

Start hunting season with a **BANG!** Check out the **2003 Hunter's Guide** Inside

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THE Devil's River NEWS

50¢

Since 1890

Volume 115 • Issue 45

SONORA, TEXAS

Thursday, October 30, 2003

Halloween Advisory

The Devil's River News office and the Sonora Police Department have received several calls inquiring as to whether or not trick-or-treating has been changed due to the Bronco football game. In short, No. Chief of Police Mike House said that there has been no official schedule change for the holiday. He suggests going out early. This will not only ensure that lots of treats are tricked before all the Bronco fans leave, but it will also be a safer evening.

Darkness settles and Jack-o-lantern's ghoulish smile beckons little ghosts and hobgoblins to come out to play. In hopes that all the night's partakers return home safe and sound, the Texas Department of Safety is also reminding Texans to be safe and responsible this Halloween.

"Halloween is a fun time for both children and adults, but oftentimes people act or drive carelessly or are not aware of their surroundings," said Col. Thomas A. Davis Jr., director of the DPS. "Many pedestrians will be on the streets, and drivers need to watch for them."

Last year a little trick-or-treater in Sonora was accidentally hit by a vehicle because he was not visible to the driver.

To prevent tragedy befalling our children, motorists are urged to drive slowly in neighborhoods and to be on the lookout for trick-or-treaters.

Safety tips for trick-or-treaters include:

- Look both ways before crossing roadways. Always walk, don't run.
- Cross the roadway at intersections and crosswalks when possible.
- Wear costumes that are light in color, and short enough to avoid tripping.
- Wear shoes that fit.
- Reflective material of some kind on the costume is strongly encouraged.
- Avoid masks - use face paint instead for better visibility and peripheral vision.
- Travel in groups with adult supervision.
- Do not enter the cars and homes of strangers. Avoid homes without visible porch lights.
- Carry a flashlight and make sure an adult accompanies small children.
- Exercise caution when crossing streets.
- Never trick-or-treat in unfamiliar areas.
- Take all treats home for an adult to inspect before eating anything. Never eat unwrapped candy.
- Make sure children know their home phone number and how to call 9-1-1 (or their local emergency number) if they have an emergency or become lost.

Ministerial Alliance prepares for annual deer distribution

For 11 years the Sonora Ministerial Alliance has coordinated the sharing of Sutton County's deer harvest during the hunting season. During that time, well over 1,000 deer have been distributed to local families.

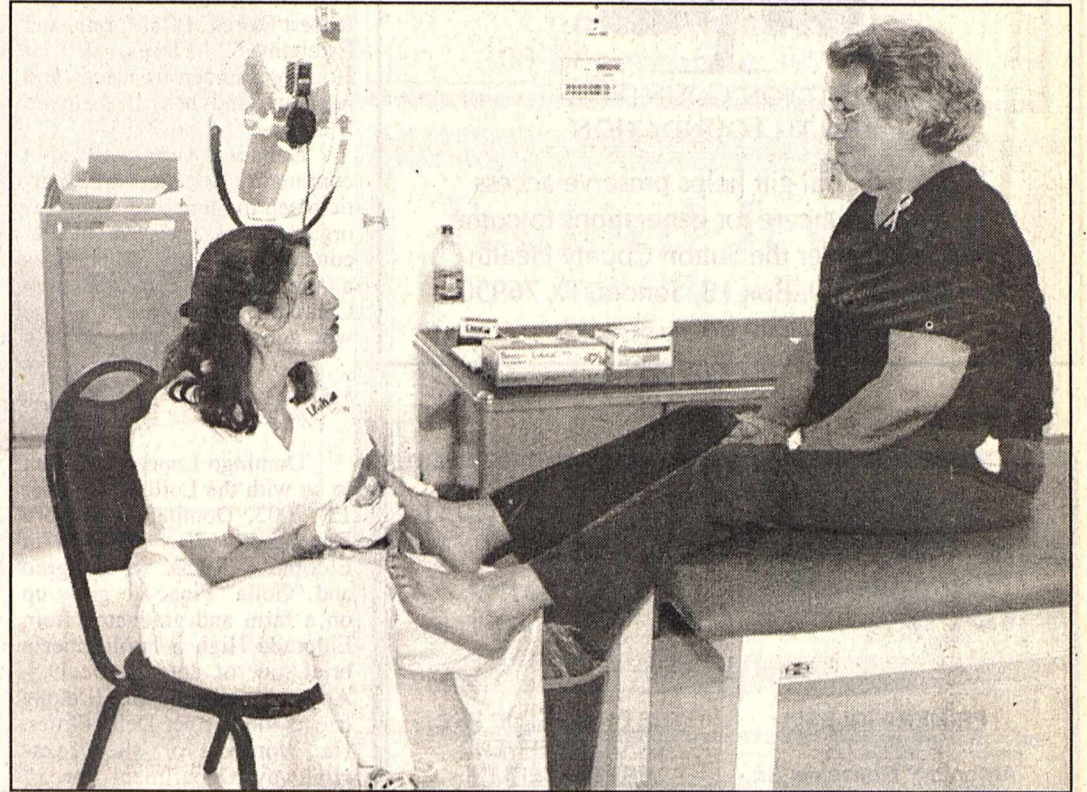
Once again, this deer season the churches of Sonora will work together to put meat on the table of Sonora families and to assist area landowners in management of their deer herds.

Hunters or landowners who would like to donate deer for distribution may deliver their field-dressed game to Sonora Deer Processing Company at 708 Glasscock Avenue.

Persons who would like to receive a deer may call Justice of the Peace Adelita Alvarez at 387-3322 or Lewis Allen, pastor of The Church of the Good Shepherd, at 387-2626.

Participating churches will take turns delivering a field-dressed deer to persons who request one. Deliveries are made weekly throughout the deer season, generally on Tuesday afternoons.

Unfortunately, not every family who calls to request a deer is guaranteed to receive one. The number of deer donated for distribution varies from year to year, as do the number of requests for deer.



Health Fair provides a dose of good information

The Sutton County Health Fair took place on Wednesday, October 22, 2003, at the Lillian M. Hudspeth Memorial Hospital Annex and parking area. Many free screenings were offered, including Cholesterol, Blood Sugar, Blood Pressure, Diabetic Food Screening (above) and more. There were many vendors offering information on a vast majority of health issues. Children were

treated to a special area of their own, with treats and age appropriate presentations on staying healthy. A special bike rodeo and helmet give away took place after school, providing helmets for 100 children.

For more peeks at the Sutton County Health Fair see page 6.

Commissioner's Court reviews annual audit

by Storie Sharp

At the October 27, 2003, meeting of the Commissioner's Court, Sutton County Judge Carla Garner began by congratulating County Commissioner Mike Villanueva for being elected Secretary/Treasurer of the Concho Valley Council of Governments. The Concho Valley Council of Governments is a voluntary organization of local governments to foster a cooperative effort in resolving problems, policies, and plans that are common and regional. This is an honor for Villanueva.

The Commissioner's Court then went over the request for lights at the Langford Building, by the Sutton County 4-H. It was decided that this is not an emergency at this time.

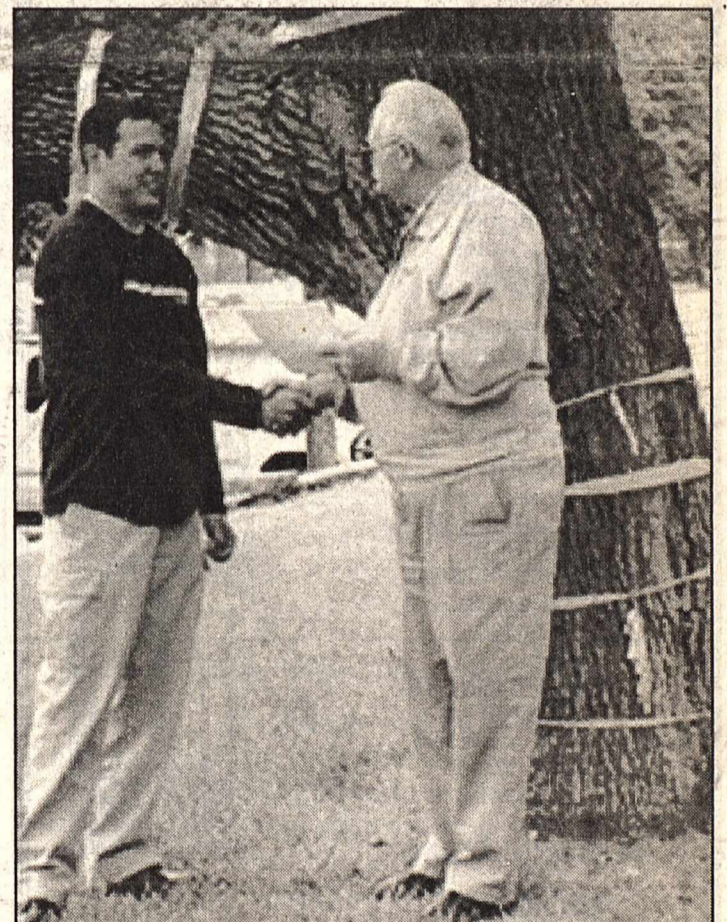
Brigitte Rogers gave the Commissioner's information regarding the Lifeline service that will no longer be funded by the Lillian M. Hudspeth Hospital. Alternate funding and locations for the main system are being examined and the Commissioners agreed to look into some possibilities.

The rent for the Civic Center for the annual community Thanksgiving lunch was waived.

The Court approved a treasurer's bond for Joyce Chalk.

The annual DR contract for enforcement waste water was again discussed, after being tabled at the last meeting. Judge Garner told the Commissioners that there was money in the budget for the contract, but she wanted County Attorney David Wallace to go over the contracts before making a final decision. Mr. McDonald again answered questions from the Commissioners regarding his contract, permit fees expectations. It was agreed to have Wallace continue with this project and a final decision will be made at the next meeting.

An independent auditors report was reviewed by a representative from the auditor's office. The report stated that the county had been very helpful in the audit and there were only three areas that needed to be addressed. See Commissioner's page 6



Kasey Wood receives the Yellow Ribbon Day Resolution from Jim Stephen before removing his yellow ribbon from the Old Oak Tree.

Kasey Wood honored at Yellow Ribbon Ceremony

The first Sonora graduate that was reported as being called to duty with the United States Navy, after the attacks on September 11, 2001, has come home to remove his yellow ribbon from the Old Oak Tree.

On Sunday, October 26, 2003, Kasey Wood, a 1998 S.H.S. graduate, joined family and friends on the courthouse lawn for a celebration honoring his return. Kasey has been in the United States since September 19, 2003, when the U.S.S. Carl Vinson returned to dock, but he has only been "home" since Thursday, October 23. Kasey was on the USS Carl Vinson for almost three years, helping turn salt water into drinking water and tending to two 70,000 horse power engines. The Vinson left Bremerton, Washington, on Jan. 13 for what was to be a month long training mission. But it and its strike group were ordered to the western Pacific in February to replace the USS Kitty Hawk, which was sent to the Persian Gulf in preparation for the war in Iraq. While on board Kasey visited Hawaii, Guam, Singapore, Australia, Korea, Tokyo and more. Kasey said the celebration in his honor was unbelievable.

"My mouth just fell open when I saw all the people that turned out to welcome me home," he said. "It was great to see old friends, teachers and family friends."

Kasey will return to Bremerton on November 1, for 6 1/2 more months, where he will work as a proportion mechanic. He then plans to return home to work for the summer with his dad and then attend school in the fall. Kasey is the son of Kenneth and Cindy Hayes

New royalty is crowned at Fall Festival 2003



April Flores and Peter Duran were chosen as the 2003 Mr. and Miss Fall Festival on Saturday, October 25, 2003. Joining April and Peter as the royal court were Connie Isenhour and Chris Martin and Nash Traylor and Cady Taylor. The crowning ceremony was delayed due to ACT testing, but still helped make the Fall Festival a fun treat. For more Fall Festival fun see page 4.

"Cakes by Maggie" now serving sweets

"Cakes by Maggie", owned and operated by Maggie Mesa, had their grand opening on Friday, October 24, 2003. The Sonora Chamber of Commerce, friends, family and hungry patrons were treated to samples of cakes, cookies and other sweets at the ribbon cutting ceremony.

Maggie will be selling baked goods by order. Call in your orders in advance at 387-5492. Maggie is well known for her cooking and baking talents in Sonora. Those of us who have been fortunate enough to taste some of Maggie's baked goods know what an excellent cook she is. "Cakes by Maggie" will be glad

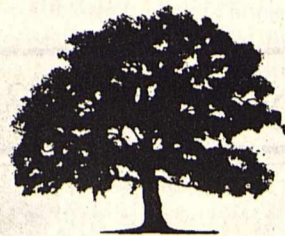


to prepare cakes and all kinds of baked goods for any and all occasions. There is no occasion too large or too small, from birthday cakes to wedding cakes with all the trimmings,

"Cakes by Maggie" is ready to serve you some scrumptious goodies.

Go by and visit Maggie at 111 Sinoloa 3rd today and special order a sweet treat for Halloween.

**Lighthouse
Community Church**
"Where Community is our Middle Name"
Sunday Services
Bible Study 10:00 a.m.
Worship • 11:00 a.m. • 6:00 p.m.
1705 N. Crockett



SUTTON COUNTY
HEALTH FOUNDATION

Your memorial gift helps preserve access
to quality healthcare for generations to come.
Please consider the Sutton County Health
Foundation, P.O. Box 18, Sonora, TX 76950.
All contributions 100% tax deductible.



Sonora Church Directory

**PRIMERA IGLESIA
BAUTISTA**
Antonio F. Gonzales, Sr.
504 Santa Clara
387-2035

CHURCH OF CHRIST
Jerry Jackson
304 N. Water
387-3190

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
T. Wayne Price
Pastor
111 E Oak
387-2951

**ST. JOHN'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH**
404 E. Poplar
387-2955

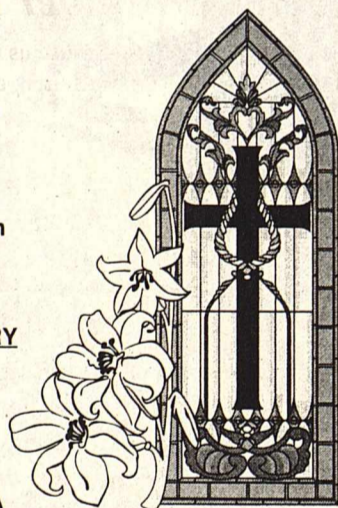
**FIRST UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH**
Rev. Conrad Archer, Pastor
201 N. Water
387-2466

**TEMPLO JERUSALEM
ASAMBLEA DE DIOS**
Enoc Elias Nunez
306 W. 4th St.
387-5713
387-3092

**HOPE LUTHERAN
CHURCH**
Rev. Charles Huffman
417 E. 2nd St.
387-5366

**NEW LIFE MINISTRY
CENTER**
Jerry & Joy Wood
205 E. Main
387-3241

**LA IGLESIA HISPANA
UNIDA
DEL NOMBRE
DE JESUS, INC.**
Pastor Felipe Martinez
807 Orient



Brought to you by:
Kerbow Funeral Home
387-2266

THE DEVIL'S RIVER NEWS

USPS (155-920)
every Thursday at 228 East Main Street Sonora, Texas 76950
Phone: (325) 387-2507 FAX (325) 387-5691
Periodical postage paid at Sonora, Texas
Storie Sharp, Publishing Editor
Erica Morriss, Advertising • Danni Price, Financial
Guest Columnist: Jo-Ann Palmer
Email: General Information: editor@sonoratr.net
Advertising: sales@sonoratr.net, Financial: danni@sonoratr.net,
Owner: Cam Longley Campbell,
\$20 per year in county • Seniors \$18.00 per year (in & out of county)
\$25 per year out of county
Attn. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Devil's River News,
228 East Main St., Sonora, TX 76950

Copy and Ad deadline Monday, 5:00 p.m.

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Obituaries

Delia Pina

Delia Flores Pina went to be with the Lord on October 13, 2003. Delia was born August 15, 1931, in Sonora, Texas, to Esteban and Maria C. Flores. She graduated from San Antonio Tech. as an LVN; then, furthered her career at Baptist Memorial School of Nursing, attaining her R.N. degree. Delia served the local area hospitals, having spent the majority of her career in Eldorado, Texas. Here she met her life-long friend and partner, Domingo Pina.

Delia is survived by her daughter Debbie Pina; her son and daughter-in-law, Danny and Deborah Pina; grandchildren, Jordan, Jacob, and Joshua, all of Odessa, Texas; sisters, Odilia F. Duran and Cristela F. Bautista of Houston; brothers, Robert Flores of California, and Esteban C. Flores, Jr. of Houston; numerous nieces and nephews and host of beloved friends.

Delia was very involved in community services. She participated in numerous volunteer organizations such as: health, education and church. She was a member of First Baptist Church of Eldorado, Texas. She was active in Sunday School,



missions, Senior Ambassadors and her church choir.

Delia will be remembered for her spirit of volunteerism, selflessness, homemade gifts and her excellent hot sauce.

Memorials may be made to Senior Ambassadors, First Baptist Church of Eldorado, Eldorado Cemetery Chapel Fund and West Texas Rehabilitation Center.

Pall Bearers were Kyle Green, Robert Valero, Jimmy Ellis, Manuel Martinez, Juan Fuentes, Guillermo Zuniga, Rudy Guajardo, Polo Cervantes, Don Rhinehart, Jim Martin, Charlie Bradley and Ricky Fuessel.

Domingo Pina

Domingo Lopez Pina went to be with the Lord on October 13, 2003. Domingo was born December 20, 1937, in Eldorado, Texas, to Longino and "Golla" Pina. He grew up on a farm and graduated from Eldorado High School. After a brief tour of duty in the U.S. Army, he married his lifelong friend and partner Delia Flores. He worked for the Texas Highway Department for 17 years. He was a retiree from Atlantic Richfield Company.

He is survived by his daughter Debbie Pina; his son and daughter-in-law, Danny and Deborah Pina; grandchildren, Jordan, Jacob, and Joshua, all of Odessa, Texas; and a brother Manuel Pina from Eldorado, Texas; numerous nieces and nephews and host of beloved friends.

Domingo was very involved in community services. He participated in volunteer organizations such as: the Eldorado Volunteer Fire Department, Girl and Boy Scouts, school athletics and the Eldorado EMS.

Domingo was an active member of First Baptist Church of Eldorado, Texas. He used his various skills to assist in missions, Senior Ambassadors, and other church activities.



Domingo will be remembered for his spirit of volunteerism, selflessness, willingness to assist anyone at any time, and his wonderful sense of humor.

Memorials may be made to Senior Ambassadors, First Baptist Church of Eldorado, Eldorado Cemetery Chapel Fund and West Texas Rehabilitation Center.

Pall Bearers were Kyle Green, Robert Valero, Jimmy Ellis, Manuel Martinez, Juan Fuentes, Guillermo Zuniga, Rudy Guajardo, Polo Cervantes, Don Rhinehart, Jim Martin, Charlie Bradley, Ricky Fuessel.

Maria C. "Mary" Piña

On Sunday, October 12, 2003, Maria C. "Mary" Piña passed from this life to eternal life with our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Funeral services were at 11:00 a.m. Thursday, October 16, 2003, at Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church, with burial following in Eldorado Cemetery. Rosary was Wednesday evening, October 15 at Kerbow Funeral Home.

Mary Cardona was born March 14, 1927, in Sonora, Texas. She was the second of three children. On July 7, 1945, she married Santos Piña, a union that spanned 58 years. Together they raised a family of seven children, making Eldorado their home. Mary was a woman with a servant's heart. She worked as a nurse's aide, caring for many people during her career. She was a member of Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church in Eldorado, hosting many prayer meetings in her home.

Mary was preceded in death by her parents, Jose and Juanita Cardona; sister, Evangelina "Vita" Cardona; son-in-law, Isaias "Johnny" Esquivel; daughter-in-law, Neria Piña; granddaughter, Katherine Piña; and nephew Jody Cardona.

Mary is survived by her husband, Santos Piña of

Eldorado; her brother Jose "Joe" Cardona of Odessa; her sister-in-law, Bernabe "Nina" Sanchez of Eldorado; her children, Dorothy Linda Esquivel of Fort Worth, Ernestine "Tina" Torres and husband, Richard V. of San Angelo, Santos Piña Jr. and wife, Helen, of Fort Worth, Felipe Piña of Eldorado, Billy Joe Piña and wife, Rosa, of San Angelo, Mary Ann Gonzalez and husband, Enrique, of Eldorado, and Roxanne Adame and husband Rojelio, of Eldorado. She is also survived by 19 grandchildren and their spouses; 21 great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews. Mary also leaves behind many close friends and relatives who will miss her dearly.

Pallbearer's were Mary's grandsons, Isaias P. Esquivel, Richard David Torres, Adam Rene Godinez, Felipe Lorenzo Piña, Anthony Piña, Alan Cole Piña, Quisto Gonzalez and Richmond Thomas Adame. Honorary pallbearers were nephews, Fidel Cardona and Marcie Piña.

The family requests any donations be made to the Neria Piña Fund. Contributions may be mailed to Eldorado High School, in care of Sandra Robledo, P.O. Box W, Eldorado, TX 76936, or to a favorite charity.



**Have a Safe and
Happy Halloween!**

Card of Thanks

Our parents, Delia and Domingo Pina, will be greatly missed. Not only by our family, but by the community they loved.

Everyone has been wonderful and the Pina family thanks you for all the food and outpouring of love and support. We extend our gratitude to all the caring citizens of Eldorado, surrounding communities and especially mom and dad's First Baptist Church family.

Debbie Pina
Danny, Deborah, Jordan, Jacob and Joshua Pina

I want to thank everyone who came to my Grand Opening. It was so nice to see so many people come and wish me luck. God bless each of you. Also, a big thank you to all who made this day possible: my husband Cali, my daughters Florie and Rita, my son Ruben and sons-in-law Frankie and Hector, and all who helped prepare the food for that day - my nieces Mona, Becky, Elsa and my friends Teresa Zurita and Mary Santos. Also, thanks for the gifts and flowers.

Maggie Mesa

The Sonora Middle School Student Council sponsored a coat drive during the last two weeks and encouraged all students and faculty to bring coats from home that were not being used in order to donate them to families that need coats. The turnout was tremendous and SMS collected over 250 coats. The advisory that brought the most coats was Mrs. Baldwin with an impressive 52 coats. Mrs. Martha Martin's advisory was the runner up by collecting 42 coats. SMS was proud to bring such a service to the community. If you know someone in need of a coat, please contact Ben Solis at 387-3023 or 387-3191 or Noemi Samaniego at 387-3029.

On behalf of St. Ann's Building Fund Committee we would like to thank Joe Casillas and Annette Castro for organizing the Golf Tournament and to the 6 teams who did not give up when the rain kept coming down. First place: Joe Casillas, Freddy Virgen; 2nd place: Willie Gutierrez, Juan Gutierrez; 3rd place: Erasmo Lumberas, Larry Hernandez; 4th place: Oscar Payne, Jesse Fierro; 5th place: Jesse Paredes, Abel Garcia; 6th place: George Noriega, Hector Perez. Also, thank you to Rosie's Cafe and Friends of St. Ann's Hall for breakfast, La Mexicana for lunch, Rosa McGee for tea and hot sauce, Pizza Hut for ice and cups, Mary, Kallie and Kory Humphrey, Carrie Sinosic for helping serve lunch, Dora Mata, Annette Castro, Kathy Hardgrave, Belia Soils and Mary Humphrey for desserts.

La Familia Jesus Capuchina Jr. Quiere dar las mas sinceras gracias a los personas que ayudaron a la celebracion de Quince años de nuestra hija Crystal. A Familiares Padrinos y Amigos a las personas del coro en la Iglesia en el Salon y todos, aquellas que con su tiempo pudieron hacer posible esta celebracion. Nuestras mas sinceras gracias.

Jesus, Maria y Crystal Capuchina
Que Dios los Bendiga

During the Fall Festival this past Saturday, the Elementary Schools PTO made framed-Polaroid pictures of all the little goblins, merry-makers, and couples as a fund-raiser to benefit our elementary school children and staff. On behalf of the PTO, we would like to thank several individuals and businesses that supported us in this worthy endeavor. Thanks to Sam Dillard and State Farm Insurance for film and use of their cameras, Ronnie Cox (Corner DrugStore) and Mr. Sammuels (Alco) for film. Thanks also to Lisa Seaton (Lisa's Flowers) and Ruthie Bounds (Chamber) for the use of their decorative flowers. A huge thanks to Ruben Garza for his help with decorating all the frames and finally, thanks to the PTO ladies who helped operate the booth - you did a great job and we are very appreciative. Thanks also to our wonderful community for attending this worthwhile event and supporting our school systems.

