

THE KNOX COUNTY NEWS

VOL. 40 NO. 3

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2011

75CENTS

PO BOX 196
 KNOX COUNTY DISTRICT
 BENJAMIN, TX 79505-0196
 XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX5-DIGIT 79505



Benjamin Royalty crowned at the Saturday evening Benjamin PTO Fall Festival are from left to right, Duke Triston Meinzer, Duchess Jolie Everson; King Tyler Kinnebrugh, Queen Toni Brown; Prince Ryan Heard and Princess Katelin Brown.



(Left) Winners of the Halloween costume contest were from left to right, Brooke Jones-6th grade, Cayce Camp-8th grade, Sean Logsdon-Overall winner for best homemade costume, Skylin Ledesma-7th grade, Jesse Munoz-5th grade.

Rural Water Development Meeting

There will be a Rural Water Development Meeting Monday, Nov. 7 at 6:30 p.m. at the Five Star Construction, 1008 East Main St. in Knox City. It is the red barn building.

There have already been some preliminary figures put together by an engineer from Abilene, TX, Kurt Harle with

Jacob & Martin LTD. Consulting Engineers. There is a really good possibility that this could materialize but we need the communities help and commitment! We are in a record setting drought and wells are dry and going dry this could seriously benefit you and only make the value on your land increase!

Kirt Harle from Jacob & Martin LTD Consulting Engineers and David Kuehler from North Central Texas Municipal Water Authority will discuss the following topics:

- Preliminary Figures - What the project will cost
- Grant and USDA Loans
- Meter Deposits
- Where lines will be laid

Contact Brittany or Justin Coker at 940-658-3016, 940-256-1426 or 940-256-2790 for more information.

The community is encouraged to attend this meeting.



Joining in on the class party fun at Knox City Elementary School Fall Festival was Sheri Baty with hair flying high.

Looking Ahead

STATE & COUNTY SWINE VALIDATION will be held Sunday, November 13th at the Knox City Ag farm from 1-5pm and at the Munday Ag Farm from 1-5 on Sunday Nov. 20.

ANNUAL KNOX CITY FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH BAZAAR will take place Sat., Nov. 12 from 9am to 1pm. Don't miss the THIS 'N THAT ROOM filled with

LOOKING AHEAD
 continued on page 11



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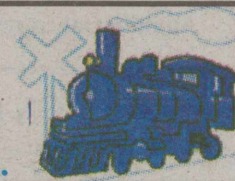
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SAMMIE'S KNOX CITY CORNER & FINAL THOUGHTS

Monday all things in Knox City are rolling along our little community. It has come a long way in the last few years with more work, more business and some old friends moving back slowly.

My new neighbor is Mrs. Broach. She is kin to Betty Sue Poe. She probably can't wait to finish the remodeling on her house and to get moved in before it gets too cold. She'll be a wonderful neighbor, I'm sure.

If you've noticed, our Four

Square Church guy did a great job in the church flower bed and also Emily Nelson and Joe did a great job with our new sign outside the front door. Thanks Guys for all your work. It's great.

More small business as Sheedy's station and oilfield yard really looks nice. Congratulations, guys. Steve Pepper is also hard at work next to Lawrence Bros. to fence in his property and it's looking very nice and he keeps all his prop-

erties looking good. He is doing great.

I spoke with some of "Nicha's" family and she is coming along great with her chemo and all the test they run every so often. I know she's ready to be home to stay, but God will take care of her. Our prayers and thoughts will support in every way we can.

I know also there are families in Munday having some health problems. Please remember God made us all to help each

other through prayer and may he also bless them as they fight to get well, as we do also every day we are on this earth. We pray God's blessings from the bottom of our hearts.

Alfredo Abila is still progressing as he takes one step further into his recovery. It's hard on his wife, Amanda, the girls and all the family whose heart he has touched since he was born. He goes walking with me and the girls and Amanda, and sometimes his brother Mario will fill in when he is not working or also taking care of his family.

Saw Jan Grimsly this weekend and she gives me news that Brandon is doing great and how happy and blessed they are that our little community can have so many prayers and blessings and the wonderful touch of God in our hearts. There's still some lost hearts out there, but sooner or later they will all come to be a life with a heart full of love and for God.

I say hello to Martel and Nell. I have not had time to see them since she got out of the hospital, but if I know Martel, she is ready to bake biscuits and gravy. Please take care and call me sometime and give me an update. I will list my phone # at the end of my column so I

can hear from everybody that would love to just say hello.

I notice the Burkham's are probably getting ready for stock shows and I love the way they travel in style and take their own "home". That's great and they sure are enjoying going to see their grandkids. I know it's fun. Been there, done that. I'm glad they are finished for now anyway.

Our band traveled to the marching contest this past weekend at Decator but didn't get to advance. But hey, guys. You'll always be Number 1 with us no matter what the judges do. You work very hard and we will always be proud of the great job you do. Keep it up!

Thanksgiving time is just around the corner and our Angels food bank will be back some time this month. If you would like more details about time and place, call me later this week. If you are a homebound person, please call and we will find a way to deliver to you. If you are one of the kind hearted people that would like to help with the food, you can contact anyone at Lawrence Bros. and they will be glad to help you with donations. Let the spirit of the holidays open your heart

and let the love come forth. The things you bring into some lives, money can't buy. If you would like to be one of our helpers, please call and let me know. May God bless you.

Mom Rod had a wonderful weekend. She got to go and enjoy her time with family and friends and she attended the fundraiser that had been done for Alfredo Abila and family. It's great she can still enjoy life and her family. She always says she wishes blessings to everyone.

It's Sunday evening and as I was getting my column ready, I heard the chopper landing at the hospital and my heart aches as I pray for the families cause we never know when that phone ring for us. Praying always makes me feel as if God is saying, please pray now, so I stop for a while and step outside the door and I pray that God will take care of them and all the staff at the hospital, and that the pilots will arrive safely.

