

THE Devil's River NEWS

50¢

Since 1890

Volume 116 • Issue 44

SONORA, TEXAS

Thursday, November 4, 2004



Up, and running... Recent rains had draws running and the Dry Devil's River flowing again last week. Reports of over 2 inches early last week, added to the yearly total, with some locals saying that puts them at about the 40 inch mark for the year! This is the largest amount of rainfall reported in about 12 years for Sutton County.

Bush Camp Sees Victory, Kerry Will Not Concede

When the sun came up on November 3, 2004, the Republicans claimed victory and the Democrats said "not so fast." The largest turnout in voter history is still incomplete, as America waits for the official announcement that President George Bush has been re-elected.

President Bush's campaign declared victory over Democratic Sen. John Kerry and claimed re-election to a second term in the White House on Wednesday, but Kerry refused to concede until all ballots were counted in Ohio.

Many people are seeing another Florida on our hands as we wait for the dispute in Ohio to be completed, with Kerry calling for provisional and absentee ballots to be reviewed.

Ohio was the key piece of the electoral puzzle, as both candidates strive for the 270 electoral votes needed to win the Presidency.

White House Chief of Staff Andrew Card, in a pre-dawn appearance before Bush supporters at a planned victory rally, said Bush had compiled a

"statistically insurmountable" lead in Ohio and had won a majority of the popular vote.

"We are convinced that President Bush has won re-election," Card said, adding Bush would make a statement later on Wednesday.

Senator John Kerry has yet to make a public announcement regarding the race, but Kerry's running mate, Senator John Edwards, reported that they will not concede until all votes had been counted in Ohio.

"It's been a long night, but we've waited four years for this victory, we can wait one more night," Edwards said, adding: "We will fight for every vote."

Bush is reported to have taken the popular vote, which would mean the electoral votes go to the Republican candidate.

It appeared unlikely on Wednesday that there were enough votes left uncounted to close the gap. Ohio's Republican Secretary of State Ken Blackwell said there could have been as many as 175,000 provisional ballots cast after

voters had their registrations questioned.

Bush captured Florida, the biggest of the toss-up battleground states, and rolled up wins across the country to move within reach of victory. Kerry won Pennsylvania's 21 electoral votes but New Hampshire was the only state won by Bush in the bitter 2000 election that he had captured.

With 270 electoral votes needed to win the White House, Bush had captured 28 states with 254 electoral votes. Kerry won 20 states and 252 votes. Bush held a lead of nearly 4 million votes over Kerry nationwide with 98 percent of the precincts reporting.

Bush, who watched the results in the White House with his family, including his father, former President Bush, said early in the evening he was confident of victory.

"We're very upbeat, thank you," Bush told reporters. "I believe I will win."

(Information gathered from Fox News and John Whitesides, Political Correspondent)

Holt Cat sets up shop in Sonora

Sonora - Texas' largest heavy equipment dealer, HOLT CAT, held their grand opening of its parts store in Sonora, on Wednesday, October 27, 2004. This was an especially momentous occasion as HOLT celebrates the 100-year anniversary of the development of the track-type tractor.

"Over the past 100 years, the Caterpillar track-type tractor has made an essential contribution to American and global progress," said Peter M. Holt, CEO of HOLT and fourth generation in the Holt family to be connected with Caterpillar Inc. and its predecessors. "It is a privilege to carry on the Holt family tradition of finding innovative ways to better serve the community. We at HOLT are proud to become a part of Sonora as we step into another century of innovation."

Guests at HOLT's grand opening event in Sonora were treated to a Bar-B-Que lunch and were signed up for some great door prizes. Each visitor received a HOLT Caterpillar cap when they registered. Members from HOLT teams all over Texas were on hand to visit with guests and answer questions about the new location and business in general.

Peter Holt said that they chose the Sonora location because of the growing oil and gas business in this area and they look forward to growing over the next few years. Currently there are two full-time employees in the building and two service technicians.

The Sonora store offers an



Sonora Chamber of Commerce, City and County officials and Miss Sutton County Courtney Caruthers welcome Peter Holt, CEO, Allyn Archer, President and COO of Holt Cat to Sonora with a special ribbon cutting on Wednesday.

unparalleled parts inventory of over 3000 line items and 150 different types of exchange components to speed repairs and reduce downtime.

In addition, HOLT provides resident field service to the local area spanning Sutton, Edwards, Crockett, Kimble, Menard and Schleicher counties.

HOLT's field service technicians are highly qualified and specially trained on all aspects of Caterpillar machines and engines. Field service is available on a 24-hour basis for emergencies. All field service technicians keep in constant communication and are equipped with laptop computers capable of performing extensive field diagnostic tests. HOLT's field service vehicles are heavy duty one and two-ton trucks specially outfitted with equipment such as cranes, cutting torches, welders, generators and air compressors, plus a variety of specialized Caterpillar tools

for fast and accurate repairs.

Rather than rely on an expensive overnight freight company, HOLT maintains a fleet of trucks that travel 6000 miles every day to deliver parts from HOLT warehouses and Caterpillar's Dallas Parts Depot to each store and over 140 parts drop boxes daily. The HOLT Express Parts System is committed in its goal to deliver the right part at the right time.

HOLT CAT sells and services Caterpillar machines and engines in a 118-county Texas territory spanning from the Red River to the Rio Grande. Holt also offers machine rebuild capabilities, sells used equipment around the world and operates an international pipeline equipment company. Further supporting its board range of products and services, Holt also fabricates its own line of land clearing equipment and Holt Spray King® water tankers.

Old Oak Tree illuminated with more yellow ribbons

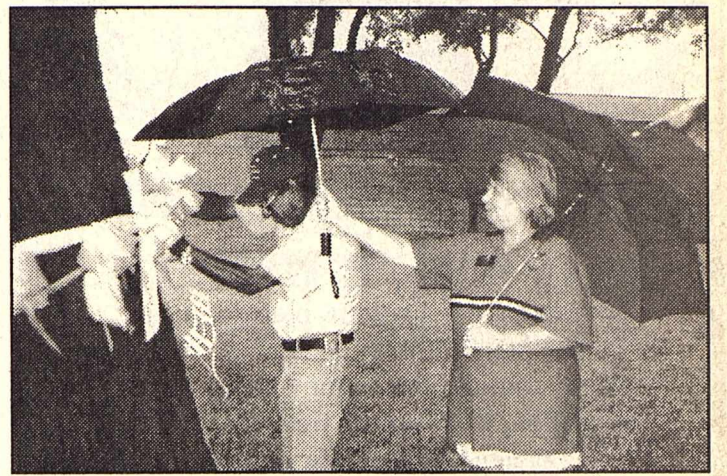
by Storie Sharp

As our military personnel come home and return again to serve overseas, yellow ribbons have come and gone and come again on the Old Oak Tree located on the Sutton County Courthouse lawn. This symbol of our support for our loved ones who are serving to protect our freedoms shines bright for the loved ones and passers-by who visit our community. Last week, four more ribbons were added to the tree, Lilia and Lionel Cervantez, Sr., braved the rain to place ribbons for their son Lionel, Jr., and their new daughter-in-law Amanda. The two are stationed in Omaha, NE, but Lionel, Jr. is currently serving in UKE, where he is with the Air Force Security Forces.

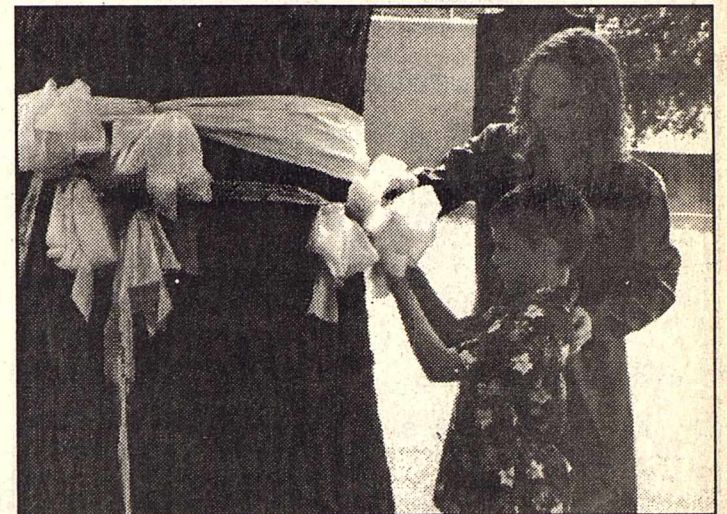
Karen Zuniga and her son, Scott also refused to let the rain stop them last week, as they hung a ribbon for husband, Eric Zuniga. Karen said they actually preferred the wet weather, since rain is something that she has always enjoyed, and she and Eric were even married outside in the rain. Eric, a Sutton County Deputy, is currently at Ft. Hood, but will be leaving for Iraq in January, where he is scheduled to be for nine to 12 months.

Adding to the yellow ribbons was the Moreno family. Sergio Moreno was a 2003 graduate of Sonora High School, who left California for Iraq in late August. His parents, Patricio and Lucia, were joined by his siblings, Angelica, Reyna, Amelia, Maricela, Rosario and the little one, Ramon Patricio.

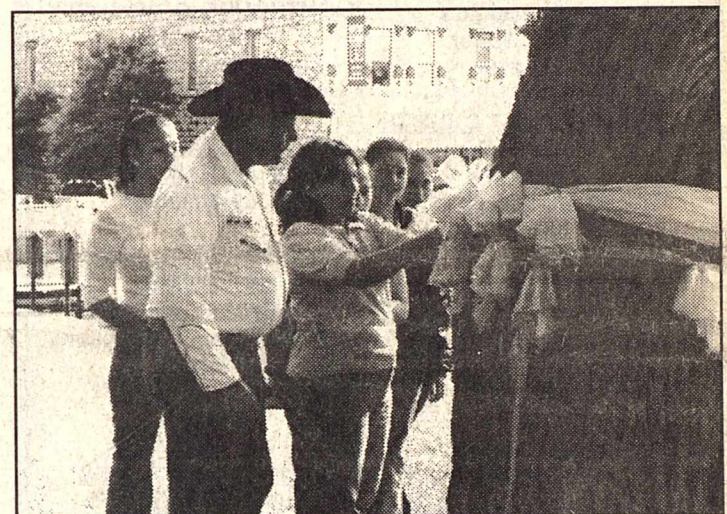
Our prayers and best wishes go out to all the service men and women and their families as we wait for their safe returns.



Lilia and Lionel Cervantez, Sr.



Karen Zuniga and Scott



The Moreno Family

Broncos Down Grape Creek Eagles

by Ray Glasscock

The Sonora Broncos traveled to Grape Creek needing to get back to playing Bronco football. Even though Grape Creek has never beaten the Broncos, they are a much improved team having beaten Crane in pre-district play.

The Broncos won the toss and decided to go for the quick strike. From the 22 yard line, Clint Cearley threw deep to Anthony Longoria who made his usual great catch to complete the 78-yard touchdown. Freshman Aaron Gaytan kicked the extra point and the Broncos led 7 to 0 with only 18 seconds off the clock.

The Eagles tried two running plays only to lose yardage. On third down, Trenton Priddy, the Grape Creek QB, overthrew his receivers. They had to punt.

After two runs by Brett McDaniel, the Broncos were facing third and seven. Cearley took the snap and hit Longoria with a twelve-yard pass for the first down. Stetson Perez moved the chains with two good runs behind the blocks of the Bronco line. Three plays later, Caleb Ramos escaped a fierce Eagle pass rush and threw to Chris Perez for a forty-yard gain near the Eagle 20.

Facing fourth and four, the Eagles were flagged for pass interference giving the Broncos a first down.

Ramos broke through the line and made it to the two yard line. However, the Broncos were flagged for holding. Cearley dropped to pass, and the Eagles broke through the Bronco blockers. He avoided the rush and threw the ball out of bounds and avoided a drive killing loss. On third down, Cearley threw a bullet over the middle to Pedro Gloria who

caught the ball over the back of one of three Eagle defenders who were all over him. Not only did he make the catch, he broke out of their grasps to score the second Bronco touchdown. Gaytan kicked the PAT and the Broncos led by 14 to 0 with 3:16 left in the first quarter.

The next Eagle drive didn't last long. Priddy threw deep only to have Cameron Cox intercept while trolling the backfield. Cox started toward the Grape Creek end zone, weaving his way through the Eagles. In all, he returned the ball over 30 plus yards to the Eagle 40 yard line. Two running plays by Stetson Perez and Ramos set up first and goal from the four. McDaniel took the rock into the end zone for the third first quarter touchdown. Aaron's kick was good for a 21-point lead with 1:27 left in the first quarter.

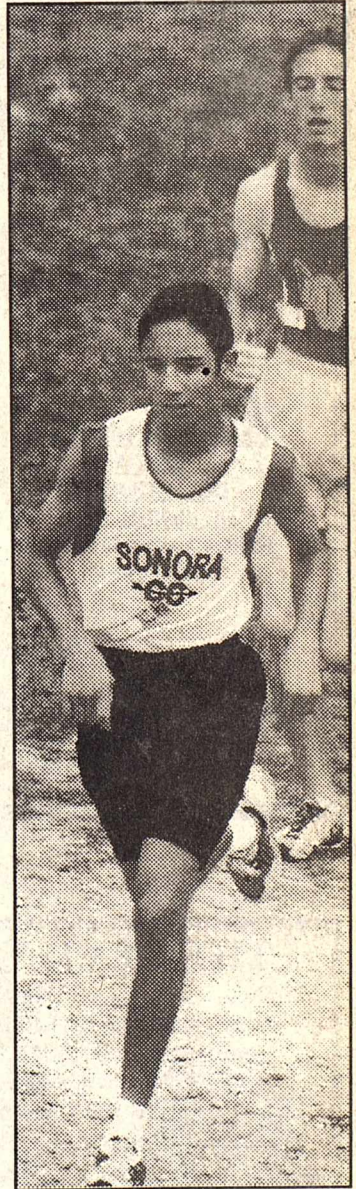
The Eagle offense made some first downs on their next series. McDaniel knocked down his fifth pass of the season. Priddy, under tremendous pressure from Embre Smith, Diego Cardona, Laramie Hall, and the Duhon brothers, threw his next interception to Longoria giving the Broncos the ball at the 18 yard line.

The Broncos ran about six plays before having to punt to the Eagles. The Eagles made a couple of first downs before also having to punt.

The first gritty Bronco gain of this drive came on a short pass from Cearley to McDaniel. McDaniel gained 15 yards after the catch. Time ran out before either team could score again.

Grape Creek received the second half kickoff. On their second play, Younts was hit hard


See Broncos page 5




Cross Country boys race for Regional championship

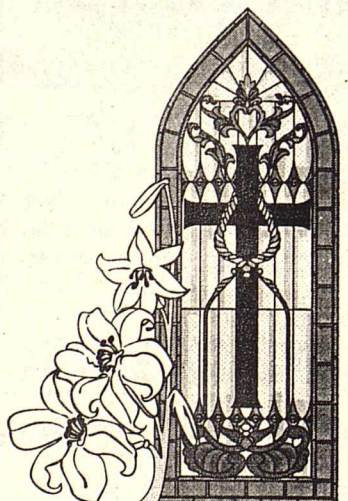
Nick Favela placed 10th in District Cross Country. The boys team finished 3rd and qualified for Regionals which will be held in Lubbock on November 6, 2004.

**Lighthouse
Community Church**
*A Love Relationship
that is real, personal and practical*
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**

<p>PRIMERA IGLESIA BAUTISTA Antonio F. Gonzales, Sr. 504 Santa Clara 387-2035</p> <p>CHURCH OF CHRIST Jerry Jackson 304 N. Water 387-3190</p> <p>FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH T. Wayne Price Pastor 111 E Oak 387-2951</p> <p>ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH Rev. Milton Black 404 E. Poplar 387-2955</p> <p>FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH Rev. Beverley Parsons, Pastor 201 N. Water 387-2466</p> <p>TEMPLO JERUSALEM ASAMBLEA DE DIOS Enoc Elias Nunez 306 W. 4th St. 387-5713 387-3092</p> <p>HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH Rev. Charles Huffman 417 E. 2nd St. 387-5366</p> <p>LA IGLESIA HISPANA UNIDA DEL NOMBRE DE JESUS, INC. Pastor Felipe Martinez 807 Orient</p>	<p>THE CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD PRESBYTERIAN Lewis Allen, Pastor 319 E. Mulberry 387-2616</p> <p>LIGHTHOUSE COMMUNITY CHURCH Don Longoria, Pastor 1705 N. Crockett</p> <p>PENTECOSTAL CALVARY TEMPLE UNITED 509 Amistad</p> <p>ST. ANN'S CATHOLIC CHURCH Father William DuBuisson, O.M.I. 229 W. Plum 387-2278</p> <p>JEHOVAH'S WITNESS 310 St. Ann's Street 387-5658 or 387-5518</p>
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Obituaries

Steven Perriman

Steven Wayne Perriman, 34, of Leslie, Missouri, passed away suddenly on Thursday, October 21, 2004, in St. Louis County.

Mr. Perriman, son of Joe Wayne Perriman and Carolyn Allen, was born June 19, 1970 in St. Louis County. He graduated from Washington High School. On June 24, 1995 he married Lynda Robertson in Washington. He was employed as a foreman for the Shade Tree Service Company.

Surviving him are his wife Lynda Perriman; his son, Allen, and daughter, Julia, all of Leslie, Missouri; his father, Wayne Perriman and wife Renee of Arizona; his mother Carolyn, and special friend, Cynthia Womack, of Texas; step-mother, Terri Risner, and husband Eugene; step-brother, Matt, of St. Peters; one brother, Mike Perriman, and wife Kristen of Washington; two sisters, Dawn Graham and husband Tom of Owensville, and Julie Lozano and husband Ray of Texas; his maternal grandmother Esther M. Allen and Uncle Roy I. Allen Jr. of California; his Aunt Trudy and husband Jeff of Indiana; his Aunt Bellaree Blackford and husband Ed of Granby; his father-in-law Raymond



Robertson of New Haven; his mother-in-law Dana Harris and husband Gene of Florida; three nieces; four nephews; three cousins and many, many friends.

Services were held October 26, 2004 at The Friendly Assembly of God Church in Gerald with Reverend Dave Snodderly officiating. Steven was laid to rest in Woodman Cemetery in Leslie. Expressions of sympathy may be made to the Ronald McDonald House. Arrangements were in care of Gerald.

Etta Ruth Dannheim Arrott

Etta Ruth Dannheim Arrott died Monday, October 25, 2004, in San Angelo, Texas, at age 95. A memorial service celebrating her life was Wednesday, October 27, at Kerbow Funeral Home in Eldorado, Texas.

Etta Ruth was born April 12, 1909, at home in the Bailey Ranch Community of Schleicher County, Texas. She was the second of four children born to Ira Monroe and Myra Myrtle Spencer McDonald. She attended school at Bailey Ranch Consolidated and at Eldorado High School.

On December 18, 1927, Etta Ruth McDonald married Emil H. Dannheim. To this union were born three children, Wanda Marie, Donald Ray "Rusty" and Sherrill Wayne. The Dannheims lived in the Kaffir community during the first five years of the marriage, then, upon the retirement of Etta Ruth's father, they moved to the McDonald stock farm and continued to make that their home until Emil's death in 1976.

Etta Ruth continued living in the home until she married James Putnam Arrott on November 3, 1987. The Arrotts lived in James' ranch home near Tennyson, Texas, until James' death in 1994. At that time, Etta Ruth moved back to her home in Schleicher County.

Mrs. Arrott was preceded in death by her two husbands, her parents, her siblings, one son, one daughter-in-law, and two great-grandchildren.

She is survived by her daughter and husband, Dale and Wanda Peterson of San Angelo, Texas; her daughter-in-law, Vonnie Dannheim of Eldorado, Texas; her son, Sherrill Dannheim of Sonora, Texas; her grandchildren, Alan Peterson of San Angelo, Texas, Eric and Kim Peterson of San Angelo, Texas, Linda Cardinas of San Antonio, Texas, Gail and Allen Stanley of Perrin, Texas, Richard and Chrissy Dannheim of San Antonio, Texas, Karen Mitchell of San Angelo, Texas, and Chayse and Karnea Dannheim of Sonora, Texas; 15 great-grandchildren; and one great-great grandchild. She is also survived by three stepsons and their families, Wayne Arrott of Tennyson, Texas, J.B. Arrott of Bronte, Texas, and Dee Arrott of Dallas, Texas.

The family wishes to thank the staff at Regency House for the loving care of their mother during the time of her residence there. Mrs. Arrott has been a faithful member of the Baptist Church all her life, and her family suggests that memorial gifts be made to First Baptist Church, Box 458, Eldorado, Texas 76936, or a favorite charity.

Cards of Thanks

We would like to thank the tough people who were charged with a very difficult decision. Each of you took the time to look through the smoke and make a decision that you knew was the truth. Thank you to our good friends who came to lend your support.

Carl, Melissa, Bob and Robby.

Thank you Sonorans!
Sonora Girl Scouts would like to express their sincere appreciation! Our peanut fundraiser was greatly supported by the whole community! Thank you for believing in us! God bless you all!

The Boy Scouts would like to thank Pizza Hut for donating the ice and cups, Jesse & Cindy Paredes for donating the lemonade and to all the parents that helped us work the booth at the Fall Festival. Our sincere gratitude is especially extended to Gary and Marcia Schwiening for donating all the pizzas for our fundraiser. Because of everyone's generosity, we were able to make 100% profit to help pay for the cost of scout camp.

With appreciation for your support,
Boy Scouts
Troop 19
Sonora, Texas



Dear Supporters of the Sonora Lady Broncos,
The Sonora Lady Bronco Basketball Team greatly appreciates your support and donations to the Coca Cola fundraiser. With your donations we are able to comfortably get through the 2004-2005 basketball season. Thank you for all of your support!

Sincerely,
The Sonora Lady Bronco Basketball Team

School Lunch Menu • Nov. 8 - 12, 2004

Breakfast

Mon. - Peanut butter toast, assorted juice.
Tues. - Blueberry muffin, apple juice.
Wed. - Cinnamon toast, orange juice.
Thurs. - Scrambled eggs, buttered toast, orange pineapple juice.
Fri. - Potatoes and cheese burrito, assorted juice.

Milk and cereal offered with all breakfasts.

Lunch

Mon. - Sausage pizza, green beans, vegetable salad, chocolate chip cookie.
Tues. - Macaroni and beef, mixed vegetables, peaches, cornbread.
Wed. - Beef enchiladas, pinto beans, cole slaw, crackers, fruit crisp.
Thurs. - Oven fried chicken, mashed potatoes, gravy, steamed broccoli, pudding, biscuits.
Fri. - Hamburgers, lettuce, tomatoes, pickles, fries, fresh fruit.

"GROWING UP IN CHRIST"
"Attaining Spiritual Maturity"
Speaker: Hal Smith
Amarillo, Texas
Song Leader: Rick Smitherman
Sonora, Texas
NOVEMBER 7-10
Sunday Services: Bible Study 10 A.M.
Worship Assembly 11 A.M.
Evening Worship 6:30 P.M.
Weekday Services: Singing 6:15 P.M.
Worship 6:30 P.M.
Meals Served: We will have a meal on Sunday morning hosting hunters and their families.
We will have a meal on Sunday evening for visitors and to welcome new members.
We will have a meal following each evening service.
Sonora Church of Christ
304 Water St. • Sonora

Senior Center News

Nov. 8 - Bingo!
Nov. 9 - Exercise Anyone?
Nov. 10 - AAA Caregiver Seminar. 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at ASU in San Angelo, TX.
Nov. 11 - Veterans Day Holiday. Center will be Closed! Fly the Flag!

