.

With only 9 out of 12 players participating, the eighth grade Lady Colts B team managed a 10-0 lead over the Lady Owls at the end of the first quarter.

The Owls worked their way back to a two-point game in the third

quarter, but the Lady Colts picked it up in the fourth to bring home the win.

Scoring for the Lady Colts: Ariana Arispe, Jarixa De Luna, Briana Espinosa, Ellie Edwards, Amaris and Alexandra Cardenas.

Next, the Lady Colts are set to play The Ballinger Lady Bearcats Monday, January 8, 2017, in Ballinger.

8th Grade Colts Take on Owls

By Larry Jennings

The eighth grade Colts A team traveled to Reagan County Monday, December 11, 2017, to take on the Owls for their fourth game this season.

The Colts fell 25-36 to the Owls.

Off to a good start, the Colts were up 12-7 at the end of the first quarter, but slowly wore down as the game progressed.

The score was tied at half 18-18 before falling 25-36 in the end.

Scoring for the Colts

A team: Fernando Gonzales, 13, Lane Taylor, 6, Christoval Lira, 3, Ivan Fuentes, 2, and Alex Renteria, 1.

The Colts B team was more successful on the court bringing home a 29-22 victory over the Owls.

Scoring for the Colts B team: Tyler Walther, 15, Marcos Villalobos, 10, and Ulices Ozuna, 4.

Next, the Colts are back on their home court Monday, January 8, 2017, to take on the Ballinger Bearcats.

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Sonora

Senior Center

Monday December 18
Chicken Parmesan, Fettucini, Mixed Vegetables, Garden Salad, Garlic Toast, Pineapple Pudding, Milk

Tuesday December 19
Chili w/ Beans, Cucumber/Tomato Salad, Corn Bread, Apple Crisp, Milk

Wednesday December 20
Smothered Pork Chop, Rice Pilaf, Tossed Salad, Dinner Roll, Cinnamon Apricots, Milk

Thursday December 21
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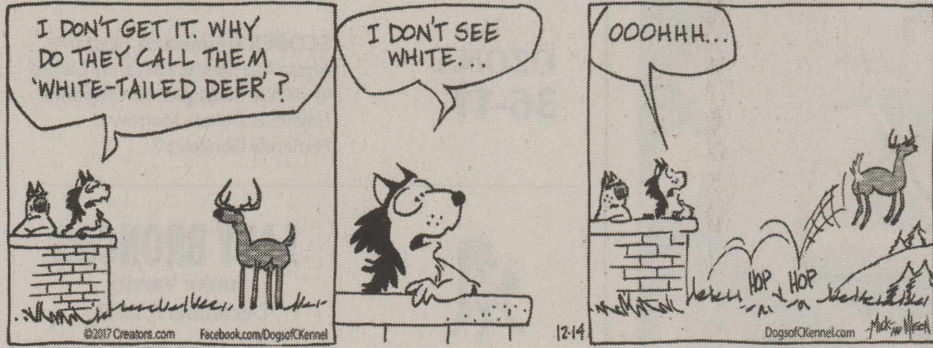
Daddy's Home