Earlier this week, Eddie brought me some news that Billy Joe and Carolyn Flores were in Abilene and had a wreck. The only information I have is that he had been released but Carolyn was still in the hospital. May God bless them and we pray that everything goes good.

Chevy Hernandez works at Lawrence Bros. and his brother has been on dialysis for some time, and had to have stints put in recently. I have not talked to any of his family to get more information.

Diana Casillas' mom has been in the hospital here in Knox City. She has a little health setback. She is hoping to put her mom in Munday Care Home for recovery and probably a little physical therapy. I hope she does good and has a speedy recovery. God bless you, Diana.

I guess I've covered quite a bit this week, but I'll see you next week again.

God Bless our Troops and each one of us.
Sammie Offield
940-657-5001.

The Knox County News

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All others: \$30/Year

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SHERRY REID
Reporter
Sports Writer
Advertising Manager

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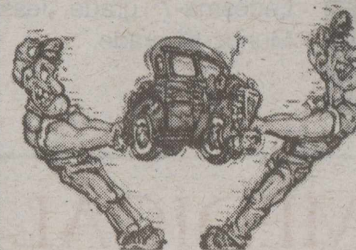
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KCN OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Wednesday • 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. • Closed Thursday • Friday • 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

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DAYS	NIGHTS	106 NORTH 2ND
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The Cowboy Christmas Ball

Are you already lamenting about the holiday season and wondering what to do with your in-laws or Aunt Mary? Fret no longer! Make plans now to attend the 2nd Annual Cowboy Christmas Ball in Goree, Texas, on December 16, 2011.

Get ready for some toe tapping, boot-scooting, fiddlin' music this holiday season. The "ALL STAR BAND" is back for a night of Bob Wills, Classical Country, Big Band, and Cajun music. You can sit back, clap your hands, tap your toes, and dance the night away.

This year's 10-member band is packed full of talent. "Wade Landry and Dale Morris, Jr., are two of the most outstanding fiddle players of our time," said producer J.W. Sollis. J.W.'s son, Wendell Sollis, is an excellent musician and will be joining the band on the banjo. Crowell, Texas, native, Ronny Dale Shultz will be playing lead guitar and serving as leader of the band. Larry Reed will be on the saxophone, Steve Ham on Trombone, Bob Baker on steel guitar, Terry Thompson on drums, and Ron Ellis on bass. The lovely and talented Ginny Mac,

the only female in the band, will be playing keyboard and singing vocals. "Everyone loves Ginny. Her voice reminds you of someone out of the 1940's," said Sollis. And, as a special guest vocalist, Carrel Sparkman of Quanah, Texas, will be joining the band.

The Cowboy Christmas Ball will be held on Friday night, December 16, 2011, starting at 8:00 p.m., at the Knox Prairie Events Center in Goree, Texas, on Highway 277 in Knox County. The building, formally the Goree ISD, has been converted into an events center hosting various events throughout the year, including the Bobby Boatright Western Swing Music Camp, held this past July.

This event is too amazing to miss out on, so don't wait until the busy holiday season to get your tickets! Get them now by calling 940-839-7870, or going online at <http://cowboychristmasball.eventbrite.com>. Cash, check and credit cards accepted. Table sponsorships for 10 or more are available by calling 940-459-4121. Follow this event on facebook at "Cowboy Christmas Ball".

"Thank You" from Dionisia Estrada

I would like to thank everyone who helped with the fundraiser lunch October 16th, especially the KC-OB CISD staff who helped with organizing, cooking, and delivering the meals. I would also like to thank those who purchased tickets, have contributed to the jars around town, and the children who raised money during their pee wee football game.

It warms my heart to see that so many people in the community are willing to give of themselves so generously. Words cannot fully express how much it means to me and my family during this difficult time. Once again, Thank You.

Sincerely, Dionisia Estrada

OBITUARY

Ace Dustin Campbell-Trevino

Our little angel, Jace Dustin Campbell-Trevino, infant son of Crystal Campbell and Lawrence Trevino, passed away Wednesday, Oct. 19, 2011. Jace was born on Oct. 19, 2011. A graveside service was held at Elmwood Cemetery on Monday, Oct. 24.

Jace is survived by his parents of Knox City, maternal grandparents, Ray & Paula Campbell of Knox City, paternal Grandparents Lorenzo Trevino & Wendy McCane of Deer Park, Tx; Jonda Trevi-

no and Bobby Carrizales of Knox City, Tx; uncles Ruben McCane, Eddie & Sevin Trevino of Deer Park, Tx; Tommy & Joe Ray Campbell; Aunt Katelyn Carrizales of Knox City; paternal great-grandparents Jose & Diana Trevino, and great-great-grandparents Cruz & Frances Lopez all of Andrews, Tx. Special adopted aunts & uncle Britt Roberts of Rule, Tx; Mandy Morris & Tim Sanders of Rochester, Tx.

Jace was preceded in death by 3 uncles Jeremy, Patrick & Jesse Trevino & his maternal great-grandparents Doug & Gerry Rankin.

David's Fishing Report Miller Creek

10/29/11

Water Clarity: Muddy

Water Temperature: 57 Degrees

Fishing was really tough. I fished all day and caught two bass under 14" and one hybrid that weighed 7.89. All were caught on a silver shad spinner bait. I talked to the crappie fishermen and they were really slow too. Jug liners were slow as well.