Senior Center Menu

Nov. 8 - Spaghetti with meatballs and sauce, spinach, tossed salad, garlic bread, banana pudding, milk.
Nov. 9 - Chicken supreme, herb new potatoes, broccoli, salad, cherry cobbler, milk.
Nov. 10 - Pork chops with gravy, mashed potatoes, peas & carrots, roll, coleslaw, fruit cocktail, milk.
Nov. 11 - Veterans Day! Center will be Closed! Fly the Flag.
Nov. 12 - BBQ chicken, pinto beans, macaroni salad, sliced tomatoes, cornbread, fruit, milk.

NEW HOURS
Mon. - Fri 7:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.
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.

Community Calendar

<p>Nov. 8 County Commissioners Meeting • 9:00 a.m. Sutton County Annex Bldg.</p> <p>Nov. 11 Fillies Volleyball Exhibition Match Middle School Gym • 7:00 p.m. Parents Fun Match following.</p> <p>Nov. 11 Veterans Programs • 10:30 a.m. High School Auditorium</p> <p>Al-Anon Family Meetings Every Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. • Hospital Dining Room Call 387-2521 ext. 170</p>	<p>Nov. 13 Sutton County Game Dinner 6:00 p.m. • Civic Center</p> <p>Nov. 16 City Council Meeting • 2:00 p.m. City Hall</p> <p>Bronco Booster Meetings Every Monday at 6:30 p.m. SHS Room #210</p>
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Letters To The Editor Policy

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Ask the Historical Society

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

Q. When was the first burial in the Sonora Cemetery and why was it located where it is?

A. I think the obituary of Lorene Mitchell Morris in the Devil's River News of March 8, 1940, pretty much answers this question: Pioneer Resident of Sonora is Buried Thursday - Funeral services were conducted Thursday afternoon at the First Methodist Church for Mrs. George W. Morris, aged 71 years, who died early Wednesday morning following a long illness. Burial was made in the Sonora Cemetery, with Rev. R.F. Davis, pastor of the First Methodist Church in charge of the funeral service.

Mrs. Lorene Morris became seriously ill in December and her passing was not unexpected. She was a pioneer resident of Sonora; having moved with her husband to Sonora in 1889. Since that time she had resided continuously in Sonora.

Lorene Mitchell Morris was born in Ellis County, Texas, December 21, 1868, the daughter of James W. and Caroline Hill Mitchell, she moved with her parents to Fort McKavett in 1888. The following year she married George W. Morris, who survives, and they moved here. The pioneer couple celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary last August.

Mr. and Mrs. Morris occupied the fifth residence to be built in Sonora, the residence having been remodeled and improved since they moved into it. The site of the present Sonora Cemetery was selected by Mr. Morris and Mrs. Morris' father, the latter being the first to be buried in it in December of 1889. She had at all times been closely associated with life of the community, and in her passing leaves a gap in the social and civic life of the community.

Full bearers at the funeral were Fred Simmons, John Fields, M. M. Stokes, Jodie Trainer, W.D. Martin, Ralph Trainer, and T. L. Harrison. Survivors, in addition to

the husband, are a son, H.V. Morris of this city; two daughters, Mrs. Elmo Johnson of Castalon and Mrs. Ed Pfister of Fort Stockton; and seven grandchildren.

In our files we find that George W. Morris was born in Tinney Creek, about 10 miles from Lockhart in 1848. His parents were Alexander and Marguerite McCoy Tinney Mitchell. The Creek was named for his mother's first husband who came from St. Charles County, Mo. in 1832. George W. Morris served 16 months in the CSA when he was 16 years old. He was in Captain Allison's Company, part of Colonel Mann's Battalion.

George W. Morris drove 3600 sheep to Sutton County from Fort McKavett in a 1886. He moved his family here in 1889. His father-in-law, James W. Mitchell was in ill health when he came here and died in December of that year. A brother, James Morris, 34, died of consumption in December of 1891 and sister-in-law, Jenney Mitchell, died at his home in March of 1895. Harvey Morris, the youngest son of G.W. and Lorene, married Anna Martin on Wednesday, September 10, 1919, and made their home at the ranch near Juno.

From what we found in cemetery records, James Morris was buried in block B of the Sonora Cemetery near the grave of James W. Mitchell. Jenney was supposedly buried in the same area. We have found several unmarked graves in the right area but still do not have proof that is where they are buried.

After all these years it is impossible to determine the exact location of the graves without ground monitors. These monitors are able to pick up changes in the layers of the earth and minute traces of old rusted metal from nails and hardware on the coffins but are very, very expensive and we have no plans on trying to obtain one.

We were able to locate this picture of the G.W. Morris home. It was torn down long ago but was of historical significance because it was the site of the first meeting of the



First meeting of the Commissioners Court of Sutton County was held December 1, 1890, in this house, the G.W. Morris home, the fifth house built in Sonora. The house was located on the east side of the present site of the Courthouse.

Commissioners Court of Sutton County on December 1, 1890. It was located on the east side of the present site of the Courthouse on Poplar Street.

Q. Do you have any record of snowfall in the early days of Sutton County?

A. Devil's River News, December 29, 1939 - White Christmas Is Surprise to Sonorans - Greeted with a "White Christmas," to the surprise of everyone including the weather man, Sonora and other sections of West Texas reveled in from two to ten inches of snow which fell during Sunday night, to give this section its first Christmas snowfall since 1926, and the second since 1909, the other occasion being a Christmas in 1926 when a light fall was registered on Christmas Eve.

In Sonora and nearby sectors, the fall was gentle, no cold wind accompanying the snowfall, and while a great part melted as it fell, it was so heavy and continuous that on Christmas morning there was some two inches on the ground, which remained throughout the day and the following night.

Melting slowly, every trace of the moisture soaked into the soil, giving further assurance of luxuriant spring ranges, while small grain crops over West Texas received untold benefits from the unexpected moisture. This article shows the earliest recorded of snow in Sonora that we could find.

When I was growing up in Massachusetts my father always said that snow was a poor man's fertilizer. If that is true, Sonora had good range in the spring of 1939.

Q. Do you have any information on the burial site of Ethel Reiley?

A. Devil's River News, March 16, 1940 - Funeral rites for Miss Ethel Raphael Reiley were held Friday morning of last week in Fairmount Cemetery in San Angelo with the Rev. Bertin Harrington, officiating. Miss Reiley, 49, had resided in Menard for the last three years, and died in a San Angelo hospital Thursday afternoon.

Deceased is survived by two brothers, John P. and E.D. Reiley both of Sonora and seven sisters, Mrs. Will Hill, Mrs. Tom King, Mrs. Lillian Rudicil, Mrs. Frank Strickland and Miss Violet Reiley all of San Angelo, Mrs. Clementine Fletcher, Menard, and Mrs. D.G. Westman of Panama.

If you have any questions concerning Sutton County history send them to "Ask the Historical Society," P.O. Box 885, Sonora, Texas 76950-0885. You may call us at the office, 307 Oak Street, at 387-5084, Mondays, Fridays, and Saturdays from 8:00 a.m. - 11:45 a.m. or call me at home at 387-2855 with questions or rental requests.

Getting the word out to VOTE!



Election Day - history in the making. Future voters from Busy Bee Day Care were marching by the street on Tuesday, November 2, 2004, reminding people to get out and vote. The young 3-and 4-year-olds donned red, white and blue hats and carried pickets signs to get their message heard!

Chamber Chatter

Gearing up for hunting and the holidays

by Ruthie Bounds, Chamber of Commerce Executive Director

This is a big week for Sonora. Hunting season opens this Saturday, and we will be expecting a lot of hunters to come visit their hunting leases. As I mentioned in my column last week, we need to be sure to be polite and respectful to all the hunters. The economic impact of hunting season is very considerable for all the businesses in Sonora; so please remember to exercise a little patience if you have to stand in line a little longer at the grocery store, feed store, or any of the other businesses in town. Make sure that all our hunters feel welcome so that they will keep coming back.

The 38th Annual Sutton County Game Dinner will be held on November 13, 2004, at the Sutton County Civic Center. This is the second Saturday of November as is the usual date for the Game Dinner. There will be many great door prizes and the traditional menu will be served. More on the subject of the Game Dinner next week. Mark your calendar to be there.

Sonora Chamber of Commerce wants to remind you that many of the local businesses will be participating in the "Santa Bucks" program, this year. We will be getting the Santa Bucks out to the local stores for distribution on November 15, 2004. Remember Santa Bucks can be used to purchase items at the Santa Bucks Auction to be held on December 16, 2004, at the Sutton County Civic Center. There will be two special divisions of the Santa Bucks Auction this year; the children's section and the senior citizens' section. During that part of the auction only those who qualify will be able to bid on items up for auction. This has proven to be a great event and was established to help the local merchants increase their holiday sales. So be sure to collect your Santa Bucks, and if you are a business interested in participating, please call the Sonora Chamber of Commerce office at 325/387-2880.

We want to express our sincere appreciation to Location Builders and especially Robert Sanchez and his roustabout crew for moving our storage building off of our old lot to a location behind our office. There was a lot of work involved in moving that building and Robert and his crew worked diligently and patiently until it was done. We cannot thank you enough. The generosity and involvement our community shows never ceases to amaze me.

Happy Birthday

- November 4**
Ben Pool, Skyler Wood, Carla Gonzalez, Bubba Alewine,
- November 5**
Jason Chadwick, Kylie Johnson, Joe Longoria, Earl Johnson, Terry Surridge, Thomas Adkins, Bruce Kerbow, Jodie Finklea
- November 6**
Platt Glascock, Randy Lewellen, Kathy Lewellen, Martin Lopez, Ron Pincince, J.R. Sanchez
- November 7**
Ben Taylor, Tony Valkonen, Douglas Otwell, Karina Trevino
- November 8**
Morgan Martinez, Dustin Martin, Cole Cearley, Albert Sanchez, Jacob Lipham, Tissie Wagoner, Kesha Frasier, Rosa Hernandez, Kade Creek, Jovan Garza, Milton Black, Joni Casey
- November 9**
Andrea Chavez, Jason Moore, Tony Hooper, Houston Powers, Cathy Covey
- November 10**
Carlos Gamez, Sr., Michael Luttrell, Erma Pincince, Joan Hudson, Brent Gagneaux, Josejuan Garza

I like you very much!
I Love you very much!
I am very proud of you!
I'll be keeping my eye on you -
if I can!

Happy 18th Birthday!
November 5th

Kil Joy

Tedford Jewelry

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Melinda Bonert bride elect of Wil Trainer

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HELP FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Free Seminar

provided by Hospice of San Angelo
 Saturday, November 6, 2004
 8:30 a.m. – 12:00 Noon

In the Conference Room, Shannon's Women's & Children's Center. This seminar is for any adult who has suffered the loss of a loved one.

Any questions: call Jeanne Miller,
 HOSA Bereavement Coordinator at 658-6524.
 Please RSVP if possible.

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 440 LOUISIANA, SUITE 1930
 HOUSTON, TEXAS 77002
(800) 821-1242

*Not certified by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization.

TRANSFORMATION

Transformation is a youth-focused event that is bringing the youth of Sonora, Eldorado and Ozona together as one body with one vision. The vision of TRANSFORMATION is based on Romans 12:2 - "Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be 'transformed' by the renewing of your mind." Don't miss this opportunity to see what God is doing.

Join us on the 2nd Sunday of each month at Lighthouse Community Church
 Meal @ 6:00 p.m.
 Praise & Worship @ 7:00 p.m.

FMI Please Contact:
 Silas Politte FBC Eldorado
 853-2662 or
 Lighthouse Church
 387-9100

CVCOG holds general assembly in Sonora



Local Boy Scouts Post the Colors and lead the Pledge of Allegiance at the Concho Valley Council of Governments meeting on October 20, 2004.

The Executive Committee of the Concho Valley Council of Governments (CVCOG) met in at the Sutton County Civic Center in Sonora, Texas on Wednesday, October 20, 2004. The meeting was opened with local Boy Scouts posting the colors and leading the group in the Pledge of Allegiance. A meal was provided, with the Sutton County Steakhouse catering.

The main topic of discussion this year was the Head Start Program, which CVCOG has taken over. A grant was received to assist with the hiring

of new people. The CVCOG is partnering with the San Angelo I.S.D. on the project.

The nominating committee gave a report and the election of officers was held. Terry Bader is the new President and Miguel Villanueva of Sonora was moved up from Secretary to Vice President.

This is the second time the CVCOG group has met in Sonora for their general assembly.

Sonora works with Texas Pecos Trail Region for official designation

by Ruthie Bounds, Chamber of Commerce Executive Director

Friday, October 29, 2004. The Texas Pecos Trail Region interested parties met in Ozona at the Ozona Civic Center. The Texas Heritage Trails Program is the Texas Historical Commission's (THC) regional tourism initiative. The Texas Pecos Trail Region will be working to be the next region to receive an official designation. The Texas Pecos Trail Region encompasses the following 22 counties: Andrews, Crane, Crockett, Ector, Edwards, Glasscock, Kimble, Kinney, Loving, Martin, Maverick, Midland, Pecos, Reagan, Reeves, Sterling, Sutton, Terrell, Upton, Val Verde, Ward and Winkler. The Texas Historic Commission has designated the Texas Forts Trail Region, the Texas Brazos Trail Region, the Texas Forest Trail Region, the Texas Independence Trail Region, the Texas Lakes Trail Region and the Texas Plains Trail Region. There are two regions that are being designated this year; the Texas Tropical Trail Region and the Mountain Trail Region.

The official designation brings with it many opportunities for marketing travel destinations in the region. Cultural and Heritage tourism has increased an average of 20% in monitored sites in the first three heritage regions - Texas Forts Trail Region, Texas Independence Trail Region and Texas Forest Trail Region. Texas is the number two state visited by cultural and heritage travelers in the United States according to the Texas Travel Industry Association of America. Heritage travelers spend more per day than non-heritage travelers and tend to stay in lodging rather than with family or friends. Heritage travelers are repeat travelers and come back more often, particularly if they have had a quality, authentic experience. Texas is comprised of mostly rural communities that offer the true Texas heritage sites, events, historic landscapes and cultures, just like Sonora, Ozona and the surrounding communities. Texas really is like a whole other country and the Texas mystique attracts cultural and heritage travelers to our state.

Becoming part of the Texas Heritage Trail Program helps to give us an identity as a travel destination. Many people that live in metropolitan areas are just looking for a town like ours and most of the West Texas towns to visit. Seeing the stars at night is a big treat, visiting an historic cemetery, museum, or ranch is exactly what most of these travelers are looking for. The meeting in Ozona was attended by representatives from most of the counties mentioned above. The City Manager of Sonora, Brent Gesch, the manager of the Friends of Historic Sonora Main Street Program, Ann Kay, and Executive Director of the Sonora Chamber of Commerce, Ruthie Bounds were all in attendance. The meeting served as a review and reorganization of the application process for the Texas Pecos Trail Region. Janie Headrick, the State Coordinator for the Texas Heritage Trail Program, gave a very informative and helpful presentation. If you are interested in showing your support of this program or if you have any questions about the program, please contact Ann Kay at 325/387-2248 or Ruthie Bounds at 325/387-2880.

TxDOT announces awards

submitted

Employees from the Sonora Maintenance and Area Office have recently been honored as safe drivers and equipment operators and for years of service.

The local Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) employees were honored at the annual Safety Awards Banquet on Sept. 28 in Big Lake. Staffs from both local offices were awarded the No Lost Time Injury Award. Individual safe operator and no injury award winners from both offices were also recognized in a video presentation that featured "Let's Stress Safety."

The safety day activities also included the final competition of the annual dump truck roдео event that involved the winners from the individual maintenance offices. Michael Campos represented the maintenance section in this competition. During the truck roдео awards presentations, Tony Lujan from the area office was announced as one of the top four finalists out of 85 participants in the annual pick up roдео. This event, like the dump truck roдео, required contestants to demonstrate backing, turning, steering, and braking skills in an obstacle course, demonstrating daily maneuvers while operating TxDOT vehicles and other equipment.



Walter McCullough (right), District Engineer from the Texas Department of Transportation - San Angelo District, presents a Truck Rodeo Finalist award to Michael Campos (above) from the local maintenance office and a plaque to Tony Lujan (below) from the area office as one of top four pick up roдео participants in the district.



During the third quarter, 10-year service award. Wilson Karen Wilson, was presented a is a construction record keeper for the area office.

AEP Texas recognizes area employees with safety award

MENARD, Texas, Nov. 1, 2004 - AEP Texas, a unit of American Electric Power recognized area employees from Menard, Eden, Junction, Eldorado and Sonora with the company's Horizon Award for achieving safety excellence.

Area employees who received the award are: Steve Terrell, Johnny Brown, Paul Peterson and Georgia Stansbury all of Menard, Jimmy Sims and



Local AEP technicians, Bobby Zuniga (back row, fourth from left) and Jimmy Sims (kneeling, right) receive awards.

Bobby Zuniga of Sonora, Zane Blackwell of Eden, Gus Hinojosa of Eldorado, and Kenny Smart of Junction. Each employee received a commemorative gift in appreciation of his or her safety accomplishment.

The Horizon Award was created to recognize leadership commitment and excellence in improving and promoting safety. It is the highest award that can be attained by AEP work locations throughout the company's 11-state territory.

One of the most important criteria in determining the winner is outstanding safety performance and accident-free

has to be exemplary by industry-wide standards, not just by comparison with other AEP operations. Ballinger area employees are part of the Corpus Christi Distribution Region, which won the overall Horizon Award designation.

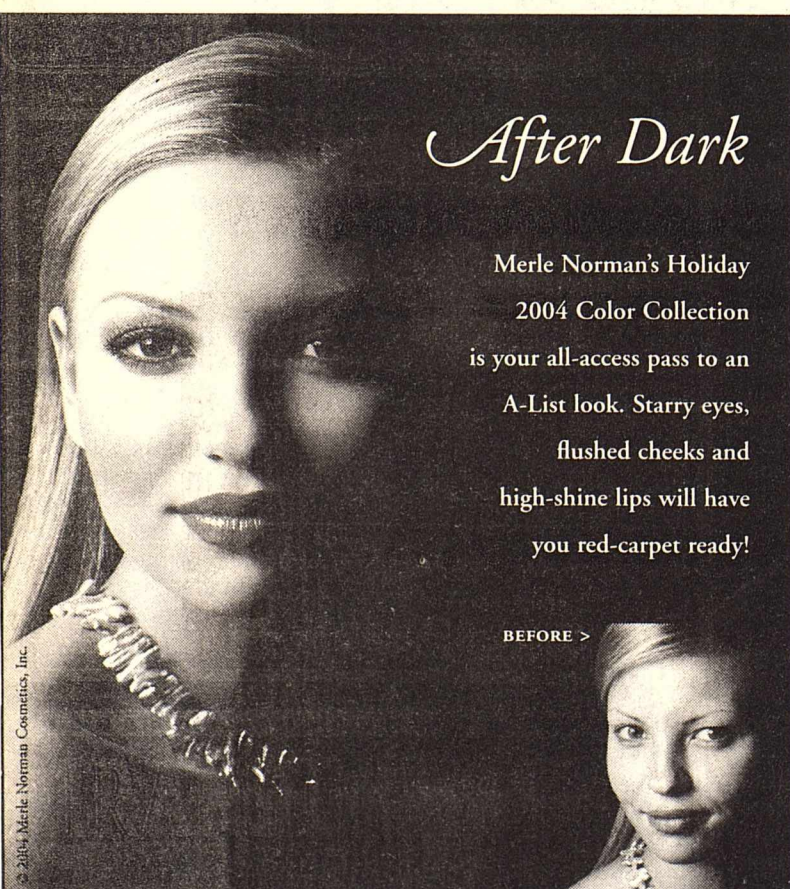
The region, which includes Corpus Christi, Victoria, Laredo, the Rio Grande Valley, Abilene and San Angelo districts, has reduced the number of personal injury cases by 50 percent in the past two years and by 85 percent over the last six

created the bronze sculpture for AEP. Michael Morris, AEP chairman, president and chief executive officer, said the Horizon Award sculpture itself "has us looking toward the future and the day when we have zero incidents."

Mark Baker, manager of distribution systems for the San Angelo District, said, "I'm extremely proud of all our employees. Our business of providing electric power to customers is a dangerous one, which is why working safely is

REPORT OF COUNTY TREASURER OF SUTTON COUNTY, TEXAS, OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES FROM JULY 1, 2004 TO SEPT. 30, 2004

FUND	BEGINNING BALANCE	RECEIPTS	TRANSFER IN	DISBURSEMENTS	TRANSFERRED OUT	BALANCE
General	\$ 2,599,532.23	\$ 534,256.02		\$ 788,822.64		\$ 2,344,965.61
FMFC	\$ 380,007.66	\$ 90,223.81		\$ 282,115.72		\$ 188,115.75
Flood Control	\$ 24,281.40					\$ 24,281.40
Law Library	\$ 7,241.82	\$ 708.30		\$ 1,480.50		\$ 6,469.62
Lateral Road	\$ 7,147.94			\$ 7,147.94		\$ -
State Trust Funds	\$ 720.00	\$ 525.00		\$ 648.00		\$ 597.00
State Arrest Fees	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -		\$ -
Employee Benefit Fund	\$ 214,292.17			\$ 6,692.00		\$ 207,600.17
Sutton County 911	\$ 7,505.81	\$ 612.30		\$ 606.53		\$ 7,511.58
Appellate Fund	\$ 302.80	\$ 247.49		\$ -		\$ 550.29
Sheriff Seizure Fund	\$ 11,013.37	\$ 504,671.46		\$ 4,067.59		\$ 511,617.24
Courthouse Renovation	\$ 76,883.46	\$ 25,061.08		\$ 18,927.77		\$ 83,016.77
					TOTAL	\$ 3,354,725.43
CHECKING ACCOUNTS						
Courthouse Renovation	\$ 83,016.77	FMFC	\$ 42,043.82	General	\$ 104,107.07	
Appellate Fund	\$ 550.29	Sutton County 911	\$ 7,511.58	Sheriff Seizure	\$ 61,617.24	\$ 298,846.77
Money Market Accounts (General)	\$ 2,479,806.73	FMFC	\$ 126,071.93			\$ 2,605,878.66
CD Accounts (Seizure)	\$ 450,000.00					\$ 450,000.00
TOTAL						\$ 3,354,725.43



After Dark

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Red JV Runs to Victory

By Mark Rousselot

The Bronco Red proved a mighty point last Thursday with its running game. In a 28-14 win over the Grape Creek Eagles last Thursday, the Red JV racked up 220 yards on the ground, the most output in any game this year. The win by the Broncos evened their record for the year at 4-4-1.

Sonora received the opening kickoff, and the game seemed like it was going to be the same old story from the last two weeks. On the third play from scrimmage, Bronco quarterback Cullen Parker was intercepted by the Eagles at the Sonora 49; however, as it has done most of the season, the Bronco defense rose to the occasion and held the Eagles on three plays. After a bad snap on the Eagles' attempted punt, Sonora took over at its own 49. Six plays later, Martin Gonzales rumbled 11 yards for the first score of the game. The PAT was no good, but the Broncos led 6-0 in the first quarter; however, moments later, Grape Creek scored on a 4th down 25-yard pass play to tie the game 6-6 with :24 to go in the first.

The next four possessions saw both teams punt back and forth. Then the game changer! Brandon Munn sliced through the Eagle line on fourth down and with all his 6'3" frame, not only blocked the punt but recovered the ball in the end zone for a Bronco touchdown! With a Parker sneak on the 2-point conversion, the Broncos stole the momentum and the lead, 14-6, going into halftime.