Laurie Garza (Programs Co-chair)
and Mary H. Humphrey (President)

Ronnie Cox
loves
being your
Pharmacist

Community Calendar

Nov. 10

4-H Meeting 7:00 p.m.

Nov. 8

Sutton County Game Dinner
Sutton County Park

Nov. 24

PTO Talent Show & Meeting
6:00 p.m.

The Community Calendar is made possible by:

First NATIONAL BANK
P.O. BOX 708 • SONORA, TEXAS 76950
(915) 387-3861

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Senior Center News

Nov. 3 - AAA Reports due.

Nov. 4 - Election Day.

Nov. 6 - Crafts anyone?

Nov. 7 - Run errands and pay bills!

Senior Center Menu

Nov. 3 - Baked chicken, fried rice, zucchini squash with tomatoes, juice, roll, peach cobbler, milk.

Nov. 4 - Salisbury steak with gravy, broccoli with cheese, blackeyed peas, roll, jell-o with fruit, milk.

Nov. 5 - Baked ham, green beans, sweet potatoes, juice, roll, peanut butter cookie, milk.

Nov. 6 - Catfish, spinach, pinto beans, coleslaw, cornbread pudding, milk.

Nov. 7 - Roast beef with gravy, carrots, mashed potatoes, brussels sprouts, wheat roll, applesauce.

Lunch is served Monday thru Friday at 12:00 Noon.

\$1.50 donation is suggested for those 60+

and \$4.00 for others *Menu is subject to change.*

Letters To The Editor Policy

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Ask the Historical Society

by Jo-Ann E. Palmer,
Secretary
Sutton County Historical
Society

Q. Was there any mention of the marriage of Henry T. Cardona in England during WWII?

A. Devil's River News, September 14, 1945-Cpl. Henry T. Cardona wrote from England and his letter was published in "From Our Men In The Service," a regular feature that usually had about 1/2 page of letters from the boys in the military. There was no date given for the ceremony.

Cpl. Cardona wrote that he was now a very happily married man. Capt. Rex and the members of the company had taken up a collection for the bride and groom and presented them with \$100 in English money as a wedding present. His bride Joyce was so excited when he told her that she sent a telegram to the unit thanking all the boys.

He states that Sgt. Robert Felsone of Marlin, Texas, was his best man and five Army trucks of guys from his company and other GI friends showed up for the ceremony. There were so many guests that some of them had to stand outside. Cpl. Cardona met Joyce halfway up the altar with her father, best man and the bridesmaids. The ceremony lasted about 30 minutes then they went outside where the boys and some civilian photographers took pictures. Cpl. Cardona wrote that he thought rice was hard to get in wartime but he had enough in his hair to make a rice pudding.

They then went to the Y.M.C.A. where the reception was held. The boys kissed Joyce and all the girls kissed him. The company cooks had made a 45 pound wedding cake with white icing on it and decorations and one of them toasted them with "we hope all your troubles will be little ones." They had tons of food, 8 gallons of ice cream, ham, fruit cocktail, jellies and other foods the boys brought from camp. Everyone had two pieces of cake.

A band started playing and the guys were drinking whiskey and beer. Pictures were taken of Joyce and Cpl. Cardona dancing the first dance. Soon the dance floor was full of boys and girls dancing and the ones that didn't were drinking beer and playing games. Everyone had a swell time until the guys had to leave to go back to camp at 7 o'clock. He and his new bride went to her house and left the next morning on a train for Scotland. They arrived in Edinburgh at 8 p.m. the same day. Cpl. Cardona said the ride was beautiful and the scenery spectacular. They stayed at a private house owned by a Mrs. Deas who was so kind to them. He and Joyce even had their pictures taken in Scottish costumes. After the honeymoon

they returned to his station in England.

These soldiers' letters in the back issues of the Devil's River News can be a big help to Veterans trying to apply for benefits. Many have found that their records have been lost or were destroyed in fires or floods. By going through the back issues, we have been able to reconstruct many details of service. There are articles telling when they enlisted or were drafted, others on their promotions or being wounded in battle. Many of the letters home say where they are and what they are doing; some even mention illness or wounds. One person told of walking through Hiroshima after it had been bombed. All these articles when copied and accompanied by a letter attesting that they are true copies of the articles in our archives, have helped several men obtain their benefits.

In the same issue as Cpl. Cardona's letter we found one from Pfc. Harold R. Briscoe stating that he was attached to a medical unit at Fort Clayton on the Pacific side of the Isthmus right beside the canal and about five miles from the ocean. He said it rained there about 9 months and has only a 3 month dry season. It would usually rain every morning and every afternoon about 4. In the dry season it didn't rain at all and the trees shed their leaves, like they do in winter here. The ground cracks open and the streams dry up and it is very, very hot.

He left Pennsylvania and went to Port of Embarkation in Virginia, and it only took them 5 days to get to the Isthmus of Panama. It was a rough trip; they were blacked out and had to stay below deck after five in the afternoon. It was like an oven down there, no fresh air. He said he didn't get sea sick but was "so mad and disgusted he could have jumped over the side." He sure was glad to get off that boat, get some real food and a shower. Traveling in a zig zag pattern on a blacked out ship is not fun.

Pfc. Briscoe said he went to Church in Balboa on Sunday and then went to the horse races and saw a show that night. On Labor Day they all went to the beach. He said there are only about 250 patients in the hospital now, down from 500, and they have more staff right now than patients. He tells of seeing the Missouri going through the canal and wished everyone could see the ships going through the locks. He also saw the Franklin, badly damaged and barely afloat, as it went through the canal.

Back at home we find Mrs. C.W. Taylor was hostess for a bridge supper. The party was complimentary to members and guests of the Fireman's Wives Bridge Club. A chicken supper was served at the card tables and bridge played the remainder of the evening. Prizes were awarded to Mrs. A.H. Adkins for



Portrait of Victoria Morton Miers taken 1867, donated to The Sutton County Historical Society by Mrs. Bryan Hunt.

receiving high club, Mrs. L.E. Holland for cut, and Mrs. H.V. Morris for high guest score.

Wendell Gaines was host at a dance given Sept. 1 at the Sonora Scout Hall. Music was furnished by nickelodeon. Guests were: Misses Charlene Hull, Janey Collier of San Angelo, Cynthia Milton, Carolyn Johnson, Betty Faye Glasscock, Tina Ann Taylor, Raymie Jo McClelland, Hazel Golden, Bertha Golden, Marguerite Howell, Jerry Morrow, Jean Sproul and Jerry Meckel; also B.M. Halbert III, Raymond Cooper, Roy Hester, Jimmie Snyder, Charlie Faubion, Jimmy Cook, Vernon Luckie, R.C. Luckie, Clayton Hamilton, Frankie Bond and Don McClelland; also Jack Holland and Joe Thomas from San Angelo.

Q. When did Earl Lomax and Louie Trainer get the old WTU ice house?

A. Earl Lomax and Louis Trainer leased the building from WTU and had The Sonora Frozen Food Locker Plant. They had 296 lockers; the door type could hold 300 pounds of food apiece and the drawer type held about 325 lbs. They processed meat and stored it in the rented boxes for local residents. The January 12, 1945 Devil's River News stated that they had been in operation over a week and

had processed over 4,000 lbs of meat that week alone. The locker boxes were built in the part of the plant formerly used to manufacture ice. They also planned to start curing hams, grinding sausage and rendering lard. Vernon Marion managed the plant for Trainer and Lomax when it opened. There was an open house held on February 8, 1945, with tours of the locker plant and a home economics expert from WTU explaining the complete processing of fruits, vegetables and meats for quick freezing. Each guest was given a free package of quick frozen fruits or vegetables. Earl Lomax was also there representing WTU and Vernon Marion the new manager of The Sonora Frozen Food Locker Plant.

If you have any questions, concerning Sutton County history, send them to "Ask the Historical Society," P.O. Box 885, Sonora, TX 76950-0885 or e-mail them to schs@sonoratrax.net. You may call the office, 387-5084 or stop in any Monday or Friday mornings from 8-12. My home number is 387-2855 if you need to speak to me about building rentals, etc. any other day of the week. Work days at the old WTU building are Saturdays. Bring a hammer, crow bar and your muscles and come help between 8 and 4 any Saturday. The more help we get the sooner you get a larger museum for Sonora.

Chamber Chatter

SONORA
Chamber of Commerce
by Ruthie Bounds, Manager

Can you feel the excitement building in the air? The change back to Central Standard Time and that first morning temperature below 40 degrees, can only mean one thing. Hunting Season is right around the corner. This is the week that all the hunting wagons roll into town. I want to remind everyone what a boost to our economy these hunters are. Please remember when you are standing in line for a few extra minutes at one of our local merchants, that these hunters are spending their money in our town. Not only do the hunters bring money to the landowners and hunting guides, but they buy fuel, ice, beverages, hunting supplies, wildlife feed, groceries, and other daily needs items at our local stores. I know also from having been in the retail business in Sonora for almost 20 years that some of these hunters do some of their Holiday shopping in Sonora. And hunting has become much more family oriented than maybe it once was, so many of the hunters are bringing their spouses, children, and even grandchildren here to our area to experience the beauty and wonders of nature. Let's make

sure that we make them all feel welcome in Sonora. This is a huge economic boost to our community, and it affects us all.

This week-end also marks the beginning of the "Santa Bucks" promotion by many of our local merchants and businesses. The participating merchants will be giving their customers one "Santa Buck" for each ten dollars that the customer spends with them. Listen to KHOS radio and check next week's Devil's River News for a list of participating businesses. Other local businesses are donating items to be auctioned off at the "Santa Bucks" auction. These donors make it possible for you to be able to bid on and purchase some great gifts for the Holidays at the "Santa Bucks" auction December 18th. For the next several weeks we will be informing you of all the wonderful prizes that you can purchase with your "Santa Bucks". Look for the "Santa Bucks" posters in the windows of our local businesses and give these businesses your patronage.

Shopping in Sonora benefits us all, and you might be surprised at what wonderful gifts you can find here, especially if it has been a while since you have visited one of our local merchants.

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Tuesday Evening, Nov. 4 • Don Jones, Three Rivers
Wednesday Evening, Nov. 5 • Larry Elford, Del Rio
Song Leader: Gene Helm, Kerrville
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each weekday evening. This will be a period of songs by request and with singing emphasis.
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Scouting for News



On Wednesday, October 22, 2003, the Tiger Cubs and the Webelos stopped by The Devil's River News office for a tour and presentation on how the paper is put together and printed each week. The young scouts were shown how pictures are taken and downloaded, how stories are put together and pasted up and they even got to see some old newspapers from years past, before computers and digital cameras. The Tiger Cubs are led by Terri Acevedo and Judy Holmes. The Webelos are led by Sonia Gamez and Lisa Otwell.



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Main Street Traffic

A big thank you to Sonora

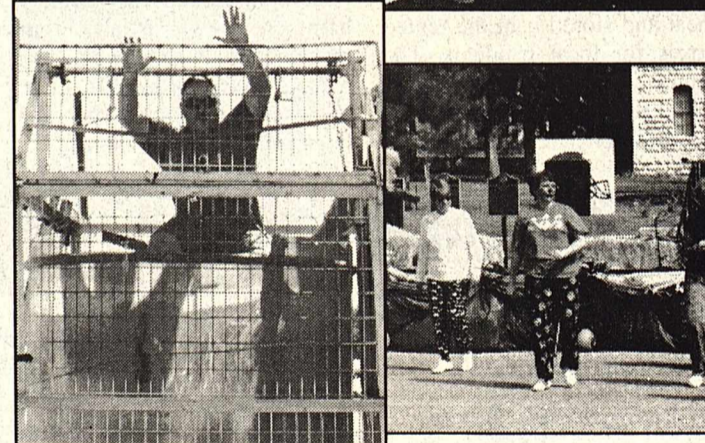
The Fall Festival 2003 was a fabulous feat this year, and the Friends of Historic Sonora Main Street Board of Directors and Sonora Independent School District would like to express our appreciation to some special people who helped make it all happen:

- The Sonora I.S.D. teachers, who gave up their Saturday to help raise funds for the children to be rewarded or have the extra special things they need to be successful in school.
- The downtown businesses who gave door prizes and electricity to support the booths.
- The City of Sonora, Sutton County, Jed Davenport, Mary Jean Sims, and the Community Service Workers who assisted with the set-up and clean up of the booths.
- The Sonora High School National Honor Society and Tracey Myers for helping set up booths and tents early Saturday morning.
- Square Sanchez for donating the "stage" and Glenda Lowe who worked her magic to decorate it.
- Rafter W Feeds for hay and Parker Lumber for cinderblocks.
- T&C Village Market for donating pumpkins.
- Mike Healy, Victor Garza and Juan Acevedo for the difficult task of judging the costume contests.
- Barry Black for donating the old car for the young and old to smash and show off their muscles.
- Rosey Bud Florist and La Mexican for the flowers and meal awarded to Mr. and Miss Fall Festival 2003.
- The Devil's River Dancers and Dick & the Blazers for adding the musical touch and talent.
- Joanna and the Dairy Queen of Sonora for the blizzards and lemon freezes that added a cool treat.
- The Bank & Trust Fear Factor Booth that used their "tasty" treats to raise a nice sum of money for the SMS Reading Program.
- The Downtown Lions who added their touch of support by helping with the cost of the SMS Reading Booths.
- The Devil's River News and KHOS Radio for their continued coverage of events in Sonora.

I would also like to recognize the Friends of Historic Sonora Main Street Board of Directors, Joy Galbreath, Bruce Kerbow, Rachel Duran, Roy Jean Johnson, Maura Weingart, and Tabby Sanchez - Abrego, along with, Jim Kay, Michelle Weingart and Brenda Bryant for all their support and help in having a successful event.

Last but not least, we would like to thank you, the parents, youth and community of Sonora for attending the Fall Festival and helping to make it a great event.

Fun at the Fall Festival



Counter clockwise from top: Costumed kids of all ages paraded across the stage, with the winners chosen in each category (babies through 4th grade), Sumo wrestling was a "BIG" hit, The pajama-clad Devil's River Dancers are joined by some Eldorado cloggers and some Iraq runaways, Deputy Harris takes a dunk, "Humpbacked Hagatha" from The Bank & Trust mixes a messy concoction, and Sonora "studs" show their strength by smashing a car

Trick or treat on Main Street

by Mary Ann Kay, FHSMS Manager

On Halloween, October 31, 2003, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. there will be some strange characters roaming the downtown area, as well as many other businesses around town. Princesses, clowns, super heroes and some scary looking goblins will be knocking on doors with baskets held out. "Trick or Treat" will be ringing from the rafters as the Friends of Historic Sonora Main Street and the local businesses hand out treats to a lot of little boys and ghouls.

The annual Sonora Businesses Trick or Treat will take place, with about 275 children expected to make the trek.

The Friends of Historic Sonora would like to express their appreciation to the participating businesses: First National Bank of Sonora, City of Sonora (City Hall), Elliott Law, Main Street Realty, Doyle Morgan Insurance, Federal Land Bank, The Devil's River News, Johnson Law Office, image apparel, Texas Land and Ranches, Sam Dillard State Farm Insurance, Team Graphics, Tedford Jewelry, Radio Shack, Sonora Post Office, Lone Star Collision, Sutton County Sheriff's Office, Sutton County Library, The Bank & Trust, Sutton County Probation, Farm Bureau Insurance, Napa Auto Parts, Sonora Police Department, Dairy Queen of Sonora, and the offices of the Sutton County Courthouse and Annex Building.

We also want to thank the participating children from Sonora Primary School, Sonora Head Start, Busy Bee's Day Care, Mo Mogford, Faye Cox, Tammy Favila, Sutton County Library Club, Dinney Dudley, and all the other little ones in the community who take part in the fun.

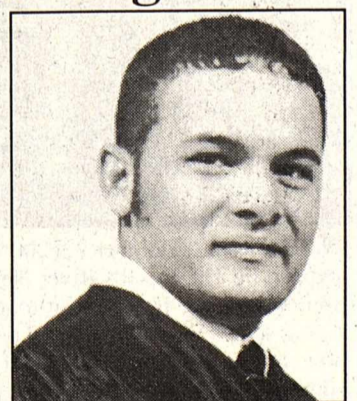
We also appreciate The Devil's River News and KHOS Radio for advertising this event. They are always there to help get the word out to our community.

Trick or Treat!

Heath Prather graduates from basic training

Army Pvt. Heath A. Prather has graduated from basic combat training at Fort Jackson, Columbia, S.C.

During the nine weeks of training, the soldier studied the Army mission, history, tradition and core values, physical fitness, and received instruction and practice in basic combat skills, military weapons, chemical warfare and bayonet training, drill and ceremony, marching, rifle marksmanship, armed and unarmed combat, map reading, field tactics, military courtesy, military justice system, basic first aid, foot marches, and field training exercises.



He is the son of Patti and Allan Prather of Sonora, Texas. Prather graduated in 2003 from Sonora High School.

Correction...

In the October 23 issue of the Devil's River News we stated that the Colt stories were written by Nancy Glasscock, when actually they were written by Clyde Dukes. We apologize for the mistake and thank all our contributors for their assistance and continued support of The Devil's River News.

Storie Sharp, Editor

Wall Hawks fly past the Broncos 44 to 12

by Nancy Glasscock

The Broncos (3 - 5, 2 - 1) traveled to Wall last Friday night to play the Hawks (6 - 2, 3 - 0). This was a game where the highly experienced senior dominated team from Wall was too much for the young, inexperienced Bronco varsity. The Broncos were able to pass effectively, but the running game was shut down by the Wall linebackers led by Jaron Haney. At one time the Broncos led in the game by a score of 73 to 35, but it didn't last long. The officials turned off the malfunctioning scoreboard in the middle of the first quarter and finished the game with the time and scoring being kept on the field.

Neither team scored in the first quarter of the game. The Broncos recovered a Hawk fumble and Chris Perez sacked their quarterback to stop two drives. The Broncos had Wall stopped deep in their territory close to the end of the first quarter, but their elusive quarterback (Rasberry) kept the series moving down the field. Each time the Broncos seemed to have stopped the Hawks, they were penalized for grabbing the face mask. Haney scored for Wall from ten yards out. Brian Rasberry kicked the

Wall PAT.

Midway through the second quarter, Rasberry broke free for a long run. Anthony Longoria made a shoe string tackle to prevent the touchdown. In the first of many penalties, this run was called back due to holding. When it appeared the Hawks were stopped, Rasberry hit Luke Cauley for a 70 yard touchdown pass. Cauley made a leaping catch between Chris Martin and Hilton Bloodworth who appeared to have the pass defended.

The Broncos came right back to score their first touchdown. Clint Cearley's sharp passing to Martin and Longoria moved the ball effectively. Cearley found Martin running over the middle for a 26 yard touchdown. The PAT kick was unsuccessful.

With time running out, the Hawks were able to drive down the field. Rasberry kicked a 31 yard field goal to make the score 17 to 6 in favor of Wall at the half.

The second half started off with two turnovers. The Hawks received the kickoff and returned it deep into Bronco territory. On their first play, Zed Snodgrass broke through the line and forced Rasberry to make a wild option pitch and the



Cearley throws his touchdown pass to Longoria.

Broncos recovered. However, hope for a comeback quickly faded as Cearley's pass to Martin was intercepted by Nathan Block in the flat and returned for a touchdown.

The rest of the third quarter belonged to Haney who scored on nine and 61 yard runs.

The Broncos had one more successful offensive drive. Cearley executed a perfect pump and go to hit Longoria for an 18 yard touchdown.

Next week the Broncos host the Ozona Lions in Bronco Stadium. The Broncos can clinch a playoff spot and enter

the Division II playoff bracket as the top seed from District 2-2A with a victory over the Lions.

Statistics :

Rushing
Chris Martin 9-41; Scottie Moore 5-20; Caleb Ramos 11-17; Stetson Perez 1-11.

Passing
Clint Cearley 21-27-2 for 234 yards; Caleb Ramos 0-3-0; Chris Martin 0-1-0.

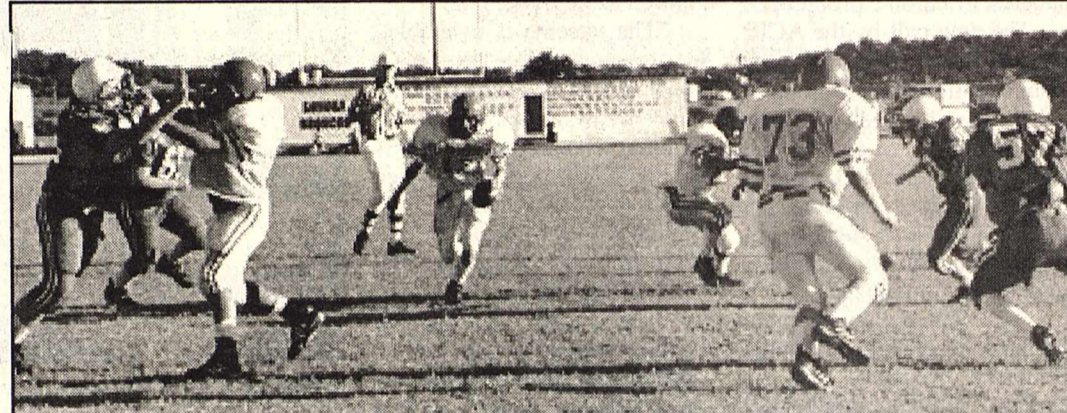
Receiving
Chris Martin 12-147; Anthony Longoria 7-46; Austin Wagoner 2-41

Bronco JV White whips up on JV White Hawks

by Nancy Glasscock

The young Wall Hawk JV White team never stood a chance against the passing and running attack of Sonora's JV White team. Cullen Parker, quarterbacking the team now since Caleb Ramos was moved up to the varsity, picked the Hawks' defense apart. Parker rushed for over 100 yards and was 12 for 16 and 200 plus yards in passing in the game last Thursday night at Bronco Stadium.

Pedro Gloria took the opening kickoff and returned it to the Bronco 37 yard line. On the first play from scrimmage, Justin Northcott broke free and appeared to be on his way to pay dirt when he temporarily lost the handle on the pigskin. He was able to recover his own fumble and his run ended at the Hawk 12 yard line. Parker ran the keeper to the six. Northcott received the pitch from Parker, but the Hawks tackled him for a loss back to the 12. Parker took the deep snap from center and threw to the wide open Lito Trevino for the first Bronco touchdown. Augustine Vaquera kicked the PAT for a 7 - 0 lead. When the Hawks' offense



The JV White O-line clears a path through a wall of Hawks for Caleb Ramos.

tried to move the ball, Travis Valliant, Evan Gulley, Vaquera, Alex Perez, and Aric McGee were there to stop them. Perez had a very impressive hit on one of the Hawk runners. The Wall drive ended when their quarterback made a pitch to no one (busted play) and Marc Hernandez recovered for the Broncos.

The Broncos started with a motion penalty. Parker's first pass to Pedro Gloria was too high. Facing 2nd and 15, Parker connected with Northcott for a ten yard gain. On third down, Parker hit Gloria for a nice gain to the Hawk 25 for the first

down. After a three yard run by Northcott, Parker kept the ball around the right side for a 22 yard touchdown run. This time the kick was wide left and the score was 13 - 0 with 3:12 left in the first quarter.

Again the Broncos were able to stuff the running attempts of the Hawks. On third down and five, the Hawk quarterback used play action and found a wide open Hawk for a long touchdown. Their PAT failed and the score was 13 - 6. This was the last score for the young Hawks and the beginning of their nightmare.

The remainder of the game was all Broncos. Gloria took the end around hand-off from Parker for 50 plus yards and the Broncos' third touchdown. The Broncos then surprised the Hawks by faking the kick. Parker, the holder, ran the ball in for the two points.

After a Bronco interception early in the second quarter, Parker kept the ball and took it 45 yards for the fourth Sonora touchdown.

On the next Wall possession, the Wall punter fumbled the ball and the Broncos had a short field. Trevino and Gloria caught Parker passes to move the ball close to the goal line. Parker took the quarterback delayed draw straight up the middle for another touchdown.

Northcott scored the last Bronco touchdown on a nice 28 yard run. The final score was 47 - 6.

The JV White team travels to Ozona to play the Lion Freshman team this Thursday.

Red JV falls to Wall JV

by Ray Glassecock

The Wall Hawks won the toss and elected to receive. Hoping to catch them sleeping, Jesus Talamantes tried an on sides kickoff, but the Hawks were awake. The Hawks came out in their wishbone and started their first scoring drive. Craig Leonard, Uriel Santana, Embre Smith, and Fred Romo all made tackles during the opening drive. On their longest run of the drive, Santana made an ankle tackle at the four to prevent a touchdown. On the next play, the Wall quarterback kept the ball for the first touchdown. They made the PAT kick and Wall took the early lead 7 - 0.