God Bless and Good Fishin'



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KC AREA CHURCH DIRECTORY

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH – Knox City

Jerry Vincent, Pastor
Sunday School at 9:45 a.m. • Sunday Morning Worship at 10:55 a.m.
Sunday Evening Worship at 6:30 p.m. • Mid-Week, Wed. at 6:30 p.m.
FBC Sunday School, and the worship services at 10:55 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.
are telecast live on Classic Cable, channel 6 in Knox City and O'Brien

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH – Knox City

Thomas Carter, Pastor
Sunday School at 10:00 a.m. • Sunday Morning Worship at 11:00
a.m.
No Sunday Evening Service

ABUNDANT LIFE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP –

Knox City
Tex Cox, Pastor
Sunday School at 9:45 a.m. • Sunday Morning Worship at 10:30 a.m.
Sunday Evening Classes 5:00 p.m. • Sunday Evening Worship 6:00
p.m. Wednesday Prayer Warriors 6:00 p.m.

FOURSQUARE CHURCH – Knox City

Gary A. Schnable, Pastor
Sunday Morning Worship at 10:50 a.m.
Sunday Evening Worship at 6 p.m. • Mid-Week, Wed. at 6:30 p.m.
Mens Prayer Breakfast 6:00 am. Wednesday Morning

SANTA ROSA CATHOLIC CHURCH BILINGUAL – Knox City
Father Charles Gorantla • Deacon Ben Vasquez
Sunday Mass at 11 a.m.

LIBERTY COMMUNITY C.O.G.I.C. – Knox City

Gene Ward Jr., Pastor
Sunday School - 9:45 a.m. • Sunday Morning Services - 11 a.m.
Monday Evening Bible Study 6:00 p.m.

ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH – Rhineland

Father Charles Gorantla • Deacon Jim Novak
Monday through Friday mornings, 8 a.m. Mass
Saturday Mass at 6 p.m. • Sunday Mass at 9 a.m.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH – Benjamin

Sunday School at 10 a.m. • Sunday Morning Worship at 11 a.m.

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH – Benjamin

Thomas Carter, Pastor
Sunday Worship at 9:30 a.m. • Sunday School at 10:30 a.m.

GILLESPIE BAPTIST CHURCH – Gillespie

Matt Harrington, Pastor
Sunday School at 10 a.m. • Sunday Morning Worship at 11 a.m.
Sunday Evening Worship at 6 p.m. • Mid-Week, Wed. at 6 p.m.

CHURCH OF CHRIST – Benjamin

Bible Study at 9 a.m. • Sunday Morning Worship at 10 a.m.

THE BELIEVERS' CHAPEL – Highway 222

Shannon Waters, Pastor
Sunday School at 9:30 a.m. • Sunday Morning Worship at 10:30 a.m.
Mid-Week, Wednesday at 7:30 p.m.

O'BRIEN BAPTIST CHURCH – O'Brien

Kevin Neslon, Pastor
Sunday School at 9:45 a.m. • Sunday Morning Worship at 11 a.m.
Sunday Evening Worship at 6 p.m. • Mid-Week, Wed. at 6 p.m.
Sunday Mornings on KVRP 97.1 at 9:05 a.m.

WEINERT FOURSQUARE CHURCH

Rob Harrison, Pastor
Sunday Morning Worship at 11 a.m.

MUNDAY CHURCH OF CHRIST

Adrian Fletcher, Pastor

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Knox County Aging Services

Menus For November 7th To November 11th

Monday November 7th

Chicken/Rice Casserole
Blackeyed Peas
Carrots
Wheat Roll
Fruit Cocktail

Tuesday Nov. 8th

Polish Sausage
Pinto Beans
Coleslaw
Cornbread
Peaches

Wednesday Nov. 9th

Beef Stew
Turnip Greens
Cornbread

Black Forrest Parfait

Thursday, Nov. 10th

Turkey Sandwich
Tomato, Lettuce & Pickle
Broccoli/Raisin Salad
Pineapple Delight

Friday, Nov. 11th

Closed For Veteran's Day

New Serving Time Is 12 Noon (In Knox City Only)

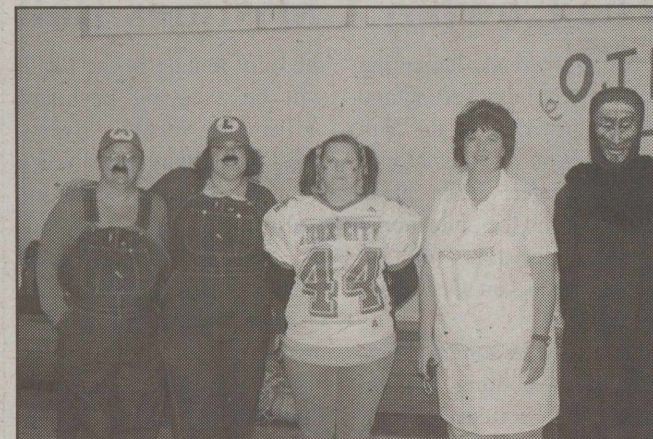
Alternate Desserts For Diabetics

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Orders Cant Be Taken After 10 A.M. And Need To Be

Picked Up After 11 A.M.

(Right) O'Brien Middle School staff joined in on the fun of the Fall Festival activities of games and contests. They are from left to right, Sheila Overmyer-teacher's aid, Kim Camp-Special Ed, Melanie Miller-5th & 6th grade teacher, Kelly Bartley-7th & 8th grade teacher, Stephanie Carver-5th & 7th grade teacher.



Thanks for Reading!

Knox County Market Place

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1 Acre on Hwy 6. 2.5 mile north of Knox City- excellent spot for mobile home. Water, electricity and sewer. Call 940-658-3092, 940-658-3807 or 940-256-0182 for more information.

2 bedroom, 1 bath, large back yard, detached single garage, 308 S. 3rd, call

865-543-3131.

3 bedroom, 2 baths, living room, dining room, pantry/utility room, carport, patio and storage building, furnished with stove, refrig, washer & dryer, wall furnace, window unit air conditioners, ceiling fans in every room, no smoking or pets in house. Call Billy Walker, 657-3628.

Help Wanted

Licensed vocational nurse positions available. Please apply in person at Brazos Valley Care Home, 605 S. Ave. F, Knox City.