No sooner had the Broncos taken the lead, than Grape Creek came storming back. On the second play after the Eagles took the second half kickoff, a 64-yard touchdown catch and run, and a 2-point conversion, saw the game knotted at 14-14. With another great 30-yard kickoff return by Steven Barthelemy, the Broncos set up shop at their 37 yard line. Aided by two ten yard runs by big #24 and a 17-yard pass play to Fred Romo, Gonzales found the end zone for the second time in the game with a 6-yard run. After another Parker sneak, the Broncos led 22-14 with 3:31 left in the 3rd quarter.

Led by Bryan Reyes and Austin Castaneda, the Mighty Bronco defense then went to work. On third down, a host of Big Red defenders forced an Eagle fumble where Jose Rodriguez, looking like Derek Jeter, cleanly scooped the fumble and returned it 15 yards to the Grape Creek 36. From there, all Bronco "cloud of dust" plays which culminated in Cullen Parker's one-yard touchdown run for a 28-14 lead with 9:12 left in the game. After Grape Creek failed to mount a scoring drive, the Bronco offense took over with 3:00 minutes to go in the game. Continuing to run the ball effectively behind a solid offensive line, the Red JV ran out the clock for a much deserved victory.

The Bronco Red JV's last game of the year is against their 1-10 East rivals, the Junction Eagles. Game time is 7:00 p.m., this Thursday, November 4, at Eagle Stadium. If you have not seen this JV team this year, then make the trip to see these fine young men in action. And remember, "The hardest thing about climbing the Ladder of Success is getting through the crowd at the bottom."



Sonora High School Cross Country

Coach Eddie Favila, Emily Butler, Amanda Word, Felisha Gamez, Erika McClintock, J.T. Downing, Jennifer Gonzales, Alexie Ortiz, Emily Earwood, Mandy Brister, Andrew Barthelemy, Colton Moore, Ty Love, Amanda Berry, Tony Torres, Coach Kellie Crain, Coach Kathy Marshall; (kneeling) Nick Favela, Kyla Turney, Amanda Samaniego, Michael Chavez, Jacob Ibarra, and Filemon Garza.

Both Fillies teams go down to the overhand serve

by Chap Traylor

The Sonora Fillies Red and White both had trouble in San Angelo last week, falling to an overhand serve in two separate games.

The Red team was up against the San Angelo Aces and the White team took on the San Angelo Eclipse, both having equal outcomes.

The new method of scoring that has been introduced gives a point to one team or the other on every serve. It is a must to be able to put the ball in play with every serve. The two Sonora teams were not able to accomplish this, and were defeated by their opponents.

The two offensive players who were able to handle their serve were Loren Isenhour for the Red team and Chelsey Lou Campbell for the White.

The defensive players of the games were Macie Zuniga and Alyssa Vela for the Red and Gabby Saucedo and Steely Ingham for the White.

The Fillies have two games left this season, November 9, in San Angelo, and the last game will be played here, in Sonora, on November 11 in the big gym at the elementary school. After the match, the girls have challenged their parents to a fun match! Come out and support the Fillies!

Broncos from page 1

by the Broncos, and Smith recovered for the Broncos.

Stetson Perez gained twenty yards to the Eagle 12 yard line. After a Bronco penalty, Cearley hit Lito Trevino with a quick pass that he carried to the seven yard line. From there, Ramos ran hard through a huge hole for the Broncos' first touchdown of the third quarter. Gaytan kicked his fourth consecutive extra point making the score 28 to 0 with 9:32 left in the third quarter.

At this point, Grape Creek decided to just give the rock to Younts and see what he could do. In four carries, he got Grape Creek on the score board. Younts scored from 31 yards out and Kyle Jolley kicked the PAT.

The next Bronco series went several plays before the Broncos were facing fourth and goal. Gaytan kicked a 21-yard field goal to make the score 31 to 7 with 1:57 left in the third quarter.

Younts quickly responded with a 60-yard run for an Eagle touchdown. This time Jolley missed his kick making the score 31 to 13 with 59 seconds left in the third quarter.

After the Broncos were stopped again, Younts once again broke through the Bronco line for a 59-yard touchdown run. They went for two and Kyle Jolley caught the successful two point completion from Priddy. With 7:51 left in the game, the Broncos lead had been cut to ten points at 31 to 21.

The Eagles chose to kick deep. The Broncos needed a time-consuming drive, and the offensive line stepped up and made the blocks. McDaniel started to his right and appeared to be stopped for a big loss. He reversed his field, picked up

some blocks, and turned a big loss into an eight-yard gain. Facing third down, Cearley threw to Longoria. The pass was low, but Longoria made an NFL type "on your back" catch for the first down. A couple of plays later, McDaniel broke through the Eagle line and gained 36 yards to the eleven yard line. They gave him the pigskin two more times, and he finished the scoring with a four-yard run. The final score was 38 - 21.

The Broncos played their best offensive game of the season. They only need to beat the Junction Eagles this Friday at Bronco Stadium to enter the UIL playoffs. The last home game of the season begins at 7:30.

Sonora 38, Grape Creek 21
Score by Quarters
Sonora 21 0 10 7 - 38
Grape Creek 0 0 13 8 - 21

SCORING SUMMARY

First Quarter
Sonora - 11:42, Anthony Longoria 76 pass from Clint Cearley (Aaron Gaytan kick).
Sonora - 3:16, Pedro Gloria 33 pass from Cearley (Gaytan kick).

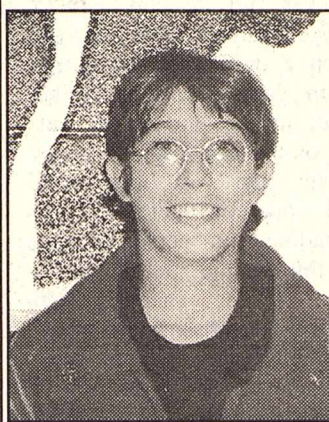
Sonora - 1:27, Brett McDaniel 4 run (Gaytan kick).

Third Quarter - Sonora - 9:32, Caleb Ramos 10 run (Gaytan kick).
Grape Creek - 7:26, Matt Younts 31 run (Kyle Jolley kick).

Sonora - 1:57, Gaytan 21 field goal.
Grape Creek - 0:59, Younts 60 run (kick fails).

Fourth Quarter - Grape Creek - 7:51, Younts 59 run (Kyle Jolley pass from Trenton Priddy).
Sonora - 2:44, McDaniel 4 run (Gaytan kick).

Student of the Week



Mandy Brister

Mandy Irene Brister was born in San Angelo but has lived in Sonora all of her life. The SHS Junior is the 16-year-old daughter of Cliff and Danine Brister.

Mandy is an outdoor person listing hunting, fishing, hanging out with friends and having fun as her hobbies. She says that Ag, history and chemistry are her favorite subjects. Mandy plans on attending Texas Tech University but has not decided on a major just yet.

Congratulations to the Sonora High School Student of the Week.

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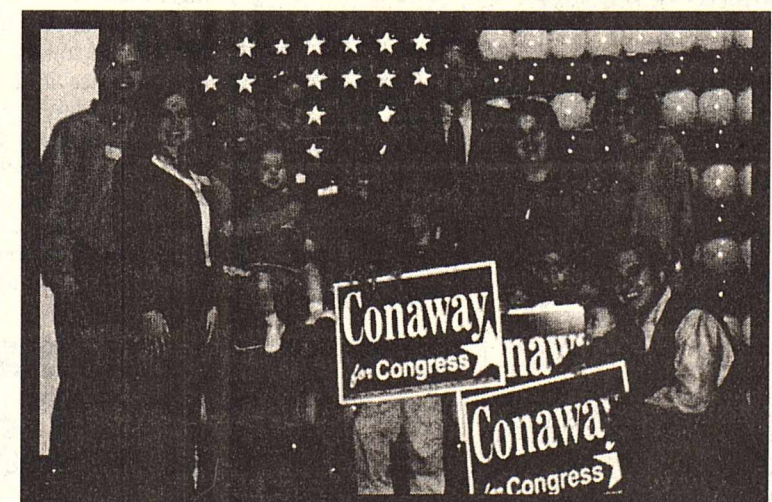
Sonora FFA Annual Fundraiser
The Sonora FFA is selling meat and fruit again this year as their fundraiser.
Thanksgiving meat orders only are due November 8th
Delivery will be November 16th
Christmas meat and fruit orders are due November 29th
Delivery will be December 7th
Please contact an FFA Member or call Michael Kissire at Sonora High School at 387-6533

2004 Bronco Football
Nov. 5
* Junction • Here • 7:30 p.m.
JV Football
Nov. 4
Junction (JV Red) • There • 7:00 p.m.
Colorado City (JV White) • There • 5:00 p.m.
Colt Football
Nov. 4
Junction • Here • 5:00/6:30 p.m.
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District Game Preview: Junction Eagles

Nancy Glasscock

This week's Sonora Varsity football game is at home against the Junction Eagles. The Eagles, under first year Head Coach Sean Leamon, are 1 - 8, 0 - 6. This is a big change from 2003 when Junction was 11 - 1 and in District 26-2A. Not only did Junction have to start over with inexperienced players, key starters also were injured in the beginning of the season.

Junction runs multiple backs in an I formation. Colt Murr and Wes Nieman handle most of the runningback work for the Eagles. Their Quarterback, Brian Gonzales, is a sophomore who has had a baptism of fire in his first year as the varsity signal caller. Quint Murr handles most of the wide receiver duties. The kicker Brent Abilez has also hauled in a pass this year when Colt Murr had to fill in for the injured Gonzales. Abilez has also filled in for Nieman who broke his wrist. What's that old saying, "if it weren't for bad luck, I'd have

no luck at all." Many of the Junction Eagle players have filled in and played positions they hadn't played since eighth grade.

Defensively, the Eagles run the Split 6. Last week against the Lions, Junction defenders picked off three Ozona passes and kept the game within a six-point deficit.

This is straight from a trombone player in the Eagle Band: the band received straight 1's at a recent competition. They play a variety of music. We could hear songs by Elton John and OutKast, or from the movies Drumline and Austin Powers. Who knows, though, last week I expected the Grape Creek band to play their Motown Medley from competition. Instead it was a Halloween surprise with music from Phantom of the Opera, Ghostbusters, and Jaws.

Get your woolies on and come on out to Bronco Stadium to cheer on the Broncos for their final 2004 district game.

Christmas Tour of Homes
 December 5 • 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
 Sponsored by Sutton County Health Foundation
 Refreshments will be served.
 Tickets available at Teaff Oil, Main Street Realty and L.M. Hudspeth Hospital and each of the three homes during the tour.

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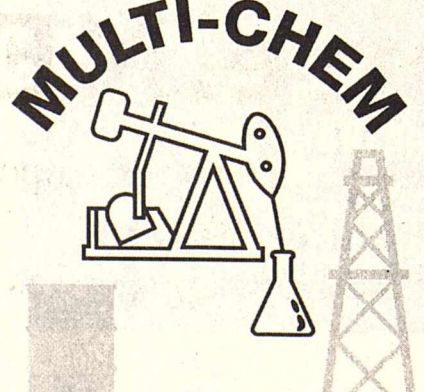
SPECIAL SALE DATE
 Dec. 14

NO SALE
 Nov. 8 & 9
 Nov. 23
 Dec. 27 & 28

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Keep well this winter even without Flu shot

by Linda Anderson, lw-anderson@tamu.edu
 COLLEGE STATION - Flu shots are in short supply this year. For those who usually protect themselves with flu shots but will be unable to this year, Texas Cooperative Extension experts offer some advice: Don't panic.

Dr. Carol Rice, Extension health specialist, and Andrew Crocker, Extension gerontology and health specialist, said these common-sense health tips could help this winter, even if flu shots are not an option:

- Wash hands as often as possible. Frequent use of soap and water can go a long way toward reducing instances of winter illnesses, Rice said.
- "Most cold and flu germs are spread by direct contact," Crocker said. "If you were to sneeze into your hand and then touch a doorknob, the germs (from your sneeze, to your hand, to the doorknob) may stay on that doorknob for hours - even days." Washing hands will prevent germs from spreading from person to person this way.
- Cover sneezes and coughs. Keep tissues or a handkerchief handy to cover your nose and mouth if you have to sneeze or cough. That will keep germs from spreading into the air, where they can infect others, Crocker said.
- Covering your sneeze with your hand isn't very sanitary, he said, especially if you immediately touch someone or some thing.
- "If you do cover a sneeze or cough with your hands, remember to wash your hands immediately."
- If a tissue or handkerchief isn't handy, he suggested turning away from others and coughing into the air.
- Get regular exercise. Get regular exercise, such as walking for 30 minutes each day, Rice said. "Studies show this helps you avoid getting sick because your immune system is more effective."

- Eat a healthful diet. Be sure to choose a variety of foods. Rice advised. "The food guide pyramid can help you make good choices."
- Keep stress to a minimum. Recent studies show individuals who have a positive attitude are less likely to catch colds than individuals whose attitude is more negative, Crocker said. Healthy and positive attitudes also promote healthy lifestyle habits, he said, which can also mean fewer illnesses.
- Sleep. Quality sleep helps the body recover from illness, Rice said. Getting enough sleep can also be an important step in preventing some illnesses in the first place, she said.
- The National Sleep Foundation (<http://www.sleepfoundation.org>) offered these tips:
 - Keep a regular sleep schedule to help keep the body's natural rhythm in balance.
 - Avoid caffeine, nicotine and alcohol, which can all have negative effects on sleep.
 - Don't go to bed on a full stomach.
 - Finish exercise workouts at least three hours before bedtime.
 - Relax before bed. Try soaking in a warm bath, reading or listening to soothing music.
 - Sleep on a comfortable, supportive mattress and keep the room dark, quiet, cool and comfortable.
 - Daytime naps should be short and sweet - no more than 20 or 30 minutes.
- If you do come down with the flu, experts from the Mayo Clinic advise getting rest, drinking fluids, avoiding alcohol and tobacco, and seeking medical advice.
- Take antiviral medication if prescribed and above all, don't go to work, school or anywhere else you might spread the disease to others. (<http://www.mayoclinic.com/index.cfm>. Click on the link to Infectious Disease.)

Legislature eyes accountability in school funding

State Capital Highlights
 Texas Press Association

By Mike Cox
 AUSTIN - Unless it had to do with the election, Austin was pretty quiet last week.

The business of state government went on, of course, but to say that most elected officials had a singular focus would be an understatement.

House Speaker Tom Craddick, addressing the Permian Basin Petroleum Association in Midland, did make it plain that the next session of the Legislature (assuming the governor does not call a special session, which seems unlikely this close to January) would be interested in more than the funding side of public education in Texas.

"I don't believe the only way to fix education is to throw money at it," he told the oil folks. "I believe we need some reforms in the system."

Indeed, one buzz word when it comes to education seems to be "accountability."

Craddick said work on a plan that would include more accountability measures is nearly complete.

The speaker also said that whatever the Legislature does to make public school funding more efficient likely will include reducing property taxes.

Sizing up classroom size...

Another educational issue last week involved the student to teacher ratio for elementary schools, currently 22:1.

On Oct. 5, Education Commissioner Shirley J. Neeley mailed what the Texas Education Agency called a guidance letter on what school districts should do if a class exceeds 22 students.

That's clearly a touchy issue with teachers. Not long after the letter went out, the Texas Classroom Teachers Association and other groups complained that how class size

waivers are handled should be settled through TEA's regular rulemaking process.

In response to that, Neeley rescinded her letter late last week.

Armed men fan out in Texas...

Saturday is opening day of deer season across most of Texas.

The numbers reported by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department are impressive: Some 500,000 hunters (and many of those on opening day) will be aiming for a shot at some of Texas' 4 million white-tailed deer.

This annual effort generates an estimated \$2.5 billion for the Texas economy. For some areas, hunting season has become the economy. In Llano County, for example, hunting annually amounts to a \$3.5 million industry.

Businesses and landowners make money whether the hunting is good, average or bad. This year, however, looks like a banner season for hunters.

As TPWD's white-tailed deer program leader Mitch Lockwood said in mid-October, "This is the best year I've seen."

Many ranchers, he said, "are saying range conditions are the best in 20 years."

Main Street cities announced...

La Porte, Livingston, San Angelo and Sinton have been selected by the Texas Historical Commission as 2005 Main Street Cities.

Those four cities join more than 80 other communities designated as Main Street Cities included in THC's historic downtown revitalization program. When a city gains Main Street status, it qualifies for state help in developing strategies "to use historic preservation as an economic stimulus."

For more information on the program, check the agency's Web site at www.the.state.tx.us.

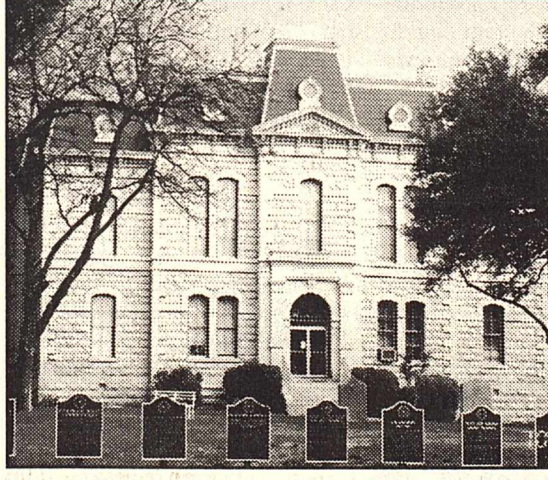
Flower Power

by Delyse Jaeger

It is an exciting time for Eaton Hill Wildlife Sanctuary enthusiasts. We are close to completing several projects which will bring to a close the development phase of Eaton Hill. Our community owes a deep appreciation to those who have committed their time, money, ideas and hearts to see the park created. Personally, I believe Sonora has not yet begun to realize the impact our local trails will have on the future of our community. As we turn our attention to promoting Eaton Hill and developing activities aimed at combining nature, education, art, recreation and discovery for all ages, I expect this to become increasingly evident.

On what do I base this prediction one might ask? Well, just a glance at Texas tourism statistics and trends will quickly show that cultural and heritage tourism which includes nature tourism is the fast growing segment of the Texas tourism industry. Texas tourism is BIG business, generating billions of

Up On Eaton Hill



dollars and ranking as the third largest industry in the state. Rural communities are discovering that that nature tourism provides an opportunity to diversify local economies and landowners are exploring ways to broaden their income base by tapping into the bird watching and photography markets. As for cultural tourism, Sonora has not yet reached its potential for meeting the demands of this market. People are generally surprised to find out just how many folks will pull off the interstate to look for birds, photograph wildflowers, or admire the Sutton County Courthouse.



There are many hidden treasures on Eaton Hill.

A case in point: Geocaching in Sonora. Geocaching is a worldwide treasure hunt using GPS units (global positioning system). Coordinates along with points of interest and local history of the area are posted on the internet at www.geocaching.com and caches containing trinkets are hidden at these coordinates. Players hunt for the hidden cache, remove a prize, log their find and leave something in the cache. Sonora is host to four such hidden treasure chests, two of which are on Eaton Hill, another is located near the courthouse and the fourth is hidden at Will Carver Park. Participants who have posted their reviews on the geocaching website have given Sonora, our history and Eaton Hill glowing appraisals. Here is a quote: "...my kids loved it. Great history lesson, cool park, and neat cache!". And another: "All we can say is wow! We have never seen so many Historical Markers in one location. Very neat little town square/courthouse... One of the locals even stopped while we were counting and passed on some information...definitely worth the stop."

As we turn our focus to the promotion of Eaton Hill and the development of activities, I am excited about the limitless possibilities of creating experiences in nature that blend education, nature, art and science. Hit the trails!

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Sutton County 4-H Forecast

Weight Projection Computer Programs

For anyone interested, the Texas Cooperative Extension Office has developed a computer program that will help you figure rate of gain and give weight projections for animal projects. This should help in deciding whether to increase or decrease feed intake, alter protein levels, or make other nutrition or conditioning decisions. These are Quattro Pro programs, but should convert to Excel. If this would help your project, visit the Extension office and take a floppy disk.

Project Visits
Pascual Hernandez, Sutton County Extension Agent - Ag, will try to visit everyone who would like some input or help on their 4-H project. Call the office to set up a time - 387-3101.

Lamb & Goat Clinic
Monday, November 15, at 6:00 p.m. there will be a lamb project workshop at the 4-H barn. Tony Renfro will be the quest speaker. He will be discussing feeding and exercise programs. This will be a good time to ask questions about feed and exercise plans and to gain valuable information for your projects. Meat goat project

members are invited and encouraged to attend.

Rifle Project
The Rifle Project will have a sign up meeting on November 3rd at 5:00 p.m. at the Langford Barn. For details contact Randy Knight or Sherry Ingham. Must be 3rd grade or older.

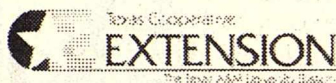
Silver Dollar Classic
November 13th - Lamb & Goat Shows. Guarantee \$250 to champion lamb and goat. Both shows will be at the Ward County Coliseum. Entry forms are available at <http://ward-co.tamu.edu>.

4-H Club Meeting
Tuesday, November 16 - The junior club officers will preside over a general meeting that will start at 6:15 p.m. at the Civic Center. The program will be provided by the Wildlife Project and will start at 6:30 p.m. Bring a Friend!!

County 4-H Food Show
The annual 4-H Food Show will be held November 15, at the Civic Center. Judging is at 6:00 p.m. County Food Show paperwork is due on November 11th. An envelope will be placed on the front door of the office for turn-in. The office will be closed in honor of Veteran's Day.

Sutton County 4-H and FFA Stock Show Exhibitors who plan on entering any show beyond our local show will need to attend a meeting on Monday, November 8th at 6:00 p.m. at the Civic Center. Entry forms for all the major stock shows will be completed that evening, and a notary public will be on hand to notarize signatures for Houston entries. We hope to have ALL signatures of parents and exhibitors completed at this meeting so please try to attend. Michael Kissire and Pascual Hernandez will be present to answer questions. You can call the Extension Office at 387-3101 if you need more information.

Insects Seeking Winter Homes



submitted by **Pascual Hernandez, Sutton County Extension Agent - Agriculture**

The weather has finally cooled off some and nights are also cooler. That means that insects will soon begin to look for a place to spend the winter. Some clever insects, like the ladybug, survive by hibernating. Others, such as fleas and lice, survive by living close to people or animals. And sometimes they seek shelter in our homes for a peaceful winter sleep. Most of them do not present a great danger to the homeowner. However, these insects WILL be a nuisance. Here are a couple of tips to help reduce the chance of serving as a winter home for insects or other pests.

First, inspect your home for possible entry points. It is not uncommon for insects to enter attics or garages through cracks in the foundation, open win-

dows or spaces around doors. Mechanical control is possible by caulking all cracks to prevent insect entry. Caulking also makes the structure more airtight and should help lower heating costs.

Secondly, remember to store firewood away from the house to help eliminate hiding places for pests. Also take only the amount of firewood needed for immediate use into the house. Firewood stacked beside the house may be handy but as the wood warms, spiders, scorpions and other pests may leave the wood and escape to other areas of the house.

With just these simple practices, we can keep down the probability of involuntarily hosting insects over the winter. For this and related information, visit the Sutton County Extension Office website at <http://sutton-co.tamu.edu> or call your county Extension agent at 387-3101.

'Brush Management Past, Present, Future' text now available

by Steve Byrns

SAN ANGELO - "Brush Management Past, Present, Future" is said by one of its editors to be the most comprehensive brush control reference available in decades.

Dr. Allan McGinty, Texas Cooperative Extension range specialist at San Angelo, said the book is for anybody who works with rangelands or who is confronted with brush problems of any kind.