Romo returned the Wall kickoff to the Bronco 34 yard line. Nash Traylor opened the drive with an 18 yard run and a first down. Santana gained four on a draw; Smith made a few yards on the keeper. Smith's third down pass was caught by Leonard who came down out of bounds making the pass incomplete. The Broncos went for it on fourth down, and the Hawks took over on downs.

This time the Broncos stopped the Hawks when they fumbled the ball to the Broncos. On a play that surely would have made the ESPN top ten plays of the week, Smith dropped back and threw long to Jesse Garza. Garza first touched the ball near the forty, juggled and tipped the ball for about ten yards, finally gained complete control of the ball at the thirty, and continued into the end zone to complete a 70 yard catch and run for a Bronco touchdown. The Hawks stopped the PAT and Wall retained the lead at 7 - 6.

On the next series, the Bronco defense was stopping the run. Just as it seemed the Hawks were stopped, the Wall quarterback faked the run and



threw to a wide open receiver to extend their lead. The kick was good and the score was 14 - 6.

The Broncos failed to pick up a first down, and Smith punted to the Hawks with time running out in the half. The Hawks were not content to go into half-time with their one touchdown lead. Near the fifty, they tried an option play. As the quarterback rolled to his right, he threw a pass that Smith intercepted. With Hawks on his heels, Smith sprinted to the end zone for a touchdown. From the spread offense, Smith easily scored the two point conversion up the middle.

With 30 seconds left in the half, it looked like the teams would be tied at the half. Once again, after the Broncos stopped the potent wishbone running game, the Hawk quarterback found an open receiver for another Hawk touchdown. A successful kick made the score 21 to 14 at the half.

The second half kickoff to the Broncos continued the tone of the first half. The Hawk kicker kicked much deeper than was expected. Jesse Garza had to retreat to pick up the ball.

Despite his best efforts to escape, the Hawks brought him down at the Bronco four yard line. The Broncos couldn't move the ball and Smith had to punt deep in Bronco territory. The Hawks took advantage of the short field to score quickly making the score Hawks 28 to the Broncos 14.

On the next series, the Broncos answered quickly. Smith completed a fifty plus yard pass play to Traylor for a touchdown. Smith again scored the PAT on a nice run making the score 28 to 22.

The rest of the game belonged to the Hawks. They scored two more touchdowns and the Broncos were not able to answer. The Broncos stopped one drive when Leonard intercepted a Hawk pass at the Bronco two yard line. After the interception, Smith attempted to pass on first down, but the Hawks broke through the offensive and sacked him for a safety.

The final score was 42 to 22 in favor of the Hawks. This week the JV teams travel to Ozona. Come out and support the JV Broncos.

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Oct. 30
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Red • 7:00 p.m.
Nov. 6
Grape Creek • Home
White • 5:00 p.m.
Red • 7:00 p.m.
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Officials encourage flu shots for all kids

submitted by Brent Annear
 For the first time, health officials are calling for the widespread vaccination of children against influenza, *Texas Medicine* magazine reports.

In its November issue, the official magazine of the Texas Medical Association reports two leading health agencies calling for pediatricians to immunize all children, not just the high-risk kids who have been targeted in previous years. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) and the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) are broadening their recommendations for flu vaccines this season to a wider range of children.

"By immunizing kids from the flu we're going to decrease school absences and also the spread of influenza in the community to other people," San Angelo pediatrician Jane Rider, MD, says in *Texas Medicine*.

In past years, only specific groups of high-risk children have been vaccinated, along with high-risk adults and elderly people. The higher-risk children include kids with asthma, suppressed immune systems, diabetes, or cardiac problems.

The new call by the ACIP and AAP opens the influenza immunization target group to all children between 6 months and 23 months of age, as well as all close household contacts, including older children and adults. They also suggest out-of-home caregivers of children under 2 be immunized.

A recent policy statement by the AAP explains the statistic-based reason for the change. "Epidemiologic studies indicate that children with certain chronic conditions, such as asthma, and otherwise healthy children younger than 24 months are hospitalized for influenza and its complications at high rates similar to those

experienced by the elderly," the report states in the magazine. The previous years' vaccine supplies have been insufficient to broaden the call to more children, but the supply is forecast to be adequate this year, another contributing factor.

Influenza cases in very young children often lead to hospitalizations. Texas Medicine cites research by the National Foundation for Infectious Diseases, showing 1,900 of 100,000 high-risk children under the age of 1 year have been hospitalized due to influenza. Comparatively, the rate for persons age 65 and older is 228 per 100,000. And those little children infect other members of the household.

During last winter's flu season, public health officials report as many as 25 percent of students missed school due to influenza. Texas Medicine notes some 90 school districts in 68 Texas counties canceled classes because of large numbers of students sick with influenza B. Influenza then spread to siblings and elders -- children missed school, and parents missed work.

Kenneth Matthews, MD, president of the Texas Pediatric Society, encourages physicians to offer the vaccine to as many children as possible.

"The vaccine is available, it's a safe vaccine, it's efficacious, and if we can reduce the incidence of influenza in young children who are the purveyors to the adult population then maybe we can affect the herd immunity that will help prevent us from having a bad flu season," he says in the magazine.

TMA is the largest state medical society in the nation, representing more than 38,000 physician and medical student members. It is located in Austin and has 120 component county medical societies around the state. TMA's key objective is to improve the health of all Texans.

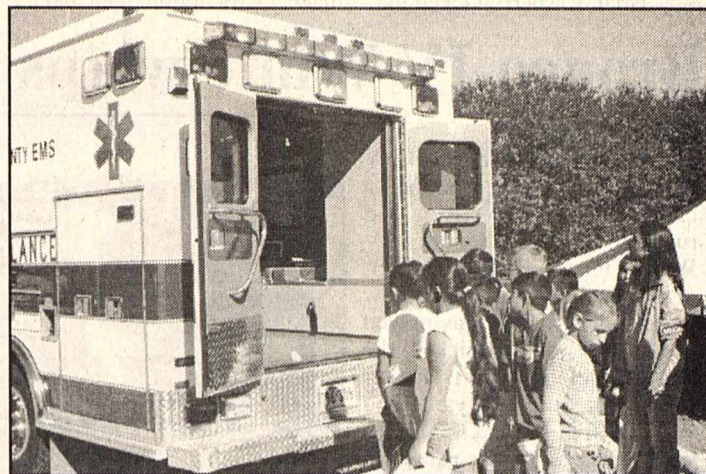
Health Fair from page 1



Crowds gathered at the Sutton County Fair last



Sonora Elementary students got a snack from the Sonora Chamber of Commerce and The First National Bank while they waited for their turn to visit the exhibits at the Sutton County Health Fair.



Sutton County EMS had the ambulances available for visitors to see and learn about emergency care.



The kids' tent offered a fun, educational experience for the little visitors, and taught bike safety, the dangers of smoking and more.



The American Cancer Society (above) and the Sutton County Extension Service (below) were among vendors set up with lots of information for visitors.



Kids received free helmets at the bike rodeo held on the Hospital lawn during the Health Fair.

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- November 1**
 Curry Campbell, Ricardo Steele, Baylen Crites, Joy Wood, Danny White, Christian Harper, Salvador Trinidad, Ricardo Steele
- November 2**
 Lee Gandar, Michael Whitehurst, Megan Berry, Becky Purvis, Bridget Maloney
- November 3**
 Jesse Crain, Jerry Watkins, Caleb Taylor, Keri Rennels
- November 4**
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- November 5**
 Jason Chadwick, Kylie Johnson, Jose Longoria, Earl Johnson, Terry Surrridge, Thomas Adkins, Bruce Kerbow

Commissioners from page 1

be addressed. The first was that there was not enough documentation provided by the Justice of the Peace office to allow for an audit. The office was not keeping receipts for money received until April, 2002, in an orderly manner. It was recommended by the auditors that all money received should have a receipt and the receipts should be filed in the office. All money should also be deposited on a timely basis. The new computer system that was recently installed in the JP office will rectify this problem.

Another minor problem that was found was the county was using gross wages instead of accrual bases on a line item and some employees had over the maximum amount of vacation days. All these problems will be tended to and corrected as soon as possible.

The meeting ended with the Commissioners agreeing to support the regional Pecos Trail organization designated by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

Recent Rains Bolster Conditions for Deer

AUSTIN, Texas — With much-needed rainfall scattered throughout the state during the last few months, range conditions more resemble late spring than early fall, which bodes well for Texas' deer herd. For hunters who rely on supplemental food sources to pattern deer, however, those conditions could present a challenge, according to Texas Parks and Wildlife Department biologists.

With a population upwards of 3.5 million animals, the white-tailed deer is arguably the number one game animal in Texas. Last season, more than a half-million hunters each focused more than a week of their time in pursuit of white-tailed deer.

Each fall, multitudes of camouflage-clad sportsmen and women flock to deer-rich Hill Country counties like Edwards, Gillespie, Llano or Mason or to the South Texas brush country in search of "muy grande" trophy bucks in Dimmit, LaSalle, McMullen or Webb counties. In fact, quality deer hunting can be had in practically every county across the state and this year is shaping up to be one of the best in years, according to state wildlife officials.

The general deer season opens Nov. 1 in all of Texas except for six Panhandle counties and runs through Jan. 4 in the North Zone. In South Texas, the general season extends through Jan. 18. A special youth-only deer-hunting weekend is scheduled for Oct. 25-26 statewide in which only licensed hunters 16 years old and younger who meet the requirements for hunter education training may harvest white-tailed deer.

According to TPWD deer program leader Clayton Wolf, timely spring rains resulted in range conditions that helped jump-start antler development. "White-tailed deer hunting prospects look good for most of the state," Wolf noted. "Range conditions will make it tough to hunt over corn early in the year but we're already seeing good deer coming in on MLD (Managed Lands Deer permit) properties despite conditions. Serious hunters are reporting seeing significant increases in antler mass in older bucks. This ought to be the year. If it's a mature animal, hunters should seriously consider harvesting it. It would be a gamble to think that waiting another year will result in similar increases in antler mass. I think that will be evident at least in the Big Game Award entries."

Whether you are after a buck of a lifetime or the adventure of pursuing Texas' most revered game animal, hunting conditions are prime. The following summaries offer hunters some insight into what they can anticipate around the state in the upcoming deer season based upon field observations and deer census data collected by TPWD biologists.

South Texas

Rains have continued across the brush country, with South Texas experiencing one of the wettest Septembers in a while, according to TPWD biologist Joe Herrera in Pleasanton. While South Texas is known to get its share of late summer tropical storms, conditions are different this year. "The rain was spread out, unlike last year with tropical storm Faye," said Herrera. "That bodes well for the deer and continues to make things so much better, in terms of habitat and wildlife. It doesn't bode well for the hunter because visibility will be a problem and deer will not be coming to the feeder. We have not had a season like this in a while and that's attributable to the continual rainfall that started last year, with only two trouble months in April and May and part of June where there was no rainfall."

Herrera suggested fawn production in the region could be double the average statewide, with preliminary counts and sur-

veys putting this year's fawn crop in the 70-80 percent range. Anything more than 30 or 40 percent fawn survival in South Texas is considered good. "Deer are in excellent shape body wise," he added. "The lower half of the region got an unusual amount of rainfall — Zapata, Starr, Hidalgo and Jim Hogg counties usually don't get this kind of rain and they really stand out this year due to the climactic conditions we were blessed with."

Central Texas

According to TPWD biologist Max Traweck in Kerrville, "Things are just so absolutely green everywhere in the Hill Country with the phenomenal amount of moisture we've had, deer should have plenty of native food to eat."

Good range conditions this year may exacerbate the perennial challenge hunters and land managers have to keep deer numbers within the carrying capacity of the Edwards Plateau region. "There are still too many animals to try and survive on what's out there," said Traweck.

Hunters will also be challenged when it comes to patterning deer early on this season. "Some areas have really good acorn crops this year, but it seems to be very localized," he noted. "I'd be surprised if deer were responding to baited blinds, which means a drop in normal harvest over the opening weekend but it'll probably change. We're due a severe winter and if we have one, it would get the deer to scrounging again. I suspect though that the opening of the season will turn out to be really slow."

North Texas

In the western part of the Possum Kingdom region, biologists are claiming this season will be one of the best in several years, with much-improved range conditions and many deer in some areas due to good fawn production during the last two years. "We need hunters to harvest some doe early in some areas," said TPWD biologist Kevin Mote, who noted that good range conditions last year made hunting tough because deer were not coming to food plots and feeders. "We're seeing the results of that this year with a carryover of mature deer that are in good shape in terms of antlers and body conditions."

Range conditions in the region are such that Mote suggests hunters focus their efforts upon existing improved fields and native browse. "We have winter wheat coming up and a pretty good acorn crop, so that's liable to be as good as a feeder." Mote indicates that fewer quality deer are being observed in the south and central parts of the region as in the north and west and biologists are not sure why, since range conditions are good. "With the range conditions so much improved, those deer don't have to move much but bucks are starting to move a little more and are becoming more visible. It looks like it will be a heck of a year all the way around."

Coastal Prairies and Marshes

Hunters in the six-county area that is under restrictive buck harvest regulations again this season should see an increase in legal animals, according to LaGrange-based TPWD biologist Bob Carroll. "The strictest harvest was last year and I expect the harvest to creep up this year and even more so next year. We saved a lot of year-and-a-half old bucks last year and there should be more two-and-a-half year olds who'll get up into that range where they can be harvested."

Carroll noted there was a good fawn crop two years ago that should put a lot of deer in the harvest this season. "We couldn't have timed this program better, with good fawn crop production for two years in a row," he said.

Most production in the

region is real spotty, according to field reports, with some live oaks and water oaks bearing acorns. "We haven't had a bumper acorn crop year in a few years. It's primarily weather-based, where we have several dry months that turn conditions into a powder keg, then three months of rain. Mast producing trees need a steady source of moisture."

Even so, the timely rainfall we've had since July will put the deer in pretty good body condition," Carroll said.

East Texas

The eastern part of the state during last five years has enjoyed very good habitat conditions and this year is no exception. "We're set to have some really good body weights and antler development," reported Nathan Garner, TPWD regional director in Tyler. "Another consideration is we've had good fawn production during the last few years so we have a good mix of age cohorts."

Garner said most surveys in the region are showing acorn production to be a lot less than it has been in recent years, with only about half as many trees producing in the bottoms and in uplands only about 10 percent are producing. "Hunters should reap the benefits as deer seek out those food plots and baited areas, so we should see some nice deer harvested this year," he said.

Panhandle

"The animals we're seeing seem to be in good body condition and antlers look good," said Danny Swebston, TPWD biologist in Canyon. "We're having some early rains which will bring on the winter forbs and the wheat fields. Fawn crop should be in good condition. With these rains, the only thing is if we have warm weather, some of the deer will be out in the rangeland and may not pattern as well." Swebston believes some of the food plots and winter wheat will draw deer but range conditions will be such that they may not come as quickly into these areas. "A lot of our traditional rangeland in the Rolling Plains has become heavier with brush and our densities, although increasing, are fairly light and in the eastern part of the region."

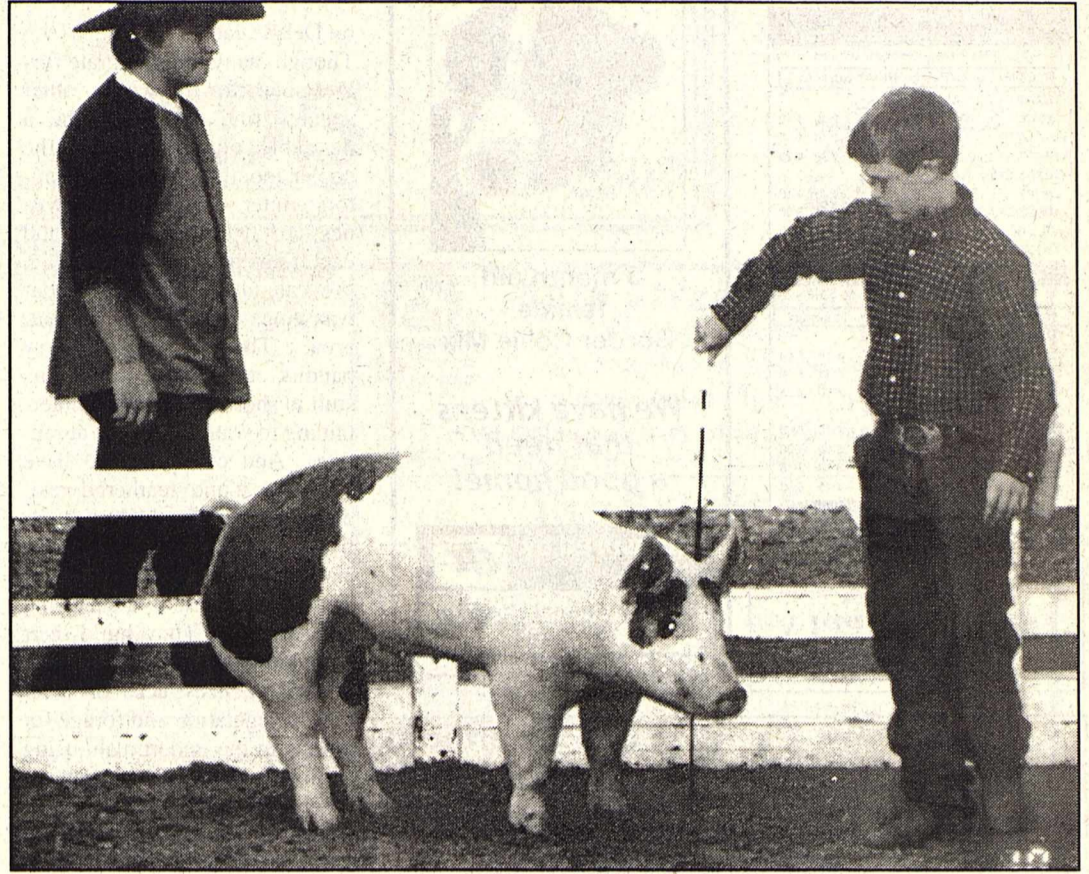
The Panhandle has garnered increased attention from hunters looking for that trophy buck of a lifetime and this season should add to that reputation. "We've got a mixture of rangeland and cropland that helps to maintain these deer on a higher level of nutrition than they receive elsewhere in the state," Swebston noted. "I think it also reflects on an increase in hunters, which has resulted in more big deer being harvested that otherwise would go unnoticed. Traditionally, a lot of the Panhandle was quail habitat, but with more deer hunters and with the increase in brush cover, the deer have increased. The deer used to stay in the creek bottoms and now they are moving out and being hunted. Whitetails have spread into country they haven't occupied historically."

Trans Pecos

Increased precipitation throughout much of the Trans-Pecos has done much to improve forage quality and quantity and cover, according to mule deer program leader Clay Brewer in Alpine. "These improved conditions should provide for an excellent overall 2003-04 hunting season with numbers and body weights increasing and enhanced antler quality expected," said Brewer. "However, the western portion of the Trans-Pecos continues to experience a long-term dry cycle. Deer numbers, body weights, and quality should remain similar to the previous season in this area. There are no significant changes in population and/or antler quality anticipated for the upcoming season. And despite dry conditions, mule deer should have wintered well as a result of access to cropland."

Oil & Agribusiness

Local 4-H member gets fourth at State Fair



Colyer Dermody, a 5th grader at Sonora Middle School, competed in the State Fair of Texas in Dallas on October 2, 2003. Colyer won 4th place with his light weight crossbred pig. This is the first major stock show for Colyer this year. He is the son of Dean and Lousie Dermody.

Historic Farm and Ranch applications due Nov. 15

AUSTIN — Agriculture Commissioner Susan Combs today reminded Texans that applications for the 2003 Family Land Heritage Program are due Nov. 15. The Texas Department of Agriculture Family Land Heritage Program recognizes farms and ranches that have been in continuous agricultural operation by the same family for 100 years or more. Since the program started in 1974, TDA has recognized 3,773 farms and ranches in 220 Texas counties.

Combs commended past honorees and those who have submitted their applications for this year's program for their hard work in making Texas agriculture what it is today — the second largest industry in the state.

"Each family's agricultural legacy is an integral part of our state's agricultural success," Combs said. "This program recognizes each family's contribution to Texas agriculture and the county where their ancestors settled." Farms and ranches that qualify will be honored during a ceremony in March in Austin. Each family's agricultural history also will be chronicled in a registry. Honorees can also obtain historic farm or ranch signage for their property.

"I encourage landowners who have a family farm or ranch that qualifies to apply today," Combs said. "It is a great way to recognize your family's hard work and dedication and a wonderful gift to pass onto to your children and grandchildren."

Applications are available through county judges, TDA's Web site at www.agr.state.tx.us or by contacting Family Land Heritage Coordinator Melissa Blair, Texas Department of Agriculture, P.O. Box 12847, Austin, Texas 78711 or (512) 463-2631.

Rig Locations as of October 24, 2003



Sutton

- New Samson Lone Star; 10000' Nobles #8, Patterson Drilling.
 - New Dominion; 8850' Randee Hill - Fawcett TR - E - #2, Patterson Drilling.
 - New Dominion; 8950' Mayer - 3C - #18, Patterson Drilling.
 - Dominion; 8850' Mayfield - 33 - #9, Key Energy.
 - New Dominion; 8800' Randee Fawcett Trust - C - #8, Patterson Drilling.
 - New Dominion; 8800' Randee Fawcett Trust - C - #9, Patterson Drilling.
 - Dominion; 8750' Mayer - 3C - #22, Patterson Drilling.
 - New Dominion; 8700' Tom Mitchell - 3 - #4, Patterson Drilling.
 - New Dominion; 7750' Tom Mitchell - 4 - #2, Patterson Drilling.
 - New Dominion; 7100' Deberry - A - #66, Patterson Drilling.
 - New Dominion; 6050' Steen #73, Patterson Drilling.
 - New Dominion; 5700' Canyon Ranch #1069S, Patterson Drilling.
 - New Dominion; 5650' Canyon Ranch #925S, Patterson Drilling.
- Crockett**
- New Concho Oil & Gas; 10000' Jack Baggett - 2 - #2, Patterson Drilling.
 - New Harrison Interests; 9850' JohnW Henderson III - E - #69, Patterson Drilling.
 - New Devon Energy; 9500' Ruby Helbing - 27 - #7, Patterson Drilling.
 - New J. Cleo Thompson; 9000' Cox - C - #4, Patterson Drilling.
 - New Primal Energy Corp.; 7500' Hoover - 4 - #5, Patterson Drilling.
 - New Concho Oil & Gas; 7000' EH Chandler #16, Patterson Drilling.
- Terrell**
- New Nuevo Texas Inc.; 19000' Mitchell - 7 - #6, Nabors Drilling.
 - Exxonmobile Dev. Co; 15800' Banner Estate Unit - A - #1, Patterson Drilling.
 - Nuevo Texas Inc.; 12500' Mitchell - 9 - #9, Nabors Drilling.
 - Fasken Oil & Ranch; 7500' Brown SE - 210 - #20, Patterson Drilling.
 - New EOG Resources; 10500' Noelke - A - #2602, Patterson Drilling.
- Edwards**
- New Dominion E&P; 7500' Canyon Ranch #2192E, Patterson Drilling.
 - New Newfield Exploration; 11000' Whitehead - 45 - #6, Patterson Drilling.
 - Par Minerals Corp; 8700' Ralston #1, Big Dog Drilling.
 - Par Minerals Corp; 8000' Four Square Ranch #9, Key Energy.

For more rig locations call 1-800-627-9785 or go online to www.rigdata.com.