Wanted Full time LVN'S Contact April, Roby, RN, Director of Nurses, at Gibson Care Center, Aspermont, TX 940-989-3526.EOE

DRIVER/VAN - Part time: Seeking reliable individual to drive van for nursing facility. Must be at least 25 years old, with good driving record. CNA preferred, not necessary. EOE. Apply in person Mon-Fri, 9:00 am

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to 5:00pm. HASKELL HEALTH CARE CENTER, 1504 North First St., Haskell.

Position available for part-time 9-1-1 Dispatcher. Must be 21 years of age or older and be able to work well with other, multi-task, and have computer knowledge. Applicants should be willing to work some weekends and holidays. Applications available AT 9-1-1 OFFICE, 2ND floor of Knox County Hospital.

Garage Sale

Multi-family garage sale, 412 4th St., Rochester, Tx., Fri., Nov. 4 from 8 to 4 pm., Sat., Nov 5 from 8 to 12 noon. Antique glassware, baby clothes, dishes and much more.

4 family yard sale, 1201 Grand Central, O'Brien, Friday and Saturday, furniture, baby clothes, kids clothes, toys, TV, tools, video games, NEW XBOX 360, lots more.

Classifieds Get Results!

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James E. "Bud" Smith Plant Materials Center
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2011 Weekly Weather Report

Date	Temperature (F) Low / High	Rainfall inches
10/24	48/89	
10/25	57/92	
10/26	54/73	.06
10/27	42/54	.67
10/28	39/60	
10/29	36/67	
10/30	42/67	

Total Rainfall for month 3.21
2011 Rainfall (ytd) 5.73

BUSINESS OFFICE MANAGER

We seek a multi-faceted individual to coordinate business office function at our busy long-term healthcare facility. Responsibilities include AP/AR, payroll, basic HR duties, preparing reports, etc. Must be able to handle multiple tasks. Good communication & organizational skills, and competence in MS Office spreadsheets essential. EOE. For more information, call Administrator at (940)864-8537, or apply HASKELL HEALTH CARE CENTER, 11504 North First St., Haskell.

God's Promises

By Gary Schnable

Thanks-giving

Motives in Giving

"Watch out! Don't do your good deeds publicly, to be admired by others, for you will lose the reward from your Father in heaven.² When you give to someone in need, don't do as the hypocrites do—blowing trumpets in the synagogues and streets to call attention to their acts of charity! I tell you the

truth, they have received all the reward they will ever get.³ But when you give to someone in need, don't let your left hand know what your right hand is doing.⁴ Give your gifts in private, and your Father, who sees everything, will reward you" Matthew 6:1-4 (NLT)

The season of giving is upon us (Though it should be year round)! Thanksgiving and Christmas are the

times when people tend to feel more generous with a lifestyle of giving.

In the passage above Jesus is looking at the act of giving and what our motive should not be. Don't do it to be admired by others. When you do good deeds, do them privately, not publicly to be seen by others.

In other words, our motive for doing good deeds is to please God, not to gain points with other peo-

ple. We should be checking ourselves, "What are the real motives in my heart for giving to...?"

God has given us a standard for giving of a tenth of our incomes, but He is even more concerned as to why and how we give it...with strings attached...to get something from others...to manipulate others...for prestige? Whenever we give to the Lord, whether it's our talents, money or

time, God looks at our motives and our heart.

I knew one gal that would give nice gifts to her husband for special days throughout the year. Her real motives were to inspire him to lavish her with gifts that

others would be envious of. Sad, but she had lost the real reason for giving in her marriage...love! The real reason should not have been on how expensive it was, but was it from the heart of one who adored her.

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Alzheimer's Association hosts educational program

"Alzheimer's Legal Tool Kit" is open to the public at no charge.

The Alzheimer's Association will host guest speaker, Guy Garner, Attorney at Law and Alzheimer's Association-North Central Chapter Board Member on Thursday, November, 2011 from 2:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M. at the Chapel at Tex-

oma Christian Care Center located at 300 Loop 11, Wichita Falls, TX.

This free workshop will discuss six basic, essential estate planning tools that should be used or at least strongly considered, for every adult living in Texas. Mr. Garner will also discuss paying for Alzheimer's Care with VA & Med-

icaid Benefits.

The mission of the Alzheimer's Association is to eliminate Alzheimer's disease through the advancement of research and to enhance care and support for individuals, their families and caregivers.

For more information call Patty Taylor at 940-767-8800 or 800-272-3900.

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At the
KNOX COUNTY VETERANS MEMORIAL

On
Friday

November 11, 2011
11:00 A.M.

A HAMBURGER meal

With BEANS and COBBLER

Will follow at the Benjamin Ex-Student's Building

Meal - \$8.00 per person

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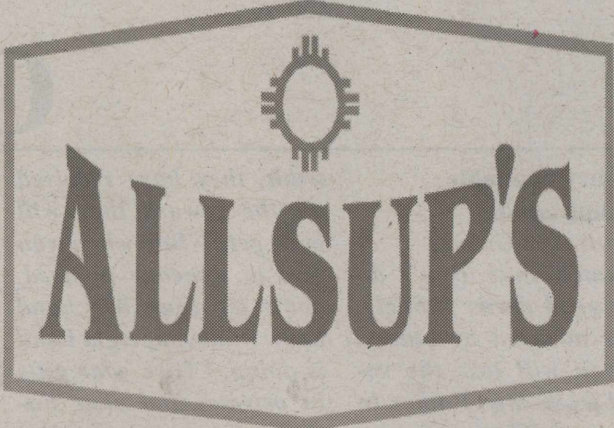
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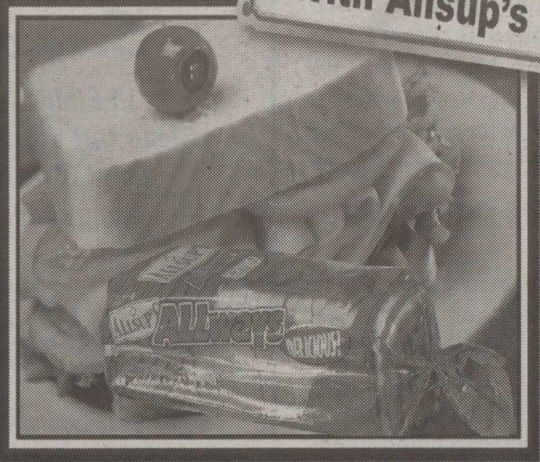
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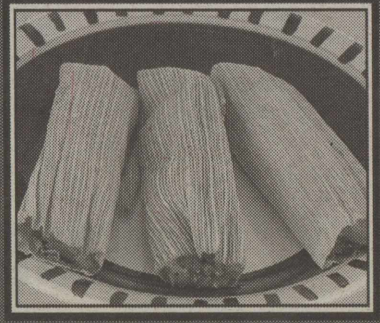