"The book could easily be used as a college text or as a reference for individuals," said McGinty. "It is the most up-to-date reference on rangeland brush control there is. The last such reference was 'Brush Management-Principles and Practices for Texas and the Southwest.' That book, printed in 1980, was authored by the late Dr. Charles J. Scifres, who was then professor of range management with the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station at College Station."

McGinty said there have been major changes in the industry in recent years. New application technologies, herbicides, and biological control options along with summer burning, offer brush management opportunities that were unheard of 20 years ago.

McGinty said the new book is broken into sections on the four methods of brush management: mechanical, chemical, biological and fire. Each of the sections is divided into chapters on the history, current status

and future prospects of that particular practice. Economic and financial questions, water, wildlife and environmental issues also are covered.

McGinty said the idea for the 282-page book started several years ago with a brush control symposium in San Angelo sponsored by the Experiment Station, Extension and the Center for Grazinglands and Ranch Management at College Station.

"We had the symposium because many range professionals were getting up in years and we worried that much of the practical and technical information they had in their minds might someday be lost," said McGinty. "We brought them together and had them speak on brush control so we could capture that knowledge both orally and in written proceedings. Papers and notes from that symposium and from other top professionals eventually evolved into this textbook."

McGinty's co-editors on the project were Wayne T. Hamilton, director of the Center for Grazinglands and Ranch Management at Texas A&M University; Dr. Darrell Ueckert, Regents Fellow and range researcher at San Angelo; Dr. Wayne Hanselka, associate department head and Extension program leader for Rangeland Ecology and Management at Corpus Christi; and Michelle Lee, writer and editor at the Center for Grazinglands and Ranch Management at College Station.

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Dominion; 8900' Hicks - 22 - #15. Patterson Drilling.

New Dominion; 8800' Winnie R Aldwell Trust - K - #5. Patterson Drilling.

New Dominion; 7000' Cusenbary - 60 - #17, Patterson Drilling.

Dominion; 6975' Canyon Ranch #9210S, Patterson Drilling.

Dominion; 6200' Steen #81, Patterson Drilling.

New Dominion; 6200' Steen #83, Patterson Drilling.

Dominion; 6000' Cusenbary - 59 - #8, Patterson Drilling.

Dominion; 5500' Canyon Ranch #1056S, Patterson Drilling.

Crockett

Endeavor Energy Res.; 15000' Parker - 100 - #1 H, Big Dog Drilling.

Dominion; 9800' Hunt - 24 - #5, Patterson Drilling.

Devon Energy; 9500' Ruby Helbing - 27 - #9, Patterson Drilling.

New Approach Operating; 9000' Bailey - #313, Key Energy.

Approach Operating; 9000' JR Bailey - A - #602, Nabors Drilling.

Approach Operating; 9000' Approach Bailey #203, Nabors Drilling.

New Anadarko; 9000' Scheuber #12, Patterson Drilling.

New Dominion; 8800' Betty Faye Renfro - C - #3, Patterson Drilling.

Terrell

Riata Energy Inc; 19000' Mitchell #1201, Lariat Drilling.

Riata Energy Inc; 12000' Mitchell #6301, Lariat Drilling.

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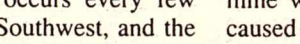
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For more rig locations call 1-800-627-9785 or go online to www.rigdata.com.



All Vesicular Stomatitis (VS) Quarantines Released in Texas

For the first time since May 19, Texas has no animals or herds "restricted" because of Vesicular Stomatitis (VS), a blistering disease that can temporarily debilitate affected equine animals, cattle, goats, deer, swine or other susceptible species. VS occurs every few years in the Southwest, and the virus is thought to be transmitted by sand flies and black flies.

Animals affected by the disease usually begin to heal several weeks after exhibiting blisters, sloughing of skin or sores in and around the mouth, above the hooves, or on the muzzle or teats.

"Texas was the first of three states to have VS infection this year. Throughout the summer, laboratory tests confirmed infection in horses and cattle on 15 Texas premises in eight counties. On October 18, the final Texas quarantine was released. This premise, in Kerr County, had been quarantined in early September, when VS infection was confirmed in a horse. We currently have no VS cases or quarantines, and no active VS investigations," explained Dr. Bob Hillman, Texas' state veterinarian and head of the Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC), the state's livestock and poultry health regulatory agency. Texas counties with confirmed VS cases this summer were Reeves, Val Verde, Uvalde, Starr, Yoakum, Kerr, Bandera and Dimmit. Animal health officials lift premise quarantines 30 days after the animals heal from the VS lesions.

Dr. Hillman said that releasing the last VS quarantine in the state will make it easier to ship Texas livestock to other states. He recommended, however, that producers and private veterinary practitioners continue to check with states of destination prior to transporting animals, to ensure all entry requirements are met.

As of mid-October, 107 premises in 22 Colorado counties, and 39 premises in eight New Mexico counties remain quarantined, due to VS infection. VS-infected animals in these states include horses, cattle, an alpaca, a llama, and several sheep and goats.

"VS rarely causes death in affected animals, but it is painful to animals, due to blisters and sloughing of skin. When VS strikes cattle or other

cloven-hooved animals, laboratory tests are essential, because VS lesions mimic those of foot-and-mouth disease (FMD), a highly dangerous foreign animal disease. Even though horses are not susceptible to FMD, we still recommend testing, to determine whether the lesions were caused by VS, a toxic plant or poison," said Dr. Bob Hillman.

"As always, we urge producers to call their private veterinary practitioner and their state animal health officials if livestock or poultry exhibit unusual signs of disease," said Dr. Hillman. These signs may include blistering or sores around the animal's mouth, hooves or teats; widespread illness or unexpected death loss in a herd or flock; unusual ticks or maggots; or animals that stagger or are unable to rise or walk.

To make a report, owners and private veterinary practitioners should call:

Texas Animal Health Commission -- 1-800-550-8242
New Mexico Livestock Board -- 1-505-841-6161

Colorado Department of Agriculture, State Veterinarians Office 1-303-239-4161

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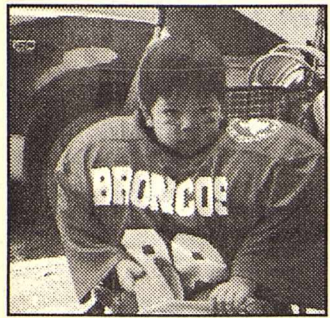
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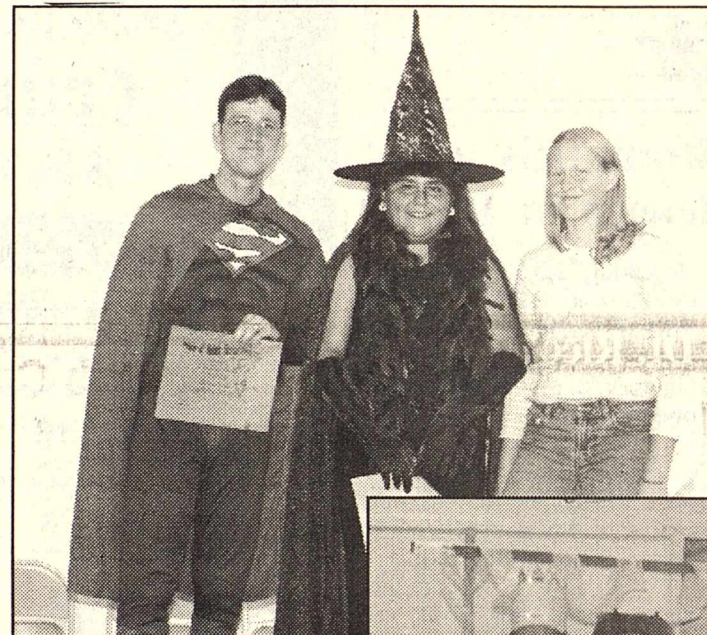
Trick-or-Treat and Fall Festival Fun



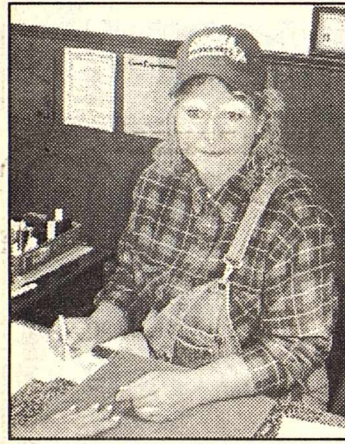
Friends of Historic Sonora Main Street Fall Festival Costume Contest Winners!



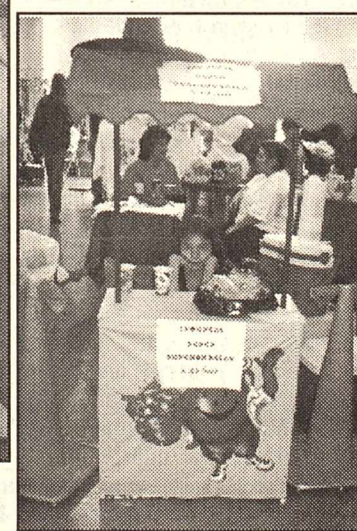
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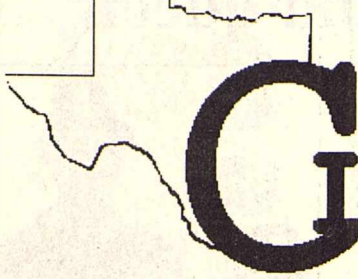
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All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing Act which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, or an intention, to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination." Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18. This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination call HUD toll-free 1-800-669-9777. The toll-free telephone number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

Employment

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.

Experienced Tanker Drivers needed for Sonora, Ozona and Sheffield areas. Call B & K Trucking at 432-836-4342.

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.

IMMEDIATE OPENINGS Amigos Shell is now hiring full and part-time employees. Retirees welcome. Apply in person at Shell 601 Hwy. 277 N. and I-10.

Hiring waitresses immediately. Apply in person at **La Mexicana Restaurante** 308A Hwy. 277 N.

Location Builders now hiring **full-time mechanic.** Prefer you have your own tools. Apply in person 203 W. 3rd. For more information 387-3881.

Help Wanted: Must be 18 years old and have current driver's license, CDL not required. Call **Adkins Septic Services** 387-3154.

Operators Needed. Maintainer, Dozer and Loader Operators. CDL required. Call Mittel Dozing 277-6883.

A Major Company Needs **Oilfield Service Operators.** Good Driving & Work History. Will Train. Call **Snelling Personnel.** 1-800-296-7106.

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Keep your pet at your home for \$5.00 a day for 1 pet & \$1.00 extra for additional. Can take pets to vet \$6.00 a trip to town only. Call 387-5649 for info. References available.

FREE Precious kittens, 6 weeks old. Looking for a good home. Call Mark 387-3222

ATTENTION HUNTERS Brittany Spaniel Pups AKC Registered, excellent hunting line. Due November 15, 2004 Available by Christmas! Order Now! \$200.00 Call Greg Johnson 387-6040

Horse for Sale

Young, gentle **Gelding**, easy to catch and handle, surefooted on the rocks. Call 830-683-5107. 2x11/4

Automobile for Sale

For Sale: 1997 Chevy 1/2 Ton Extended Cab, A/C, cruise, power brakes, grill guard, bed mat, new alternator, water pump, belts and hoses. Call 387-2481 or 387-3733.

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Now Accepting Applications For:
Licensed Vocational Nurse Part-Time Position
Impressive Benefits, 24-hour Employee Day-Care, State-of-the Art Equipment, Numerous Education Opportunities, Flexible Schedule, Competitive Salary, Highly Skilled Team, Current Texas License Required. EOE.

If Interested Please Contact:
Vicki Farmer BS, RN Director Of Nursing Schleicher County Medical Center (325) 853-2507 x129

Schleicher County Medical Center

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Excellent Driving Record Required
CNA Certification Required

Please come by SCMC Business Office to fill out application or drop off resume.

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.

Taco Grill is immediately hiring for morning and evening shifts. Waitstaff and cashier. Apply at 232 Hwy. 277 N. 325-387-9127. Ask for Maria or Jessica.

TANKER DRIVER NEEDED

For Sonora and surrounding areas. Position delivers diesel fuel to established customers. We need a self-motivated customer service oriented individual to efficiently coordinate and perform pump-off fuel deliveries. No owner/operators. We need Class A CDL w/X, 3 years fuel tanker experience, clean MVR and a work history. We have a comprehensive benefits and pay package available. If you qualify, please call Simons Petroleum, 800-256-2056, Mon. - Fri., 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Moving Sale

MOVING SALE
Sat., Nov. 6th
9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Sun., Nov. 7th
1:00 - 4:00 p.m.
2029 Sutton County Road 106 4 miles west on I-10 North Access Road. Turn right on SCR 108, travel 2 miles to fork in road, take left, first house on right.

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Public Notices

ORDINANCE NO. 551
AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SONORA, TEXAS AMENDING THE CODE OF ORDINANCES AT CHAPTER 94 TO ADD A SECTION TO PROVIDE RESTRICTIONS ON LEFT TURNS IN THE SCHOOL ZONE AT THE ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOLS DURING SCHOOL HOURS; PROVIDING AN EXCEPTION FOR SCHOOL BUSES; AUTHORIZING THE CHIEF OF POLICE TO PLACE TRAFFIC CONTROL SIGNS; PROVIDING PUNISHMENT FOR VIOLATION OF ORDINANCE; SEVERABILITY; PUBLICATION; CONFLICT; VALIDITY.

PRESENTED AND GIVEN FIRST READING on the 21st day of September, 2004, at a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Sonora, Texas; and GIVEN SECOND READING, passed and approved on the 19th day of October, 2004, by a vote of 4 ayes and 0 nays at a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Sonora, Texas.

Gloria G. Lopez Mayor
Attest: Patti Prather City Secretary

Approved: Elizabeth W. Wallace City Attorney

Misc.

Mary Kay Cosmetics
Call **Storie Sharp** 387-2507

FALL SIDEWALK TREE SALE
November 13th
9:00 a.m.
USDA Service Center
301 Crockett (Corner of Crockett & Plum)

Sonora Office Supply
387-2498

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Richard A. Dodd, L.C.
Timothy R. Cappolino, P.C. Board Certified Personal Injury Trial Law & Civil Trial Law, Texas Board of Legal Specialization
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www.asbestoslaw.com

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Real Estate

For Sale: **106 Live Oak, Sunset Acres in Eldorado, Texas.** 3 BR, 2 BA, 2 car carport, very nice neighborhood. Call 325-853-2212 or 325-387-3912.

Commercial Real Estate For Lease 3600 sq. ft. office building, 1 acre caliche yard, fabulous view. Call Main Street Realty at 325-387-6115.

For Sale: **Amistad Waterfront Lots, Lakeview, Rough Canyon/Ranchitos Amistad Diablo.** Plus or minus 1 acre each. \$10,000.00 each or \$15,000.00 for both. Priced below appraised tax value. Contact Steve 210-445-7285.

For Sale **500 Old Mertz Rd.** \$125,000.00, 3 BDRM / 2 BA. Pool, Sunroom, and workshop are just a few of the extras. Call Beth Gallegos 325-944-9559

For Rent

401 W. Main: 4 Bdrm., 2 bath, fireplace, no central heat/AC. \$500.00 deposit/\$500.00 Rent. Call Gloria: (432) 620-0242 or (432) 664-7229.

Mobile Homes

FREE Manufactured Home. Fixer upper. You must pay for moving and pay transfer fee. Call Elliott Law Offices 387-3529.

For Sale: **1997 Fleetwood Mobile Home,** 3 BR, 2 BA, skirted, deck, storage bldg., very good condition. \$27,900.00 Call 325-206-0359 or 387-6263.

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215 East Main • Sonora, Texas 76950 • 325-387-6115 • Fax 325-387-2402

Residential Properties
108 4th Sinaloa St. • \$21,500
304 E. Plum • \$35,000 • Contract Pending
726 St. Ann's St. • \$65,000
405 Del Rio St. • \$70,000 • SOLD
925 E. 2nd St. • \$89,000 • SOLD
101 Sawyer Ct. • \$112,500 • New Listing
514 E. College • \$150,000 • New Listing
109 Oakwood • \$159,000 • Contract Pending
213 Hilltop St. • \$160,000 • Contract Pending
107 Sawyer Ct. • \$179,000 • New Listing
4329 S. Service Rd. • \$200,000 • Contract Pending
Commercial Properties
220 E. Main • \$55,000 • Price Reduced
305 Crockett Ave. • \$65,000
712 S. Crockett • \$95,000 • New Listing
104 N. Crockett Ave. • \$395,000
Pecan Orchard • \$450,000
Lots
204 St. Ann's St. • 8 Lots • \$15,000 • New Listing
2 Lots on Deerwood Dr. (75' x 143') • \$5,000 each
1 Lot on Deerwood Dr. (85' x 143') • \$5,500

(325)387-2728
Bobbie A. Smith Real Estate
218 Sawyer Dr. - \$87,500.00. 3 BR, 2 BA, brick home, CH-AC, kitchen appliances, incl. dbl. car garage, privacy fenced, near school and hospital. Sellers moving.
1403 Glasscock - \$35,000.00, neat 1 BR, 1 BA mobile home with large dorm room, large tree-shaded lot with grass and shrubs. Carport and storage room.
2.07 Acres corner of Savell & Cornell Sts. Former church bldg. parking lot, basketball court and baseball field. Property includes 4 BR, 2 BA double-wide which can be sold separately.
1.208 acres, 612 Water Street near Hwy. 277 & IH-10. Ideal commercial location, adjoins historic nature trail. Property includes historic bldg. containing large den/living/dining room, kitchen, 2 BR/Office space with attached apt. Large workshop/garage and pool area.

Bob Caruthers Real Estate
BROKER
Large corner lot on courthouse square. 3 BR, 2 BA, fireplace, living room, kitchen, laundry room, central air & heat, 2 car-garage, approx. 1780 sq. ft. Source-SCAD, terms: cash or conventional.
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4,670 acres Sutton County "The Best of the Best Ranch"
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Scott Jacoby Real Estate
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website:www.scottjacobyrealestate.com
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206-0713

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B & H Catering
207 W. Chestnut
387-2528 or 206-1268
Dairy Queen
134 Hwy. 277 N.
387-2118
Pizza Hut
401 Hwy. 277 N.
387-3540
Sutton County Steakhouse
1306 N. Service Rd
387-3833
Taco Grill
232 Hwy. 277 N.
387-9127

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2:15 *4:25 *7:00 9:10
•SURVIVING CHRISTMAS dts (PG-13)
2:05 *4:30 *7:20 9:40
•RESIDENT EVIL: APOCALYPSE (R) 2:25 *4:45 *7:10 9:25
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F.Y.I.

Transformation is a youth-focused event that is bringing the youth of Sonora, Eldorado and Ozona together as one body with one vision. The vision of TRANSFORMATION is based on Romans 12:2 - "Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be 'transformed' by the renewing of your mind." Don't miss this opportunity to see what God is doing. Join together on the 2nd Sunday of each month at Lighthouse Community Church - Meal at 6:00 p.m. Praise and Worship at 7:00 p.m. FMI please contact Silas Polite FBC Eldorado 853-2662 or Lighthouse Community Church 387-9100.

The Sonora Middle School Fillies will be hosting an exhibition match between the Fillies Red and Fillies White teams on Thursday, November 11, 2004 in the Middle School Gym at 7:00 p.m. Come out and support the girls' volleyball teams. After their match the girls have challenged the parents to a Fun Match. See you at the Gym!

Attention ALL 4th & 5th Webelos: Webelos will have their meeting on November 8, 2004, at 4:00 P.M. at the Boy Scout Hut. Bring your Webelos book. For any further questions or information, please contact Jan Stephens at 387-5821.

Achieve Success Program for Sonora Middle School parents - November 4, at 7:00 p.m. in the Sonora Elementary Auditorium. The program will discuss abstinence and go over the material that will be presented to the middle school students on Friday, November 5. This is an important subject and parents are encouraged to attend!

Friends of St. Ann's Catholic Church is having a bake sale Fri., Nov. 5th at Food Center and Parker Lumber starting at 3:30 until everything is gone. For those of you who enjoy baking and just can't eat it all, we would love to have your donation. The proceeds go towards new classrooms for our students. Come by and checkout all the yummy goodies. For more information please call after 4 p.m. Delia Samaniego at 387-3029 or Sandi Ainsworth at 387-3737.

There will be a Veterans Day program at the high school on November 11 tentatively set for 10:30 a.m. S.H.S. would like names of local veterans so that they can be placed on the Wall of Honor at the high school. Veterans, or families of veterans, can call the high school with the name of the veteran, the branch of service, and years served. If you would like to honor the memory of a veteran or a veteran who cannot attend, then please call with their names. All veterans are invited to attend the Veterans Day Program at the high school so that they may be recognized and honored on this special day. The public is invited to attend.

The ASU Small Business Development Center will be hosting the Basic QuickBooks - Lists, Forms & Registers seminar on Friday, November 5th, from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Rassman Building of the ASU campus, Room 117. Learn to set up your chart of accounts, customer lists and vendor lists. This will be a hands-on class where you will have the opportunity to enter sales and invoices and pay bills. It is mandatory that you be able to perform basic computer skills for these courses. There is a \$15 fee. Registration deadline is Tuesday, November 2. Call 325-942-2098 to reserve your space.

Sonora Woman's Club is selling, unique to Sonora, "Sutton County Library" Christmas Ornaments to raise funds for the library. If you would like to purchase one of the collector ornaments contact any Sonora Woman's Club member or call the Sutton County Library.

THRIVE! authentic living conference- Lighthouse Community Church - November 13, 2004. Join over 50,000 women as they gather in 500 select churches across North America for the Premier Women's Conference of 2004. Get ready to be equipped to live your best life...the Authentic Life. Come ready to be challenged by an unprecedented line up of Nationally Recognized Speakers who will guide you in the art of Authentic Living. For more information contact Jane Rushing at 325-387-3625.

Storytime at the Sutton County Library, Wednesdays, from 10:00 a.m. - 10:45 a.m. for children ages 3 through Pre-K. FMI call 387-2111.

Do well, Be well with Diabetes classes, sponsored by Texas Cooperative Extension. For more information and to register call Kelly Thorp at 325-387-3604.

The 7th grade class will be taking care of the concession stand on Friday, November 5. Parent Representatives will be contacting all 7th grade band parents very soon. Please support our band!

Show your support of our troops with a Yellow Ribbon Flag on sale at the Friends of Historic Sonora Main Street Office at 232 Main St. (Mercantile Building) in downtown Sonora. If you need more information call 387-2248.