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REPORT OF COUNTY TREASURER OF SUTTON COUNTY, TEXAS, OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES FROM JULY 1, 2003 TO SEPT 30, 2003

FUND	BEGINNING BALANCE	RECEIPTS	TRANSFER IN	DISBURSEMENTS	TRANSFER OUT	BALANCE
General	\$ 2,234,814.32	\$ 407,018.98	\$ 5,783.78	\$ 746,432.86		\$ 1,901,184.22
FMFC	\$ 242,674.50	\$ 183,010.02		\$ 200,813.67		\$ 224,870.85
Flood Control	\$ 23,081.40	\$ -		\$ -		\$ 23,081.40
Law Library	\$ 7,683.57	\$ 670.00		\$ 53.50		\$ 8,300.07
Lateral Road	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -		\$ -
State Trust Funds	\$ 3,426.16	\$ 1,276.70		\$ 4,597.86		\$ 105.00
State Arrest Fees	\$ 304.20	\$ 1,789.60		\$ 1,674.56		\$ 419.24
Employee Benefit Fund	\$ 227,026.86	\$ -		\$ -		\$ 227,026.86
Sutton County 911	\$ 7,543.43	\$ 32.05		\$ -		\$ 7,575.48
Appellate Fund	\$ 254.00	\$ 331.00		\$ -		\$ 585.00
Sheriff Seizure Fund	\$ 14,761.43	\$ 62.66		\$ 762.15		\$ 14,061.94
Courthouse Renovation	\$ 56,567.55	\$ 1,897.76		\$ 5,473.68	\$ 1,657.00	\$ 51,334.63
						TOTAL \$ 2,458,544.69

CHECKING ACCOUNTS				
State Arrest Fees	\$ 419.24	FMFC	\$ 54,502.73	General
Appellate Fund	\$ 585.00	Sutton County 911	\$ 7,575.48	Sheriff Seizure
General 1st National	\$ 3,115.52			CTHSE RENOVATIC
Money Market Accounts (General)	\$ 2,054,355.31	(FMFC)	\$ 170,368.12	
CD Accounts (General)		(FMFC)		
TOTAL				\$ 2,458,544.69

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TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
 dts (R) 12:20 AM Friday Only 2:45 5:10
 LUTHER (PG-13) 1:40 4:15

BEYOND BORDERS (R) 1:30 4:20

TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
 dts (R) 1:45 4:10
 MYSTIC RIVER (R) 2:00 5:00
 KILL BILL dts (R) 2:05 4:30
 GOOD BOY (PG) 2:30 4:45

Times good for the week of 10/31-11/06
 \$3.00 Matinees before 6:00 p.m.

SHOW TIMES FOR Monday-Thursday

TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
 dts (R) 5:10 7:45
 LUTHER (PG-13) 4:15 7:00
 BEYOND BORDERS (R) 4:20 7:05

TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
 dts (R) 4:10 6:45
 MYSTIC RIVER (R) 5:00 8:00
 KILL BILL dts (R) 4:30 7:15
 GOOD BOY (PG) 4:45 6:50

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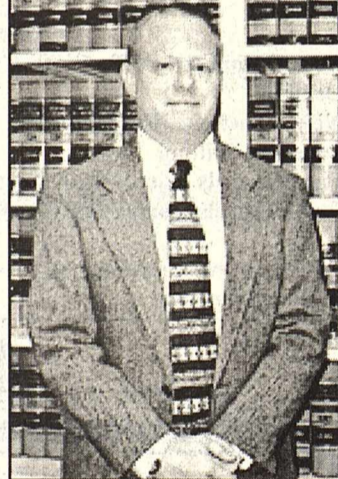
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 Cuando: Noviembre 1, 2003
 Horario: 9:00 p.m. - 1:00 a.m.
 Precio: \$12.00 por persona
 \$10.00 Antes de Las 9:00 p.m.

Meet Frank Lacy, 112th District Attorney Candidate



Frank Lacy of Fort Stockton has announced that he will be a candidate for 112th District Attorney in the March, 2004 primary election. Frank has been a full time prosecutor since January 1, 2001 for the 83rd District Attorney. He is an eight year veteran of the United States Marine Corps, and was awarded the Navy Achievement Medal for his performance in Operation Desert Storm.

During his military service, Lacy was meritoriously promoted to every rank he held.

In 1992 Frank received his Bachelor of Business Administration degree, summa cum laude from National University in San Diego, California. He attended Texas Tech University School of Law, graduating in 1995. Mr. Lacy was licensed to practice law in May, 1995 and is also licensed to practice in the United States District Court for the Northern District of Texas. Prior to his employment as a prosecutor, Lacy was a sole practitioner in Brownfield, Texas for five years. Frank is an instructor for Midland College, teaching criminal justice, business, and paralegal courses.

Since becoming a prosecutor in January, 2001, Frank has not had an outside practice, stating that "Prosecuting criminals is an important job. If I am elected as the 112th District Attorney, I intend to prosecute full time. This will allow all of my effort to be focused on prosecution, and will have the additional benefit of avoiding conflicts that could require the appointment of a special prosecutor." Lacy has served as 112th District Attorney pro tem, prosecuting several cases on behalf of the State.

Lacy has been active in the community since moving to Fort Stockton, and serves on the Community Development Board, the Zoning Board of Adjustment,

the Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, and is a member of the Fort Stockton Rotary Club, serving as a Director and Chairman of Community Service. He was recently elected President of the 2003-2004 Leadership Fort Stockton class. Frank and his wife, Susie, have two children, Clark and Savannah.

Said Lacy, "It is my sincere desire to serve all of the citizens of the 112th District, in every county, as their felony prosecutor. I attempt daily to apply the leadership traits of the Marine Corps - Integrity, Decisiveness, Dependability, Initiative, Tact, Loyalty, Judgment, and Justice. I have the experience and dedication to truly make a difference as District Attorney. I look forward to meeting with interested citizens of the district in every county, hearing your concerns, discussing issues of importance to you, and earning your support. My priority as District Attorney will be to work closely with law enforcement to send a message to criminals that this district is serious about prosecuting and punishing those who violate the law."

Frank can be contacted by phone at 432/336-5415 or by mail at 401 N. Rio, Fort Stockton, Texas.


Political Adv. Paid for by Candidate Frank Lacy

Up On Eaton Hill

The Call of the Wren

by Delyse Jaeger

Though many birds migrate further south for the winter, other species find Sonora to be a desirable place to spend the cooler months. Numerous raptors winter in Texas and to witness a hawk swoop down and capture its prey is breath-taking. We can also expect the cedar waxwings to move through our area. These beautiful berry bandits can strip a tree of its fruit in short order but are entertaining to watch and very attractive. And of course we have our year round feathered residents, many of which possess lively personalities such as the cactus wren and roadrunner. The cactus wren is a loud and curious bird. They build their nests amid the spines of a prickly pear cactus, yucca or other thorny vegetation and forage for insects in the underbrush, using the long curved beak to uncover creepy-crawly morsels. Breeding pairs build several nests from which the female chooses one for incubating eggs. Other nests are utilized for additional broods and for cozy roosting. The young remain in the parents' territory for approximately a month, occupying extra nests. The nests are rather large, football shaped with a small side entrance. Cactus wrens are very territorial and create quite a ruckus when their space is invaded. The warning and danger calls are described as rapid buzzes while the territorial song is a mono-



tone, mechanical "chur chur chur". The cactus wren is approximately 7 to 9 inches in length and is the largest of all the wren family found in the US. The birds have a white eye stripe, brown head and back, and spotted chest. Where might a person go to see these raucous and inquisitive avian residents? Why, Eaton Hill Wildlife Sanctuary, of course. The call of the cactus wren is a common melody (to use the word loosely) heard on Eaton Hill and, with little effort, you can easily find one - they'll let you know when you enter their territory!

The fabulously warm days and cooler nights are pure perfection for enjoying the outdoors. Watch for the small and elegant kestrel hawk hunting the fields and note the continuing wildflower and berry display. Hit the trails and keep your eyes and ears open, there is just no telling what discoveries lay amid the trails - at Eaton Hill Wildlife Sanctuary.

Health Foundation appoints nominating committee

submitted

The Sutton County Health Foundation meeting on October 14, 2003, was called to order by President, Jim Stephen. Carl and Melissa Teaff, Rodney Knight, Rande Fawcett, Ben Pool, Sharon Holman, Keith Butler, Pascal Allison, Curry Campbell, Glen Fisher and Aavis Johnson were present.

The minutes from the September meeting were accepted as printed. Sharon Holman gave the treasurer's report. Income since the last meeting, from memorials and donations, was \$1,545 and expenses were \$407.89 for supplies, printing and advertising. The bank account balance at First National Bank is \$11,677.21 and the balance in the Sutton County Health Endowment Fund is \$130,000.

The date for the annual meeting will be December 9, 2003. Lolabeth Jones and Keith Butler are in charge of coordinating the food.

President Stephen appointed the nominating committee of Rande Fawcett, Chairman, Rodney Knight and Carl Teaff.

Butler reported that bank statement flyers are being mailed by both local banks and that a brochure explaining Planned Giving has been printed and is available in his office.

Glen Fisher volunteered to coordinate a golf tournament for next spring and will ask the Golf Club for a date and the meeting was adjourned.

The purpose of the SCHF is long-term support of Lillian M. Hudspeth Memorial Hospital and healthcare resources in Sutton County.

The goal of the SCHF is to provide supplemental funds for the operation of the hospital and other healthcare resources in order to decrease need for tax support of healthcare in Sutton County.

The easiest way to assist charities with an estate gift is to include a provision in your will. When your family has an up to date will you do not wish to change, a simple codicil can be signed, witnessed and attached to an existing will. Types of bequest include a general bequest whereby a person bequeaths a stated amount of money to the charity without any condition attached. Other types of bequests state that the gift is an endowment gift and the principal is never spent or that the gift has to be spent on a specific program or project of the charity. Residuary bequests is a provision in a will leaving the remainder of one's estate to the charity after all other bequests are fulfilled and the residuary bequest with unified tax credit leaves everything which exceeds the federal unified tax credit to the charity.

Cowboys go head-to-head at Roping Fiesta

The biggest rivalry in Texas takes center arena November 1, as Cody Ohl of Stephenville and Trevor Brazile of Anson go head-to-head in a winner takes all \$14,000 matched calf roping. These and many more superstars shine at the WRANGLER Invitational 50th Annual Calf and Steer Roping Fiesta, November 1-2 at the San Angelo fairgrounds. Events begin at 1:00 p.m. each day.

Sponsors for the event are Wrangler, Coors, Jim Bass Ford, Vehicle Accessories, Porter Henderson Implement and KGKL Radio. The championship match roper receives a custom-made belt buckle from Lee Silver Company of Sonora and Peterson properties of Kerrville/Mason. On Saturday, 40 of the world's top professional calf ropers compete for more than \$18,000 in prize money and a championship saddle from Tod Slone Saddles of Cuero.

As if that's not enough, 35 of the toughest steer ropers on the rodeo circuit will rope for more than \$35,000 on Sunday, November 2. The top steer roper will receive a saddle from Coats Saddlery of San Angelo. The Junior Match Calf Roping between Joseph Parsons and Sterling Smith will also be held on Sunday, November 2. HiPro Animal Health will award the championship buckle.

The preliminary calf roping makes an appearance in the Spur Arena, Friday, October 31, beginning at 1:30 p.m. The roping is an open invitational with the top 5 ropers receiving an invitation to rope on Saturday in the Roping Fiesta. Bruton Trailer of San Angelo will award the championship buckle.

The 12th Annual Cowboy Collectible Show will be held in the coliseum on November 1 & 2. Saddles, spurs, buckles, western wear, furniture and western collectibles are a few of the items that can be purchased during the Fiesta.

Jody Nix and the Texas Cowboys will play on Saturday night, November 1 at the Concho Pavilion. The dance starts at 9:00 p.m. Doors open at 8:00 p.m. Tickets are \$8.00.

Roping Fiesta are on sale now. Please call 325-653-5622 or go online at www.sanangelorodeo.com for ticket information. Visa, Mastercard, American Express and Discover are accepted.

Total Eclipse of the Moon Nov. 8

The early evening of Saturday, Nov. 8, North America will be treated to a total eclipse of the Moon. The east coast will see the entire eclipse while Texans will enjoy all but the first few minutes of the 3 1/2-hour show.

The partial eclipse begins at 5:32 p.m. as the Moon rises in the east and the Sun sets in the west. As the sky darkens, the Moon will climb and grow increasingly eclipsed. By the time the 25-minute period of totality begins at 7:06 p.m., the sky will be dark with the Moon high enough for easy viewing. Mid-eclipse occurs at 7:19 p.m. with totality ending at 7:31 p.m. The final partial eclipse ends at 9:05 p.m.

Lunar eclipses occur during those full Moons where the Sun, Earth and Moon are in exact alignment and the Moon passes through Earth's shadow. Since we have a full Moon every month, one might wonder why we don't also have a lunar eclipse every month.

The plane of the Moon's orbit around Earth is slightly tilted from that of Earth's orbit around the Sun. Because of this tilt, the Moon usually passes just above or below Earth's shadow at full Moon, resulting in no eclipse. But on those occasions when the alignment is exact, the Moon is eclipsed - briefly hidden from the Sun's direct light - by Earth's shadow.

Traveling 2,300 miles per hours around Earth, our satellite takes a while to enter, pass through, then exit Earth's shadow. How long depends mainly on whether the Moon passes through the large central part of Earth's shadow or nearer the shadow's edge. This eclipse is the latter case, so the Moon will be totally eclipsed for only 25 minutes. It will be in partial eclipse - when part of the Moon is in our shadow - for 94 minutes before totality, and another 94 minutes after totality.

The Moon, which makes no light of its own, is visible only when sunlight reflects off its surface. During totality, with the Moon hidden from direct sunlight, one might expect the Moon to become completely invisible - but it doesn't. As sunlight passes by Earth, the atmosphere around our planet's edge (as seen from the Sun) where the sunlight passes acts like a lens and refracts (bends) some of the light into the shadowed area. Depending on the amount of clouds, volcanic ash, dust and air pollution the sunlight encounters in our atmosphere, the eclipsed Moon may appear anywhere from an almost-invisible dark gray to a beautifully-erie rusty orange.

And speaking of clouds, let's hope for clear skies over Texas so we can see and enjoy this event.

SKY CALENDAR

- * Oct. 27 Mon. early evening: A crescent Moon is near Scorpius' brightest star, Antares low in the west.
- * 31 Fri.: Halloween, a cross-quarter day celebrating the middle of fall, and the Moon is at 1st quarter.
- * Nov. 2 & 3 Sun. & Mon. evenings: The Moon is near Mars.
- * 8 Sat. evening: November's Moon full is called Frosty Moon and Beaver Moon, and total lunar eclipse (see above).
- * 9 & 10 Sun. & Mon. evenings: The Moon is near Taurus' Pleiades star cluster.
- * 10 Mon. early evening: Venus is near Scorpius' brightest star, Antares, near the western horizon after sunset.
- * 11 Tue. evening: The Moon is near Taurus' brightest star, Aldebaran.
- * 13 Thu. morning: The Moon is near Saturn.

PLANETS

(The Sun, Moon and planets rise in the east and set in the west.)

EVENING: Venus, the "evening star" low in the west, sets an hour after sunset. Mars, Uranus and Neptune are in the sky all evening, with Neptune setting after midnight, and Mars and Uranus at 2 a.m.

MORNING: Saturn rises at 10 p.m. and is high overhead in the morning. Jupiter, the "morning star" in the east, rises just before 3 a.m. Mercury is in the Sun.

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 206-0713

School Lunch Menu • Nov. 3 - 7, 2003

Breakfast

Mon. - Toast with jelly, orange juice.
 Tues. - Biscuits with gravy, sausage patty, apple juice.
 Wed. - Banana nut muffin, orange juice.
 Thurs. - Cheese toast, apple juice.
 Fri. - Breakfast burrito, orange juice.

Milk and cereal offered with all breakfasts.

Lunch

Mon. - Chicken patty on bun, tator tots/ketchup, salad cup, apple cake.
 Tues. - Cheese pizza, Mexicali corn, orange wedges, chocolate chip cookie.
 Wed. - Chicken nuggets, mashed potatoes/gravy, green beans, cinnamon apples, roll.
 Thurs. - Beef tacos/cheese, taco salad, pinto beans, chocolate pudding.
 Fri. - Cheeseburger, burger salad, French fries, lime jell-otopping.

West Texas Classified Ad Network

CLASSIFIED ADS

Place your Non-Commercial classified ad in The Devil's River News, Eldorado Success, Ozona Stockman, Big Lake Wildcat and Iraan News for one low, low price. Call today for details!



- Sonora
- Eldorado
- Ozona
- Big Lake
- Iraan

387-2507

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Real Estate

Employment

EXPERIENCED DRIVERS NEEDED!
Must have current Class A CDL and a good driving record. Experience driving transports, vacuum trucks, operating pump trucks & winch truck. Monthly performance & safety bonuses. Health insurance, annual profit sharing, driver's days off schedule. Please apply in person at Niblett's Oilfield Service, Inc. Hwy. 277 South, Eldorado. No phone calls please.

Help Wanted: Part-time evenings and weekends. Apply at Mr. D's from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday at 216 Hwy. 277 N.

Need Part-Time Maintenance Help. Must have valid driver's license. Call 387-5656.

We are currently looking for individuals to fill our **Field Service Technician** positions in Kermit (1), Ft. Stockton (1), & Midland (2) and **Shop Mechanic** positions in Midland (3).

Field Service Technician Qualifications:

- Two years compressor maintenance experience
- Professional appearance and good people skills
- Work overtime when needed
- Dependable, self-starter
- Proven mechanical aptitude
- Valid driver's license with a good driving record
- Pass all DOT drug testing
- Meet company lifting standards
- Full set of hand tools as defined by company standards
- Written and verbal communications skills
- Attend training classes and/or seminars as required
- Full understanding of compression theory and maintenance

Shop Mechanic Qualifications:

- Professional appearance and good people skills
- Proven mechanical aptitude
- Work overtime when needed
- Willing to travel if necessary
- Valid driver's license
- Pass all DOT drug related testing
- Meet company lifting standards
- Basic hand tools
- Written and verbal communication skills
- Basic computer skills

Compressor Systems, Inc.
We offer an excellent compensation package with a full range of benefits. Many opportunities for advancement. For consideration, please fax resume to 432-563-1402. EOE/AA

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Lots suitable for building.
Zone restrictions.
Contact Main Street Realty at 325-387-6115.

For Sale by Owner: 117 Deerwood Dr., 4 bedroom, 2 bath, central heat and air, fireplace, 2 car garage. Call 325-387-5474.

House for Sale: 301 S. Water. 3 bedroom, 2 bath, hardwood floors. Nice yard. Must see! Call (325) 387-5801.

1 and 1 1/2 Lots for sale in Sonora at 1403 Glasscock with large pecan trees, good neighborhood. Go look. For more information call Gloria Bishop 392-3430.

I-10 Exxon is looking for reliable candidates to join our team. The following positions are available: Full and Part-Time cashiers. Retirees welcome. Come by the corner of I-10 and Hwy. 277 N. EOE.

Best Western Sonora Inn
Now taking applications for several positions:

Maintenance: Must have reliable transportation and clean driving record. Requires flexible hours, weekends and must be available from 7 a.m. till 4 p.m.
Housekeeping: Weekends and flexible hours with reliable transportation required.
Front Desk: P/T Floater. Requires Evening, Nights and Weekend flexibility.

Lariat Services, Inc. is seeking an experienced Air Driller. Wage ranges between \$20.00 to \$24.00 an hour depending on experience. Will pay \$30.00 per diem and mileage reimbursement. Benefits include 401K Plan and Dental Plan and company paid Medical Insurance. Fax resume to 325-336-9339 or contact the Fort Stockton Office at 325-336-7821.

The Time is Now!
Here's your chance to join one of the Largest Telecommunications Companies as an Independent Representative. Make Money without Losing your Personal Freedom. Call Janice McMillan 1-800-491-5037.

Work Wanted: Single man, 65, semi-retired seeks management position, experienced with hay, pastures, cattle, fertilizers, water control, windmills, vegetable farming. Call 903-340-2029 Mr. Wilhelm.

DQ of Sonora is looking for day/night help. Full and part-time positions available. Non-smoking, drug-free environment. Drug test required. Apply in person today, with Manager Joana Wuest.

For Lease: The former Stagecoach Grill & Cantina Building. Call Linda at 387-3351.

Office Space for Rent. 707 N. Crockett St. Approximately 550 sq. ft. Call 387-2880.

For Sale or Lease: 3400 sq. ft. Commercial building. 303 S.E. Crockett. 800-219-8306 days or 325-396-2647 nights.

For Rent. Office Space available in the Historic Mercantile Building on Main Street in Sonora. For more information contact Main Street Realty at 325-387-6115.

Guide Services
Attention Hunters and Ranchers! Do you have a wounded deer to find? Bloodtrailing hounds for hire. \$250.00 per call within 40 mile radius of Eldorado. \$1.00 per mile thereafter. Don't wait and spoil the trail, you might lose your trophy buck. Call Magnum Guide Service (325) 853-1555 immediately and we will help you recover your deer.

Mobile Homes
Must sell! 1997 16 x 76, 3/2 like new, has stove and frig. \$10,900 CASH. 432-638-4727 or 432-381-2302.

Abandoned 1993, 16 x 76, 3/2, new carpet, a/c, stove and has hardboard siding. \$11,900 CASH. 432-638-4727 or 432-381-2302.

Abandoned 16 x 76, 3/2 fixer upper, \$7,900 CASH. 432-638-4727 or 432-381-2302.

For Sale by Owner. 2 bedroom mobile home, good condition. \$5,900. CASH 432-638-4727 or 432-381-2302.

Public Notice

NOTICE TO BIDDERS INVITATION FOR BIDS FOR DEPOSITORY OF OPERATING FUNDS OF THE CITY OF SONORA, TEXAS

NOTICE is hereby given that the City of Sonora, Texas will receive bids for depository of the City's Operating Funds for the period commencing on the 1st day of December 2003 through the 30th day of November 2005. Any banking organization, qualifying under the laws of the State of Texas to act as depository of municipal funds, which desires to act as such depository for the City of Sonora shall submit written application thereof, on the forms supplied by the City, sealed and marked on the outside "APPLICATION FOR DEPOSITORY OF CITY FUNDS, DO NOT OPEN UNTIL 2:00 p.m. on Monday, November 10, 2003". Such application shall be received in the office of the City Manager, Sonora City Hall, 201 E. Main, Sonora, Texas no later than 2:00 p.m. on November 10, 2003 at which time such applications shall be opened publicly and read aloud.

All terms, conditions, specifications and requirements for such applications are available upon request made to the City Manager and same are hereby incorporated into this Notice to the same extent as through fully set forth verbatim herein.

The City Council will review and take action on bids on November 18, 2003 and shall have the right to accept the application which offers the most favorable terms and conditions for handling of such funds and shall have the right to reject any or all applications and to waive informalities.

Sonora Chamber of Commerce will be accepting sealed bids on the building at 707 Crockett. This building is in excellent condition and consists of approximately 550 sq.ft. Please submit bids for consideration to: Sonora Chamber of Commerce, Attn: Building Committee, PO Box 1172, Sonora, Texas 76950.

Sonora Chamber of Commerce reserves the right to accept or reject any and all bids. The bids will be opened at the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Directors of the Sonora Chamber of Commerce. The building is located on a rented lot. If bid is accepted, you must be prepared to either move the building or negotiate lot rent with landlord.

Employment Notice

Sonora ISD is accepting applications for the position of campus level PEIMS Operator. Computer experience, especially with Windows 2000, accuracy inputting data, and ability to meet established deadlines are required. The successful applicant must be able to work well with staff, students, and parents. Software training with the current operator will be provided. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled and may be obtained at the Superintendent's Office, 807 S. Concho. EOE.

Pets

Pet Care Service
Shaylynn Kresta, age 14 would like to take care of your pets. Call 325-387-5649 for more information. References provided.

Automobiles

For Sale: 2001 Mitsubishi Montero Sport. 30,000 miles. \$14,000.00 Call 387-5750.

Vinyl Sports Decals

Call Erica 387-2507

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS SONORA ISD'S State Financial Accountability Rating

Sonora ISD will hold a Public Meeting At 5:30 p.m. Nov. 10, 2003, in the Board Room, Admin. Building 807 S. Concho, Sonora, Texas.

The purpose of this meeting is to discuss Sonora ISD's rating on the state's financial accountability system.

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS OF PROPOSED TEXAS HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENT CONTRACTS

Sealed proposals for highway improvement contracts will be received by the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) until the date(s) shown below, and then publicly read.

CONSTRUCTION/ MAINTENANCE CONTRACT(S)

Dist/Div: San Angelo Contract 6108-44-001 for PIC-NIC AREA MAINTENANCE in SUTTON County, etc will be received on November 18, 2003 until 1:00 pm and opened on November 18, 2003 at 2:00 pm at the District Office for an estimate of \$9,769.00.

Plans and specifications are available for inspection, along with bidding proposals, and applications for the TxDOT Prequalified Contractor's list, at the applicable State and/or Dist/Div Offices listed below. Bidders must submit prequalification information to TxDOT at least 10 days prior to the bid date to be eligible to bid on a project. Prequalification materials may be requested from the State Office listed below. Plans for the above contract(s) are available from TxDOT's website at www.dot.state.tx.us and from reproduction companies at the expense of the contractor. NPO: 11220

State Office

Constr./Maint. Division
200 E. Riverside Dr.
Austin, Texas 78704
Phone: 512-416-2540

Dist/Div Office(s)

San Angelo District
District Engineer
4502 Knickerbocker Rd
San Angelo, Texas 76904
Phone: 325-944-1501

Minimum wage rates are set out in bidding documents and the rates will be part of the contract. TxDOT ensures that bidders will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, sex, or national origin.