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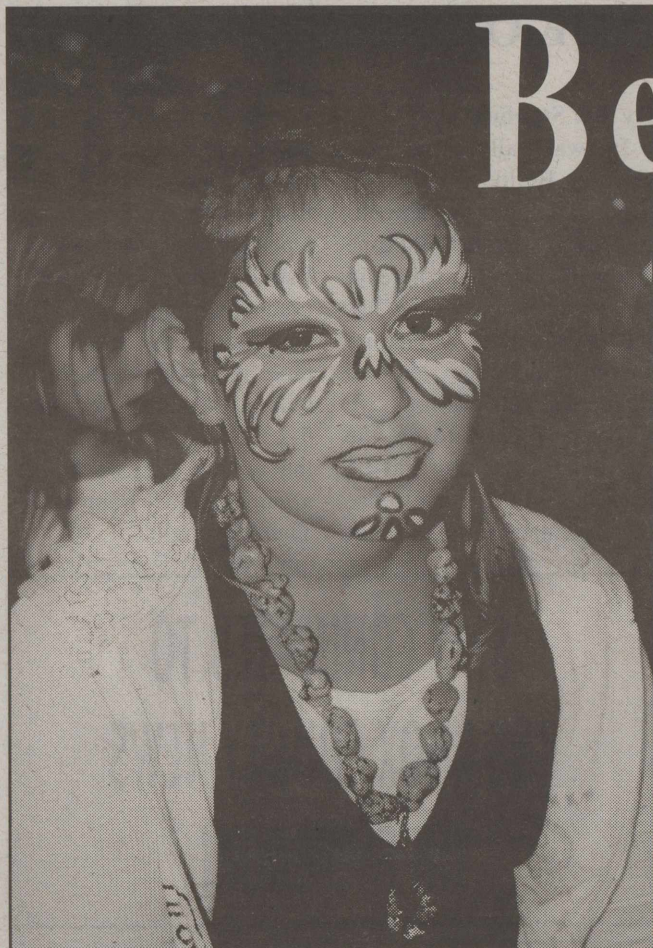
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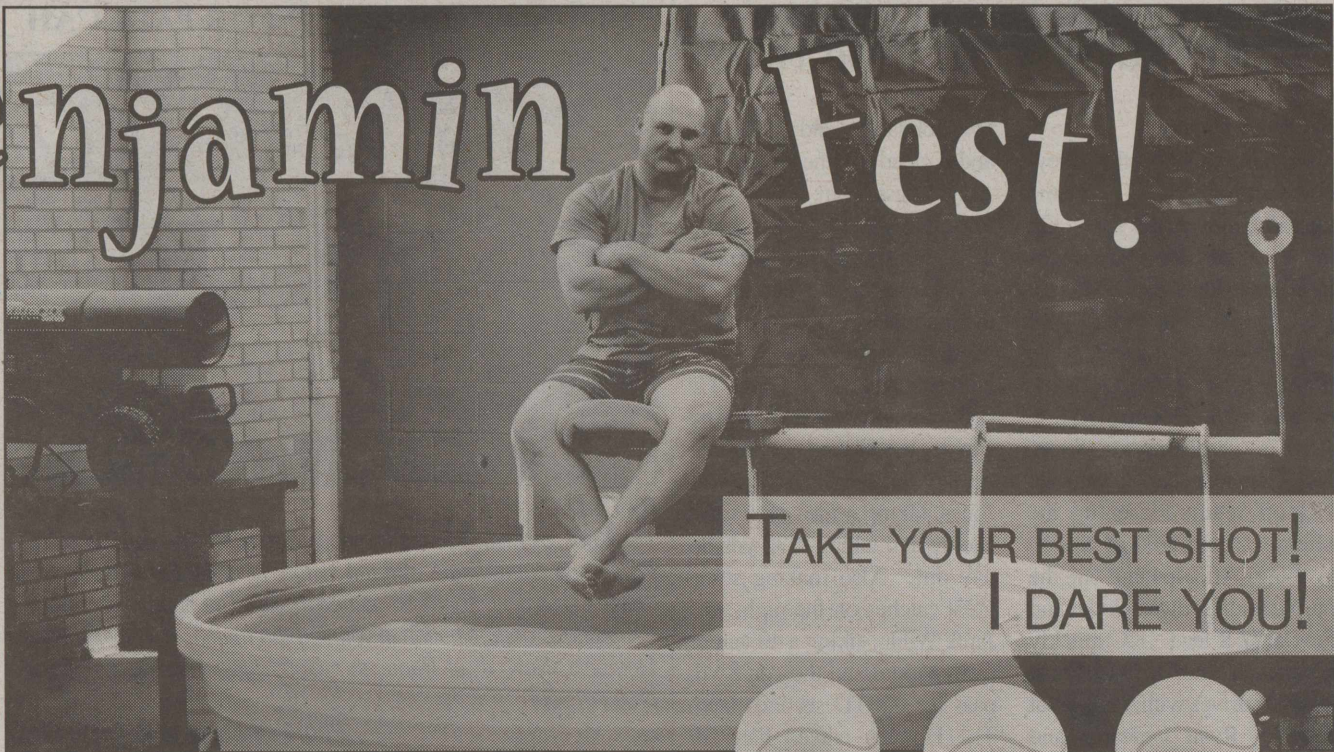


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The Benjamin PTO Fall Festival was a tremendous hit with more than 100 attendees there to enjoy numerous games and activities. Kaydee Wilmes, above, received an elaborate face painting design by Connie Adkins. Kaydee was an out of town relative of Melissa Everson and wanted to be in on all the fun.