by Tony Rubino and Gary Markstein



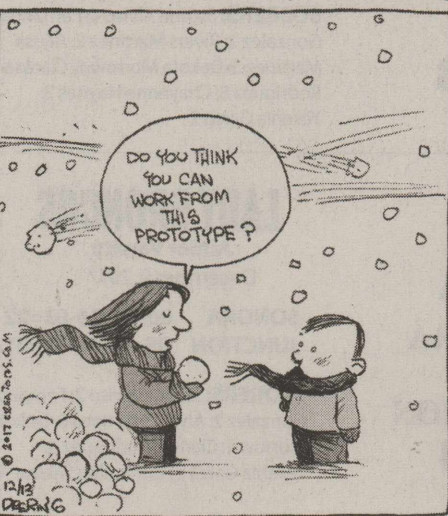
Dogs of C-Kennel

by Mick and Mason Mastroianni



Strange Brew

by John Deering



Strange Brew

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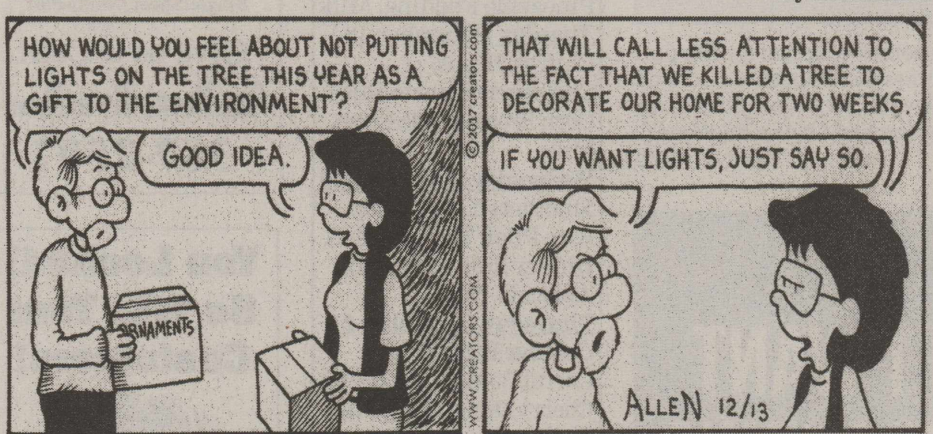


ONE BIG HAPPY



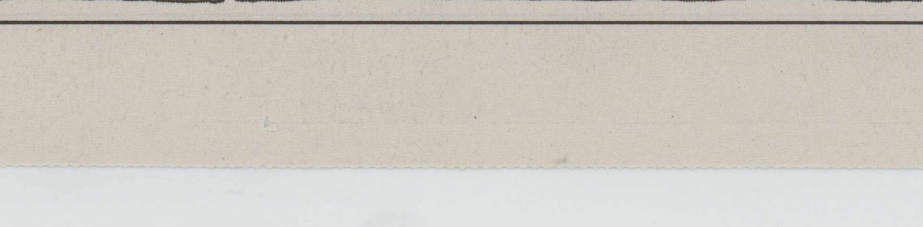
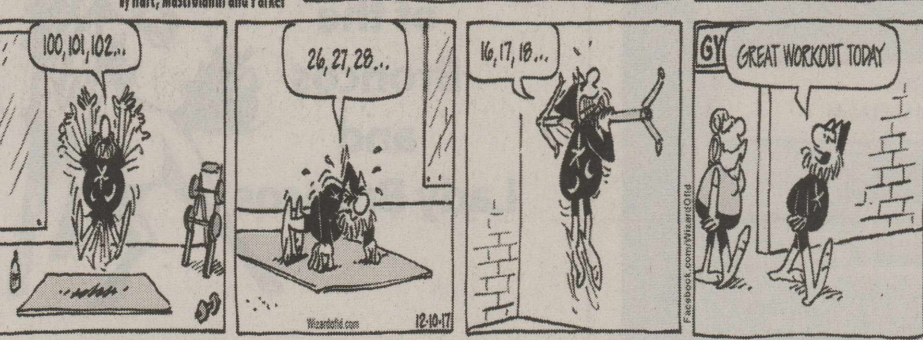
Nest Heads