Rummage Sale

RUMMAGE SALE

SPONSORED BY
Lillian M. Hudspeth Memorial Hospital Auxiliary
Friday, November 7, 2003
8:00 a.m. - till it's gone
Hudspeth Hospital Annex
Items for sale include a wide variety of furniture, household goods, holiday decorations and much, much, more.

Proceeds from the sale will be used to landscape the new hospital and wellness center.

If you would like to donate items to the sale, your items may be brought to the hospital by Wednesday, November 5th or call one of the following members to arrange pick-up.

387-2521 Keith L. Butler or 387-3101 Janalyn Jones.

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220 E. Main
List Price \$60,000
Located in the Historic Downtown District, this quaint, commercial property is being offered completely equipped for a beauty shop. This spacious building has additional opportunities for rental income with abundant space for retail in the front and a Garage/Shop located in the back with easy access. Ideally located next Sonora's beautiful pocket park, this is truly a great investment opportunity.

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387-9065 Office 387-2200 Fax
Email: sjacoby@sonoratax.net

(325)387-2728
Bobbie A. Smith Real Estate

New Hope Baptist Church. 2.07 ac tract with church bldg. containing auditorium, 6 classrooms, restrooms, kitchen, office & nursery. Furniture & equipment included. Established yard, parking lot, playground with basketball court & baseball area. Property contains lovely 4 BR. 2 BA Doublewide on large corner lot. May be sold separately.

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email: bobc@sonoratax.net

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F.Y.I.

The Sutton County 4-H Wildlife Project will meet on Tuesday, November 4, 2003 at 7:30 p.m. in the Langford Building. Rodney Knight will present a program about exotics, hunting, and identification.

Rummage Sale, sponsored by the Lillian M. Hudspeth Memorial Hospital Auxiliary, Friday, November 7, 2003 from 8:00 a.m. till it's gone, in the Hudspeth Hospital Annex. Items for sale include a wide variety of furniture, household goods, holiday decorations and much, much more. Proceeds from sale will be used to landscape the new hospital and wellness center. If you would like to donate items to the sale, they can be taken to the hospital by Wednesday, November 5th or call Keith Butler at 387-2521 or Janalyn Jones at 387-3101 to arrange pickup.

GED Classes are being offered at Sonora Middle School, Room 108, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6-9 p.m. New students sign up November 4. FMI call 387-3736.

"You Are Someone Special" West Side Lions Club Rose Sale. Make your special someone extra special on this day! \$15 a dozen. Delivery November 13, 2003. Call Paul Freeman 387-3736, Lisa Galindo 387-6515 or 387-5229, or Maria Mesa 387-2287 or 206-0061 or any West Side Lions Club member.

Westside Lions Club meetings are the 2nd Wednesday of each month at the Sutton County Library at 6:30 p.m.

Main Street Trick or Treat - Friday, October 31, 2003, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. the Friends of Historic Sonora Main Street Program and The Sonora Downtown Businesses will be giving out special treats. Everyone is invited to dress up your special little princess or prince and join in the fun. For more information call 387-2248.

Emmaus gathering - 2nd Tuesday of every month at Lighthouse Community Church, 6:30 p.m. Babysitting provided.

Friends of Historic Sonora Main Street Program now has the 2003 Christmas Ornaments. The 24K gold finish brass ornament is a windmill and a turkey on the Sutton County Courthouse Lawn. The cost is \$10. Visit the Friends of Historic Sonora Main Street office on Main Street to get yours today, and add it to your Sonora ornament collection.

Library Story Time every Wednesday at 10:00 a.m. For more information call the Sutton County Library at 387-2111. Ages 3 - Pre-K welcome.

Lighthouse Community Church will host THRIVE! Simulcast for Sonora on November 15, 2003. Best-selling author, Dr. John C. Maxwell will lead the live training. FMI contact Jane Rushing at 325-387-3625.

The Depot may be rented by calling the Sutton Co. Historical Society at 387-5084. Open Mondays, Tuesday until noon and Fridays.

Meet Sonora Clergy

St. Ann's Catholic Church

Reverend William Robert Du Buisson, O.M.I. was born a blessing on December 25, 1929 in San Antonio, Texas, to Mr. William Robert Du Buisson, Jr. and Mrs. Louise Fox Du Buisson. He has since brought blessings to several places, and is appreciated for all of his hard work at Saint Ann's Catholic Church here in Sonora, where he is working hard to help his parishioners build their faith while they build a new (and badly needed) parish hall. He is appreciated for his hard work with our parish's youth, and for supporting them in their school endeavors. He truly is a blessing.

The road that led him to us is just as incredible and busy as his daily schedule now. After attending good grade schools in San Antonio and Okalahoma City, Father Bill entered St. Anthony Seminary in San Antonio from grade 9 to his first year of college. On May 30, 1948, he entered St. Peter Novitiate in Mission, Texas, in preparation for entering The Oblates of Mary Immaculate, and it was at St. Peter Novitiate where he pronounced his first temporary vows as an Oblate of Mary Immaculate on May 31, 1952. He entered Theological studies in September 1952, and studied various college science courses at the University of Notre Dame in Notre Dame, Indiana during the summers of 1953, 1954, and 1955. He returned to San Antonio and studied science and education at St. Mary's University from 1957-1963.

Father Bill was then ordained a Roman Catholic priest on September 8, 1955 in St. Mary's Church in San Antonio by Archbishop Robert E. Lucey. He went on to teach general science and chemistry courses at St. Anthony Seminary from September 1956 to May 1964. He was also valued as a Treasurer at St. Anthony seminary from September 1961 to 1964. In August of 1964, he volunteered to help open a High School Seminary in Cotabato in the Philippines. It was there that he taught sciences, Latin, and English, in addition to teaching Senior Religion at Notre Dame College, Cotabato City, Philippines.

He also helped to establish training courses in high school sciences and mathematics for the Notre Dame School System there in the Philippines, while he assisted in designing a new Administration/Science Building at Notre Dame College. In addition to teaching in the Philippines, he was also the Chaplain for the Leprosarium outside Cotabato City from 1965 to 1968.

Upon his return to the United States in June of 1968, he was assigned as Assistant Pastor at Immaculate Heart of March Church in Harlingen, Texas until June 1969, when he went on to become the Assistant Pastor at Our Lady of Sorrows in Houston. In November of 1969, he suffered a paralyzed diaphragm. In January of 1970, he was transferred to Sacred Heart of Mary Mission in Rocksprings, Texas, St. Mary Magdalene in Camp Wood, Texas, and St. Raymond in Leakey, Texas, as the "priest in charge." When these three churches became one parish in 1972, Father Bill became the Pastor of this parish.

Father has always stayed busy! From 1972 to 1981, he served as an Advocate for the Tribunal of the Archdiocese of San Antonio, and also became a member of the Camino Health Systems Board from 1974 to 1983. Additionally, he was elected as a member of the Senate of the Archdiocese of San Antonio from 1974 to 1981, Dean of the Del Rio-Eagle Pass Deanery from 1977 to 1981, and Superior of the Del Rio-Eagle Pass District of the Oblate of Mary Immaculate from 1976 to 1981. In October of 1976, he became the Administrator of Sacred Heart Parish in Del Rio, Texas, and became the Pastor of that parish from 1977 to 1981.

Father Bill is always working hard, and so it is no surprise that when he took a sabbatical in June of 1981, he used it to study Canon Law at the University of St. Paul & The University of Ottawa in Ottawa, ON, Canada. He received a civil and church Bachelor of Canon Law, a License of Canon Law, and a Master of Canon Law. Upon his return to Texas, he was appointed as a Judge of the Tribunal of the Diocese of San Angelo, in addition to being appointed as the temporary Associate Pastor



at Our Lady of Guadalupe and St. Ann's Catholic churches in Midland, Texas. He was soon called away in January of 1984 to serve as the Pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes in Andrews, Texas, where he truly helped build the community in the parish, and led parishioners to the building of a new church, that still looks new nearly 20 years later. It's a beautiful church! While working on this great task in Andrews, he also continued his diocesan duties in his appointment in September of 1985 as Representative of the Bishop on the Presbyteral Council of the Diocese of San Angelo.

January 1987 brought Father Bill closer to home when he became the Pastor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Ozona, Texas, and then, Pastor of Saint Ann's here in Sonora in April 1991 while continuing his responsibilities to the church in Ozona until 1995. He also served as Adjutant Judicial Vicar of the Tribunal of the San Angelo Diocese beginning in June 1994, and on the College of Consultors beginning in December 1994. Meanwhile, he had been appointed Superior of West Texas District of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate from 1992 to 1998.

Needless to say, Father Bill continues to be a wonderful example of hard work and dedication, and we are blessed to have him in Sonora. It's wonderful to see him working in his office at trying to help his parish, but it's also great to see him supporting our youth at baseball, football, and basketball games, and at band concerts! Thank you, Father Bill, for all that you do for us!

Hauling more than just cars

by Storie Sharp

A truck driver out of Montana got a surprise last Wednesday, October 22, 2003, when he stopped at the I-10 Exxon to see about repairing a tire. The store clerk pointed out that the sun roof on one of the cars was open. When the driver climbed up on the top level of the trailer to shut the window he found several illegal immigrants hiding in the cars. In the next instant people began climbing out of several of the trailered cars and running into The Dry Devil's River.

Sutton County Deputy Oscar Chavez, Texas Troopers Rito Renteria, Earlie Williams, and Cody Cory, Sutton County Game Warden Will Allison and Sonora City Police Officer Dick Dudley responded to the call and the 10 immigrants were soon stopped.

Among the runners was an 11 year old girl, a 14 year old boy, one woman and seven men ranging in age.

All of the suspects were taken to the Sutton County Jail, where they waited for the Border Patrol to pick them up and return them to Mexico.

The driver said that the illegals must have gotten in the truck when he stopped in El Paso, Texas. He was planning to drop the cars in San Antonio, Texas, and was not happy about having to clean all the cars before the dealer would take them.




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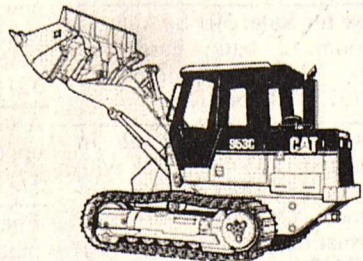
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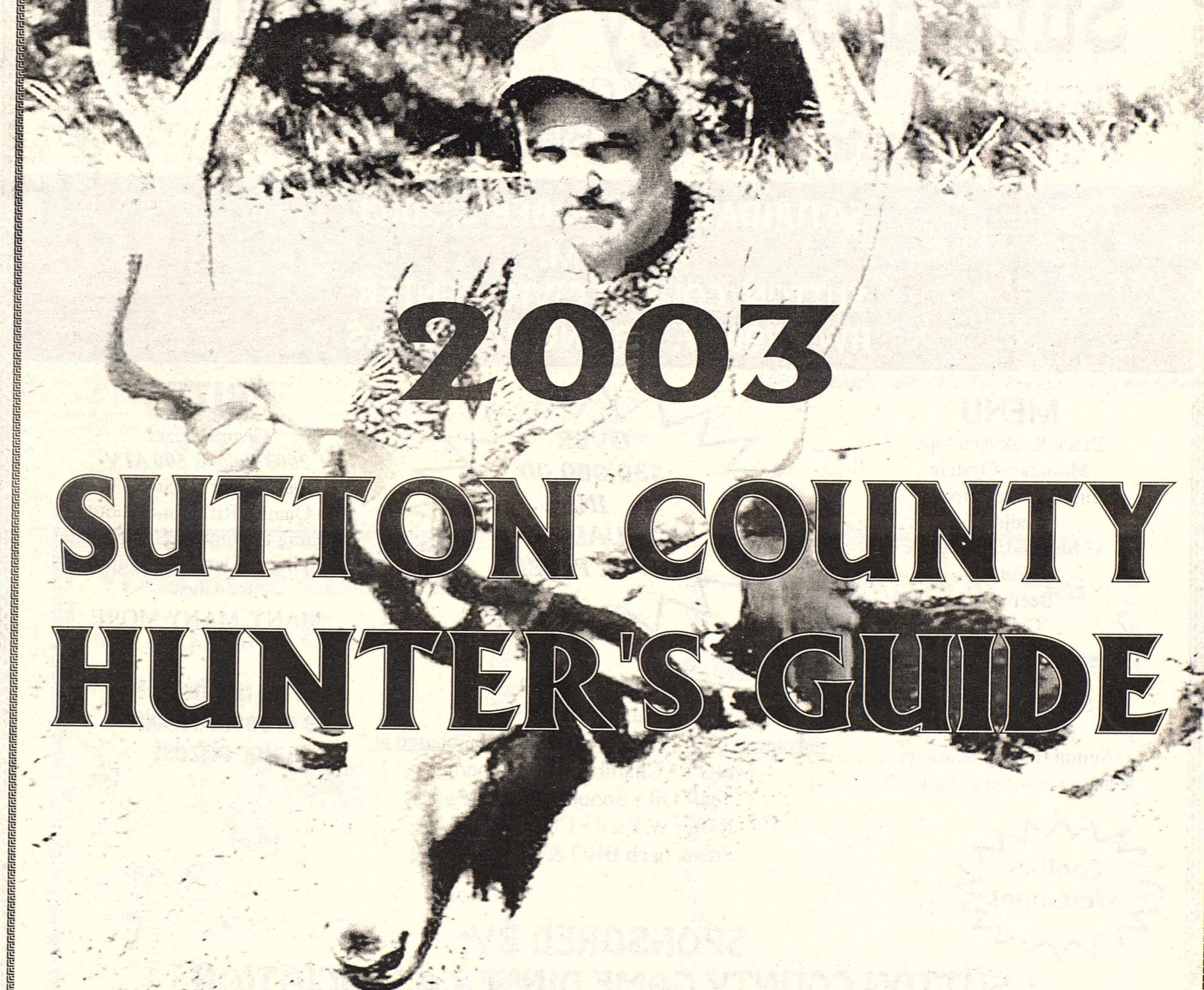
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Remote-Sensing Cameras-- more than just a toy

b-higginbotham@tamu.edu

Overton - Using remote cameras to photograph wildlife dates back almost 100 years according to Dr. Billy Higginbotham, Texas Cooperative Extension wildlife specialist at Overton.

"Of course, those models were big, unreliable and needed trip wires to catch animals on film," he said. "Fast forward to today and most hunters and landowners have at least one remote-sensing camera unit in their hunting arsenal. Recent technology advancements have led to a steady increase in camera availability over the past 20 years. Today, no fewer than 25 manufacturers market 35 mm, digital and video models for hunters and landowners interested in wildlife surveillance."

Higginbotham said initially the cameras were used only to monitor wildlife movements, feeder frequency visits and game trail travel. Most models recorded the date and time of each photograph. The hunter then had an idea when various species were most active.

A Louisiana study 10 years ago showed the cameras' true value for collecting important deer population data. Researchers individually collared bucks and does so all could be individually identified. Cameras were then setup on the

10,000 acre research site at a density of 160 acres per camera. Within two weeks, almost every collared deer was captured on film.

Higginbotham said the Louisiana project proved the remote-sensing cameras could successfully be used to find buck-to-doe ratios, doe to fawn ratios and even estimate deer population densities. A bonus was having photographs of most of the deer on the property.

"The camera units can be used pre-season (September-October) or post-season (January-early February)," said the specialist. "The key is to wait until bucks are out of the velvet in the fall to start the camera count. After the season, the count must end before antler drop begins."

"Cameras should be placed at one per 160 acres on sites pre-baited daily beginning one week in advance. Using 200 or 400 speed film, set cameras to shoot every 15-20 minutes, 24 hours a day. Check them daily to replenish film and fill the feeders. Survey sites don't have to be at established feeders. A five-pound corn pile on the ground works fine if it's maintained daily over the two-week trial."

Higginbotham said those with only one camera and 300 acres can run a two-week trial at one location, then move the camera to

another site on the property for another two weeks. He said this gives the same results but doubles the time the cameras are set up in the field.

Once the trial ends, all photographed deer are classified as bucks, does, fawns or unidentifiable. The ratio of bucks to does photographed provides a buck-to-doe ratio. Similarly, the total doe photos compared to fawns provides a doe-to-fawn ratio.

"To make a population estimate, go back and closely re-examine all the buck photos. Use antler and body characteristics, camera location, date and time to identify individual bucks."

"Once that's done, it should be fairly easy to figure how many bucks are on the property. Then estimate the buck-to-doe and doe-to-fawn ratios to determine a total deer population."

"Many will be dismayed to learn most of their feed is probably being eaten by 'non-target' species like feral hogs and raccoons. Equally frustrating is the fact that most buck photos occur at night! However, as often as not, landowners often 'photo capture' one or more bucks they had no idea they had. When that's the case, then one picture is truly worth 1000 words!"



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Dove Roast

by: Raymond Keener
Serves 3 people
Cook Time: 60 minutes

Ingredients:
20 to 25 dove breast
cut onion
butter
lemon
salt and pepper
meat seasoning
lemon pepper
garlic salt
peeled potatoes
human

Steps:
Make a bowl out of foil large enough to cover the breast.
Place the cleaned breast in the middle of the bowl.
Place a 1/2 stick of butter in the bowl.
Add cut onions.
Add the lemon juice and then leave the halves in also.
Add the spices.
Cut the potatoes and line the bowl.
Cook on the grill till the breasts are done. Make sure that the breasts are wrapped well so that none of the steam is released. Two or three layers are good. The meat will fall off the bone, you can spice to your taste, this was the best experiment I have ever tried. Good luck and happy hunting.

Test Your Deer I.Q.

by Ken Cearley, k-cearley@tamu.edu
With deer season fast approaching, consider what you really know about deer. See how you fare with the following quiz. Answers are at the end (but, don't peek!).

- How many permanent teeth should an adult deer have?
(a) 24 (b) 32 (c) 36 (d) 38
- Where would you look on a buck to find its vomeronasal organ?
(a) base of eye (b) between its hooves (c) scrotum (d) roof of its mouth
- White-tailed and mule deer will interbreed, and the resulting cross is fertile.
True or False
- How many teats does a doe have?
(a) none (b) two (c) four (d) six
- How many parts are there to a deer's stomach?
(a) just one (b) two (c) three (d) four
- Which of the following structures is responsible for the "eyeshine" of a deer when a spotlight illuminates a deer at night?
(a) fovea centralis (b) pineal gland (c) tapetum (d) glandus reflectorus (e) Q-beamus detectus
- What is the gestation period in white-tailed deer?
(a) 205 days (b) 240 days (c) 280 days (d) 310 days
- The metatarsal gland in deer is located about midway between the hoof and the hock on the outside of the leg. What is its function?
(a) alarm notification (b) signals deer's status in the herd (c) produces pheromones involved with the "rut" (d) the function is unknown
- About how many deer are estimated to live in Texas?
(a) 200,000 head (b) 800,000 head (c) 1.8 million head (d) 4 million head
- Which of the following woody plant species provides the most desirable browse for white-tailed deer in Texas?
(a) hackberry (b) shinoak (c) liveoak (d) blueberry cedar

Answers: 1. b 2. d 3. True 4. c 5. d 6. c 7. a 8. d 9. d 10. a

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Sutton County Game Warden Notes

For anyone who hasn't noticed, this hunting season has the makings of a really good one. Just how much rain we've had since May, I can only guess, but it has been more than enough to provide the deer and turkey with a variety of forbs and grasses designed to put the pounds on. In the case of Sutton County's deer population, this has not only translated into heavier-than-average body weights; the antler growth is absolutely superb! In my opinion, this is going to be the year to spend some time in the woods looking for that big buck.

At the time of this writing, I have just returned from taking a young person deer hunting on an area ranch. While staking out one of the ranch's corn feeders, we were able to observe quite a few fat and sassy whitetail deer; however, the deer were not the least bit interested in eating corn. Instead, they were busying themselves by munching on freshly-fallen liveoak acorns and green forbs, chased down by a little browse. Until the cold weather of fall changes the green to brown, a hunter is actually going to have to HUNT if he wants a deer. This, of course, will bring up the question of hunting the rut, that time when those large bucks throw caution to the wind in their search for receptive does. Hunters frequently ask me when the peak of the rut is in Sutton County and I must confess that I really don't know for sure; however, I have noticed quite a bit of rut activity around Thanksgiving in past years, especially when cooler tem-

peratures prevail. Also, keep in mind that deer are more likely to be active on those days when the moon is out.

I wouldn't be doing my job as a Game Warden if I failed to advise you to keep safety foremost in your thoughts and actions while hunting out there. Be familiar with your equipment and sure of your target before taking that shot. Let someone know where you plan to hunt, just in case a situation requiring timely assistance should arise.

Rather than try to cover all of the various game laws that pertain to Sutton and surrounding counties, I would like to refer you to the 2003-2004 Outdoor Annual published by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for that purpose. The booklets are provided free of charge to anyone interested and can be found at any T.P.W.D. office statewide or any of the local businesses which sell hunting licenses. Additionally, the Sonora Chamber of Commerce and the Sutton County Sheriff's Office have each been provided with a supply of these booklets for your use. A little time spent reviewing the information contained in the Outdoor Annual will be time well spent and could prevent a costly error. However, should you have a question regarding the game laws of this State, feel free to flag me down or contact me by phone at (325) 387-5159.

Sutton County is not noted for being a county that tolerates poaching activity, but each year we have a few individuals that persist in doing

things the wrong way none-the-less. Through the active participation of local citizens and law abiding sportsmen, valuable and timely information is provided to the law enforcement officers of this county, all of whom take an active role in supporting the Game Wardens. Should you observe or otherwise become aware of illegal hunting activity, I encourage you to become involved. Don't try to apprehend the bad guys yourself, however, that's my job! Be observant and note such things as vehicle descriptions, license plate numbers, direction of travel, personal clothing, anything that will help us to locate and identify the person who is acting suspiciously. I am often given good information, only to find that the informant delayed too long in reporting the incident. This doesn't necessarily mean that we won't be able to put the pieces together, but it sure increases the odds of the violator getting away with his crime. To report game violations, call my office at (325) 387-5159 at any hour day or night or telephone Operation Game Thief at 1-800-792-GAME. Callers can remain anonymous if they so desire and are eligible for a reward of up to \$1,000 when calling the Operation Game Thief number listed. Stand up and make a difference for our wildlife resources and our own future generations.

Looking forward to visiting with you in camp!
Will W. Allison, Texas Game Warden, Sutton County

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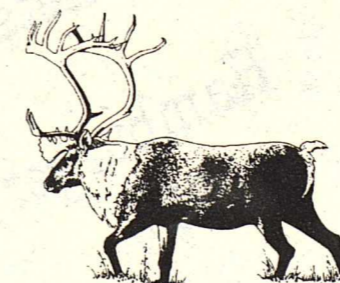
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Hunting is Big Business

b-higginbotham@tamu.edu

OVERTON -- Hunting is a long-standing American tradition, whose roots run especially deep in Texas. Hunting is also big business in Texas and many other states.

Dr. Billy Higginbotham, Texas Cooperative Extension wildlife specialist here, said the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies reported that, nationwide, the sport generated \$25 billion in retail sales, \$17 billion in salaries and wages and employed 575,000 Americans in 2001.

"That year, 13 million Americans age 16 or older took to the fields to hunt," said Higginbotham. "Another 13 million Americans participated in various forms of shooting sports, including sporting clays, trap, skeet and rifle shooting. In Texas alone, 1.2 million hunters spent 14 million days afield in pursuit of game."

"Hunters pay the wildlife management bills for game and non-game species through the Pittman-Robertson Act of 1937. The Act levies an excise tax on sporting arms, ammo, archery equipment and handguns. In 2002, over \$200 million was returned to U.S. states and territories to fund habitat restoration, shooting ranges, hunter education and wildlife research. Texas received over \$7 million of these monies last year alone."

Higginbotham said of the \$25 billion in retail sales spent annually in the United States, Texas ranks first among all states with almost \$1.8 billion spent in 2001. Each U.S. hunter spends an average of \$1,896 per year on their hunting activity. The ripple effect of these expenditures generates three times more than that amount for the national economy.

"Hunting in Texas generates \$864 million in salaries and wages," said the specialist. "The sport creates 31,711 jobs, pays \$93 million in motor fuel sales and taxes and provides \$148 million in federal income tax. Texas deer hunting alone generates almost \$1 billion in retail sales and provides 18,000 jobs. Deer hunting's economic impact reaches far beyond our state's borders. Out-of-state deer hunters spend an estimated \$157 million annually to hunt here."