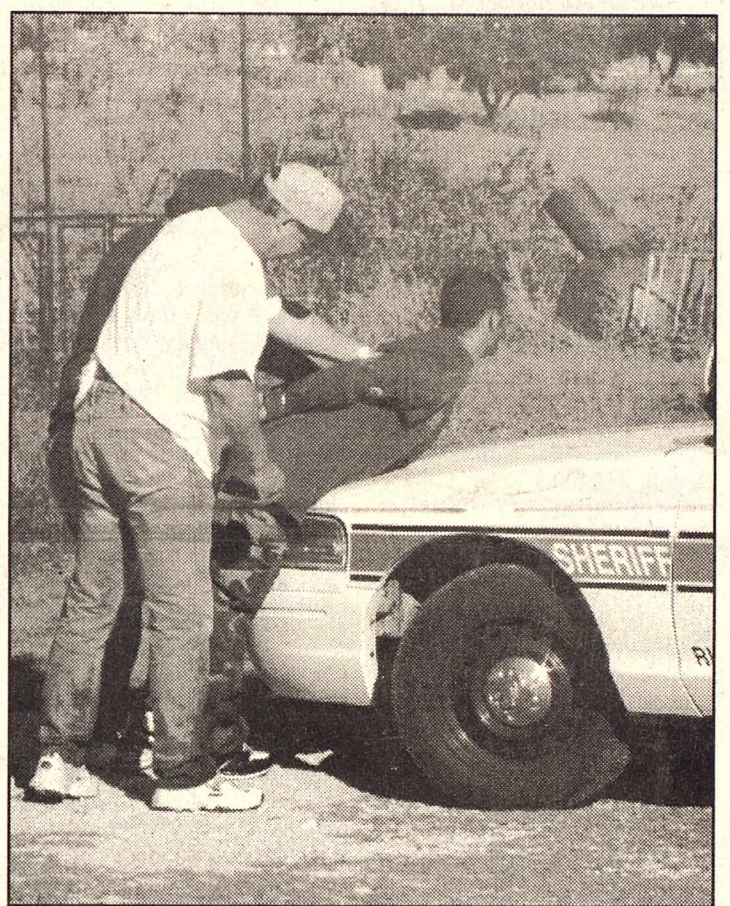
Fall Festival crowns new king and queen



There was new royalty crowned on Saturday at the 2004 Fall Festival. Little Miss Sutton County Felicia Farley and Little Mr. Sutton County Alex Castilleja crowned Kayla Fields (second from right) and Dustin Creek (far right) the Fall Festival Queen and King.

The court consisted of 2nd Runners-Up Jessica Chavez and Pete Trujillo and 1st Runners-up Julie Villanueva and Uriel Santana (not pictured). For more Fall Festival fun, see page 8.

Foot-chase suspect caught in Dry Devil's River



Drug Task Force Officer, Duane Castro, and Sutton County Jailers, Ty Fincher, frisk a suspect that led police on a chase over Eaton Hill on Monday.

by Storie Sharp

Local law enforcement, and local citizens, got quite a workout on Monday, November 1, when a suspect wanted for questioning regarding an alleged auto theft from California fled the scene.

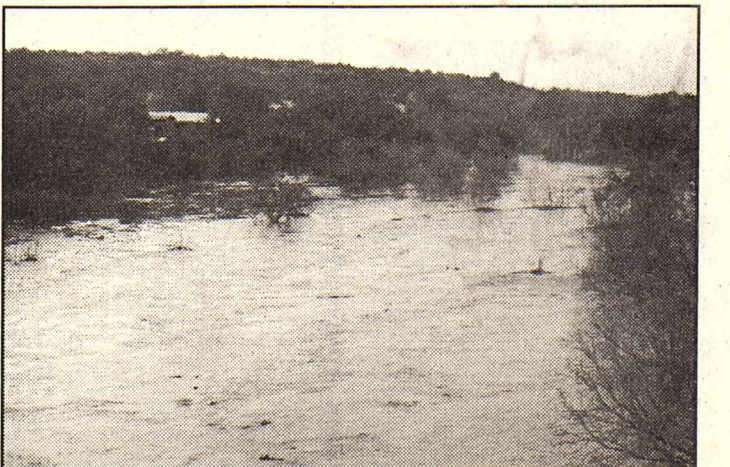
Sonora Police Officer Mike Routh found the suspect, David Carson, 27, of Riverside, California, walking near the Sonora Sage Apartments Monday morning. While questioning Carson, Officer Routh was informed to detain the suspect who was wanted for questioning in Crockett County with regard to a stolen vehicle out of California. The suspect took an opportunity to flee the scene, running across Interstate 10, and going up on Eaton Hill. All officers were called to assist with the search, with reports that the suspect was traveling across Eaton Hill, near the flag, and down the west side of the hill.

Law enforcement officers were staked out around the base of the hill, when a report was received at the Sutton County Sheriff's Department that the suspect was spotted behind the residence of Rev. Lewis Allen.

Sonora resident, Wayne Sawyer, joined in the chase, and came face to face with the suspect as he rounded the corner of Lewis' house. Carson quickly switched direction, taking off across the back lawn and running behind the Church of Christ. Carson then crossed Water Street, still being pursued by Sawyer. Sutton County Deputy Jody Harris joined in the chase on foot on Water Street, chasing the suspect into the Dry Devil's River bed (which isn't very dry right now), where he finally stopped Carson on the side of the draw.

The suspect was taken to the Sutton County Jail for further questioning and to await word from California.

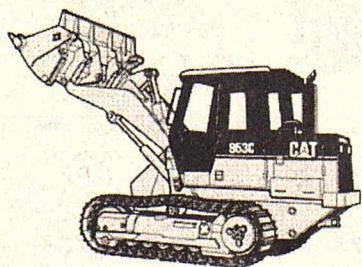
The not-so-dry Dry Devil's River



Two inches of rain in a very short time last week had the Dry Devil's River running strong on the outskirts of town.

Location Builders

DIRT CONSTRUCTION,
ROUSTABOUT AND
CONSERVATION WORK



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Robert Sanchez
Roustabout Foreman

Rick Bounds
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325-387-3881

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The Devil's River News

2004

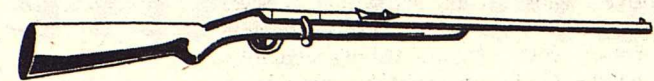
Sutton County Hunter's Guide



Photo: Thompson-Jewell

FREE - Please Take One

38TH ANNUAL



Sutton County Game Dinner

Master of Ceremonies

Monte Jones aka Biscuits O'Bryan

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2004

6:00 P.M.

SUTTON COUNTY CIVIC CENTER
HWY 290 W. • SONORA, TEXAS

MENU

Black Buck Antelope
Mountain Oysters
Fried Turkey Breast
Venison
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Cabrito
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Chili
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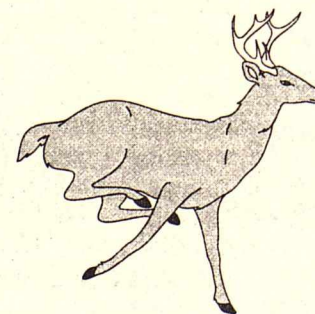
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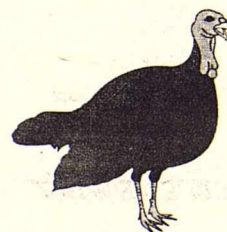


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Hogs and Deer from page 22

tailed Pointed Soft Point instead of the 150-grain Nosler Ballistic Tip, a very adequate bullet for White-tailed deer. Since this change I have had good luck on deer and hogs. When Nosler changed the Ballistic Tip to perform more like a soft point I tried the 180-grain in my 300 Winchester magnum and could not be happier. This combination has sent more of the big porkers to the happing rooting grounds than I care to remember cleaning. Like I said in a handgun think big and heavy. The 44 Remington magnum or the 45 Colt (in a strong gun with a heavy load) are excellent choices. I use a 300 Uni-core from Speer or an XTP from Hornady in that same weight in my guns and performance is superb. When using bullets like the Uni-core, that do not expand, you want to hit bone preferably both shoulders. The new Nosler partition HG 45 caliber bullets in 260 and 300-grain look to be winners for the 454 Casull. I've always enjoyed hunting with single-shot handguns and hogs are a top prey. The 45-70 Government or 375 Winchester are good choices in a Thompson/Center Contender (now referred to as the G2) or Encore. The 350-grain Hornady flat-point is my pick for the 45-70 whether I'm using a T/C Contender or my Marlin "Guide Gun". In my 375

Winchester I used a 220-Barnes flat-point. The first wild hog I ever killed was with this combination and it leveled him. Not to say other combinations will not work. This is just what I've discovered works well for my particular guns and the hunting situations I'm likely to be in. The main thing is to get penetration and cut a large blood channel. Quality construction and heavy weight bullets are the best way to insure success. I'm not an archery hunter (yet) but I have several friends who are, and I've helped track hogs shot with a bow. My opinion for archery hunting is to use a fixed blade broad head. Mechanical broad heads cut huge blood channels and exit wounds on deer. The problem is the large blades can deform or hang up on entrance if this happens odds are the arrow will not have enough momentum to exit. I helped track what was probably a 275-pound

boar a friend of mine shot in the 1999-2000 hunting season. He was using a mechanical broad head and the arrow didn't exit. We found the arrow but not the hog. The broad head looked like it had been put through a meat grinder. I've heard similar stories since then. The fixed blade broad-heads on the tip of a thick walled arrow seems to work the best.

By using the changes I listed above, I have had equal success on deer as well as hogs. I know when the next time a big tusker steps in front of me I'll be ready. It's a good feeling, as a hunter, to have confidence in your equipment when you head to the field. There is no worse feeling than wounding and losing any game, but there is no better feeling than a good clean humane kill. Whether it's a trophy or just to fill your freezer.

Q. How high up in a climbing trees tand should you go when deer hunting?

A. You should go up at least, AT LEAST, 20 feet when deer hunting. This is just about the perfect height while hunting deer. Any lower, deer will spot you easily. So go up about 20 feet and remember to always wear your safety belt, even while climbing.

Wild Boar Kraut Casserole

2 tablespoons vegetable oil
6 bone in boar chops or (substitute) (4 oz. ea.), 3/4 to 1 inch thick
1 jar (2 lb.) sauerkraut, rinsed and well drained
1 to 1 1/2 lb. smoked Polish sausage links (about 6)
4 cloves garlic, minced
14 juniper berries
1 teaspoon pepper
1/2 teaspoon salt
1 bay leaf
2 1/3 cups dark beer
1 1/2 cups shredded peeled potatoes
1 med. red cooking apple, cored and cut into 1 inch chunks
1 med. green cooking apple, cored and cut into 1 inch chunks
1 med. yellow cooking apple, cored and cut into 1 inch chunks

quart oven proof Dutch oven or stock pot, heat oil over medium - high heat.
Add boar chops. Cook for 5 to 7 minutes, or until meat is browned on both sides. Remove from heat.
Remove chops from pan. Set aside.
Into same Dutch oven, spoon half of sauerkraut.
Top with chops and sausages.
In medium mixing bowl, combine remaining sauerkraut, the garlic, berries, pepper, salt and bay leaf.
Spoon mixture over chops and sausage. Pour beer over mixture. Cover and bake for 1 hour. Stir in potatoes and apples.
Cover and bake for 30 to 45 minutes longer, or until apples are tender.
Remove and discard bay leaf.
Serve with thick slices of crusty bread, if desired.

Heat oven to 350 F. In 6

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Hogs and Deer: Worlds Apart

by Clay Oldham

The afternoon of Thanksgiving Day, 1994 was a perfect day for hunting. The temperature was in the upper forties with a light breeze blowing and overcast. I was hunting atop a hill over looking an old creek bottom. The bottom had been recently cleared by a logging company, which made the hill an excellent spot to hunt deer. I was hunting with a Desert Eagle-"Lone Eagle" chambered in 7mm-08, using Remington factory ammunition with 140-grain core-loct bullets.

Just before dark I noticed a large animal moving through the goat weeds close to the creek. It was a large black wild boar. He moved through too quickly so I didn't get a shot. Later I could hear him rooting around, to my right, at the bottom of the hill. The thick under brush and fallen trees blocked my view. So I decided to put the stalk on him. I made my way down the hill to the logging road, where I could move quickly and quietly. As I walked along the road I saw him, and I guess he heard me. So I wasn't quiet enough. He bolted forward into a horseshoe created by the creek. I hurried after him being as quiet as possible. I reached an opening through a small bunch of trees

where I spotted him. He was walking along the edge of the creek. I raised my gun, leveled the crosshairs and fired. Missing him! As the large hog whirled around, I reloaded. He rushed past about twenty-five yards away. I fired again. Hitting him square in the shoulder. He turned hard, heading straight at me. I ducked behind a few saplings, digging in my pocket like Barney Fife for another round. When he reached the roadway, he was only a few feet away and I saw just how big he was, six feet plus in length and over three feet at the shoulder. Thinking he was solidly hit I watched him jump (yes, I said jump) over the fence and disappear into the woods. My hunting partner and I tracked him until we lost the blood trail. He was never found. This haunted me for a very long time.

Now we've all heard stories of the giant hog, deer, or other game that got away. When this happened it really got me to thinking about this issue. Why is a hog so much tougher than a deer? We, as ethical hunters, should do what we can to ensure quick clean kills on all animals we take. So I did a little research on the differences between hogs and deer. As it turns out a hog and a deer are very different ani-

mals when it comes to their anatomy. Deer are on the light end, hogs on the heavy end of the scale. With the hogs range seemingly growing by the day and since I enjoy hunting and eating them, I made a few changes in my guns and loads. To be better prepared the next time out.

Take a mature White-tailed buck... the trophy we all dream about getting some day. In the state of Texas, depending on habitat, food, and population, he'll probably weigh somewhere between 150 to 200 pounds. The vitals are located right in the middle of the chest cavity, behind the shoulder. Accompany that with thin skin along with a light skeletal structure, and bless his heart, the old White-tailed deer isn't all that hard to kill. Given it's a well placed shot from an adequate gun or bow.

On the other end of the scale, there's the wild boar. Depending mostly on food and population, he will weigh somewhere between 150 pounds to over 400 pounds. The vitals of this animal are located forward in the chest cavity, in relation to a white-tailed deer, where they are very well protected. His skeletal structure is heavy. In fact, as if the shoulder blade itself wasn't enough there is even more to protect them.

The skin is much tougher than a deer's and the hair is thick and coarse. More times than not there is a layer of hard dry mud caked on the skin from wallowing. A cartilage like plate covers the chest and back. This plate in some cases can be more than two inches thick and is very hard. With all of this added up it's around 4 to 6 inches of bone, plate, skin, and mud. Pound for pound hogs have more blood than deer. This explains why they have so much endurance after being hit even with well placed shots. Put all these things together and it's enough to make you have nightmares. The best kill shot is the head or neck. Placing a bullet somewhere between the eye and the ear will take out the brain and put any hog, no matter how big, down for the count. This sounds good but as we all know you don't always get a perfect head or neck shot under hunting conditions. The next best is of course the chest, the best-protected place on a hog. I like to put a bullet right thru both shoulders breaking them and getting the heart and lungs. If I can't get both shoulders I try to place the shot to angle through the chest to take out the vitals and break the off side shoulder. Getting a bullet or arrow through all of the protection Mother Nature has provided the wild hog

If you are like I am, you can't just run out and buy a brand new gun or bow just to hunt hogs. Although it sounds like a good enough excuse to me. The guns we use to hunt deer are adequate for hogs even the large ones with one simple change, the bullet. Think heavy, and in a handgun thing really heavy. For example in my 30-06 I went to a 165-grain Sierra Boat-

identified my feathered friend as a Eurasian collared-dove whose kind have been doing a good job of expanding their territory westward from Florida via the Gulf Coast. (I guess a couple of them made a wrong turn somewhere around Galveston and ended up in west Texas by mistake.) Anyway, these doves are now showing up and are generating a considerable amount of interest from the hunting public. Texas does not recognize the Eurasian collared-dove as a game bird and imposes no closed season or bag limit restrictions on them. In other words, a licensed hunter may hunt the Eurasian collared-dove at any time and may take as many as he or she can use. They will not count against your bag or possession limit and appear to make for some exciting wing shooting action. As for their worth on the table, I have been told that they compare to white-winged dove. Guess I'll have to try one sometime.

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department publishes its hunting and fishing regulations in what we call an Outdoor Annual. This booklet is free to all and can be found at over 2,000 locations throughout the state and provides a wealth of information to the hunter and fisherman. I encourage every Texas sportsman to take a little

The Warden's Wanderings

by Will Allison, Texas Game Warden, Sutton County 325) 387-5159

The 2004-2005 hunting season is once again upon us and, if range conditions are any indication, this promises to be a good year to be out in the woods in pursuit of a respectable whitetail deer or turkey. However, just in case you haven't noticed, the game is going to play hard to get. Why should a deer take his chances at a corn feeder when he can dine to his hearts content on the abundance of succulent forbs and juicy acorns found just about everywhere? Now, we will find out who the real hunters are!

What happened to dove season, you ask? Well, we had a season, but we didn't have any doves to speak of. The price we pay for a wet summer. I did manage to check a few hunters in possession of doves, but most of these guys were hunting close to towns where the ever-increasing white-wing dove populations like to congregate. While on the topic of doves, have you noticed our newcomer to the area? This dove is the size of a white-winged dove and has a black ring behind its neck. The first time I saw one, I thought that my eyes were playing tricks on me, but a quick glance in my trusty bird book

time to review the information contained within its covers. Most of your questions regarding hunting and fishing regulations can be answered by simply reading its contents. The failure to do so has, in my opinion, contributed to a large percentage of my fish and game cases. You might think this carelessness on your part would make my day; however, to have to issue a citation to a well-intentioned, but uninformed, sportsman who inadvertently violated a game law is a most distasteful duty for me. Now, catching and citing a poacher who intentionally violates the law is another thing! The poacher is someone who has no respect for the resource, no respect for the landowner, and no respect for YOU or the future of our sport. As two poachers recently discovered in court, such activity is highly frowned upon and can result in someone earning the title of convicted felon.

I'll step down off of my soapbox now and touch upon something else you might be wondering about as you drive through the countryside. If you think you are seeing purple rocks, fence posts, and such....you probably are. Now Sutton County is Bronco country and we share a fondness for Bronco red around here as a way of showing support for our

school teams, but many of our landowners are using ugly purple paint to post their properties. Texas Penal Code (30.05) states that it is an offense for a person to enter property that is fenced, posted with a sign, or marked with purple paint, without the permission of the owner. A one-inch by eight-inch vertical stripe between three and five feet in height is all that is needed to provide notice to potential trespassers that the property is off limits. Thanks to the illegal actions of a few, we are probably going to be seeing more purple as ranchers replace their shot-up or "missing" posted signs with a paint stripe. Wouldn't it be a lot nicer if everybody just did the right thing and simply abided by the law? But if you are bound and determined to go where you shouldn't, then take heed and carry plenty of cash with you. You are going to need it!

Now, let's move on to a more pleasant subject. The beginning of "deer season" is not only an opportune time for us to study up on the game laws and such, it is also a time when we anticipate what we hope will be a successful season and silently reflect on the happy times experienced outdoors in bygone years. Do you recall how excited you became when that special hunter in your life

declared that you were old enough to accompany him on a hunt? Sure you do! What about the feeling you had when you returned to the camp with your first deer or turkey? Now, think about how it would be if someone had not taken the time to introduce you to the outdoors and the tradition of hunting. There are many people, both young and older alike, who have never had the chance to see firsthand what our sport is all about. This season, let's all make it a point to take a youngster or someone unfamiliar to hunting along with us in our travels afield. Show them how to hunt safely, legally, and ethically, and you will likely find that you will have a hunting partner for life. Now, that is truly a win-win situation if there ever was one. In fact, as I write this, I can see that the daughter that I introduced to hunting several years ago is wearing her camo pants today. Reckon that is her subtle reminder that youth season is just days away and I had best not forget to take her hunting! Hope that you are as fortunate as me.

The acorn-filled deer and turkey of Sutton County await us, so let's get our camo on and enjoy what nature provides. See you in camp.


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Parks and Wildlife Deer Population Surveys for Sutton County

by Mary Humphrey, Sutton County 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 118 white-tailed deer to every 1,000 acres of deer habitat or approximately 107,823 deer countywide – an increase over last year's 101,800 countywide estimate. Composition of the overall deer herd in Sutton County is not much different from last year showing an adult herd at 1.92 does per buck with a decent fawn segment of 69 fawns per 100 does. In relation to percentages that shows the Sutton County white-tailed deer populations at a composition of 24% bucks, 45% does, and 31% fawns. Much like last season overall buck antler quality is expected to be relatively decent this year. Unlike last season better antler quality should be evident over much more of the county as rainfall patterns were more generous over the entire county. Widespread rains throughout the year have brought on much needed grass production for livestock, boosted forb and brush production essential for

wildlife, and encumbered the mast producing trees with loads of acorns. August and September have set the stage for cool-season vegetation production with over 7" of rain falling in much of the county and October has rounded out the year to date with totals approaching 2" and more in some places. Generous, countywide year-long totals range from 20" to 30" of rain falling in much of the county and scattered satisfactorily between months. Between the overload of acorns and winter weeds that should be coming on with these October rains, hunting will certainly be a challenge this season.

This year in Sutton County Archery season for white-tailed deer runs from October 2-31, 2004. There is a special youth-only season for white-tailed deer and turkey that allows kids 16 and under to harvest any white-tailed deer (doe, spike, fork-antlered buck) with a gun on Oct. 30-31, 2004 and again at the end of the late spike and antlerless season on Jan. 15-16, 2005. The standard gun white-tailed deer season opens on Saturday, November 6, and runs through Sunday, January 2, 2005 for white-tailed deer. Sutton County will also partici-

pate in the special, late, 2-week white-tailed antlerless and spike season (no fork-antlered bucks allowed during the special late season) that will open Monday, January 3, and run through Sunday, January 16, 2005. This late rifle season takes the place of the previously listed muzzle-loader 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 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 result from the need to better balance the sex ratio observed in the herd and from a desire to produce a healthier deer population that is properly matched to the existing supply of deer foods in the county. These harvest rates are based on deer management compartment averages 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 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 325-387-5539 for more information on wildlife concerns in Sutton, Crockett or Schleicher counties.

TPWD from page 20

year there was adequate forb production early on but then the grass communities abounded and choked out the weed communities. That's not to say that grass production is a bad thing – it's been a long time since this area has experienced this sort of production and it has been sorely needed. It's just that grasses, while desperately needed for livestock use, range cover, and young-of-the-year protection, they do not make the best deer food. High grass production will most likely be the reason localized deer populations kept utilizing deer feeders this summer. It would also be a reason why antler production might turn out to be less than expected in some areas this season.

Another area of deer debate this year is in fawn production. With the major double rut experienced last year there is most likely a widespread high fawn crop this year – however, TPWD population surveys indicate only 0.69 fawns per doe from this counting season. That is still an above-average figure and typical of the western plateau, but considering cover production and range conditions it could have been assumed that fawn production would have been greater this year. Since recruitment of young into the populations is what makes up future huntable numbers, their performance cannot be ignored. Several

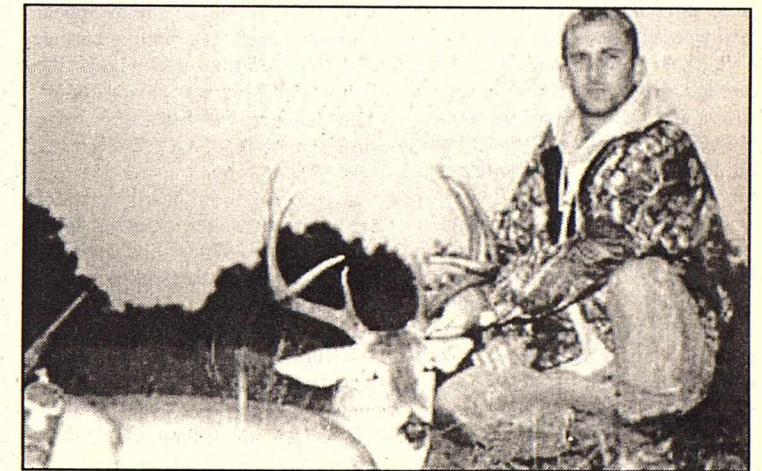
things affect their succession into the adult segment, namely – range conditions (particularly feed and cover), predators, condition of mother, and disease. Disease this year cannot be overlooked because with good rain and range conditions come flourishes of internal and external parasites as well as bacteriums and viruses. And those deer most affected are the young and those experiencing certain stresses such as fawn-rearing, rut, and post-rut syndromes. There have been numerous reports during the last few months of deer being found dead by water troughs or of deer that appeared normal and in good shape 2-3 months ago and are currently exhibiting poorer body conditions. Normally in wet years more bugs are produced and normally those bugs are going to degrade certain animals themselves or they are going to carry certain diseases that ultimately are meant to reduce overpopulations of animals. Hemorrhagic disease, caused by either epizootic hemorrhagic disease virus or bluetongue virus, is by far the most important endemic infectious disease of white-tailed deer in the Southeastern US. It is transmitted by biting midges that are usually found in large numbers by late summer and early fall. There are several other different viral diseases that deer can contract

that either destroys the animal or reduces its immune system to the point that it develops other problems that kill it. Deer also are prone to brain abscesses caused by any number of bacteria usually infecting bucks and associated with antler development, shedding of velvet, and/or fighting. Several other bacterial diseases such as leptospirosis, salmonellosis, and tularemia are just a few that may affect deer populations as well as the possibility of liver flukes, lungworms, stomach worms, arterial worms, tapeworms and ticks whose numbers most certainly increase with the increase of wet weather conditions. Enterotoxemia most likely will also be a problem this year with bucks that are trying to forage through heavy grass production and build up fat reserves for the rut who then overeat on the abundant acorn crop and build up toxins in their systems that they cannot handle. Anthrax in Sutton County is most likely not a concern even though it has been found in the counties just to the south. Even so, there were only a few diagnosed cases down south this year but the disease did not become a wildlife problem due to frequent rains in those areas where the cases were confirmed.