by John Allen



WIZARD OF ID

by Hart, Mastroianni and Parker



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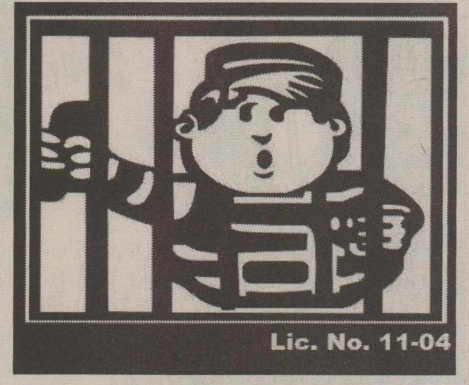
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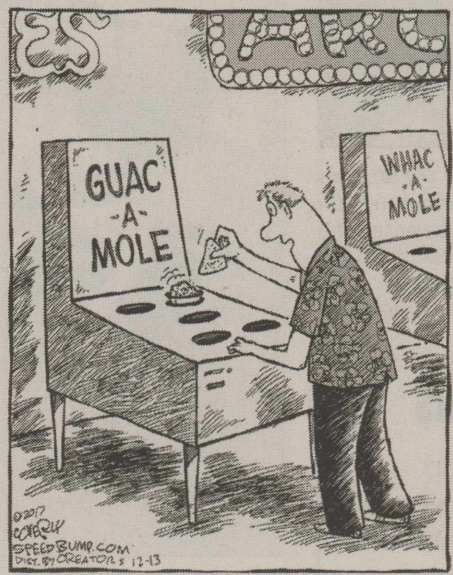
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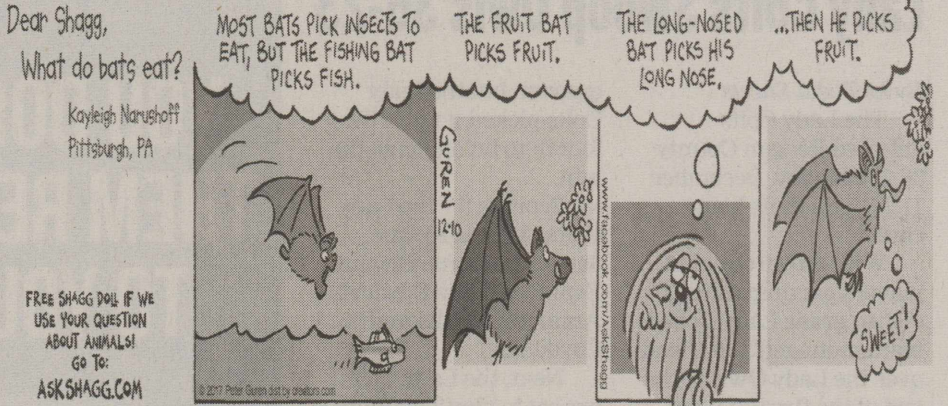
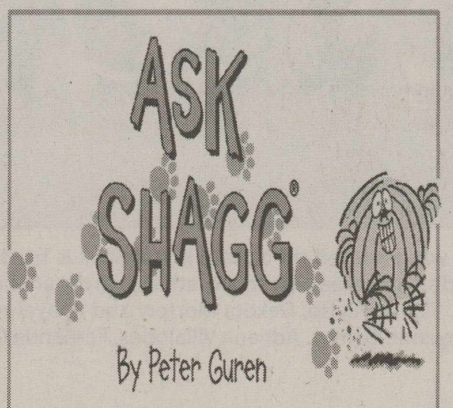
Speed Bumps

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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.

ZIG-ZAG

THE ORIGINAL WORD MAZE PUZZLE

NATURAL FIBERS

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 DASHED 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 SILK

②

③

④

⑤

⑥

⑦

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⑨

⑩

SEE SOLUTIONS ON PAGE 10

BUY • SELL • TRADE • LOCATE • RENT • HIRE • NOTIFY • BUY • SELL • TRADE • LOCATE • RENT • HIRE • NOTIFY • BUY • SELL • TRADE • LOCATE • RENT • HIRE • NOTIFY

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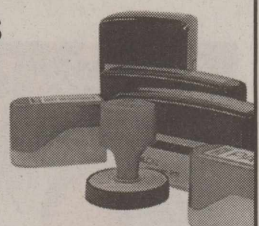
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DPS Reminds Texans of Winter Weather Safety

The Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) encourages Texans in all regions of the state to make preparations for winter weather as we enter the cold weather season.

"While we've all heard the joke about Texas only having two seasons - hot and hotter - all Texans need to prepare now for the serious threats that the upcoming winter could bring," DPS Director Steven McCraw said. "Every year, Texas faces the dangers of winter weather conditions, including freezing temperatures, ice, sleet, and even snow. Texans are urged to stay informed about changing weather in their area and to take steps now to help stay safe during the coming months."

Texans should winterize their vehicles by checking the battery, windshield wipers (including appropriate freeze resistant-fluid), tire pressure, tire tread,

fluid levels, and lubricate door and trunk locks to prevent freezing.

In addition, here is a list of emergency supplies drivers can keep in their vehicle:

- Blankets/sleeping bags, extra clothing, gloves and a hat.
- Cell phone, radio, flashlight and extra batteries.
- First-aid kit and pocket knife.
- High calorie, non-perishable food and bottled water.
- Bag of sand or cat litter to provide traction for tires.
- Windshield scraper, tool kit, booster cables, tow rope and a shovel.

DPS offers the following additional tips for staying safe during possible winter weather:

- Monitor local weather broadcasts and follow up-to-the-minute weather conditions, at <http://www.weather.gov/>.
- Purchase an all-hazards weather radio for up-to-date warnings,

watches, forecasts and other hazard information.

- Sign up for your local emergency notification system.

- Make sure your vehicle is properly maintained before any trip, and keep your gas tank full.

- On icy roads, drive slowly and increase distance required for stopping, and avoid using cruise control.