"Hunting is the lifeblood of many rural Texas towns and cities. Every tank of gas, every sack of groceries and every night's lodging means more dollars pumped into rural areas that are often struggling just to survive."

"Texas landowners rely on lease fees as part of their annual income. Without hunters' dollars, landowners would be forced to consider converting wildlife habitat to less wildlife-friendly purposes to survive these tough economic times."

"If you enjoy watching wildlife, are a non-hunter, or even hate hunting but enjoy seeing a white-tailed deer or a wild turkey, thank a hunter. Hunters are the ones who foot-the-bill so we all can enjoy abundant wildlife."

"Remember - what's good for wildlife is good for hunting—and what's good for hunting is good for our economy!"

Wild Turkey Hors d'oeuvres

by Jerry M.

Ingredients

One de-boned wild turkey skinned and cleaned.

3 eggs

1/8 cup of milk (or less)

10 oz. seasoned bread crumbs.

Mix eggs until well beaten.

Add just enough milk to slightly thin the egg mix. Add dash of salt and pepper if desired. Add peanut oil to a large skillet to cover bottom of pan to approx. 1/4 inch and heat to 375°.

Cut turkey into strips, dip in egg mix until well coated, roll into seasoned bread crumbs; fry until browned, drain and serve.

Note: this is a quick and easy hors d'oeuvres after the hunt when everyone is sitting around telling lies and old war stories.

Dove Delights

By: Gary Dutton

Serves 3 people

Cook Time: 30 minutes

Ingredients:

Dove breasts

Buttermilk

Canjun seasoning

Peanut oil

Jalapeño slices

Flour

Tooth picks

Slice the meat off of the breast. You will have 2 sides of meat about the size of a 50 cent piece.

Take 1 side and put it on the tooth pick, slide a jalapeño slice on next, put the other piece of dove breast on next.

Put in a bowl of buttermilk.

Repeat this until all of the dove breasts on a tooth pick.

Take 2 or 3 cups of flour and season with canjun seasoning.

Roll doves in the flour; be sure to get a good coating on them.

Cook doves in peanut oil at about 325°.

Let cool and put the meat in your mouth and pull the tooth pick out.

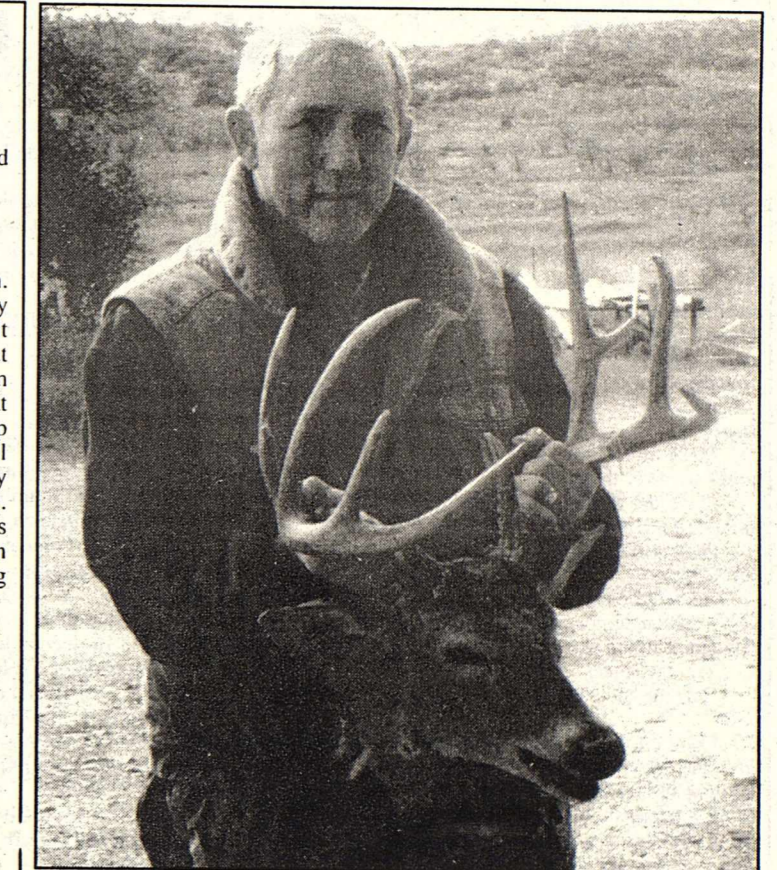


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Feeding Deer- Supplementing or Baiting?

k-cearley@amu.edu
 SAN ANGELO -- Wildlife biologists are often asked, "What and when should I feed the deer?" "Nothing - ever" may well be the answer according to Ken Cearley, Texas Cooperative Extension wildlife associate at San Angelo.

"Usually, the best way to feed deer is to let them find their own groceries on the range," said Cearley. "We can ensure deer are getting adequate nutrients for optimal growth, reproduction and antler development through good land stewardship. This means sound grazing practices and well-planned brush management. Few things are more rewarding to a land manager--and all wildlife managers are land managers-- than knowing his or her efforts have improved the health of the rangeland and the wildlife that live there. The first step then in feeding deer is to have the range in top shape through proper use and proper stocking of livestock and wildlife."

Cearley said land managers with properly stocked range and high quality pasture who still insist on feeding should consider three important factors before proceeding. First, assuming that feeding deer will produce more fawns, the manager must have some means to thin the herd to avoid overstocking. "Too many deer on the rangeland

will cause overuse and degradation of the habitat, in other words, they'll literally eat themselves out of house and home," said Cearley.

"Second, unless 'money is no object', plans must be made to somehow recoup the feeding expense which will be considerable, especially if done year-round. And third, consider the effect of abruptly halting a feeding program if it becomes necessary. Will the deer have become dependent on the supplement for their existence? If so, they will suffer because an artificially high number of deer are present compared to what the habitat alone can support. Simply put, once started, you may become locked-in to a feeding program forever."

Cearley said specific goals must be set before becoming married to a deer feeding program. Bucks with larger and more massive antlers are often a major factor. Sometimes a greater number of fawns are sought. Or the objective might be to help carry the animals through a particularly stressful dry time or extremely cold period. Maybe the need is simply to attract deer for observation or hunting.

"Managers serious about accomplishing their goals should decide whether they want to feed a dietary supplement or just use feed as an attractant or bait," said Cearley. "The two feeding methods

are not the same, and require considerably different feedstuffs.

"True supplementation involves feeding nutrients that are lacking in the diet. These feeds commonly contain sources of energy and/or minerals, and protein. Protein is usually the primary nutrient of concern. A level of 16-20 percent crude protein in the deer diet supplement is generally considered best. There are scores of high quality deer feeds made today that will meet this protein level."

Baiting is what is practiced by many, if not most, Texas deer hunters and many wildlife observers to draw deer within range. Cearley said since shelled corn is highly palatable to deer and is thus a strong attractant, millions of pounds of "deer corn" are sold every year in Texas for these purposes. Over 300 million pounds were reported sold in Texas during 2000 alone. That's six million 50-pound bags.

"If you want to just attract deer and not necessarily increase their nutritional plane, shelled corn will probably fill the bill," said Cearley.

"Avoid using corn to fill a large portion of the deer's diet because it's basically a source of starch, or energy, and it's woefully short on protein and mineral content.

"White-tailed deer are ruminants, meaning they have a four-chambered stomach like a cow.

They eat, until the rumen (the first chamber) is full, then bed down and ruminate, or chew the cud-- regurgitated rumen contents--and swallow again.

"Their digestive system requires at least an 8 percent protein level to enable the rumen's digestive bacteria to break down the plant material for further digestion. Corn's protein content isn't high enough to maintain rumen function. Corn is a high energy feed. It's good for boosting deer through extraordinarily stressful periods, such as

extreme cold."

All things considered, Cearley feels balancing a well-managed habitat with a proper stocking rate is the most gratifying and cost-effective way to provide for a deer herd's dietary needs. He warns managers who remain convinced that supplemental deer feeding is advantageous to carefully weigh all the options and consequences they'll face before ordering that first truck-load of feed.



Chacho Cahill got this Diamond Buck- TGR, in the 2002/2003 Season, 185+ (Durst Ranch). Photo courtesy of Ft. McKavett Ranch

Parks and Wildlife observations for 2003-2004

by *Mary Humphrey, Game Biologist*

Mother Nature has finally decided to smile upon us again with decent rain showers, favorable range conditions, and healthy wildlife populations. Although climatic conditions have confounded several wildlife issues throughout the year, this hunting season may well turn out to be one of the best in a long while.

To recap conditions from last hunting season: An estimated 5,570 hunters in Sutton County last year harvested approximately 3,700 bucks and 1,900 does (TPWD statewide harvest survey data). In general, antler conditions turned out to be better than average, and older age class bucks in the harvest were the norm rather than the exception. There did seem to be an over-abundance of spike bucks in certain areas, most likely a result of high fawn crops in those areas from 2001. The relatively low doe harvest last year was the second lowest (lowest in 2001) of their estimated population since 1984. This was most likely due to the does not coming in to feeding stations due to the wet, green range conditions we experienced all through the end of 2002 (and in 2001). Early winter was mild with lots of forbs on the ground and mesquite leaves hanging on until mid-December. Body

conditions were good for both sexes, but bucks showed exceptionally heavy body weights most likely attributable to the mild winter and good range conditions.

So how does 2003 shape up? Decent range conditions from winter 2002 carried throughout the beginning of 2003 with the help of some light scattered showers and snows and overcast, cloudy days. Conditions faltered slightly with the occurrence of a couple of late frosts that set already-budding vegetation back at inopportune moments twice in their early growing cycle. Then we experienced a drying spell for a few months leading into early summer. Throughout the remainder of the year, rain showers have fallen at opportune moments for some, and for others the rains did not enhance range conditions until this fall period.

How has all this affected our animal populations? For you Rio Grande turkey lovers, drying range conditions that ruined many early nests hampered the initial nesting period. A few hens apparently nested early enough, in wet enough conditions however, to hatch out their original clutch. Once the scattered rains started falling again in May and June then other hens nested and hatched out what many confused as a second clutch. Those late spring rains were rather spotty across the region and so was the

resultant hatch. Tall grasses in many areas and the mid-season hatch (resulting in small birds to be ferreted out of the tall grasses) confounded survey efforts but the overall Edwards Plateau survey results showed 3.82 poults per broody hen with 12% of the hens in the population having poults. An encouraging figure that was realized from the surveys was the estimate of 0.50 gobblers per hen (last high of 0.65 gobbs per hen in 1999) meaning that there are many areas with equal numbers of males and females.

For you white-tailed deer lovers, range conditions throughout all last winter and in those places that have received adequate rains thus far, were such that the resultant antler growth this year should be as close to phenomenal as we can get in this region. Recent survey efforts for Sutton County have yielded an estimated population at 9 acres per deer with a composition of 1 buck per 1.98 does and a good indicator fawn segment of 0.65 fawns per doe. A general composition of the population is 23% bucks, 47% does, and 30% fawns. The really good fawn population this year is attributable to the long rut experienced last winter. The initial rut last season snuck in during the last two weeks of November and might have occurred before some hunters realized it was happening -- according to comments at the local locker

plants. A second rut occurred during the latter part of December, and according to some late births this year (and probably a factor of the mild winter), another rut including female yearlings and fawns most likely occurred during late January/early February. It appears that we may be headed into similar conditions this year -- keep on the lookout for an initial rut during mid-to-late November. Remember the late frosts in early spring? They evidently set the live oaks and shin oaks back to the point that acorn production this year has been spotty at best but most likely non-existent in most places.

For you quail and dove lovers -- most likely your dove hunt this season opener was very disappointing -- reminders of 2002. A combination of the wonderful rains that we received just before the season opened and the several early cool fronts that blew through this area confounded their normal habits of hanging around the water holes. Keep the late season (December 26, 2003 - January 4, 2004) in mind as it might turn up some interesting hunting -- it did this past season. Blue and bobwhite quail numbers are at an all-time high this year -- not much hunting utilization of these birds in this area as they tend to be more a nostalgic figure than anything else -- but again, range conditions have been such for these galli-

naceous birds that they have reproduced numbers well above average.

On the CWD (Chronic Wasting Disease) front, as of July this year there have been a total of approximately 2,100 deer specimens submitted and tested at the Texas A&M Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory for the disease since this time last year. Approximately 1,700 samples were submitted through the Texas Parks and Wildlife from hunter-killed deer taken on State Wildlife Management Areas, a few samples from private-lease hunter-killed deer, landowner requests for clinical specimens to be tested, and road-kills. The other 400 samples were submitted by private individuals as clinical specimens and in conjunction with gaining clearance for the Trap, Transport, and Transfer permit from the department. Since July approximately 200 more samples have been submitted from all entities and all specimens submitted thus far have tested negative for CWD. This year the department will approach sampling strategies on a more widespread basis. We would like to attain a good geographic dispersion of samples and branch further out onto private property. The statewide goal is to access samples from 3,000 deer. We will be requesting more samples from hunter-killed deer at local

See TPWD page 6

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Hunting and the Changing Face of Texas

Dr. Billy Higginbotham
b-higginbotham@tamu.edu

OVERTON -- What is the future of hunting in Texas and how is our population going to impact that future? Those are questions frequently pondered by Dr. Billy Higginbotham, Texas Cooperative Extension wildlife specialist at Overton.

"Demography, the study of the size, distribution and characteristics of a human population, paints an interesting portrait of our state," said Higginbotham. "The population of Texas is changing at a rapid rate, and these changes will surely impact hunting and how all Texans perceive the sport in the 21st century. "The major demographic trends affecting the future of Texas include changes in the rates and sources of population growth, increase in minorities and changes in household composition. Each of these trends also promises to impact hunting's future."

The specialist said over the past 150 years, Texas' population has grown from slightly over 200,000 to about 20 million. More Texans means less wildlife habitat. Fully 80% of Texans live in urban areas. Suburbs gobble up vast amounts of wildlife habitat and related hunting areas.

"Our population has increased," said Higginbotham, "but our hunting population has dropped from about 8 percent in 1970 to around 6 per-

cent today. Our total hunter numbers have stabilized at around one million. Our overall population is increasing, but it's clear our hunter numbers are not."

Aging is another factor Higginbotham said is working against hunting. The average hunter was 36 years old 25 years ago. Today, he's closer to 42. The specialist said there aren't enough young hunters joining the sport to replace those who retire from the activity.

"The face of Texas is also changing," said Higginbotham. "Ethnically, Texas hunters are 94 percent Anglo, 3 percent Hispanic and less than 2 percent African-American. By 2030, Texas will be 36 percent Anglo, 10 percent African-American and 46 percent Hispanic. This represents a significant decline in the ethnicity that has traditionally made up the vast majority of hunters."

"The average Texas household also has implications for the future of hunting. The sport has traditionally been a male-dependent, kinship-linked sport. Almost a third of Texas households are non-traditional family units, with 15 percent of all households headed by single parents. Of these, almost 80 percent are headed by women - a traditional non-hunting segment of the population."

"Today's hunters are 93 percent male. Historically, males have par-

ticipated in hunting with fathers, friends or sons. Females typically hunt with fathers, brothers or their spouses. The increase in non-traditional family units and single parent households has certainly impacted the recruitment rate of youth into hunting."

The specialist said such other factors as lease costs, game scarcity and having no place to hunt are cited as reasons why hunters quit the sport. The high dollar commitment and competition for time from other outdoor recreational activities have also served as hunting deterrents for many Texans.

A recent survey the specialist referred to, revealed that fully one-third of Texas' citizens have no interest in hunting.

To stem the tide away from hunting, Higginbotham said a "Future of Hunting Think Tank" has recently been formed to address the problems, trends and solutions facing the sport. He feels proactive efforts like the Think Tank and aggressive statewide youth educational programs are positive steps that must be taken to educate Texans about hunting and its role in the 21st century.

"Hunting has been an important part of our Texas heritage and remains an important part of the Texas economy," said Higginbotham. "Of the estimated \$1.4 billion dollars hunting generates toward our economy, half is

spent in rural areas. If hunting is to survive well into the 21st century, concerted efforts must be made to recruit new hunters into the sport, including youth, females and

minorities and to educate the non-hunting public on the role and importance hunting has in our state."

TPWD from page 5

locker plants and will accept samples from individual properties as long as the sample numbers don't exceed our sampling scheme and quotas. As last year, samples will still be accepted from hunter-killed deer taken on Wildlife Management Areas, requests from landowners for deer exhibiting clinical signs, and road-kills to assure we meet our posted quotas. Parks and Wildlife would like to make it clear that we are trying to truly identify that there is no indication of CWD in Texas. We feel it is prudent to be actively looking for the disease in order to protect the integrity of the natural resources of Texas and the rural economies that rely so heavily on those resources.

There have been many confounding factors this past year leading up to our current natural situations, and there will be many more this year. When will the rut actually occur (good year, good range conditions, long rut...), will those animals come to supplemental feed (or will they stay just out of reach), did our property get adequate rainfall throughout the year (or did we

end up on the wrong side of the dust devil), will I get a look at that big buck (or will he be off chasing a doe that won't come into the feeder....)? Don't let these confounding factors deter your hunting experiences this year or your quest for enjoyment of the natural world. Let's do hope that our better range and climatic conditions are the beginning of the cycle again where periodic rains bring about good animal and range conditions, and that tomorrow is not the beginning of the next drought.

And as always: The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department is still hosting the Texas Big Game Awards Program for youth entries, first big game harvest entries and scored entries on white-tailed deer, mule deer and pronghorn antelope. For official scoring, more information about our game species in Sutton County, or concerns about CWD, please contact TPWD Game Biologist Mary Humphrey in Sonora at 325-387-5539.

Venison Quality Depends on the Hunter

b-higginbotham@tamu.edu

OVERTON -- Has the cook banned all venison from your home's kitchen?

There are lots of reasons why people don't like venison, but the truth is, the decisions the hunter makes in the field influence venison quality more than what occurs in the kitchen.

Dr. Billy Higginbotham, Texas Cooperative Extension wildlife specialist here, said venison is a quality red meat, rich in protein and low in fat. He said over 11 million pounds of boneless venison are brought home every year.

Higginbotham said how the deer is handled prior to the kill and until its meat is eaten should be the prime concern when it comes to human health issues and culinary excellence.

"The hunter's role in venison quality begins with the animal harvested," said Higginbotham. "A Texas A&M University taste panel found most participants preferred doe venison. That doesn't mean buck venison is low in quality. It simply means a female animal provides less flavor intensity."

"Shot placement is another factor influencing quality that's controlled by the hunter. Hunters should ensure a clean rapid kill. This reduces stress on the animal and is the ethical responsibility of every hunter."

Higginbotham said deer should be tagged immediately and field-

dressed as soon as possible. Any method allowing clean removal of all viscera is acceptable. Immediate field-dressing also facilitates rapid carcass cooling.

"Wear latex gloves when field dressing any big game for added safety," said the specialist. "Debone all meat before freezing and don't eat the brain, spinal cord, eyes, tonsils, lymph nodes, or spleen."

"Once field dressing is complete, the hunter is faced with a decision. If cold storage facilities are used, the animal should be refrigerated with the skin on to help conserve moisture."

"If the whole carcass is going home after cold storage, keep it covered to protect it from the drying effects of sun and wind and to prevent contamination from dirt or insects. Large frozen water bottles or gallon milk jugs placed inside the body cavity will help keep the deer cool on the trip home if the weather is warm."

"If the decision is made to skin the deer at camp, the hide is easiest to remove while the animal is still warm. Skinning also helps cool the carcass faster."

"Once skinned, the carcass should be hung in a shady spot and allowed to cool. If insects are a problem, cover the cooled carcass with a fly-proof bag."

"In warm weather, quarter and store the meat in coolers with frozen ice bottles. There's no need

to wash the carcass unless the abdominal cavity was pierced during shot placement. Added moisture may even enhance bacterial activity, so drain any water that accumulates in the ice chests."

Higginbotham said most of Texas' deer season is too warm to let deer hang outside. Daytime temperatures in the 70s and 80s cause spoilage or loss of venison quality.

In warm weather, the specialist recommends skinning the carcass immediately after field dressing if refrigeration is impossible. Once the carcass has cooled, quarter and chill it in a cooler with several large frozen water bottles. This requires an extra cooler containing the frozen bottles. As the bottled ice melts, the water stays in the bottle instead of soaking into the meat. Venison can be safely kept for several days if the cooler is shaded and the bottles are changed daily.

Correctly prepared venison can be stored in a refrigerator for up to a week after the kill if a more intense flavor similar to aged beef is preferred.

"Home processing consists of first removing tenderloins from inside the body cavity beneath the hams," said Higginbotham. "Next, remove the backstraps and muscle out the hams for steaks and roasts. Trimmings from the shoulders, neck and ribs may be used for stews or ground for burger or sausage."

"Wrapping venison cuts properly is the final step before freezing.

Wrap each cut in cling wrap removing as much air as possible to prevent freezer burn. Then wrap the meat in freezer paper and label the package with the name of the cut and date. Normally, venison wrapped in this manner can be stored for up to a year and still be of high quality."

To prepare venison for the table, Higginbotham recommends the cuts be thawed in the refrigerator or defrosted in a microwave. Never thaw them in water or allow cuts to sit at room temperature for extended periods.

Since venison is a low fat red meat, Higginbotham said to prepare it using a moist cooking method such as braising, stewing or pot roasting. If fat is present on the cut, remove it before cooking.

"If the recipe calls for a marinade, try vinegar, tomato sauce or Italian dressing," he said. "Venison has short muscle fibers that toughen quickly if overcooked or cooked at too high a temperature which defeats the purpose of marination."

"On your next hunting trip treat venison like the top quality meat product it is. A little consideration, care and preparation on the front end can lead to some of the best table fare possible after the hunt has become a memory. Besides, proper care and preparation may also help you regain any status you may have lost in the kitchen!"

Sweet & Sour Venison

- 1 - 2 lbs. deer steak sliced in strips
- 3 sliced onions
- 1 small bottle catsup
- 10-15 shakes Tabasco sauce
- 1Tbs Worcestershire sauce
- 1Tbs vinegar
- 2 tsp. mustard
- Brown sugar
- Cooked noodles

DREDGE strips of deer meat in flour, salt and pepper.

BROWN meat in skillet with onions.

REMOVE meat from skillet and make GRAVY - may have to add water.

PLACE meat mixture in casserole dish.

ADD catsup, Tabasco sauce, Worcestershire, vinegar, mustard.

COVER with brown sugar BAKE AT 325° for 1 HOUR. SERVE over noodles.

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No Bean Deer Chili

by: Steven Gough

* Serve with crackers, or over hot dog topped with cheddar cheese and chopped onions or great with nachos and cheese.

Serves 4 people
Cook Time: 60 minutes

- Ingredients:**
- 1 lb. ground deer
 - 1 lb. ground chuck
 - 1 cup V8 juice
 - 1 6 oz. can tomato paste
 - 1 med. onion chopped
 - 1 small green pepper chopped
 - 1 can whole tomatoes smashed with the juice
 - 1 tsp. salt
 - 1/2 tsp. black pepper
 - 1Tbs garlic powder
 - 1/4 cup salsa
 - 2 Tbs chili powder

Brown meats, drain and place in food processor to grind small, add to dutch oven

Add onion, green pepper, salt, pepper, garlic powder and chili powder. Mix well.

Then add V8 juice, tomato paste and smashed tomatoes with juice and salsa.

Simmer on med high heat for at least an hour.

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Joining lands

by: Dr. Byron Wright,
bdwright@ag.tamu.edu

UVALDE -- Dr. Byron Wright, Texas Cooperative Extension's Uvalde-based wildlife specialist, is big on names. He believes a name should have some meaning behind it.

One word packing plenty of meaning for Wright is the term "co-op" whose root stems from the word "cooperation". Wright said there is a type of co-op that's becoming increasingly popular in Texas that may improve the state's deer hunting. He said wildlife co-op's are gaining in popularity with small acreage landowners as a way to enhance the quality of deer taken from their property.

"No matter what the name wildlife co-op means to you, there is no way to side-step the underlying concept which makes it work, and that is 'cooperation,'" said Wright.

"Wildlife habitat is becoming increasingly fragmented and land use has changed tremendously over the years. Much of this change does not bode well for wildlife. Ask any wildlife biologist what the leading threat to wildlife is and you'll likely hear 'loss of habitat'. Unfortunately, it's true. As large tracts of land are fragmented and habitats become 'tamer', wildlife suffers and management becomes more complicated.