These are just a few problems that our native deer can experience,

and Mother Nature's way of reducing overpopulations of animals while attempting to maintain a balance for the carrying capacity of the range. These observations are not meant to scare anyone away from hunting this year. These afflictions are common enough in our deer populations – they are just more noticeable during a wet year. It's always safe to say that if you're going to put meat on the table – take a healthy looking deer in your harvest. Even with setbacks such as these in localized deer herds, there is not a shortage of deer in Sutton County. Population surveys conducted in Sutton County this year attest to a population of deer at

8.5 acres to the deer – up from 8.98 acres to the deer in 2003. The composition of the deer herd is at 1.92 does per buck with 0.69 fawns per doe. All in all, the wildlife in Sutton County has had a tremendous year while experiencing some setbacks as well, but it adds up to what should be an interesting and exciting hunting season. Should you need more information about our game species in Sutton County or have concerns about your wildlife populations, please contact TPWD Game Biologist Mary Humphrey in Sonora at 325-387-5539. Above all, have a great hunting season – and while you're at it – take a kid hunting.



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Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Observations – 2004

Mary Humphrey, Texas Game Biologist

Some have said this year has seen the best grass production ever in the western Plateau – for sure the best grass production in the last 50 years – and that comes from some of our native landowners who've been here for a very long time. Although rains have fallen quite generally over Sutton County this year, there have been parts of the County that were bypassed and experienced dry spells. For the most part range conditions are truly the best they've ever been with some areas experiencing well over average rainfall levels reaching past 30" in parts of the county.

The sorts of range conditions we've experienced this year can mean several different things for our wildlife species – some good, some not so good, some definitely confounding. Rio Grande turkeys seemed to have gotten off to a good, early start this year with strutting and gobbling activity hitting a peak in mid March and again in mid May. (Reported results were not very good for those trying to call up wily spring gobblers.) Early hatches of poults were expected, but evidently the huge March and April showers that were received (5 - 7") must have set production back somewhat

to cause the mid May gobbling activity and subsequent normal brood rearing in June and July. Therefore, poult production for this year is not at an all time high, but it did not turn out too shabby either. Production does not surpass the all-time highs of 1997 and 2001, but for 2004 the overall Edwards Plateau survey results showed 4.95 poults per broody hen (5.18 poults/broody hen in 1997 and 6.11 poults/broody hen in 2001) with 27% of this year's hens in the population having poults (71% in 1997 and 51% in 2001). Gobbler numbers are still on the rise with survey observations this year that show the population with 0.65 gobblers per hen over last year's observations of 0.50 gobs per hen. All in all, Sutton County ranks among the top turkey producing counties in the Plateau and maintains populations at densities of approximately 40 turkeys per 1,000 acres.

As for our other two popular game bird species, dove and quail – dove are a disappointment this year in most areas and quail are a great satisfaction. For the most part young dove production and feed production has been adequate this year for a viable crop of huntable birds. Those hunters utilizing agricultural grain fields had somewhat

better results in bringing down doves as opposed to those hunting the "good ole boy" way around stock tanks. Most likely cooler weather conditions and widespread rainfall (resulting in lots of residual rain puddles) hampered most hunting outings. Nationwide status surveys on mourning doves maintain that dove populations are decreasing in their numbers. Call count survey estimates during summer surveys reveal a trend that has shown a 15% decline in mourning doves during the last couple of decades. On the other hand, whitewing dove numbers continue to increase in Texas, particularly in urban areas, and the western plateau is no exception. Caution should be exerted when dove hunting as whitewings are currently moving into more rural locations than previously observed. In order to get a better understanding of mourning dove ecology, biologists in Texas and 27 other states are participating in a substantial bird banding study that will update information about the species. Doves will be marked with metal leg bands containing a unique number and a toll free telephone number (800-327-BAND or 2263) which hunters can call to report the band. Bands may be reported on the Internet at (<http://www.pwrc.usgs.gov/bbl>).

Hunters may keep the bands. It takes only a minute to report the band, doesn't cost anything, and hunters receive a certificate of appreciation that identifies when and where the dove was banded. Quail on the other hand should be in good shape this year no matter which species you prefer. Because the western plateau area is a transition zone where scaled quail begin and flourish to the west and bobwhite quail begin and flourish to the east, population densities fluctuate wildly and are a true indicator of range conditions. Long-time area residents have commented as to this area having had large numbers of birds before the 50's, but ever since those fateful, perilous, drought-ridden days their numbers have just "never been the same". With the super grass production experienced this year that brings on huge bug and seed production, coveys of both species have abounded. Their explosion may be short-lived and is definitely going to depend on how long the cover holds out, but this is the sort of head-start they need to reach proportions of the olden days.

As for white-tailed deer – there are several issues to debate on them – no political pun intended. Huge rainfall amounts this year, spaced

adequately throughout the summer, have created a sanctuary of amazing grass production, tremendous growth of cover, and multitudes of bugs to boot. Most areas should experience really good antler development – especially those areas with older-age class deer. A word of caution – it was observed at locker plants during last hunting season that there were several good quality young bucks brought in as part of the harvest. These were mostly heavy-mass, 8-10 pointers that would have scored somewhere between 120 and 135 Boone and Crockett – and they were all 2.5 years of age. Caution should be practiced this year before harvest is initiated in studying the buck in the scope for signs of age. Just beware that conditions have been good enough again this year to make even the young bucks look old and ready for harvest. It has been noted throughout the summer that deer have maintained frequent utilization of deer feeders. This occurrence is most likely due to the fact that there has been so much grass production this year. Usually the spring forb or weed communities produced in this area carry the deer populations through to early/mid summer and then fade out. This

SEE TPWD PAGE 21

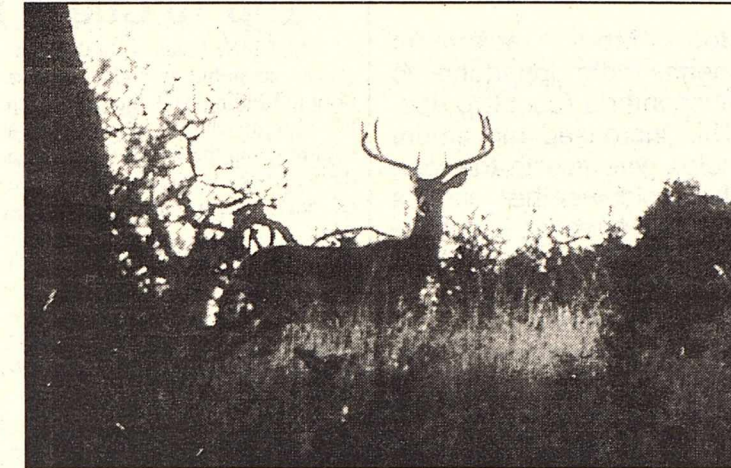
Why do we hunt?

by Thompson Temple

For most people, hunting is not work. It is recreation. There are a number of objectives within our recreation. For me when I hunt...Let's see.

I hunt for sport! I like the chase aspect. I pit my wits against those of a wily big buck. The wind is shifting. His nose is in the air. He is constantly looking for movement. He can walk silently down the trail. A lot of factors have to come together just right to even see a big buck! And then you have to decide to shoot or not. It is not always a sure thing that I will get that buck if I do shoot. I get buck fever. I am not an awesome shooter. Hunting is a sport. Sometimes you knock a home run!

I hunt for a trophy buck! I am always looking to get a big trophy mount for my house. I have to be careful here. Frequently the size of the antlers can occupy an unhealthy portion of my thought process. I say unhealthy because I overlook the other enjoyable aspects of a hunt to obtain the end result. I stop having a good time because I am focused on the "trophy buck". We can think about the big buck, but keep smelling the flowers. Most hunters wake up on a hunt day dreaming about that giant buck! And when



A sight like this will make any dedicated hunter a nervous wreck!

that big buck does step out, it is heart beat city! What a rush!

I hunt for peace and quiet. The tranquility of deer hunting is a real magnet for me! There is no cell phone ringing, no cars honking, etc. Peace and quiet can relieve stress on our minds and bodies. The quiet of deer hunting allows us to get back to calm. We can think through our challenges at a slow pace. We can marvel at the beauty of creation. We can tune in on our creator.

I hunt for fellowship. I spend time with friends and family members. We build a fire. We laugh and

talk. We relate every aspect of our hunting morning or afternoon while in camp. Smart wives will say "I am not going to be left out this year." They go hunting with their husbands and children. I know a lot of hunters who go for fellowship almost exclusively!

Well, if hunting is so good, then why don't we do it all the time? My friend Bill Wilson said "You can't eat carrot cake all the time." I am guilty of over-indulging in my play. I forget about the work that makes money that allows me to play. Good hunting to you!

Sutton County Hunting Seasons

2004-2005 Season

White-tailed Deer - Archery Season: October 2 - 31; General Season: November 6 - January 2; Special Late General Season: January 3 - 16 (antlerless and spike bucks only). Bag limit: 5 (no more than 2 bucks, all seasons combined).

Javelina - No closed season. Bag limit: 2 per license year.

Squirrel - No closed season. No bag limit.

Turkey - Archery Season: October 2 - 31 (either sex); Fall Season: November 6 - January 2 (either sex); Spring Season: April 2 - May 8 (gobblers only). Bag limit: 4 (all seasons combined).

Quail - Saturday, October 30, 2004 through Sunday, February 27, 2005. Daily bag limit: 15 (fifteen) quail, 45 in possession.

Spicy Swiss Bliss Venison or Pork Chops

- 1 Tbs butter
- 2 lbs. venison, cut into 1 inch thick chunks or pork chops, sliced 1/2 to 1 inch thick
- 1 envelope onion soup mix
- 1/2 lg green bell peppers, sliced
- 1 (10 oz) can Ro-Tel tomatoes or any brand tomatoes and green chilies
- 1 (14.5 oz) can diced tomatoes, drain and reserve juice
- 1/4 tsp salt
- pepper
- 1 Tbs A-1 Steak Sauce or steak sauce, of choice
- 1 Tbs cornstarch
- chopped fresh parsley (to garnish)
- 6 servings - 2 hours 15 minutes 15 mins prep**
- 1. Line a 13X9 inch casserole dish with foil- this foil has to be large enough to fold over and seal tightly after the food is arranged in the dish.
- 2. Preheat oven to 350° F.
- 3. Spread center of foil with margarine.
- 4. Cut steak into serving portions and arrange, slightly overlapping on foil.
- 5. Sprinkle with onion soup mix, green pepper, tomatoes and seasonings.
- 6. Mix the Steak Sauce with the reserved tomato juice and cornstarch.
- 7. Pour over meat and vegetables.
- 8. Bring foil up over and double fold edges to seal tightly.
- 9. Bake 2 hours.



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home-stretch (hōm'strech'), *n.* 1. the straight part of a racetrack from the last turn to the finish line. Compare **BACKSTRETCH**. 2. the final phase of any endeavor.

home-town (hōm'toun'), *n.* the town or city in which one was born or lives or has one's principal residence.

home/vid'eo, *n.* 1. a videotape recorded by camcorder generally for noncommercial use, esp. for viewing at home. 2. the business of renting or selling prerecorded videocassettes for viewing esp. at home.

home-ward (hōm'ward), *adv.* 1. Also, **home/wards**, toward home.

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The Early and Late Ruts

by Thompson Temple

What about the early and late ruts? Hunters and outdoor writers often talk about the rut being early or late. In Texas, at least, the breeding season for white-tailed deer is fairly predictable from year to year. Within a specific area, habitat conditions not only affect fawn survival, but can affect the timing of breeding. A doe in poor condition or a young doe may not breed until late in the season. A doe may be attractive to bucks for about five days, but may be willing to breed for a period of only 24 hours. If the doe is not bred during her first cycle, she will generally come into heat again about 28 days later.

In areas where there are few bucks, a doe may not encounter a buck when she is first receptive and may not be bred until one of her later cycles. A hunter, landowner or biolo-

gist who sees the late breeding activity may be convinced that there was a late rut. On the other hand, those who see does attended by bucks in the early part of the season believe there was an early rut. This helps explain the wide variety of opinions on the timing of the rut during a particular year.

"Hunter chronology" has a lot to do with the perceived timing of the rut. Traditionally, hunters are more likely to be afield during cool weather. They will usually be out in force with the onset of the first week-end norther during the deer season. When there are many observers spending time in the field it is more likely that breeding activity will be noticed.

Bucks, like hunters, have a tendency to move around during cool weather. Bucks with hardened antlers are ready to breed and are looking for a willing

doe. More movement means more opportunity to encounter a receptive doe. This increased movement helps give rise to the idea that cold weather causes the rut. However, this theory is disproved by white-tailed deer breeding in tropical climates.

We once thought that late fawning could be a problem in areas where survival was low and antlers were poorly developed. Newly weaned fawns on the range in late fall would have a harder time surviving. A lack of adequate nutrition at this time could affect future body and antler production. The study showed that very few fawns are born late in Texas. South Texas has the latest breeding period. Even there, fawns are born before August and are weaned by October.

Texas Game Wardens Top 10 Check List for Hunters

AUSTIN, Texas — In that last-minute scramble around the house prior to heading out to hunting camp this fall, or during that pre-dawn rush to get in the woods, or even on the way back home after a successful hunt, it's easy to forget something.

To help ensure hunters don't end up pleading memory lapse in the face of a possible citation for a game law violation, Texas game wardens offer the following Top 10 "Don't Forget" list.

Don't forget to:

1. Review the Outdoor Annual and check for open season dates and bag limits for the county you are hunting.
2. Check for legal means and methods in the county you are hunting.
3. Carry your current hunting license.

4. Clearly identify your target before pulling the trigger.

5. Carry a sharp knife; cut out the date (month and day) of kill on deer and turkey tags and immediately after kill, attach appropriate tag to the deer or turkey.

6. Carry a ball-point pen; fill out ranch and county name on back of deer and turkey tags.

7. Carry your hunter safety certification card, if applicable, with you in the field.

8. Carry a state driver's license or state personal identification certificate, if you are 17 years of age or older.

9. Fill out a Wildlife Resource Document to accompany any part of a deer or turkey that you give to someone else.

10. Keep all game animals and game birds in an edible condition.



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PLAN YOUR HUNT, DON'T HUNT FOR A PLAN

By: Ron Newman

Many people say they "Wish they could hunt Whitetails year-round".

Actually, they can, and should HUNT deer all year, in preparation for the actual harvesting of the deer once the bow season opens.

The more time and effort you put into your pre-season planning, the more successful you will be in anticipating the movements and habits of deer early in the bow season. Still on consistent feeding patterns, and moving about more in daylight than when the Pre-Rut "lull" takes affect, the deer are more predictable and vulnerable to your efforts now, than any other time of the year.

The time you spend studying and planning in July and August can pay-off big on Opening Day.

OBSERVATION STANDS

Although referred to mostly as, "Pre-Season Scouting", this time should be best described as "LOCATING". Finding the deer and watching their movements from a distance, with the least amount of disturbance possible, is the key now. This is the time to begin long-distance glassing of feeding areas to determine not only what size bucks you have to hunt, but WHERE, WHEN and HOW they approach and leave these areas, using the wind, terrain and cover adjacent to the access points, to their best advantage.

Set up several hundred yards downwind of the field you want to watch, (If possible from your vehicle, which won't bother the deer at that distance, and may be a more comfortable, cooler, and bug-free "stand") at a high point overlooking the area, so that you can observe the total picture of deer movement. Sometimes, a tree

stand placed high on the crest of a hill can be ideal, if it allows you to sneak in/out using the back side of the hill for cover.

This is the time of year when the bucks are still in groups, and most visible during the daylight hours (outside of the rut). Now is the time to pick "YOUR BUCK", and not only study his headgear and identify him for later, but to see where he is coming from to feed, and what routes he prefers. Try to observe these areas in the morning as well as in the evening, to get a "complete" picture.

The "Core Area" of the buck is usually not too far from his summertime feeding location, and his travel patterns will not change dramatically unless the food source depletes or changes, or they are disturbed repeatedly. Although it seems like they disappear in late summer/early fall, the bucks are still there. They are just becoming more unsociable and moving less, as they await the first signs of the long-awaited Breeding period. As long as there is food, cover, and DOES around, they will appear back near these preferred areas sooner or later. Also, later in the season; acorns and apples begin to fall, and corn becomes more appealing to the deer (for both food and cover), which keeps them out of the open areas even more.

PICKING STAND LOCATIONS:

Once you have a grasp of the movements and preferred routes used by the deer, avoid going in and checking the spot now. STAY AWAY until it's time to HUNT! Occasionally spot-check (from a distance) the area for changes, but avoid any disruption. Alert them now, and you can forget about

them being there later. Even though once the bigger bucks remove their velvet and become less and less visible, as long as the other deer are continuing to use the area UNDISTURBED, these bucks will be nearby, watching. Study notes from previous years, topo maps, aerial photos (the best tool) and pre-determine based on your observations, several possible stand locations. Don't forget to consider your approaches and exit routes so not to give away your hard earned ambush location. Avoid crossing deer trails, being skylined, bumping deer in the dark, and most important leaving scent or being scented. WIND management is the only real SECRET in deer hunting. Never try to beat it, or compromise it, you will lose every time!


IN AND OUT:

With the season approaching, you can now use this information to go in with a minimum amount of time and disturbance, and check on these potential stand sites for visual confirmations. Go directly to each spot and look for fresh buck sign, (BIG tracks, rubs, etc.) make your choice, hang your stand, (or choose/prepare your tree if using a climber) and GET OUT! Avoid entering the woods anymore than necessary, as many times deer will not be too far away this time of year. Try to avoid placing your stand where a lot of pruning is necessary. If you must cut shooting lanes, keep it to a MINIMUM, and remove any evidence of your clippings away from your stand. AVOID touching any limbs/foliage with bare hands. By doing this all at one time, you have not disturbed the area repeatedly, hopefully left a minimum amount of scent, (Try to be as

scent-free as if you were hunting; Rubber boots and gloves MANDATORY) and can now sneak in when the time and wind is perfect for a successful hunt. By getting out and locating your buck well before the season, you have given yourself an edge by knowing he's around and where he prefers to bed, feed, and travel. You have studied and confirmed his movement patterns and preferences, without disturbing him or the other deer, or the area itself. You have chosen your stand locations based on actual sightings as well as sign, and you have pre-

pared your site before hunting in the least intrusive way. By "planning your hunt" before the season, rather than "hunting for a plan" during the season (and invariably, being one step behind all the time) you can now be confident that you have the odds in your favor as much as possible. The work is done, and now it's time to enjoy the time a field and reap the benefits.

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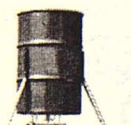
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How to Find a Wounded Deer

www.whitetaildeer.com/howto/track/index.asp
Huntingnet.com

Once you fire, if you don't immediately hear the smack of the bullet entering the buck's body, watch its reaction. If it doesn't fall down right away (which, if you're using the proper caliber and are a decent shot, should happen) see how it runs away. If it hunches up, odds are you shot it in the stomach. If its front half drops toward the ground, you probably just missed hitting the heart, hitting him somewhere else in the front portion of the body. If it jumps and charges forward, though, you probably just obliterated its heart with the perfect shot and shouldn't have to go far to retrieve your trophy.

If the buck doesn't collapse on the spot, watch it for as long as you can. Once you lose sight of it, pick a landmark that you can easily track to to begin your search of the area - be it a large tree, a rock or a fence post.

Here are some guidelines on what to do when you shoot your deer. If you go after your buck too fast after certain types of hits, you may frighten away the deer and lose your quarry altogether. Here is a breakdown of the different recovery methods for each type of shot that is placed on a whitetail.

Lungs or heart - Wait a half-hour to an hour before going after the game. The blood trail will be virtually non-existent initially, but it should appear after 20 or 30 yards and become stronger and more apparent the closer to the animal you get. The higher up the animal was hit, the farther it will travel before col-

lapsing. (Usually the buck collapses around 100 yds., but they have been known to travel over 500 yds.)

Liver - Wait an hour before attempting to trail. The animal will probably run a short distance, usually no more than a quarter mile, before lying down for good. There will be a blood trail, but it won't be that strong due to the high amount of internal bleeding.

Stomach - Wait anywhere from four to ten hours before trailing. If it feels pressure from being tailed, the buck will go farther away before lying down, so lay back for most of the day, or even overnight. The blood trail will be very scarce and mixed with stomach or intestinal matter.

Back - Wait half an hour before following the animal. Unless a main artery was severed there will be very little blood. (Your arrow probably will be covered with tallow, though.) And unless you hit the spine or dorsal aorta, odds are you won't recover this deer -- it will rest a few days and be good as new.

Hindquarters - Depending on who you talk to, the best time to trail this type of wound varies from immediately to four hours afterward. The advantage of going immediately is that if you didn't hit the femoral artery (if you did, the deer will drop in less than a hundred yards, so don't worry.) keeping steady, moderate pressure on the buck will keep it walking instead of lying down or running. If it does either of the latter and you come upon it, it will run away and leave a fine mist for a blood trail that is almost impossible to follow.

Neck - If you hit the deer here below the spine, odds are your arrow will have severed some major veins or arteries, most probably the jugular. If so, the blood trail will be exceptionally strong and the deer will usually drop in less than 100 yds. If you hit it above the spine, though, the wound is merely superficial, not fatal, but it will leave a misleading amount of blood behind.

Once you have found a blood trail use surveyors tape to mark the trail. This will help you especially in a unfamiliar hunting area.

Upon arrival, check the ground for hair or blood that can aid you in determining where the animal was hit. If you hit the buck in the liver, there will be brown hair and thick, dark blood left behind. If it was hit in the lungs or heart, there will be brown hair and a lighter colored blood there. If you hit it in the stomach, there will be white hair, watery blood and green-colored stomach contents.

Follow this trail to find your buck, keeping in mind that the wounded animal will often take the easiest path of flight. It won't go crashing through heavy brush or tight passages to get away because it will probably be panicking and because haphazardly fleeing expends too much energy. (Also be sure to walk quietly to one side of the trail so you don't disturb any evidence or alert the deer to your presence.)

Patience and good tracking skills always pay off!