Benjamin Fest!



Another big hit of the Benjamin PTO Fall Festival was the dunking booth manned by Kyle Everson who was a "great sport" when he was dunked whether the ball hit the target or not.

LIBERTY COMMUNITY COGIC

Knox City, Texas

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Sunday, November 6, 11:15am

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GREYHOUNDS HARD FOUGHT BATTLE AGAINST STATE'S #1 TEAM

By Tracy Carter

In the battle of the Greyhounds Friday night KC came up short in a 72-50 loss. On the 1st possession, T.J. Moore hit Blake Jones on a 35 yd. pass to set up a 1st and goal and Jarek Wilde took it in for the score. After the PAT kick by Moore the Hounds led 8-6. After a Throckmorton score, Josh Schnable had a fantastic kick-off return to set up the offense 1st and goal @ the 10 ys. Line. After a 4 and out, the purple hounds drove down and took a 22-8 lead. KC quickly rebounded with a remarkable series of drives with some great runs by Ryan Ledesma and a great pass and catch from Moore to Brandon York for a 25 yd. touchdown. Down 14-30, KC made a phenomenal defensive stand keeping Frog town out of the end zone on a first and goal from 15 yd. line. The offense moved the ball well with some super runs

by Schnable and Ledesma and capped off the drive on a 15 yd. pass from Ledesma to York for the TD still trailing 22-48. In the 3rd qtr., Schnable took the hand-off and burst up the middle for a 35 yd. TC. Moore would then connect with Schnable on a 31 yd. TD strike and after the PAT kick by Moore, the Hounds trailed 36-60. 4th qtr. scoring action was Jones, taking a nice pass from Moore and taking it 32 yds, to pay dirt. Also making some great catches on the night was Jarek Wilde, taking a 40 yarder from Moore and then an 8 yd. pass for the TD seconds later. The Hounds played hard all night with some great blocks, hard hits, big catches and some nice runs, finishing with the loss to the #1 team in the state. The Hounds will travel to Paint Creek this Friday night to take on the Pirates in the final district game before heading into the playoffs.

HOUNDETTES HEAD FOR PADUCAH



By Tracy Carter

The Knox City Houndettes finished out district play last Tuesday in Rotan and came home with the victory to make the playoffs. The match came down to the 5th game @15-8. The houndettes showed tremendous determination in winning the match. They will take on Memphis, Nov. 1st at Paducah. Good luck, Houndettes, we are proud of you!

Photo courtesy of Daveine Clark

JV GREYHOUNDS BATTLE CROWELL

By Tracy Carter

The Knox City Greyhound JV traveled to Crowell, Thursday night and battled the Wildcats in the cold and damp conditions but came up short. Jose Espinal passed to Zach Carter for a 40 yrs. TD and Nick Short scored on a 13 yrs. Run. Zach Rodriguez rumbled in for a PAT run and that was all the scoring for the night. The JV Hounds finished @ 6-3 on the year to finish a great season.

THE O'BRIEN BULLDOGS

By Jeff Stanfield

It was all about the O'Brien Bulldogs on a cold Thursday night in Throckmorton. It was the first time since the Seniors where in 8th grade that O'Brien has left T-rock with a Victory. Jakoby Thomas showed them that you do not have to be the biggest to get the job done. Not only did he lead the Bulldogs on offense but he made a couple of

huge hits in the game. Angel Rodriguez scored a Touchdown and picked off a pass to end the game. Sheldon Baty scored on nice grab on a perfect pass from Anthony Estrada who also chipped in touchdown run. This years Bulldogs have been battered with injuries and have still pushed their record to 5-2. The Bulldogs finish out the season this week with a game against Paint Creek Thursday night.

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Benjamin News By Gladene Green

By Gladene Green

Good Monday morning to everyone. It's a nice day starting out. Cool, but as the day goes on it is supposed to get warmer.

Reports on the Fall Festival held Sat. night in the gym are that a nice crowd was on hand to enjoy all the fun. The school royalty coronation was the highlight of the evening. Receiving those honors were Duke and Duchess from the Pre-K class, Tristen Meinzer and Jolie Everson. Prince and Princess were from the 8th grade, Ryan Heard and Katy Brown and King and Queen are the Senior Class Reps, Tyler Kinibrugh and Toni Brown. I congratulate all these young folks.

The Jr. High Colts continue their winning ways as they defeated Rule on Thursday nite at Rule. And the high school girls have already had a basketball scrimmage, so things continue to be busy around Benjamin school.

REGARDING OUR ILL

Donnie Ryder is home, still recuperating from his knee surgery, but doing well. He's out and about quite a bit and says he's making it fine.

Dutch Young seems to be doing well, also. Did go to Wichita Falls last week to see his doctor and of course, that trip was pretty tiring but he has rested

now and is feeling pretty good most days. If you are in Munday, go by the nursing home and spend a little time with him.

Chad Tolson is continuing therapy in a Graham Nursing facility and Charles Griffith says each day gets a little better for him, however, he has another surgery next Monday which will likely "set him back" a few days, but shouldn't be too bad. He doesn't expect to be gone as long with this surgery as he was with his pancreas problem.