"As a wildlife specialist, I am frequently called by landowners with small land parcels who want to produce quality deer like those the larger ranches are capable of harvesting. After I have spent some time on their place talking about carrying capacity, deer home range sizes, hunting pressure and a variety of other issues, reality sets in. It becomes obvious that deer management gets tough on small, low-fenced places."

"There can be some real benefits from 'joining lands,'" according to Wright. "There are a lot of wildlife co-operatives out there that are making a successful go of it. It doesn't appear that these cooperative hunting programs will be going by the wayside anytime soon. After all, deer don't care who owns the property, they don't care who bought the bulk feed or planted the forage plots. They go wherever they can make a living. That might be off

your place and on your neighbor's. A real disappointment for small parcel landowners is having to watch a nice, young buck jump the fence and meet their demise next door." Wright said many people would like to high fence their place to address this problem. But, with high fence running upwards of \$15,000 a mile, it could take as much as \$60,000 dollars to fence 640 acres. He feels that co-ops can be a viable alternative for landowners that cannot afford the cost of high fencing.

Wright said wildlife co-ops are a way for small acreage landowners to band together. They can develop a set of common goals and objectives and enjoy the success of managing wildlife on a much larger scale than they could separately. But, he warns, with a name depicting cooperation, it's going to take perseverance, flexibility and communication.

"Texas Parks and Wildlife (TP&W) has certainly provided an incentive to engage in co-ops by offering reduced hunting lease license fees to active co-op participants," said Wright. "TP&W also offers technical guidance upon written request. An additional resource for wildlife co-ops is the Texas Organization of Wildlife

Management Associations (TOWMA). A state-wide, parent organization for wildlife co-ops, TOWMA is designed 'to promote coordination between members of wildlife cooperatives by providing a forum for exchange of ideas and information'. This forum helps maintain interest among existing co-ops and provides support for establishing new associations. TOWMA currently represents over 60 wildlife management associations in 33 Texas counties. Co-op landowners currently total more than 3,000 and control more than 1.5 million acres of the Texas landscape."

Wright said wildlife co-ops are not a panacea. They're also not for every landowner. He warned they do have their down side just like all other endeavors nevertheless, they have proven to be a successful alternative to some of the small acreage deer management woes commonly encountered.

To learn more about wildlife co-ops, log onto <http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/> and read the publication titled "A Guide for Wildlife Management Associations and Co-ops". For further information also contact Texas Parks and Wildlife or your local County Extension Agent.

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How much do you know about Feral Hogs?

Got feral hogs on your hunting lease? If not, they're probably heading your way. With a population of almost two million and rising, there only seems to be two kinds of land in Texas--that with feral hogs, and those that are about to have them! Take this quiz and test your I.Q. on this critter some hate and some love, but no doubt one that's here to stay:

- Hogs were first brought into what is now the United States by: a) Hernando de Soto in 1539 b) Christopher Columbus in 1492 c) A disillusioned wildlife biologist in 1937
- Feral hogs, Russian boars and their crosses exist in how many states? a) 12 b) 22 c) 31
- The feral hog is classified as a game animal in: a) Texas b) California c) New Mexico
- Feral hogs are carriers of swine brucellosis and pseudorabies. a) True b) False

5. Average feral hog litter size is: a) 4-6 b) 8-10 c) 12-14

6. Feral hogs and javelina are closely related. a) True b) False

7. Legal control methods for feral hogs in Texas include: a) hunting b) trapping c) toxicants d) catch dogs

8. What is a hog shield? a) a particular hog family's coat of arms b) a thick brush hide-away for hogs c) a tough shoulder hide

9. Should I stock feral hogs on my property? a) absolutely b) absolutely not c) only if you want to win the admiration of surrounding landowners

10. What are some good baits to attract feral hogs to traps? a) soured corn b) horse and mule feed c) raspberry flavored jello d) all of the above

Answers: 1. a, 2. b, 3. b, 4. a, 5. a, 6. b, 7. a, b, d, 8. c, 9. b, 10. d

Whitetail Myths

You can tell buck tracks from doe tracks because a buck drags his feet more.

There's no way to determine if tracks were made by a buck or a doe. Either may leave drag marks. However, if the tracks are noticeably larger than other tracks in the area, chances are they're from a buck.

Trophy bucks are the most elusive deer.

Trophy bucks are no more elusive than does of the same age. They're seldom seen because there aren't many of them. Antlerless deer usually outnumber antlered deer at least 2 to 1, and only about 5 percent of these have a stand-out rack.

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TPWD deer population surveys for Sutton Co.

by **Mary Humphrey, Game Biologist**

Wildlife personnel with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department recently completed annual deer population surveys here in Sutton County. The survey lines, located throughout the county, yielded an estimate of 111 deer to every 1,000 acres of deer habitat or about 101,800 deer countywide. Composition of the overall deer herd in Sutton County is at 1.98 does per buck with a relatively high fawn segment of 65 fawns per 100 does observed. In relation to percentages that gives Sutton County a composition of 23% bucks, 47% does, and 30% fawns. Much like last season, overall buck antler quality is expected to be relatively decent this year, with better antler characteristics being expressed in those areas that experienced better rainfall patterns through the late spring and summer months earlier this year. Much needed widespread rains have recently added some green-up to the pastures and should bring on some winter weeds to augment the poor acorn crop currently falling. That spotty to non-existent acorn crop currently has deer utilizing supplemental feeders, but continued mild weather conditions, onset of winter weeds, and another expected long active rut may create confounded hunting circumstances. This year in Sutton County the

standard gun deer season opens on Saturday, November 1, and runs through Sunday, January 4, 2004. Sutton County will also participate in the special, late, 2-week antlerless and spike season (no fork-antlered bucks allowed during the special late season) that will open Monday, January 5, and run through Sunday, January 18, 2004. This late rifle season replaces the previously listed muzzleloader season; however, muzzleloaders may be used during any of the other regular firearm seasons. The bag limit for Sutton County regarding white-tailed deer will be 5 deer again this year, no more than 2 antlered bucks in the bag, all seasons combined. Doe permits or special doe tags will not be issued nor required to harvest antlerless deer here in the Edwards Plateau during regular seasons. Hunters will need only the appropriate tag off of their hunting license, or a Bonus Tag where applicable, and landowner permission to bag doe or antlerless deer in Sutton and the other 'either-sex' counties this year.

After reviewing the results of the recent white-tailed deer population surveys, local wildlife personnel are recommending that Sutton County landowners harvest deer according to the following recommendations:

For those properties located in

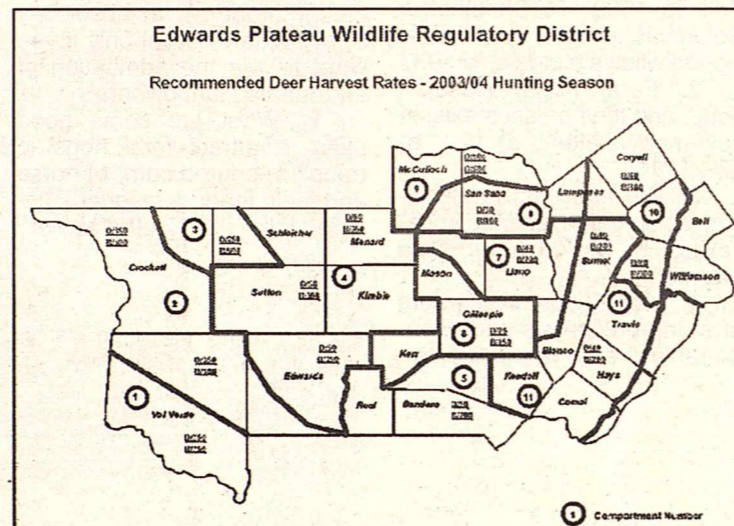
Sutton County – the recommended harvest rate on bucks is 1 buck per 350-400 acres and the recommended harvest rate on does is 1 doe per 50-75 acres.

[These recommended rates may not be suitable for all properties located in Sutton County. Some areas may need to vary their harvest rates from this recommendation according to those localized deer populations and how they have survived and proliferated (or not) according to the range conditions experienced due to the drought over the past several years. High fawn crops this year will help bolster near-future populations, but in those areas with high deer numbers the resultant harvest might need to be increased to offset the recruitment of these young into the population.]

These recommended rates derived from survey lines located in this and several other surrounding counties. Therefore, the recommended rates may not be completely suitable for each individual ranch in the county. In general, if your acreage shows signs of

overpopulation (a lack of brush and weeds available at and just above ground level, less than optimal deer weights and poor quality buck antler development within each age class, low fawn survival, etc.), then you probably need to harvest your deer population at a higher rate and/or reduce livestock grazing pressure by reducing numbers or rotating your stock among your pastures. On the other hand, if you have good deer habitat and an adequate supply of quality deer foods available, but seem to be short of deer numbers, then possibly you should harvest at a lighter rate than that recommended for the county.

Landowners interested in closely managing their local deer herd need to conduct their own on-site fall population surveys, with resulting harvest recommendations that meet their specific management objectives. Texas Parks and Wildlife Department wildlife personnel are available to assist with more specific wildlife management recommendations for individual tracts of land. Please contact Game Biologist Mary Humphrey in Sonora at 387-5539 for more information on wildlife concerns in Sutton, Crockett, or Schleicher counties.



Feral Hogs: The Good, The Bad or The Ugly?

b-higginbotham@tamu.edu

OVERTON -- The early Spanish explorer Hernando de Soto didn't realize the impact feral hogs would have on Texas when he dropped off the first few way back in 1539. Things haven't been quite the same since, according to Dr. Billy Higginbotham, Texas Cooperative Extension wildlife specialist here.

"When it comes to feral hogs, one thing's for sure, there's no middle ground - 'Texans' either love 'em or hate 'em," said Higginbotham.

Hog numbers today range between 1 and 2 million in the Lone Star State alone. That figure gives Texas the dubious honor of being America's feral hog capital, easily surpassing any of the 30 states where wild hogs roam.

Higginbotham said there are 23 recognized feral hog subspecies worldwide. In Texas, feral hogs are descendants of domesticated hogs gone wild, Eurasian wild boars, or a cross between the two.

"Feral hogs now inhabit every county in the state, with the exceptions of the extreme western Trans-Pecos and western Panhandle," said Higginbotham. "It's safe to say there are just two kinds of landowners - those with feral hogs and those who are about to have them!"

"The Texas feral hog invasion has occurred due to range expansion of this prolific critter and indiscriminate stockings. Hog releases in one area quickly result

in moves to adjoining properties. The resultant damage usually ends in hard feelings between neighbors. It is illegal to catch and re-release feral swine onto another property unless they test negative for swine brucellosis and pseudorabies.

"Many landowners hate the thought of feral hogs on their properties because of crop and ranch facility damage, livestock depredation, disease transmission and competition for food with livestock and wildlife."

On the flip-side, Higginbotham said, many hunters see feral hogs as an extremely popular game species.

A Texas Cooperative Extension survey indicated hog hunters paid in a range of \$25-\$1000 for a hog hunt with the average price paid being \$169. "This represents a real opportunity for those landowners already locked in a battle to reduce hog populations," said Higginbotham.

"Along with the hunting dollar, commercial hunters using dogs and trappers often sell live hogs to buyers across the state who process the animals for the restaurant trade. Prices are over 50 cents per pound for large hogs in some parts of Texas."

Hunting activity is concentrated in the state's most heavily hog-populated areas, according to Higginbotham. These include the Pineywoods, northern Post Oak Savannah, Hill Country, South Texas and the Rolling Plains. Hog hunting is especially popular among

bow hunters and black powder enthusiasts, although most are still taken with deer rifles of .25 caliber or larger.

Feral hogs do reach weights in excess of 300 pounds, but more commonly, weights average 100-150 pounds.

The specialist said a bit of knowledge about the biology and habits of feral hogs can improve hunting success. "Hogs are extremely intelligent animals with a keen sense of smell," he said. "Whenever possible, hunt into the wind to avoid detection. Many deer hunters are amazed at just how hard they can be to outwit."

"Feral hogs are solitary animals. They generally don't associate with other hogs except during breeding seasons. The females and their offspring usually travel together in groups called 'sounders'."

"Hogs usually prefer moist areas in extremely dense cover during daylight hours. They are usually nocturnal during summer's heat. During the winter though, hogs may become more active during the daytime as they search for food. Hunting pressure can result in a hog population that is rarely seen during daylight hours, regardless of the season."

"Hunters can stack the odds in their favor by learning to identify hog sign. Fresh wallows in wet areas say hogs are in the area."

"Hog rubs that leave mud against power lines, fence posts or

trees are another tip-off that hogs are nearby. Like white-tails, hogs are creatures of habit. Crossings under fences can be located by looking for the coarse hog-hair left on fence wires."

Higginbotham said the increasing popularity of using infrared-triggered cameras near feeders or on game trails also provides positive evidence of recent hog activity.

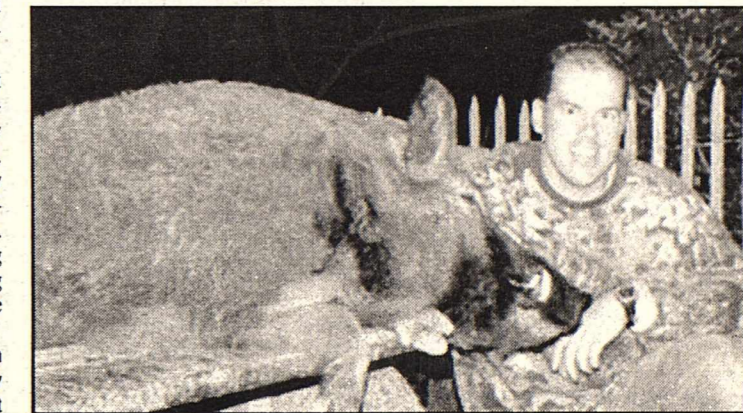
He said most hogs are hunted from a stand placed near a corn feeder. Stalking makes for an exciting hunt as well, but both techniques require the hunter to stay downwind or they will be detected before the hogs are ever seen.

Hogs should be field-dressed with the same techniques used for

white-tailed deer. Rubber gloves should be worn during processing for health reasons.

"Hog hunting fun doesn't end with the kill," said Higginbotham. "Prepared properly, feral hog makes excellent table fare. In fact, wild pig cooking contests have become regular and popular events in more than a few Texas communities."

"If you have never challenged your hunting skills by pursuing the feral hog, make plans for a hunt in the near future. Hog-hunting season is always open and hog hunters are almost always welcomed by landowners overrun by this controversial 'new' Texan."



This pig was killed on Nov 9, 2002 by Gus Polonis while hunting deer on his parents' property 11 miles south of the Sonora Caverns off SCR 410.

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Tips for Field Judging Antlers

bdwright@ag.tamu.edu

UVALDE -- "How big is he? Will he make the record book? I think he'll go 160, no wait a minute, maybe 155."

These are the questions racing through a hunter's mind when field judging the quality of a live buck's antlers in a hunting situation, according to Dr. Byron Wright, Texas Cooperative Extension wildlife specialist at Uvalde. "There are standards for what constitutes a 'record book buck'," he said.

"The Boone and Crockett Club has long been recognized as the big game records keeping authority for

North America. True, there are some other very fine organizations across the U.S. that keep their own record books, but Boone and Crockett is still the most widely recognized. Their standards say a typical whitetail deer must score 160 inches to make the awards category and 170 inches for the all-time category. Non-typical white-tailed deer must score 185 for awards and 195 for all-time.

"Assuming you have the basics down for scoring white-tailed deer, let's discuss a few tips you may find helpful when sizing up that trophy buck as he sneaks up to your feeder. Time is a problem when judging

antlers 'on the hoof' and snap judgements often have to do. If you have time, try to separate the buck's rack into sections and then mentally add up the values. For example, if each main beam looks about 17 inches long, the total would be 34 inches. Then mentally figure his 'G1s' or brow tines, multiply by two and move on to the rack's 'G3s' and so on.

"The truth is, it doesn't do much good to guess antler scores if you never check your accuracy against known scores," according to Wright. There are a few easy tricks that will help you determine whether a prospective buck will measure up to your expectations.

"When a buck is standing broadside with his profile to you, look at his main beams. If they

reach past the tip of his nose, he's likely to be a nice buck. Some bucks' main beams sweep in such a way that they may be long and still not clear his nose. But if they do I'd say they are at least 20 inches long.

"What about tine length? One approach is to find some standard of measurement and use that as a gauge. Train yourself to identify what eight inches looks like at a distance and then decide if the tine is eight inches or half that long."

Wright said antler mass is another prime consideration trophy hunters consider. He said there are some techniques for judging live-deer antler mass through your weapon's cross-hairs, but these tactics are less than satisfactory. According to Wright: "...when a buck has good antler mass, you'll know it!"

Wright said the spread of a deer's rack is one of its most endearing qualities. He said the animal's antler spread always looks greater from behind. "If that's the only view you get, be prepared, he may not be as wide as you think," said Wright. "Tip-to-tip ear spread on a white-tailed deer in Texas can run from 12 to 16 inches depending on the deer's size, and how he's holding his ears. Ear spread certainly varies across the state, but 13-14 inches is probably accurate for most of our bucks. Mentally measure the buck's spread by comparing the rack's inside width to the tip-to-tip spread of the buck's ears."

So, what characteristics are most important when making a scoring evaluation? Wright said if the hunter is dealing with a main frame 10-point buck, total tine length is probably going to be the prime scoring factor, or about 35 percent of the total score.

He said main-beam length is likely to be second with its contribution being about 30%. Circumference should contribute about 20% of the overall score.

"The spread of the antlers is usually the least important factor," said Wright. "While often impressive and attractive, spread will not likely provide more than about 15% of the total score."

"When you're in a hunting situation, the question remains, 'how big is he?' When the time comes, you'll have to be the judge. But whether he's a Boone and Crockett record or just another nice buck, there will always be other intangible factors beyond good antlers that make that particular buck a 'trophy' for you."



Frank Davis and Dean Dermody of Double D Ranches measure a rack in the field. Photo courtesy of Double D Ranches

Hunters use caution when feeding corn to wildlife

nwilkins@tamu.edu

COLLEGE STATION – Texas hunters and wildlife enthusiasts feed almost 300 million pounds of corn to deer and other wildlife annually, unfortunately, they may be doing much more harm than good.

Dr. Neal Wilkins, Texas Cooperative Extension wildlife specialist here, said the danger comes from naturally occurring toxins that occasionally turn up in corn.

"You just need to be careful when buying and storing corn to be fed to wildlife," he said. "The Texas corn crop has been plagued with compounds called mycotoxins for the past five years. The most prevalent of these are aflatoxin and fumonisin."

Wilkins said Aflatoxin is a byproduct of two naturally occurring fungi, *Aspergillus flavus* and *Aspergillus parasiticus*; while fumonisin is produced by certain strains of another species of common fungi, *Fusarium moniliforme*.

He said Aflatoxin infestations occur during drought. They're found in insect and drought-damaged corn kernels. Fumonisin develops under overcast skies and in humid conditions. There are actually areas in Texas where corn tests high for both toxins due to the varied weather patterns of the past several years.

Wildlife eating mycotoxin-tainted grain can become ill and die. In livestock and several wildlife species, aflatoxins can cause liver

damage, immune system failure and liver cancer. In horses, fumonisin causes fatal necrosis of the brain. In swine and other species it causes pulmonary edema.

Because deer have a complex ruminant digestive system, they don't seem as susceptible to the effects of mycotoxins as other animals," said Wilkins. "Wildlife species that are particularly susceptible include grain-eating birds like quail and turkey and small mammals including squirrels and rabbits."

"Progress in the feed industry and new labeling regulations are improving the safety of corn on the retail market, but you should still be careful. With the help of the Texas A&M Office of the State Chemist at College Station, we periodically survey aflatoxin levels in deer corn sold on the Texas retail market," said Wilkins.

"The year 1998 was a bad one for aflatoxin. In mid-August 1998, we collected and tested 100 bags of shelled deer corn from 52 counties. We found aflatoxin concentrations over 20 parts per billion (ppb) in 44 percent of those samples. These samples were above the level considered safe for human consumption. We also found concentrations of 100 ppb or higher in 20 percent of the samples. Eight samples exceeded 300 ppb, and the highest concentrations were 656 ppb."

Wilkins said unmarked bags

with no weight labels or manufacturer's address tended to have higher aflatoxin concentrations. They were also twice as likely to have aflatoxin concentrations above 100 ppb.

"Partly as a result of what we found, the labeling requirements for corn marketed as wildlife feed were strengthened, resulting in a safer corn supply," said Wilkins. "Our surveys in 2002 found only 1 percent of the samples to be above 100 ppb, and almost all of the corn sampled across 64 counties had labels stating the concentrations of aflatoxin." Current regulations require sellers of whole corn with more than 20 ppb aflatoxin, or 5 parts per million (ppm) fumonisin to have a Texas feed license. The corn must also be accompanied by a label approved by the Texas Feed and Fertilizer Control Service. Labeling must list the identity and levels of mycotoxin in a warning statement.

Corn with 100 ppb or more aflatoxin should not be fed to wildlife. To assure a safe corn supply, wildlife specialists recommend that only corn labeled as being less than 20 ppb aflatoxin be used. Likewise, corn containing more than 5 ppm fumonisin should not be fed to wildlife.

The worry isn't over once corn is purchased, according to Wilkins. He said hunters should store and feed corn carefully to assure that mycotoxins don't increase. Since

the toxin-producing fungi grow best under warm, humid conditions, he warned hunters and wildlife enthusiasts to guard against ever letting corn get wet.

Aspergillus fungi do not always produce aflatoxin, according to Wilkins, but warm temperatures (around 77 degrees Fahrenheit) combined with wet corn (15-30 percent moisture content) create prime aflatoxin-growing conditions in

stored corn. "For these reasons people should avoid buying the corn commonly sold in plastic bags," he said. "These bags are much more likely to provide conditions that promote these toxins. Feed corn should be stored in a cool, dry area, and to save our wildlife, hunters should make certain their corn storage facilities and deer feeders are clean and don't leak."

Quail "Blobs"

by Dr. Dale Rollins

SAN ANGELO – It's generically referred to as a "blob", but relax, it's not the protoplasm pseudopod that engulfed everything in its path and mortified you as a teenager at a 1960s drive-in theater. According to Dr. Dale Rollins, Texas Cooperative Extension wildlife specialist here, this blob is a cross between a blue quail and a bobwhite. And yes, he says it's genuine, unlike the taxidermy-contrived jackalope.

"Blobs are rare, but if you've been raised in areas where the range of bobwhites and blue quail overlap, chances are you know of someone who has shot one, or at least has heard of one," said Rollins. "In the mid-1980s, Tom Shupe, a research associate for the Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Center at Kingsville, trapped a number of blobs on a ranch in Zapata County. About one in 1,000 bobwhites shot on the ranch was a blob. Subsequent trapping and banding on the ranch indicated a hybridization rate as high as 70 per 1,000 bobwhites."

"In my files, I found four published accounts of blobs. One of the incidents was of blobs conceived in breeding pens; the other three were of specimens in the wild. These included specimens from Concho, Stonewall, and Motley Counties, which at the time would have been generally the eastern edge of the blue quail's distribution in north Texas."

"Blobs are true hybrids, i.e. they are infertile." Rollins said blobs usually look like a dirty-faced bobwhite with a crest. However, the crest is not white-tipped like the blue quail's familiar top-knot.

Rollins asks anyone with a tale or photograph of a blob (or other weird quail) to share, to contact him at d-rollins@tamu.edu, or call him at 325-653-4576.

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Aging Deer on-the-Hoof

bdwright@ag.tamu.edu

UVALDE -- Harvesting deer at the right age is an important aspect of trophy deer management according to Dr. Byron Wright, Texas Cooperative Extension wildlife specialist.

"There are three aspects to antler development in white-tailed deer," he said, "genetics, nutrition and age."

"Age is crucial for developing quality antlers and must be considered right along with nutrition and genetics. A lot of people are concentrating on genetics these days when many would be better off improving their deer habitat and letting their bucks get a little older. I really think most hunters would be happy with the results of letting their bucks mature on good habitat before harvesting them."

Wright said research and experience has shown scientists that bucks reach their peak antler growth between 5 and 7 years old.

"I often hear folks claim their biggest bucks are over 7 years old," said Wright. "This may be true with penned deer living under optimum conditions, but I question whether it's valid in wild deer. If some of the biggest bucks being harvested really are over 7 years of age, what percentage of the deer 8 and 9 years old do they represent? If 80-90 percent of the bucks 8 and 9 years old have declined in antler quality, then it is pretty dicey business to manage for the 10-20 percent comprising this very small age class."

Wright believes more research should be done before concrete statements are made about post-mature bucks growing the biggest antlers in the wild.