If you lose the blood trail around your marker or don't see one, don't worry - sometimes lighter bullets will stay inside the animal, causing severe internal bleeding, but preventing much from falling on the ground. Just follow it to the place it was last seen and then walk in slow circles that spiral out from your marker, keeping an eye out for trace amounts of blood and hair or trampled brush that might clue you into the flight path.

Remember that fleeing bucks will always seek cover, so thoroughly scan the brush when walking your circles. (Another good place to look is near water - the edges of rivers, lakes and ponds provide the animal with a refreshing drink and a healthy amount of cover.)



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1 lb Ground venison, browned and drained
1/2 c Bread crumbs
1/4 c Green pepper, chopped
1/4 c Onion, chopped
1 1/2 cn Tomato sauce
2 1/2 c Cooked rice
1/2 c Grated cheese
Salt and pepper to taste

Combine venison, bread crumbs, green pepper, onion and 1/2 can tomato sauce in large pie shell. Mix rice, cheese, salt and pepper and 1 can tomato sauce; place mixture on top of first mixture and spread other half can of tomato sauce over top. Bake in pie pan at 375°F for about 35 minutes.

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WELCOME HUNTERS!

The Buckskin Brigade Camp Experience

By Ethan West

"I don't know but I've been told, Buckskin Brigade is solid gold. We have come from far and near, To learn about the white-tailed deer."

...and did we learn... at the North Texas Buckskin Brigade Camp held on the Stasney's Cook Ranch near Albany, Texas.

The Texas Brigade camps which are held on private ranches across the state and are a cooperative effort of Texas Cooperative Extension, Texas Wildlife Association, Texas Parks and Wildlife, USDA-NCRS, the Lower Colorado River Authority, the Texas Deer Association, the Mellon Foundation, Quail Unlimited, and the National Turkey Foundation and are also supported by numerous individuals, businesses, foundations, and other non-profit organizations. The purpose of the camps is to teach children, ages 13-17, about wildlife, habitat, and conservation and provide leadership skills that

will enable the "cadets" to teach others.

My friend Chris and I arrived at the camp on a Sunday afternoon and after driving through several miles of grass, prickly pear, and mesquite covered pastureland, we arrived at the camp headquarters. Our first impression of the camp was one of awe and anticipation as we passed a shiny black hummer parked under a carport near the main buildings. We envisioned ourselves perched atop that magnificent vehicle, leisurely touring the ranch and observing deer in their natural habitat for four wonderful days. Our vision could not have been further from reality.

Upon entering the main building at the camp headquarters, we were surprised and a little confused by the sounds we heard. Military sounding cadences like the one above were coming from a boom box located somewhere in the room. We were quickly checked in, received our "cadet" name badges and whisked away to our sleeping quarters - on opposite ends of the camp. At this point neither

of us was the least bit sure that we would even remotely enjoy being here for the 4 - day camp experience.

After stashing our luggage we immediately returned to the main building where a slide show of previous camps was being presented as more parents arrived with their cadets. After a short orientation program, our parents were dismissed and we found ourselves alone with our herd of cadets, whom we did not yet know, and our herd leaders. We participated in a few ice breaking and orientation activities and then immediately began to learn about the white-tailed deer, literally from the inside out. We performed a necropsy, which we learned is another word for autopsy, on a deer in order to learn the parts of the digestive track, what types of food deer eat, and how the food is processed through the deer's digestive system. After learning the anatomy of the deer we began learning about their preferred food and habitats.

We studied what seemed like one hundred plants just so we could learn more about the white-tailed deer. We became familiar with the four major

plant groups preferred by deer and used that knowledge to help us find deer by locating areas where these particular plants grew. We then conducted a deer spotlight survey to determine the approximate number of deer per acre there were in a selected area. By using this information, we were able to determine the approximate number of white-tailed deer living on the entire ranch. When we weren't participating in hands-on learning activities, we were playing deer trivia games or other games to reinforce what we had learned during the day.

Every day began at sunrise and ended in the wee hours of the following morning. We found no time during the long days and short nights for becoming couch potatoes or getting into mischief. This camp is definitely the "boot camp" of all youth camps complete with marching, cadences, and a few Aggie war whoops thrown in. We worked hard from sunup until well after midnight but in the process, gained more knowledge about the white-tailed deer than most people learn in

a lifetime. In addition to the knowledge and unprecedented experiences we brought from this camp, we as Buckskin Cadets also developed confidence in ourselves and were empowered with the resources to share our experiences and our newfound knowledge of wildlife and conservation with the rest of the world. The Texas Brigades motto: "Tell me, I forget. Show me, I remember. Involve me, I understand." is evident in every aspect of the camp. We spent our time there being fully involved in each and every activity.

I found a new family in the Buckskin Brigade and developed friendships, contacts, and experiences that will be a part of my life for years to come. Chris and I never did get to ride in that hummer. In fact, we didn't even have time to take a close look at it but in the 4 - days we spent at the camp we realized that what we were able to bring home, in our hearts and minds, was worth much more than that hummer could ever be.

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How Big is Big for You?

by *Thompson Temple*

A trophy buck for one hunter might be a baby for another hunter. A lot of hunters look for a good mature buck and are satisfied with a 15 inch 8 point buck. Others pursue a buck with a 20 inch spread and 10 points. Still others pursue a Boone & Crockett buck scoring 170 points are more. Whatever the size you go for, there will always be a bigger one that someone has.

Have you ever really considered "How big is big for you?" If you are hunting on 40 acres surrounded by other 40 acre tracts, then a big buck for you will be an 8 point buck. If you are hunting on 640 acres with discriminating hunters, then you might hold out for a big 8 or even a 10 point buck. If you are hunting on 1800 acres under high fence, then you might be looking for a 20 inch buck.

The question of how big is big enough can sometimes be answered by the question "How much are you willing to spend?" You might say "I would love to get a giant buck, but I sure won't spend \$3,500 to do it! My wife would kill me!"

The solution to the above might be to decide how much you can afford to spend. After that you can strive to do the best

that you can at that level. The average cost for a buck in Texas is \$1,000. This can get you a 16 inch 8 point buck on the average if you hunt hard. If your budget is \$1,800, then you can get on a ranch where you can get an 18 inch 10 point. If you spend \$2,500, then you might get a 20 incher.

We have all read about Boone & Crockett bucks going for between \$8,000 and \$20,000. Don't get mad at me. I am just telling you what I believe. These figures are guesswork based on being a guide for 30 years. Of course there are exceptions to the preceding.

There are a lot of super trophy ranches offering management 8 point bucks at \$1,000 or less. There are more and more of these available all the time.

O.K. Back to our question. How big is big for you? Do you have a good place to hunt this year? If you don't, then give me a call. My number is 1-830-234-4120. I can locate a good hunt for you at a reasonable price. A problem defined is a problem that is one half solved! Set your sights on a hunt that you can afford and take your trophy buck.



Is the buck on the left big enough for you or do you require the one on the right?

Photo by *Thompson Temple*

Dave and Fred get lost

One day Dave and Fred were Deer Hunting, and they got lost. Dave tells Fred "wait, don't panic I learned what to do in case this happens. You're supposed to shoot up into the air three times and someone will here you and come with help," "okay" said Fred. So he shoots three times into the air. They both wait an hour and no one shows up. So they shoot three times again and still no one shows up. Bewildered they try this again and again for the next couple of hours. Fred starts to look a little worried, then he shouts "It better work this time, we're down to our last three arrows!"

Tail Feathers -- How to Age Your Gobbler

by *Rob Ramsdale*

A Group of Jakes
The tail feathers on a male turkey gobbler are really only useful in identifying jakes (1 year-old gobblers) from mature birds. When the tail feathers of a Jake are fanned out, the middle 2 to 6 sets of primary feathers will be 2 to 4 inches longer than the rest of the feathers giving the fan a "bump" in the middle.

Jakes have the longer tail feathers because during the late summer molt a young gobbler goes through, he only replaces the middle primary tail feathers. In the second year, the tail molts in the standard adult pattern from the outside in and the gobbler will then have a full, even fan.

Once a bird reaches 2 years of age, he will have an even fan for the rest of his lifetime. There are occasions when he will lose a tail feather or get one broken off. In those cases he will quickly grow another in its spot so it is possible to see a mature bird with an uneven, short tailfeather or two.

This "bump in the middle" tail fan characteristic is especially useful in determining the age of a strutting gobbler since you can determine quite easily if it is a mature bird or not from a long distance.

Beard Characteristics -- How to Age Your Gobbler

Beards are another variable that may be used in determining the age of a gobbler. Generally, beards grow at a rate of 4" to 5" a year and never stop growing. They also will usually get wider and thicker as the gobbler ages. Knowing this, you can be fairly certain a gobbler with a beard of less than 5" is a one year old bird. There are still exceptions to this though since mature gobblers can lose most or all of the beard to various causes.

The beard length is only partially helpful in determining the age of a gobbler because after a bird reaches the age of 2 when the beard reaches a length of 9" to 10" and it starts to wear down at the tip. When the bird feeds, the beard tip is worn by both getting stepped on by the tom and by dragging on the ground.

There are also many other variables which can affect the length of a beard including:

1. Growth Rate -- Some birds simply grow beards fast enough to overcome the wear factor.
2. Habitat -- Some geographical areas have ground which is "softer" and does not wear the beard tips as much. Swampy area birds (Osceola) generally have longer beards and spurs than rocky area birds (Merriam's).
3. Leg Length -- If the legs are longer (like on an Osceola) the beard will grow longer before it

starts to wear at the end.

4. Filament Strength -- Beards with stronger individual filaments will not wear as quickly.

5. Thickness: -- If a beard is really thick with lots of filaments and a large circumference, it will not wear as fast as a thin, wispy beard.

6. Diet -- Certain foods may make a beard tougher and more wear resistant.

7. Climate -- Northern birds or birds in areas with high snowfalls will often lose the tips of their beards when ice builds up on them and they break off.

8. Disease -- Turkeys will occasionally get a melanin deficiency in their beard. Melanin is the pigment that makes the beard black and sometimes the melanin production is stopped during the growth of the beard and the beard gets a blonde or light colored streak across it. Usually the melanin production will pick back up and the rest of the beard will be black but the beard will always have that blonde streak through it. The light-colored portion of the beard is much more brittle and weaker than the black portions and the beards will often break off at that point or stop growing. Some turkeys suffering from this will have completely blonde beards.



Russell Thornberry - Rafter W Ranches Guided Hunts, Sonora, Texas

Tips for hunting trips

- On the first day of deer season, a good idea is to pack a lunch and sneak into the woods early. Then just sit tight for the rest of the day and when hunters enter and exit the woods they will spook deer your way.
- Tape one end of sewing thread, about 6-12 inches long, to the end of your barrel or bow. Frequently check the thread to see which way the wind is blowing. Always hunt into the wind whenever possible.



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Success from page 15

but after cleaning a white-tailed deer and three, 100 or so pound, wild hogs at one time before having to sharpen mine. I'll stay with the carbon steel blade. Carbon steel will rust so keep this in mind when storing a knife with a carbon steel blade. Another piece of equipment that can come in handy is a laser range finder. It's a good idea, when using a range finder, to check the distance of landmarks around the stand. Such as trees, the feeder, or a fence line and make a mental note of these distances. Often there is not enough time to use the rangefinder on the actual target.

The gun and scope combination should match the hunting situation. For hunting in the brush I like a short quick handling rifle with open sights or a variable scope somewhere in the 1x4 or 2x7 range the Leupold 2.5x Scout IER is also a good pick for this situation. Low powered scopes like these or one of the many "red-dot" scopes on the market offer a wide field-of-view and fast target acquisition on moving targets. A large caliber heavy bullet is highly recommended for this situation. Cartridges like the 35 Remington, 444 Marlin, 45-70 Government or the new 450 Marlin will get the job done. My favorite rifle for this type of hunting is the Marlin 1895 "Guide Gun" in 45-70 Government. It handles quick and

delivers all the power necessary to down an animal quickly. For moderate to long ranges cartridges like the 25-06 Remington, 270 Winchester, 280 Remington, and the 30-06 Springfield can't be beat. If you are a short-action fan the 260 Remington, 7mm-08 Remington or one of the new "Short-action Magnums" in 270, 7mm, or 300 (from Remington or Winchester) will fit the bill. Matched with a quality scope, say a strait 6x or a mid-range variable, and you're set. This type of rifle will handle almost any hunting situation as long as you pick the right bullet and place the shot properly. For extreme ranges I go to my Remington 700 "Sendero" chambered in 300 Winchester Magnum with a Leupold Vari-X III 4.5x14. It works! As long as I've done my part it has never let me down. Other cartridges to consider for long-range hunting are the 7mm STW, the 300 Weatherby Magnum, or the new Ultra-Magnums from Remington in 7mm and 300. Hunting with a handgun offers its own set of challenges and rewards. If you are thinking about taking up handgun hunting the 44 Remington Magnum or the 454 Casull, in a revolver, will handle most situations out to 100 and 150 yards respectively. The addition of a 2x or 4x scope will help shot placement at ranges over 50 yards and in low light. Once

ranges exceed 100-150 yards a single shot or bolt-action pistol is the way to go. These guns fitted with a 2x-7x to a 3x-9x long eye-relief scope and chambered in a flat shooting cartridge make shots out to 250 yards possible. The 260 Remington or the 7mm-08 Remington handle these ranges in stride. A solid rest is a must for shooting a handgun at these long ranges. Resting over a daypack or the use of a bi-pod will provide a solid rest when you need one. I will not even consider a long shot without a proper rest.

No one seems to have a problem picking a good cartridge, but the right bullet, that's a little different. Knowing the anatomy of your quarry is a big help. Bullet construction is one of the aspects most people overlook. When it is one of the most important and least expensive parts of hunting. Compared to the price of stands, feeders, guns and so on. The price of a couple of boxes of premium ammunition or bullets is rather insignificant. Let's say, for the sake of argument, you've chosen a 30-06 Springfield, loaded with a Nosler 150-grain Ballistic Tip bullet, an excellent deer cartridge and one of my favorites. The area you are hunting is sparsely wooded with an average shot of about 60 to 80 yards. The 30-06 will push the 150-grain bullet around 2900 fps. At shorter ranges

the construction of the 150-grain Ballistic Tip bullet at this velocity is more likely to "blowup" on entrance, especially if it hits bone. Thus, improving the odds of a wounded and perhaps lost animal. A 180 to 200-grain bullet of heavy construction is better suited for this situation. With the new lines of premium ammo most companies are now manufacturing, it's easy to find a good bullet to fill your needs, in the cartridge you've chosen. If you are not sure what you need a quick look through a reloading loading manual, ammunition manufacturers web site or flier should give you the answers you need.

Once you've found the right bullet for the cartridge your gun or guns are chambered in. Be sure to spend time at the bench. After the rifle or handgun is zeroed in continue to practice from the bench as well as hunting positions. Nothing replaces being familiar with your gun and chosen load. I always like to check my guns through out the season and before every hunt. In my opinion shot placement is the most critical aspect of hunting. Whether it's a coyote or a cape buffalo. It doesn't matter what you hunt with a gun, bow, or for that matter an anti-air craft gun you still have to put it in the right place to get the right results. All the power of your shot is wasted if not properly placed. Let's

say the trophy you've hunted all year is feeding at the edge of your food plot. This is it "The Moment of Truth" is here, hold the crosshairs steady on the kill zone; slowly squeeze the trigger and the gun will do the rest. Follow thru with a good shot and this year, maybe even several years, will be a success! If not, you'll have plenty of time to think about it!

One Sunday morning I was listing to a church service on the radio while returning from a hunting trip. The preacher was of course preaching his heart out to save souls. When he mentioned the verse "God gave man dominion over animals" and remarked with that, came great responsibility. I couldn't agree more! We as hunters owe it to the game we hunt to put forth every effort to make a quick clean kill each and every time we take an animal. Hunting and taking game as ethically as possible is the responsibility of all hunters when we head to the field.

NOT GOING TO GET ANYTHING:
 First man: Why do you go hunting without bullets?
 Second man: Because it is cheaper and the results are the same.

Ministerial Alliance Looking for Deer

submitted

The Sonora Ministerial Alliance will be coordinating a deer distribution program for residents of Sonora during the general whitetail deer hunting season this year, November 6, 2004 - January 2, 2005.

This will be the 12th year of the Ministerial Alliance's deer distribution program. During that time, the Alliance has enabled the sharing of well over 1,000 deer from area hunters to local residents.

Persons who would like to receive a deer this season may call the office of Justice of the Peace Adelia Alvarez, 325-387-3322 or the office of the Texas Department of Health at 325-387-2234, or the Sonora Volunteer Fire Department.

Members of local churches will deliver a field-dressed deer to persons who request one as the availability of deer permits. Generally, distribution of deer takes place on Tuesday afternoons during the general season.

Hunters who wish to contribute deer for distribution may leave deer, properly tagged either at Sonora Deer Processing, 806 Glasscock Avenue or Stagecoach BBQ & Catering, 708 Tayloe Ave. (next to Rafter W Feed Store).

While deer numbers hold steady, finding them may be difficult

In a year of weather and rainfall extremes, the white-tailed deer populations of Texas seem to be faring well. But while nearly everyone welcomes rain and green growth, wildlife specialists say the growth may make hunting a bit more challenging when gun season opens.

With rains from tropical storms Francis and Charlie, most areas of Texas have experienced a massive green-up. Donny Steinbach, Texas Agricultural Extension Service program leader for wildlife and fisheries sciences at Texas A&M University, said deer will not respond to normal feeding practices early in the hunting season.

"Hunting is going to be difficult in our prime areas because South Texas and the Edwards Plateau are like the Garden of Eden right now," he said. "Plus, you've got massive amounts of acorns already starting to fall, so come the opening day of deer season, we'll have acorns an inch deep on the ground."

Steinbach said feeding shell corn will not be as effective because of the green-up.

Steinbach said this year's drought did not kill great numbers of deer.

"We came out of the spring in extremely good condition and the reproductive rates were up, particularly for those born in the latter

parts of the spring," he said. "The ones that were affected most dramatically [by the drought] were the fawns."

Antler development is fair, Steinbach said, for the conditions, but sizes vary from region to region.

"We're having fairly good antler development, especially in the Edwards Plateau and in South Texas," he said. "In East Texas there's going to be a little bit of a falloff this year because that area was so hard hit by the drought."

Texas has a population of four million white tail deer and hunters kill 400,000 to 500,000 every year. Even though it is the most popular hunting sport in the state, white-tailed deer are still under harvested in most areas.

"We could kill a lot more animals than that, easily 20 percent of the herd, and it would not hurt them a bit," he said.

In a normal year, Texas licenses one million hunters. This year, though, the numbers are down to about 900,000 hunters.

"Multiple factors are causing this to happen," Steinbach said. "An aging population -- the average deer hunter's age is 51 or 52 -- combined with an urbanized Texas and lease prices going up, all have an effect on the number of hunters."



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2005 Spring Season: \$ 550 per hunter for a 3 day, 2-night hunt. This price includes lodging, meals, guide service and the first turkey. Cost of each additional turkey is \$ 150. Additional nights lodging is \$ 250 per hunter. Non-hunter fee is \$ 100 per day.

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This is the year for a trophy whitetail

by Thompson Temple

Exceptional rainfall this year is responsible for the largest antlers that we have seen in a long time. The big bucks are out there! Will you get one? I hope so.

You can read in many publications about the favorable predictions for this year. There has been a lot of prime deer food out there. This is great for producing big antlers.

There are however disadvantages for the hunter with this situation. Abundant vegetation means that deer can eat all they want without traveling far. They might not be eating corn at your stand. They might not even come into the vicinity of your stand! What are you going to do?

I have been a guide for deer for 30 years. What will I do to get my hunters that trophy buck this year?

I will encourage my hunters to hunt in December. We usually have a good freeze by then that will kill a lot of the summer type vegetation.

Then the deer will begin to travel farther to fill their stomachs. Also corn produces body heat. Deer like it better when they get cold. Corn makes body fat that can help keep a deer warm. All this means that your trusty stand might produce that trophy buck in December!

But what about November? Our forefathers harvested deer without a nifty automatic corn feeder. What did they do? They walked slow and hunted. They scouted for fresh deer sign and sat in the bushes. They sat downwind from the deer trail. They waited.

I feel like it is very difficult to walk and harvest a trophy buck. Everything happens too quick. I need a moment or two to decide if it is a good buck with no broken points, etc. A quick shot can yield an immature buck.

I do like the tripod stands you can buy. You can move them around. Push them up against a tree just downwind from where you find fresh droppings and tracks. This is what I would do in November!

Also the breeding season or rut can make those bucks move around. The exact time will vary some. This is a great time to be in your stand!

One thing if for sure. You can not get a big buck if you do not go hunting! If you don't already have a good place to hunt, then give me a call. I can locate a hunt for you at a reasonable price. My number is 1-830-234-4120. Keep the wind in your face, the sun at your back, and the Lord in your heart!



This is an excellent year to take a big buck with thick antlers!

Squirrel Stew, Georgia Style

- * 2 squirrels, cleaned, cut into 6 pieces each
- * 2 c bouillon
- * Leafy tops of 2 stalks of celery
- * 1/8 lb salt pork, 1/2" cubes
- * 2 c fresh lima beans
- * 2 tbs flour
- * 2 large ripe tomatoes, peeled
- * 1 tsp salt
- * 1 c fresh corn kernels
- * 1/4 tsp pepper
- * 1 tsp Worcestershire sauce
- * 2 large onions, thinly sliced
- * 1-2 tbs flour

Fry salt pork until very crisp, then remove pieces from the pan. Dredge squirrel in seasoned flour and sauté in hog fat until brown on all sides. When nearly brown, add onions and cook until soft. Place meat in Dutch oven, together with broth and celery tops. Cover and bake at 350 for 1 hour. Remove celery tops, add lima beans, tomatoes, corn and Worcestershire sauce. Cover and bake until vegetables are tender-about 30 min. Skim off excess fat and thicken gravy with flour and 1/2 c cold water. Serve hot topped with crisp pork cracklings.

Hunting Success

By Clay Oldham

Hunting season begins each year with hunters dreaming of successful hunts and trophies to hang over the fireplace. As well it should! Successful hunts are what drive us as hunters. The success of a new season begins long before the sun rises on opening morning, whether you hunt deer, hogs, or any number of game animals. I often say, "Luck favors the prepared". What does that statement mean? Well the fact is you can throw a stand and a feeder out in the woods any place that looks good, then hope and pray that the dumbest animal in the country finds it. We all know what the results of this will likely be...many long hours watching the squirrels play under your feeders! For me the formula for success comes in five steps. They are scouting, stand and feeder placement, picking the right equipment, bullet selection, and ultimately shot placement. Hopefully all of these things combined with a little luck will ultimately yield a full freezer at the end of the season.

I like to start scouting at least 6 to 8 weeks before the season opens. This way I can get a good feel of what's going on in the area I'll be hunting. The things I look for outside of actually seeing the animals themselves are food sources, tracks, scat (droppings or poop), and other

little time spent scouting your hunting area will really pay off. Once the hunting area has been scouted its time to place stands, feeders, and food plots. Stand placement is key; it is also determined by your hunting style. A handgun hunter will have different needs than a rifle hunter, but some aspects apply to both styles. Animals will generally become accustomed to a stand or blind, if put up early on. Box blinds are the most comfortable to hunt out of in bad weather or over long periods of time and conceal virtually all movement inside. They are also good for hunting with partners and videoing or photographing wildlife. Tri-pods, ladders, and hanging stands can also be productive. These are a little more versatile, and can allow you to get closer to the game if placed properly. Another advantage to these types of stands is they are easily moved if need be through the season. I try to find some natural cover such as a clump of trees or brush in the area to help camouflage the stand. A piece of camouflage material draped around the stand can go a long way in concealing you and your movements. Remember to place your stand so you won't be too close to a given area or silhouette against a skyline. I for one do not like to look straight into the sun early in the morning or late evening.