HERE 'N THERE

Mike Gideon of Bryan spent the weekend with his dad, Weldon and family.

There was a baby shower for Sadie Benson a couple of weeks ago in the Home of Imagean Young. It was a family affair given by Jessica Lamb and Wendy Henderson. They expect a little boy and his mom received lots of "pretties" to start his life.

Mike and Debi Moorhouse and Dillon Keys had a houseful during the weekend for a couple of days of visiting and lots of fun. Visiting were Lynn Rogers and Shaylee of Snyder, Will Moorhouse of Sweetwater, Liz and Nathan Herring, Taylor and Westin of Munday, Bobbye Moorhouse of Seymour, Beckie Keys and Randi of Holliday, Randis' friend, Katelynn Adams of Wichita Falls, and Ash-

lee Evans, Katelyn Smith, Chance Gallion and Caylon Cope, all of Childress. Most of them attended the fall fest on Saturday nite. On Sunday nite, Oct. 23rd, Dillon attended a Christian concert in Abilene with his church group from Munday. He enjoyed it.

Bud Conner, Lorene Powers and Gladene Green attended the Sunday nite singing in Weinert last Sunday and fellowship afterwards. There were a number of singers there and the evening was very enjoyable.

Olivia Gloria is in Dallas with her daughter and son-in-law, Patricia and Andy Correll. Andy is a patient at Baylor Hospital going there Thursday with severe headaches and limited mobility. No definite diagnosis has been made. Andy is the son of Sonny and Brenda Correll of Knox City and is the Coach at Vernon. Please keep this family in your prayers.

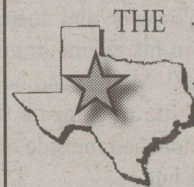
This coming weekend the time changes—again! Don't forget to "fall back" one hour before you go to bed Saturday or else your entire Sunday will be "out of step" with the world! And don't forget to vote on Tuesday. The polling place here is as usual—the Ex-Student Building. I'll see you there.

Remember to call and give me your news. Everyone wants to know what's going on in everyone else's life.

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THE KNOX COUNTY NEWS

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Veteran's Day Program

The Veteran's Day Program begins at 11 a.m. on Friday, Nov. 11, at the Knox County Veterans Memorial in Benjamin, Texas. The Munday High School Band will be playing; Ben Grill will be the Master of Ceremonies, Jerry Vincent, pastor of First Baptist Church in Knox City will give the invocation; and County Judge, Travis Floyd will present the welcome.

Mr. Grill will read a list of active military service personnel from Knox County and recognize the veterans from previous wars, followed by the posting of colors by Veterans from Knox City and Munday. Benjamin Elementary School students under the direction of Nancy McGregor will lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

One of the best parts of the Veterans Program is the essay and poster project about veterans for all county 5th or 6th grade students. Each year Homer Lowrance of Munday speaks with administrators and teachers at Munday, Knox City, and Benjamin to encourage each school to participate. Students may write about a veteran from any time period. Some choose to interview a relative or a neighbor. Along with writing a paper, each entrant will make a poster about the veteran.

First place winners will read their paper and display their posters at the November 11 program. Local teachers are enthusiastic about this youth directed program. "It

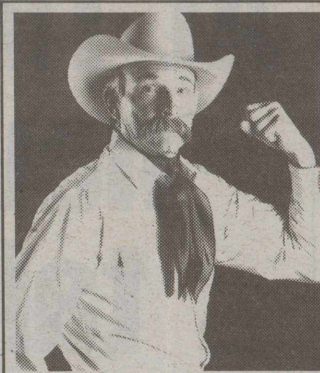
helps students become more interested in history and helps them understand what hardships our veterans have gone through to defend freedom for all Americans." First, second, and third place posters will be displayed at the Museum on Veterans Day.

The Gold Star Family of Marine Corps, Lance Corporal Thomas Neil Trainham of Vera, Texas, killed in the Vietnam War, will place the memorial wreath under the archway. The band will play taps, while Corp. Trainham's cousins, Larry and Pattie Bratcher, stand under the archway of engraved names honoring Knox County Veterans killed in action. Monette Vincent of Knox City will sing the National Anthem, concluding the program.

The Veteran's History display will be in the Wichita Brazos Museum from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. and 12:00 to 2:00 p.m. Military uniforms, medals, and other patriotic exhibits will honor veterans there. The Veterans Albums will be displayed for looking up information about Knox County Veterans.

A hamburger meal with beans and homemade cobblers served at the Benjamin Ex-Students Building will conclude the tribute to our veterans.

For more information, contact the KCHC office at the Museum, at (940)459-2229 or by email, kchc@srcaccess.net.



ON THE EDGE OF COMMON SENSE by Baxter Black, DVM

NEW HORSES, ROUGH COUNTRY

Whenever we introduce a new horse to the ranch, it often takes a while for them to adjust. The country where I live is pretty brushy, meaning cat claw, mesquite, and cactus of all kinds. It is also riven with steep sides, arroyos, canyons and jagged rocks.

I'd traded for a young horse and took him out for his first gather. He had been raised in corrals and was bamfoozeled by the rough terrain. We'd ridden about two miles with him snorting and stopping and sliding, whinnying for other horses to save him. We slid off a slope and hit a small arroyo at the bottom. He stood shaking. I was eggin' him on, but to no avail. He wouldn't move. Completely overwhelmed, he laid down in the sand like a cow!

I sat still in the saddle with my stirrups on the ground. We had a short conversation, about a minute, then he took a deep breath and rose to the occasion.

The South Dakota badlands can overpower a horse, as well. Shorty took a green grulla gelding of his out to check cows on a Pine Ridge Reservation lease. That, too, is rough country, mostly rocky and uneven. He trailed across the prairie and unloaded on a little flat at the edge of the pasture. They weren't far from a big badland creek called Redstone, that drains a lot of that area.