"Irrespective of the 8-9 year old controversy, bucks have to be at least 5 years old to grow their biggest antlers," said the specialist. "Being able to estimate a buck's age before harvest is vitally important in a trophy management program. Aging deer on-

the-hoof is more art than science. A person needs to look at a lot of known-age animals to get the feel for the process. Aging deer means looking at many different characteristics and making your best educated guess. Factors like individual animal variation, health, breeding stage, observer bias and geographic area all influence an animal's appearance. There is a lot of variation among animals that leads to mistakes when judging the age of deer, especially when an animal shows characteristics from multiple age classes."

Wright said figuring a deer's exact age is difficult and unnecessary. What is really important in his opinion, is being able to place the deer in one of three major categories: young, middle aged and old. He considers yearlings and 2 year-old deer young; 3-4 years old, middle aged and 5-7 years as old.

Young deer have: 1) long legs 2) long, thin necks 3) high flanks, 4) rumps higher than their shoulders and 5) an overall slim, dainty appearance.

Middle-aged deer have: 1) thick, muscular necks, 2) necks that swell from the shoulders 3) heavily-muscled rounded hind-quarters, 4) bellies that are full, but not sagging, 5) legs that no longer appear long and gangly and 6) flat backs that do not sway.

Old deer have 1) swayed backs, 2) "pot-bellies", 3) very heavy necks and shoulders, 4) necks that blend into their chests, 5) short or stubby-appearing legs and 6) "squinny-eyes".

"Allowing the bucks on your hunting lease to grow up will pay dividends later on," said Wright. "Hunters interested in trophy deer management should hone their skills to increase their odds of making accurate judgements about age."

"My 'on-the-hoof' aging suggestions are simply guidelines. Mistakes are going to be made when judging a deer's age. We just have to learn from those mistakes and while we keep practicing."



Turkey hunting at the Ft. McKavett Ranch.

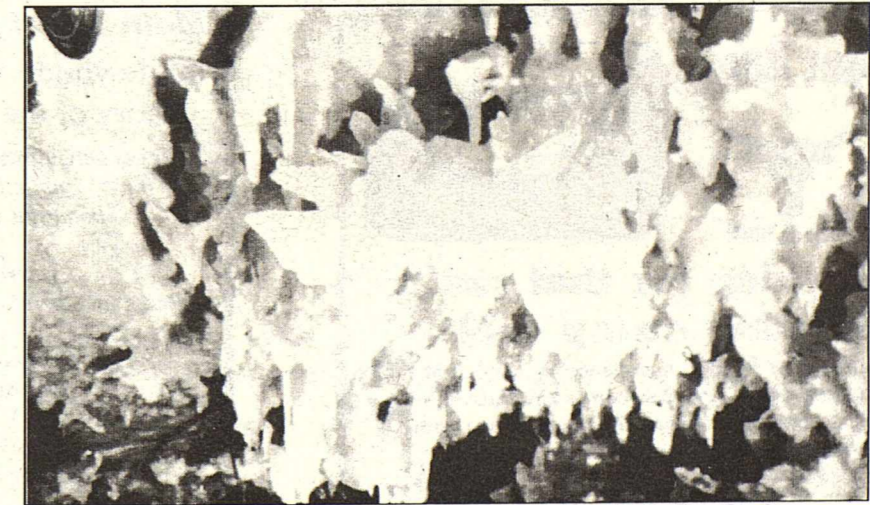
Turkey Hunting Tips

1. Turkey tracks over 4 inches long are gobbler tracks. Hens usually have tracks that are 3.5 inches long or less. If they are in-between flip a coin.
2. When trying to determine the sex of the turkey that left the droppings, remember that hens usually have fat bulblike dropping whereas gobblers usually have longer straight of J shaped droppings.
3. When hunting turkeys with a shotgun, 5 or 6 shot is much better than 2 shot. You should be aiming at the turkey's head or just below the head. You do not need big shot to bring him down, you just need to hit him. The smaller the shot the less chance that the pattern will miss the head and neck.
4. Your confidence will be much greater if you can find a roost tree.
5. When you see another turkey hunter stalking you, talk to alert him. Do not whistle or call.
6. When setting up on a turkey, put blaze orange on a tree near you.
7. When a gobbler has all the hens he can handle getting him to come to you can be difficult. Do not pass up any opportunity to call in gobbling jakes. If that gobbler is nearby he may leave the hens just long enough to kick some jake tail.
8. Do not stalk turkey calls. The majority of turkey hunting accidents happen when one hunter stalks upon another hunter.

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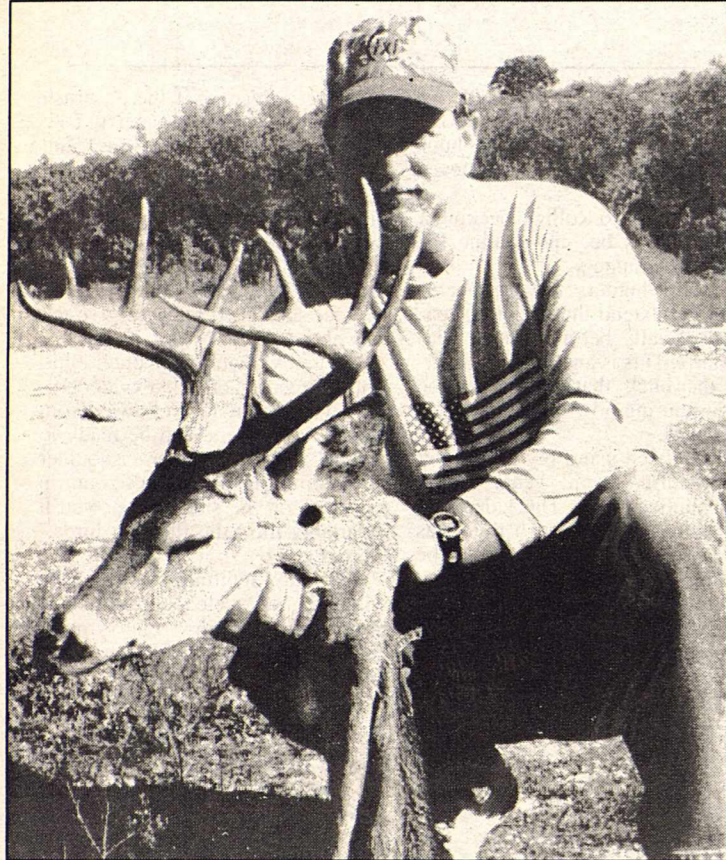


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Hunter Orange: a bright idea for hunters

d-rollins@tamu.edu

SAN ANGELO -- It's opening day and the rising sun is only a faint glow when the doe is spotted by the anxious hunter. He peers through his scope as the deer disappears into the brush 75 yards ahead, pausing only to look back over her shoulder as if being followed.

The hunter turns his head slowly to his left as he hears the movement of something easing through the brush. Surely it's the buck that the doe was looking back at. The hunter again raises his rifle and puts the crosshairs on an opening in the brush. The small opening offers his only shot, and it will have to be a quick one.

Slowly the grey form moves into the clearing, an indistinguishable hulk in the pre-dawn brush. The hunter's trigger finger inches backward, ever so slowly until . . . wait that's not a buck, it's a camo-clad hunter sneaking through the brush. He eases his finger off the trigger and his .270 back to his lap.

A cold chill grips him as he realizes how close he came to making his unannounced comrade an unfortunate statistic.

Hunting, by statistical measures, is a very safe sport. However, each year 5-to-10

Texans are seriously wounded or killed in a hunting accident, according to Dr. Dale Rollins, San Angelo-based Texas Cooperative Extension wildlife specialist.

"Some accidents are unfortunate cases of mistaken identity," Rollins said. "Hunters being mistaken for game can be completely avoided with two basic rules of hunting safety. First, positively identify the intended target. Never take 'sound shots.' Next, practice 'defensive hunting'. Wearing some item of blaze-orange clothing makes hunters easily identifiable to others. Blaze-orange clothing is a requirement only for those on public lands, but it's a good idea for anyone hunting, especially deer hunters during the gun season."

"Wearing a blaze orange cap and/or vest is very cheap life insurance," he advised. "We lose one or more hunters each year who probably would be alive today if they'd been wearing blaze-orange."

The high visibility fabric has been used for more than 30 years in many states, and all have witnessed a visible reduction in hunting accidents. Some hunters resist blaze-orange as a greater chance of being seen by deer.

"We once thought that deer were color blind, and that they couldn't distinguish colors, only patterns," Rollins said. "Today we know that deer do have limited color vision, but not to the degree that something like a wild turkey has."

The way most Texans hunt, from a blind or tripod stand, the deer's degree of color discernment is a moot issue, according to Rollins. "If nothing else, wear a blaze-orange cap and vest while traveling to and from your blind," he suggests. "It might mean the difference as to whether you have the chance to go hunting next year or not."

Rollins also stresses that quail hunters should always have a hunter orange vest or cap. "As an avid quail hunter, I've seen too many situations where your buddy to the left or right of you forgets your position. In the excitement of a covey rise, I want to make sure I'm highly visible."

"There's absolutely no reason not to be wearing some hunter orange while quail hunting," he stressed. "I tell landowners to make the requirement a clause in their quail hunting leases as a protection against liability. It's the kind of insurance we all can afford."

What's the windchill?

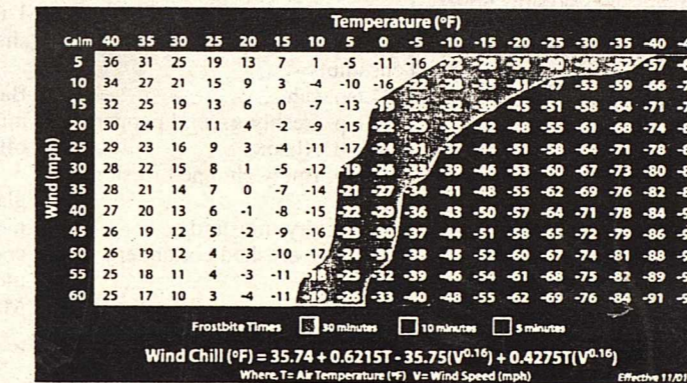
How cold is it outside? Simply knowing the temperature doesn't tell you enough about the conditions to enable you to dress sensibly for all winter weather. Other factors including wind speed, relative humidity and sunshine play important roles in determining how cold you feel outside. A description of the character of weather known as "coldness" was proposed about 1940 by scientists working in the Antarctic. The "wind chill index" was developed to describe the relative discomfort/danger resulting from the combination of wind and temperature.

On November 1, 2001, the National Weather Service began using a new wind chill index. The reason for the change is to improve upon the current index, which is based on the 1945 Siple and Passel Index. During the Fall of 2000, the Office of the Federal Coordinator for Meteorological Services and Supporting Research (OFCM) formed a special group consisting of several Federal agencies, MSC, the academic research community (Indiana University-Purdue University in Indianapolis (IUPUI), University of Delaware, and University of Missouri), and the International Society of Biometeorology. Their job was to evaluate the existing wind chill formula and make necessary changes to improve upon it. The group is called the Joint Action Group for Temperature Indices (JAG/TI) and is chaired by the NWS. Weird

name, but very important work. The goal of JAG/TI is to internationally upgrade and standardize the index for temperature extremes (a.k.a. Wind Chill Index). They ultimately reached an agreement on a new wind chill formula. It will make use of the advances in science, technology, and computer modeling to provide a more accurate, understandable, and useful formula for calculating wind chill. Lots of time and energy was put into coming up with the new formula and what it does differently. Specifically, the new wind chill index will use wind speed calculated at the average height (5 feet) of the human body's face instead of 33 feet (the standard anemometer height); be based on a human face model; incorporate modern heat transfer theory (heat loss from the body to its surroundings, during cold and breezy/windy days); lower the calm wind threshold to 3 mph; use a consistent standard for skin tissue resistance; and

assume the worst case scenario for solar radiation (clear night sky). In 2002, adjustments for solar radiation (i.e., the impact of sun) for a variety of sky conditions (sunny, partly sunny and cloudy) will be added to the calculation model.

Wind chill does not affect your car's antifreeze protection. It will have an impact on how quickly your home's exposed water pipes freeze, but has little impact on whether they would freeze or not. The importance of the wind chill index is as an indicator of how to dress properly for winter weather. In dressing for cold weather an important factor to remember is that entrapped insulating air warmed by body heat is the best protection against the cold. Consequently, wear loose-fitting, lightweight, warm clothing in several layers. Outer garments should be tightly-woven, water-repellant and hooded. Mittens snug at the wrist are better protection than fingered gloves.

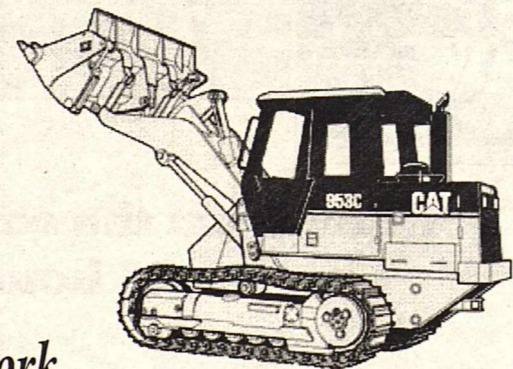


Sunrise/Sunset Chart

	Nov		Dec	
	Rise (a.m.)	Set (p.m.)	Rise (a.m.)	Set (p.m.)
1	6:57	5:55	7:22	5:41
2	6:58	5:54	7:23	5:41
3	6:59	5:53	7:23	5:41
4	6:59	5:53	7:24	5:41
5	7:00	5:52	7:25	5:41
6	7:01	5:51	7:26	5:41
7	7:02	5:50	7:26	5:41
8	7:03	5:50	7:27	5:41
9	7:03	5:49	7:28	5:42
10	7:04	5:48	7:29	5:42
11	7:05	5:48	7:29	5:42
12	7:06	5:47	7:30	5:42
13	7:07	5:47	7:31	5:43
14	7:08	5:46	7:31	5:43
15	7:08	5:46	7:32	5:43
16	7:09	5:45	7:33	5:44
17	7:10	5:45	7:33	5:44
18	7:11	5:44	7:34	5:44
19	7:12	5:44	7:34	5:45
20	7:13	5:43	7:35	5:45
21	7:13	5:43	7:35	5:46
22	7:14	5:43	7:36	5:46
23	7:15	5:42	7:36	5:47
24	7:16	5:42	7:37	5:47
25	7:17	5:42	7:37	5:48
26	7:18	5:42	7:38	5:48
27	7:19	5:42	7:38	5:49
28	7:19	5:41	7:39	5:50
29	7:20	5:41	7:39	5:50
30	7:21	5:41	7:39	5:51
31			7:39	5:52

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Whitetail myth: If the abdomen is swollen, when you recover the deer, the meat shouldn't be eaten:

When a deer dies, gas from digestion is trapped in the rumen and the abdomen starts swelling almost immediately. However, the meat is still edible. Cool fall temperatures refrigerate the meat and may keep it from spoiling for several days. Cutting the throat of a wounded deer is the not best way to kill and bleed it out. Slicing the throat is an inhumane method of killing a deer and doesn't bleed it out any faster than gutting it. If the wound does not appear to be fatal, shoot the deer in the head before attempting to field-dress it.

Hunters Should Know Co-op Facilities Are Never in Season

Each year hunting season brings with it an increase in vandalism of electric facilities. Whether by accident or intent, insulators, poles, transformers, power lines, meters and other hardware often become "targets" for hunters.

Not only is the damage expensive to repair, it can also create an extremely dangerous condition. A damaged insulator can cause a power line to fall, posing a risk of electrocution and fire. Damaged facilities also present a substantial risk for linemen who must work to repair the damage. And the danger doesn't stop there.

Loss of service to a home with life-support equipment can quickly create a life-threatening situation.

Your electric cooperative wants this hunting season to be a good one for you and your co-op. So please take careful aim before you shoot and be certain that there is nothing between you and your target . . . and that your target is in season.

A safety message from
Southwest Texas
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325-853-2546

Deer hunter ethics

d-rollins@tamu.edu

"You never get a second chance to make a first impression." -- Will Rogers

SAN ANGELO--Deer season is just around the corner. Soon some 700,000 hunters will be afield in pursuit of the popular white-tailed deer. Some will take their son or daughter along to continue a legacy of companionship their father or grandfather initiated.

Many will bring home a trophy, or at least a trophy-sized tale, and be a credit to the hunting fraternity. But, according to Texas Cooperative Extension wildlife specialist Dr. Dale Rollins of San Angelo, others will offer a less glowing testimony that speaks loudly and negatively about hunting and hunters.

"As a hunter, have you ever observed a deer hunter engaging in some unsavory behavior that resulted in you having a poor impression of that particular hunter or perhaps of hunters in general?" asked Rollins.

"Picture this scenario: It's the Monday after opening weekend and Hill Country highways are stacked with deer hunters headed back to places like Dallas, San Antonio and Houston. The afternoon temperature is in the low 80s as the

caravan of urban hunters heads back from 'Opening Weekend'. Look closely and you're likely to see one or more deers' legs protruding from the back of that 4X4 that just passed you. I wonder how that venison is going to taste by the time it's on the road for another five hours? Or, how does that small buck look strapped to the hood of that muddy Suburban over there? Reckon how many good impressions 'ol' Bubba' and his 'buds' will make by the time they roll into their Houston suburb?"

An exaggeration? Not necessarily, according to Rollins. "Spend a November weekend in Llano or Junction or Cotulla or a hundred other towns in Texas. Try to view what you see from the perspective of a non-hunter."

Rollins said his own account on the matter dates back to October 1990. "As I pulled into a convenience store along Interstate 10 in Sonora, there was a motor home with eight mule deer dangling from the luggage rack like so many Christmas tree ornaments," Rollins lamented. "Obviously those guys were proud of their success, but I questioned whether that was the best way to tout it."

Rollins added, "Those guys

were ambassadors for me and everyone else associated with hunting. And I didn't like their message.

"As a deer hunter, I've seen colleagues needlessly throw gasoline on a fire that animal activists are more than eager to stoke. Sometimes we do things without thinking how they would be taken by the non-hunting majority. We then wonder why hunting often has a black eye."

The Sonora incident prompted Rollins to begin work on deer hunting ethics video. The video "Deer hunting: focus on ethics" was completed several years ago. Rollins said the video has been used extensively in hunter education classes for youth. In reality, it's target audience was older hunters, those who should certainly know better, and probably would do better if they knew how their actions looked to others - especially non-hunters.

"It is my goal that the video be required viewing by every Texas deer hunter on the eve of Opening Day," Rollins said.

The video is available for \$20 per copy from Texas Cooperative Extension by calling 979-845-6471 or online at www.tcebookstore.org.



2002/2003 North Division Low Fence- TGR 163+ - Photo provided by Ft. McKavett Ranch.

Spice Lovers Glazed Meatball

1 pound ground venison
1/3 pound venison sausage
2 Tbs tomato juice
2 Tbs soy sauce
1 egg, lightly beaten
1/4 cup dry bread crumbs
1/4 cup thinly sliced scallions
1/3 cup coarsely chopped water chestnuts
1/4 tsp. salt
1/4 tsp. freshly ground pepper
1/4 tsp. Allspice
1/8 tsp. finely chopped fresh ginger
1/2 tsp. dry mustard
1 1/2 tsp. crushed coriander seeds

1 Tbs lemon juice
In a bowl combine meats, tomato juice, soy sauce, egg, bread crumbs, scallions, water chestnuts, and spices. Shape into 1-inch balls. Place on a baking sheet and refrigerate 30 minutes. Preheat oven to 450 degrees. Bake meatballs uncovered for 15 minutes or until browned. Drain off excess juice. In a large skillet, combine glaze ingredients and heat until melted. Add meatballs, cover and cook over low heat 5 to 10 minutes until glazed. Serve hot. Makes 3 1/2 dozen.

Glaze:
2/3 cup apple jelly
1/3 cup chutney, finely

Shooting With a Shutter

d-rollins@tamu.edu

SAN ANGELO-- Shooting with a "shutter", often called "buck fever", is a common malady among deer hunters. But increasingly Texas hunters are learning how to shoot with a "shutter."

"Wildlife photography shares many of the same challenges and rewards as hunting with a rifle or bow and arrow," said Dr. Dale Rollins, Texas Cooperative Extension wildlife specialist here. "Photography can even top regular hunting in some respects," he said. "There's no bag limit, you don't need a license, you don't have to clean anything at the end of the hunt, and you can go back tomorrow and hunt the same animal. It's sort of a 'catch and release' type of hunting."

Rollins, himself a 35-year hunting veteran, said he first became interested in wildlife photography in 1976 when he called up a tom turkey to within five steps and "shot" the bird in full strut with a

Kodak instamatic. Since that early beginning, his equipment has improved with the addition of several 35mm cameras and telephoto lenses.

"The minimum setup that I would recommend to get decent pictures is a good 35 mm camera complete with an 80 to 200 mm zoom lens," he said. "I've been able to take nice photographs of animals like deer and coyotes with this equipment. The secret is to get as close as possible without being detected by the subject."

Adequate light is the wildlife photographers bane. Wildlife are most active at dawn or dusk when lighting is limited.

"Use the fastest lens and film speed combination possible under such conditions, and a tripod if at all possible," he urged. "If you don't use a tripod, use the same skills used to steady a rifle. Rest your camera against a tree, or get down in a kneeling position to enhance stability."

Pocket Camera Can Be Valuable Tool on Hunts

by Dr. Dale Rollins, d-rollins@tamu.edu

SAN ANGELO -- The pocket instamatic camera may not be a good choice for traditional wildlife photography, but they're great for "capturing the moments" of the hunt, according to San Angelo-based Texas Cooperative Extension wildlife specialist, Dr. Dale Rollins.

"The small 35mm instamatics don't have the zoom capabilities necessary to take a picture of a buck at 50 yards," Rollins said, "but they're more than adequate for capturing related hunting scenes."

"The single most important ingredient to getting a good photograph is to have your camera with you at all times, and one of the small 35mm cameras is no bigger than a pack of cigarettes. There's no reason not to have it in your shirt pocket

when the special moment arrives."

Digital cameras have become common in recent years. Rollins offers some special tips for those sporting the new cameras.

"Digital cameras go through batteries like turkeys go through deer corn, so always take extra batteries with you. Also remember that some of the special camera batteries aren't always available at small-town convenience stores."

Scenes for the taking include the hunting camp, blinds, buddies, Fall's colorful foliage, and of course the trophy of the hunt. Rollins urges photographers to consider how to make every effort to capture hunting "in a good light" when posing shots with their day's bag.

"Avoid the 'tailgate kill scene' where the dead deer is

light situations. And besides, all you have to do is pop the tape into a VCR and you can enjoy the hunt over and over. Talk about a never ending story!"

According to Rollins, packing a camcorder has become routine for many Texas hunters. "Many hunters use their camcorders to extend their hunting season, especially before hunting season starts. This is a good way to pattern the buck that you might be hunting during bow or gun season," he advised.

"I've been using my camcorder for the last several years during quail hunts as well. The video format really enhances such things as dog work, covey rises, and the inevitable miss of an easy shot."

Rollins offers these tips for novice videographers. First, become intimately familiar with the various settings and controls for your camera, just so you don't hit an errant button when that big buck steps out

at 30 feet. Second, if there's brush between you and your quarry, take the camera off of "autofocus" and use the manual focus. "A small weed between you and your quarry can really cause your camera's autofocus to fit if you don't," he warned.

And finally, don't get too carried away with zooming in and out on your subject. It tends to give the viewer motion sickness.

When videotaping a quail hunt, Rollins recommends the videographer walk about 15 feet away from one of the hunters, and be ready to "shoot" over the hunter's shoulder as the birds flush. "Don't zoom in too close on the situation, or you'll invariably miss the flushing birds," he said.

"I enjoy hunting, whether it be with rifle, muzzleloader, shotgun or bow," said Rollins. "Carrying a camera is just a natural extension of that interest."

sprawled half out of a pickup bed, tongue lolling out, and blood everywhere. Take your photographs while afield, before field dressing the animal," he recommends. "Clean yourself and the animal up to dispel the image that hunters revel in blood."

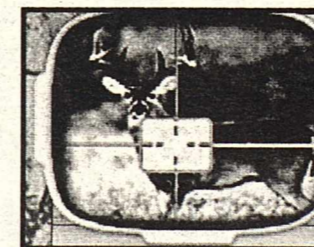
Rollins recommends shooting lots of film, varying the position of the hunter and photographer. Using a fill flash is recommended for at least some of the shots.

Finally, consider your audience when showing photographs of the hunt, especially those displaying dead animals. "Respect the fact that some people don't hunt and that the sight of a dead animal may be offensive to them," he cautions.

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