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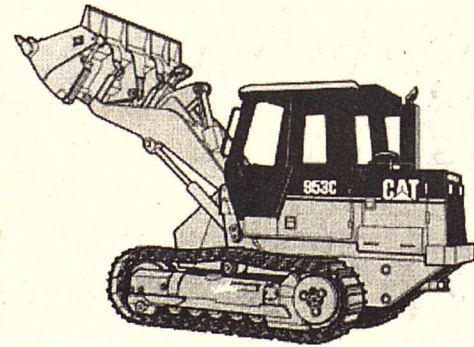
This may or may not be possible for a given stand. We all know we can't control the wind or the weather from one day to the next, especially here in Texas. For these reasons I like to have more than one stand. Besides, you may want to handgun hunt in the morning and rifle hunt the evening. Feeders and food plots are a good way to keep animals in your area. As the season progresses times become more demanding on the game to find food sources. By having food plots of oats, winter rye, or perhaps winter peas on your place you have given the game a constant food source. Feeders not only provide a food source but also along with a timer give the hunter a slight advantage as far as what time he or she is likely to see game. I like to find a good game trail or trails and place my food plots and feeders reasonably close to them. Animals will find and use them much quicker if they only have to make minor changes in their day-to-day patterns.

By now you should be familiar with what animals you have on your lease. The stands are in place and you know the situations you are likely to be in when you are in the field. This is the fun part, picking the equipment you are going to use. I've always heard "you've got to have the right tool for the job". This means everything from a pair of

binoculars to a good knife to do the dirty work and the right rifle or handgun. Binoculars are a personal choice, the best advice is, buy the highest quality you can afford. A lot of time is spent looking through them and if the optics are not high quality you'll definitely know it. Eye fatigue is a good way to miss an opportunity. Personally I like an 8x to 10x for all around use, not too much magnification but enough to have good detail and a wide field of view. Once 10x is exceeded binoculars generally become bulky and hard to hold steady without some type of support. A spotting scope is a good thing to have when you've spotted something with your binoculars and need more detail. I wouldn't suggest one as a replacement for binoculars but as a compliment to them. The field of view is narrow on a spotting scope and with the magnification being in the 20x range or more a tri-pod or some sort of rest is a necessity. Another tool I take along is a game hoist, it can help in field dressing as well as dragging heavy game. The best knife I've found is the Cold Steel "Master Hunter" with the Carbon V blade. A high quality carbon steel blade will get sharper and hold an edge longer than any stainless steel blade. This may just be my opinion

See Success page 16

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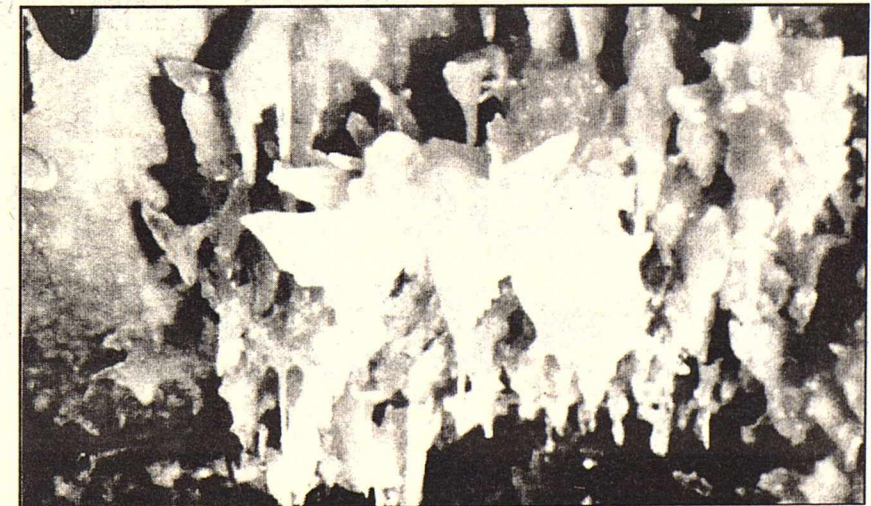
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Women Hunters: family time, meat cited as reasons to participate



Socorro Heft - Rafter W Ranches Guided Hunts Sonora, Texas

by Kathleen Phillips

COLLEGE STATION -- If it means spending time with the family and putting meat in the freezer, Texas women might don camouflage, pick up a gun and head for the wilds.

But whether a woman hunts in Texas is more often determined by whether a male does the inviting and provides a location, according to a study by the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station.

"That's not likely to change, and other limiting factors will prevent significant numbers of women from becoming hunters in the future, whether or not the desire is

there," says Dr. Clark Adams, Experiment Station urban wildlife scientist.

The study should make government agencies that regulate wildlife more aware of the differences in females and males who hunt and the importance of targeting hunting recruitments toward a family's recreational needs, Adams said.

"I'd like to get the agencies to go for the men who hunt and get them to ask their women to go with them," Adams said. An estimated 177,000 male hunters have wives who may like to hunt but have not had the opportunity, according to the study.

"Women look at leisure as a time to be with the family," Adams said. "Because there is an element of danger, hunting may not be the most appropriate outdoor activity for a family, but camping, bird-watching and other such activities might be better ways to attract families outdoors."

Adams and graduate student Sara Ash surveyed about 2,200 of the more than 111,000 recorded female hunting license holders in Texas and got a return rate of about 30 percent.

According to the results, the typical Texas woman who hunts is white and about 45 years old. More than 50 percent have completed some college or have a degree and

most often cite their occupation as professional/managerial or housewife.

The survey also revealed that most of the women hunters began hunting at age 23 and were taught by husbands. That compares to males who begin to hunt prior to age 18 and usually are taught by their fathers, according to an earlier Texas A&M study.

Usually, the study revealed, Texas women who hunt have access through their own land or that of a relative. The women cited "to get meat" and "to be with husband" as the most common reasons for hunting.

So, while the survey gave clear indications about women who already hunt, Ash said, their answers also reveal reasons that other women may have difficulties or lack of desire to begin hunting.

Top on the list of items that get in the way of hunting for women, for example, are time constraints due to work and the cost of hunting leases, concern about nonethical hunters or having no family interest, and having insufficient skill or the fear of personal danger.

If those constraints hinder a woman already inclined to hunt, the researchers pointed out, those factors would be magnified for women with no prior hunting experience.

Some new programs have been developed to teach women how to hunt and fish, but Adams and Ash said their study pointed to an important aspect lacking in some of those efforts -- that women want to participate in hunting and other outdoor activities with their families, not with other women, for example.

Also, some cultures simply do not have hunting as part of their cultural background, Ash said.

"Poor minority women can not sustain what it takes in equipment, location and time to hunt," Ash pointed out, "nor do they have the tradition of hunting."

Another problem is that after women are taught to hunt and do other outdoor activities, there needs to be follow-up to promote and sustain such activities. If a woman can not find a place to hunt or a safe place to camp out with her children, Ash said, she is not likely to continue the sport.

"Women need to be able to get the equipment which can be expensive, and they need a place to go, in addition to the skills," she said.

Sales of hunting licenses in Texas helps fund Texas wildlife

I love the outdoors, and because of my passion for hunting and fishing, my family eats a considerable amount of wild game. So much, in fact, that one evening as I set a platter of broiled venison steaks on the dinner table, my ten-year-old daughter looked up and said, "Boy, it sure would be nice if pizzas lived in the woods."

population management. The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's Web site notes that Texas is No. 2 in the nation with some 913,000 people who hunt.

Since the 1930s, hunters have funded the bulk of wildlife conservation efforts in Texas through the Wildlife Restoration Program.

Those hunters spent \$1.3 billion for hunting in Texas in 1996, according to the National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife Associated Recreation, conducted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in 1996.

"We might need to find other means for getting women and families outdoors and be more creative to get the (license) dollars," Ash noted.

Adams suggested that any adult could buy a \$19 license to benefit wildlife and not hunt with it.

"Hunting is a wonderful tradition, but the agencies and policymakers need to use new strategies with regard to recruiting future hunters," Ash said.

Location, Location, Location Scout your hunting grounds early to pick out prime hunting areas

by Rob Ramsdale
www.wildturkeyzone.com

Prime calling locations are very similar to prime real estate. Location is the key and most of the best spots are very hard to come by. One of the most important keys to calling in gobblers is setting up in the right location. But what makes an area good for calling in a gobbler? The first rule of thumb for turkey hunters -- It's always easier to call a turkey into a location it wants to go anyway. Which means, if you know the area and habits of a gobbler well enough, you can setup in spots where he is comfortable and used to traveling through anyway, making your job of calling that much simpler.

But, how do you find those perfect calling locations? Here are some general scouting guidelines to help you find the right calling location.

Year-round Scouting

I scout year-round for turkeys while I am out hunting other game or just looking around the countryside. Everybody I know also help keep me informed since it's a well-known fact I'm a turkey hunting fanatic. I like to keep notes on the locations I see turkeys and what time of day I see them. This especially helps during the fall season when birds are very predictable but it can also be helpful for the spring season.

If you find an area that has tons of turkeys using it during the winter, odds are those turkeys are not mov-

ing too far once spring gets here. The spring migration of turkeys will vary a lot depending on where you live and what types of turkeys you are dealing with. The western turkeys, Merriam's and Rio Grande, will often travel up to 10 miles or more to get to preferred areas for spring or winter. The Easterns are generally using a much smaller range and have most of what they need for year-round survival in a smaller area of several square miles.

Pre-Season Scouting

Scouting 2 to 3 weeks before you hunt will help you find a general area that has good numbers of turkeys in the spring. Just because you saw a huge flock of gobblers using an area while deer hunting in the winter does not mean those birds will be there 4 months later in the spring. Turkeys do not necessarily use the same areas for both winter and spring and they often migrate from their winter habitat to their spring habitat right about when the season begins. Places that are completely void of turkeys one week, will be turkey heaven a week later.

In the winter, their minds are basically on finding high-energy food sources like acorns and agricultural crops and simply staying alive. In the spring, they are also looking for the food sources which are now changing to more insects and green matter and the hens are also looking for good nesting habitat. That's why it is important to do

most of your scouting as close to the season as possible. When I am out doing early scouting, I like to think like a hen and look for good nesting areas that have open areas nearby where the hen can take her poults to feed.

Precision Scouting

If all has gone well, you now have a general area located and are trying to find key areas to increase your chances of success. Now is the time to begin looking for specific locations including roosts, strut zones, scratchings and dusting areas. All of these areas, and the travel routes in between, are good places for setting up to call in a gobbler. When you begin this phase of scouting, a good pair of binoculars and some good boots are a must since you are going to cover some ground. When you are out scouting, try to not disturb the turkeys since seeing you walking around might make them leave an area. Just be cautious, watch for turkeys and try to keep out of wide open spaces. Finding roosts and strut zones can often be done from a distance with binoculars.

Look for black and white barred wingfeathers and tail feathers to locate roost locations in the spring.

Favorite roosting locations vary according to where you live but generally turkeys like fairly tall, open trees with good horizontal branches they can easily stand on to roost. Birds have a unique physical feature which allows them to sleep

in trees without falling out. When they squat down on their legs, their toes respond by closing up tightly, locking around the branch which allows them to sit in trees asleep at night without fear of falling off their perch.

Usually you won't find a turkey roosted very far from a water supply and if they can find a tree situated over running water, that is ideal. In any area, look first at the large trees with good horizontal branches near water. In my neck of the woods, that means large oaks and sycamores and further west, cottonwoods. If the terrain is hilly, try and find trees right below the ridge tops that are on the leeward side of the prevailing winds for that time of year. If they

can, turkeys like to climb up above the roost on the ridge top and fly down to their roosting tree. They then will usually glide down below when they fly down in the morning. Many times the turkeys in my area will utilize large cedars or occasionally pines when available to further escape cold winter winds.

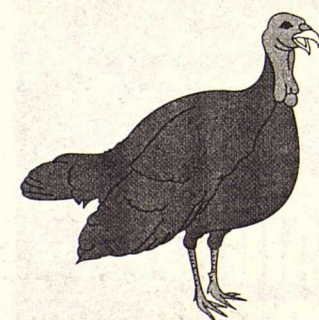
It is also possible to locate roosts by doing lots of walking through an area and looking for the large wing and tail feathers which often fall out when the turkey is flying up or down from the roost. You can also look for piles of droppings which can be quite large when a turkey uses a roost tree consistently.

See Location page 12



Turkey hunting at Ft. McKavett Ranch. Terry Owen Ranch Mgr.

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Location from page 11

Droppings usually last until they are rained on which will also help you determine how long ago turkeys were in the area.

Perhaps the easiest and surest way to find roost trees is to get there either first thing in the morning or at sunset and listen for the birds flying up to roost or calling on the roost. Most people have heard of the term "roosting a bird" and this means you have been out that evening and found out, by owl calling or just listening, the tree a gobbler has roosted in.

Dusting Area - A great mid-day setup location

Dusting areas are harder to find but if you run across one they can be unbelievable good setup areas since turkeys routinely dust during the mid to late morning hours. Look for an open area with loose soil where the birds have scratched out a "bowl" of loose dirt they can sit in and kick dust over themselves. There are usually a lot of tracks, droppings and feathers nearby since they do spend quite a bit of time there during the middle of the day just loafing. Turkeys are really very clean animals and dusting keeps them free of mites, ticks and lice.

Another good area to scout for is the preferred feeding areas of the turkeys. Generally, the hens are the main ones actively feeding during the spring and the gobblers just do enough to get by. Look for open fields, grassy areas or mast areas that have lots of turkey tracks and

scratchings. Turkeys will often scratch up an entire area if there is a lot of good mast available. Deer and squirrels also scratch around in the leaves so it pays to learn the difference in their scratchings. Turkeys will almost always pull the leaves to one side only. If it's a fresh scratching, there will also be scratch marks left from their toes. Squirrels will often just make a small circular hole in the leaves to get down to the acorns. Deer seem to just haphazardly clear a large area.

Strut Zones are difficult to find by just walking through an area unless you can consistently observe a gobbler strutting and gobbling in the same locations every day. If you don't actually see the bird strutting, you can sometimes find the strut marks left by the gobbler's wing tips. These will show up as two irregular scratch marks about a foot apart and several feet long that are often visible if the bird is strutting on bare ground or maybe a sandbar along the creek/river.

Probably the most important tool in scouting is your ears. Listen for gobbling birds, yelps etc. that tell you there are turkeys in the area. You won't often see turkeys while scouting since they probably see you first but you should always be able to hear them if they are in the area.

Also, during your precision scouting, make notes on a topographical map or an overhead satellite image of the property. Keep

track of the roosts you find, any strut zones or dusting areas and the preferred feeding areas of the turkeys. Mark down all of the obstacles present on the property including creeks, fences, thick brush, steep hills or cliffs; anything that might keep a gobbler from coming into your setup.

The Internet is a great resource for turkey hunters. Especially if you are traveling to hunt a new location. If you can find the topographical maps and a matching satellite image of the land you are going to hunt, it is possible to "scout" a location fairly well before you actually see it in person. There are a couple of good spots on the Internet that provide topographical maps and overhead satellite photos for most areas of the country.

Picking Your Tree

After doing some in-depth scouting, you now know a lot about the turkeys in the area such as where they roost; where some of the strut zones are; and where they like to feed. You now must pick a spot to hunt given the time of day since you already should know the general habits of the turkeys. For example, if you are hunting early morning, get to a location by the gobbler's roost in the general area he flies down to. Or you might pick instead, a favorite field or open area he heads to first thing to do his strutting and gobbling.

One of the most intriguing aspects of hunting gobblers is each



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turkey hunting situation is unique. But, if you scout well and learn the turkeys' habits, the odds will be further in your favor when hunting season comes along. Also, once you learn an area well, those favorite strut zones, roosts etc. will be used year after year as long as the habitat stays the same. I've consistently killed turkeys in the same strut zone area year after year. And, don't give up on an area once you kill a turkey there. Most often, another bird will

move right in and use basically the same key locations as the previous gobbler. After awhile, these prime turkey locations will become more apparent to you even when you are hunting an unknown area.

Turkeys in the spring can be very unpredictable but the point is, if you know the area and the turkey's habits well, setting up and calling one in can be made much easier.

Wildlife Management Areas Offer Prime Quail Hunting

AUSTIN, Texas — If access to a good place to hunt is the only thing keeping you from experiencing what wildlife biologists suggest will be the best quail hunting season in years, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department has some excellent opportunities for hunters.

"Some of the best quail hunting in Texas this season will be on public land," said Dennis Gissell, TPWD wildlife management area facilities coordinator.

With the purchase of a \$48 Annual Public Hunting (APH) Permit from TPWD comes access to tens of thousands of acres of quality quail country. Finding a place to hunt is simple using the detailed map booklet that comes with the APH hunting permit. The booklet explains all the rules pertaining to hunting on public land in Texas, along with locator maps of all the hunting areas and the dates each site is open to hunting.

Quail season opens Oct. 30 statewide and runs through Feb. 27. The daily bag limit is 15, with a possession limit of 45 quail.

Field reports from TPWD biologists indicate good prospects for the WMAs offering quail hunting, but there are a handful of areas that stand above the rest. The Chaparral WMA along the Dimmit and LaSalle County line in South Texas leads the pack.

"We've probably got the best quail crop since 1987 when our hunters bagged more than 5,000 birds on opening weekend," said David Synatzske, area manager at the Chaparral WMA. "Because conditions are so good we've added 20 additional days that we'll be open for quail hunting. We'll only be closed basically during our special drawing hunts for deer and javelina."

The Chaparral WMA will be open to public hunting Oct. 30 — Nov. 14 and Jan. 15-28. And, while Synatzske anticipates seeing a lot of hunting activity on those days, it is the early youth/adult quail hunting weekend of Oct. 23-24 that draws most of the attention.

"That's really our opener," he said. "In recent years we've gotten as many hunters during the youth weekend as we do on opening weekend, but the neat thing is they have to have a youth in the group in order to qualify."

The youth/adult concept began in 1995 as a way to introduce young hunters to quail hunting. Thirty-eight young hunters participated in the first event at the Chaparral WMA and the interest has grown, with 158 youth last season. "Most of the hunters bring a bunch of kids and follow the spirit of what we intended for the hunt," Synatzske noted. "We don't require that the youth hunt, our main objective is to get them out in the field to enjoy the experience. We welcome families to come out and if some in the group don't want to hunt, we issue them a pass to go along."

There are primitive campsites available on the Chaparral and the gates will open on Friday, Oct. 22 at 8 a.m. to allow groups to get settled prior to the open-

ing weekend of the youth/adult hunt. There are no water or electrical hook-ups, but bathrooms and showers are available onsite. All hunters must check in and out of the area, but otherwise are allowed to hunt anywhere on the 15,200-acre WMA.

As with all public hunting for quail, everyone is required to wear hunter orange headgear and vests, and a valid Texas hunting license and public hunting permit are required. "About half of our hunters pay the daily use fee (\$15 available at the WMA), which tells me we are reaching hunters who aren't in the public hunting program," Synatzske said.

While some hunters do bring dogs on the hunts, Synatzske said they aren't necessary for success. "Our quail are distributed around the area fairly uniformly and we have a lot of access roads, about 30 miles of paved roads, so you can get around. We have a couple of pastures where some folks like to work their dogs because it's wide open, but most of the hunting is in brushy cover."

The James Daughtrey WMA, located east of Tilden around Choke Canyon Reservoir, will also be offering excellent quail hunting opportunity through the APH permit on Oct. 30-Nov. 7, Nov. 20-28, and Dec. 4-8.

Most of the hunting in South Texas will be for bobwhite quail, but hunters can also take advantage of another subspecies on public land, the scaled quail. Two wildlife management areas in the Trans Pecos hold excellent prospects for scaled quail this year, according to Mike Pittman, area manager at Black Gap and Elephant Mountain WMAs.

Black Gap WMA covers 119,000 acres and will be offering hunting access for bobwhite and scaled quail Oct. 30-Nov. 26, Dec. 13-25, Dec. 30-Jan. 8, and Jan. 13-Feb. 27. There are 50 primitive camps scattered throughout the management area and along the Rio Grande.

On the 23,000-acre Elephant Mountain WMA, quail hunting will be available Oct. 30-Nov. 25 and Dec. 13-Feb. 27.

Both areas will have an early youth/adult weekend for quail on Oct. 16-17. For more information call (432) 837-3251.

"If ever someone wanted to give scaled quail hunting a go, this is the year to get out there and do it," Pittman noted. "We have an excellent crop of birds this year."

"It ought to be better than last year, we're seeing decent numbers of birds," said Ruthven. "I'm not sure the Gene Howe can repeat last year's success rate per hunter, but they have birds."

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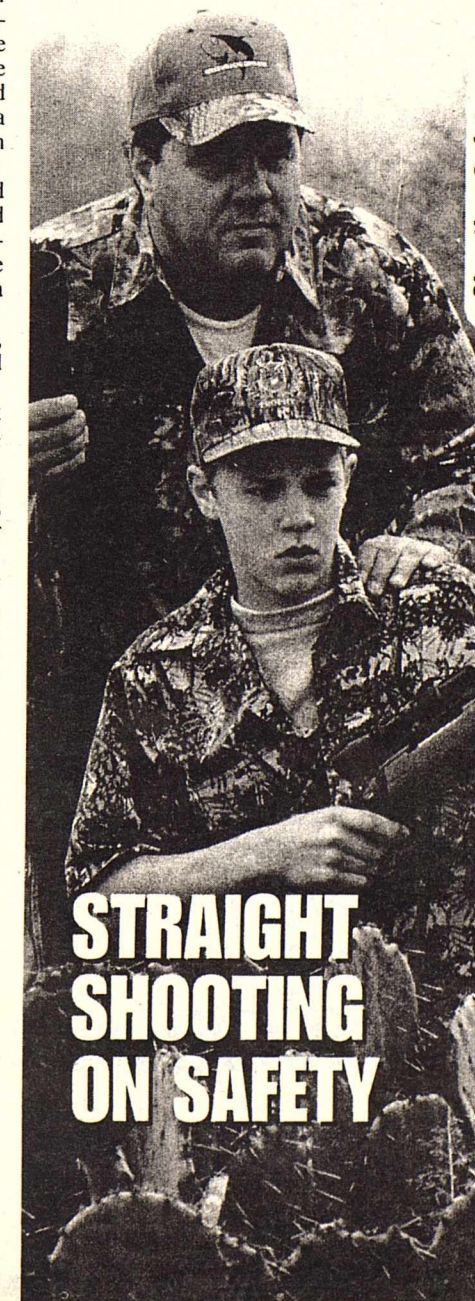
- Always point the muzzle of your gun in a safe direction.
- Treat every firearm or bow with the same respect you would show a loaded gun or nocked arrow.
- Be sure of your target.
- Unload firearms and unstring conventional bows when not in use.
- Handle firearms, arrows and ammunition with care.
- Know your safe zone-of-fire and stick to it.
- Control your emotions when using weapons.
- Wear hearing and eye protection.
- Don't consume alcohol or drugs before or while handling firearms or bows.
- Be aware of circumstances that require added caution or safety awareness.

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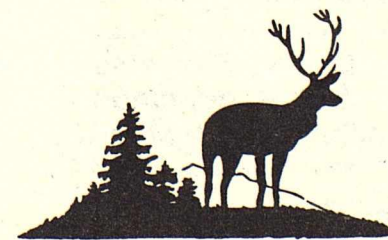


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