- Watch for downed trees and power lines across roads. If power is out, treat all intersections as four-way stops.

- Allow extra time when traveling in inclement weather.

- Avoid traveling when sleet, freezing rain or snow is predicted, and monitor road conditions by visiting www.drivetexas.org or by calling 1-800-452-9292.

- Insulate outside faucets and pipes near outer walls.

- Make sure that furnaces, heaters, fireplaces and wood stoves are clean, well-ventilated and in good working condition.

- To prevent carbon monoxide poisoning, NEVER operate generators and other fuel-powered devices inside a home or an enclosed space, such as a garage.

The deadly odorless, colorless gas is produced any time a fossil fuel is

burned, with sources including motor vehicle engines, generators and fuel-burning appliances or heating systems. Consider installing a carbon monoxide detector.

- Make arrangements for proper shelter and an emergency supply of food and water for your pets and livestock.

- Stock up on firewood and supplies, including canned goods and bottled water.

- If you will be away from home for a long period of time, set your thermostat to 55 degrees or higher and open cabinets under sinks.

- Make sure you have inclement weather contact numbers for schools and work.

- Check on friends and family members whose health or age may put them at greater risk from cold weather.

During the winter season, residents can contact 2-1-1 Texas, the state's free 24-hour helpline, to check on possible community-established warming centers or related services in their area.

No matter where you live in Texas, you can dial 2-1-1 or 877-541-7905 for community resources.

Visit <http://www.txdps.state.tx.us/dem/ThreatAwareness/winterstorm.htm> for additional information and tips regarding winter weather preparedness.



Members of the Sonora Police Department Gabriel Arredondo, Justin Gutierrez, Betsy Rodriguez and Chief Art Fuentes spent their Sunday, December 10, 2017, collecting donations benefiting local youth. | COURTESY PHOTO

Annual Toy Drive Yields Generous Donations for Local Angel Tree Program

The Sonora Police Department collected toys Sunday, December 10, 2017, for the annual Toy Drive benefiting local children in need.

Chief Art Fuentes, officers Gabriel Arredondo, Justin Gutierrez and Betsy Rodriguez up in front of the Dollar General store Saturday to accept donations throughout the day.

Sonora PD Administrator Melissa Fuentes, as well as Angie Fuentes and Ashley Arredondo were also on hand to help with the special event.

Local residents as well as others contributed toys, gift cards and cash donations - all benefiting

local youth participating in the Angel Tree Program.

Fuentes said the generosity from the local community as well as people just passing through town was "amazing."

"We are so very blessed to have had the extraordinary outpouring of support from our community," Fuentes said.

In addition to the Toy Drive, a charity Clay Shoot was also held Saturday, December 8, at the JL Bar Ranch to help with the success of this year's program and ensure a better Christmas for those in need.

Merry Christmas
- The Bank & Trust

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Sutton County EMS and Sonora PD assisted the occupants of a vehicle that slid off of the I-10 400 exit ramp Thursday, December 7, 2010. Weather was a factor in the incident. Although there were no serious injuries reported, one person was taken by ambulance to a local hospital.

KIMBERLEY MEYER | THE DEVIL'S RIVER NEWS

SOLUTION TO PUZZLE ON PAGE 4

H	O	M	E	S	A	M	O	S	S	W	A	P	
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SOLUTION TO PUZZLE ON PAGE 8

NATURAL FIBERS	
9	WOOL
12	JUTE
12	SILK
14	HEMP

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9	1	4	6	5	8	7	2	3
6	3	5	4	2	7	9	1	8
8	7	2	9	3	1	6	5	4



Sonora Police Chief Art Fuentes thanks an individual for her donation in support of the Toy Drive Sunday, December 10, 2017. | COURTESY PHOTO

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Reader Recipes

"Basil Tomato Soup"

Bring tomatoes and broth to a boil in a saucepan. Reduce heat; cover and simmer for 10 minutes. Add basil and sugar. Reduce heat to low; stir in cream and butter. Cook until butter is melted. Yields 9 serving.

2 cans (28 oz) crushed tomatoes
1 (14.5 oz) box chicken broth
18-20 fresh basil leaves, minced
1 tsp sugar
1 cup heaving whipping cream
1/2 cup butter

Vicky Wallace, an associate member of the Sonora Woman's club has relied on this recipe for Basil Tomato Soup for years. Her soup recipe, along with grilled cheese sandwiches, is a favorite Christmas tradition for her family.

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