Laying off the side, he spotted a middle-sized Hereford bull. Shorty decided to push the bull on down the creek where he'd seen some cows grazing. It took a little prodding but they soon got the bull on a trail goin' down the creek. The trail had a lot of bends and vertical cut badland walls.

The bull started down on to a steep trail into the creek bed but then turned back the wrong way, right along the wall! Shorty loped back up the creek bank, hee-hawin', hollerin' and waving his arms to shush the bull. But, all of the hoo-rah spooked young horse who, in a moment of "Now or Never", jumped the bank and landed a straddle of the bull!

The bull lit out down the creek, the horse rolled off the bull, and Shorty rolled off the horse! The frightened horse, in a panic, climbed the bank and took off! Whilst crawling up the steep slide, Shorty had a vision of his best Hamley saddle hanging underneath the horse's belly galloping for home. Which, of course, is what a good horse, with any common sense would do. But when Shorty topped the rim, there stood the inexperienced novice grulla, eyes wide and nostrils flaring, not twenty feet away. Somewhere in his equine brain he processed his options; bull? Rock? Trailer? Mother and home? Not having any experience in his young life to compare this to, he actually walked up to Shorty, who touched the side of his face, and sighed. I guess he just needed a hug.

www.baxterblack.com



My grandmother survived the Great Depression and thereafter lived as if it could happen again. "In case the bottom ever falls out" was something she said often enough that it became a family expression. The words remain on my mind.

Could the bottom fall out again? It didn't for my grandmother or my parents. They'd lived through it the first time. Once was enough. As for me, I heard the stories – tales about people sharing their car radiators on winter nights because they couldn't afford coolant and making mock apple pies out of crackers because they had no apples. My own parents didn't have it that tough – not after Daddy quit farming with borrowed mules and exited the farm circa 1933 to take a paying job instead, meaning Mother no longer had to wash clothes outside in three wash pots – one for the soapy water, one for the bluing and one for the rinse – only to hang the clothes on the line to have a dust storm blow up and make all the work all for naught.

Yep, I've heard enough to know that life tends to be a bit of a challenge when the bottom falls out, especially when the dirt blows.

So, in case hard times come again, I have a strategy:

Oatmeal.

In fact, I just finished off some flavored with apples and cinnamon.

Not real oatmeal, you say? You're right. The real stuff doesn't have dehydrated apple chips and spices and sugar mixed in. Nor can

you simply add a little water and shove it in the microwave. Real oatmeal is basic stuff – no additives and cheaper – and you cook it on the stove.

When the bottom falls out, my plan is to switch to the real thing and fix it the hard way.

Back to stories. I once heard about a preacher so dedicated to saving the lost that he went off on an extended preaching tour and left his wife and children with only molasses and a barrel of oatmeal to sustain them. They no doubt rightly reckoned that menu to be their own sacrifice to the same worthy cause.

But I've always wondered about that barrel of oatmeal. Doesn't it make more sense to sack oatmeal and put molasses in a barrel? At least the storyteller didn't refer to any sacks of molasses. What is oatmeal anyway?

INTERNET PAUSE.

Just like I thought, it's essentially groats, meaning oats minus husks. I'm glad we just say oatmeal. Groats anyone? I didn't think so.

Regarding oats versus molasses, isn't it odd that molasses sounds plural and isn't?

As for oats in the plural, I never knew whether to ask Daddy how "much" oats I should feed the horse or how "many." I still don't know.

I do remember how it felt to reach deep into the oats that filled the bin at the barn. They were light and soft. They'll make for a good landing when the bottom falls out.

Beats molasses.

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O'Brien Bulldogs game moved to KC

The O'Brien Bulldog's game against Paint Creek, Thurs. night, Nov. 3 at 5:30 p.m., has been moved to the Knox City Football field. Game was moved to accommodate ESPN and NBC-Dallas news crews here to film a documentary.

LOOKING AHEAD continued from page 1

crosses, pillows, aprons, Charlie Brown Christmas trees, baked goods, jams, jellies, canned foods, frozen casseroles, frozen dinners, & more. Also take part in the SILENT AUCTION of holiday gifts and hand-made items. There will also be a Thanksgiving meal served with all the trimmings. At 1pm a drawing will be held for CASH & GAS.

KNOX CITY FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH will host the **41ST ANNUAL LADIES' HARVEST DAY** event Tues., Nov. 15 at 10 am. All ladies from surrounding area are invited to come & bring a salad or casserole. The Eternal Threads Mission Group, as seen on Texas Country Reporter, will present the program.

If you are interested in **Serious Bible Study**, join us beginning Nov. 1, every Tuesday, 6 - 8 pm, at the Church of God, Family Worship Center, Hwy 380 East, in Haskell, Texas. This Bible study is non-denominational. Come as you are.

All you need is your Bible and a desire to learn.

IMPORTANT NOTICE REMINDER. MEDICARE'S annual open enrollment is from Oct. 15 - Dec. 7. If people with Medicare wish to explore new choices in health care and drug plans, this is the time to do it. For information, go to www.medicare.gov, or call 1-800-medicare, or consult with a local State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) for help.

AGING CENTER MUSICALS are canceled until after the first of the year due to so many activities going on through the holidays.

KNOX EXTENSION EDUCATION ASSOCIATION will have their next meeting of the "Circle of Friends", Nov. 10 at 10 a.m. at the Knox County Aging Center, 107 N. Ave. E.

TURN YOUR CLOCKS BACK ONE HOUR SATURDAY NIGHT.



HALLOWEEN PARTY!



Knox City Elementary School classrooms were decorated in celebration of the school's Fall Festival activities last week. The students had a wonderful time enjoying not only wearing their favorite costumes, but eating all the goodies that were supplied by parents and teachers.



Thanks for Reading!

SENIORS HONORED



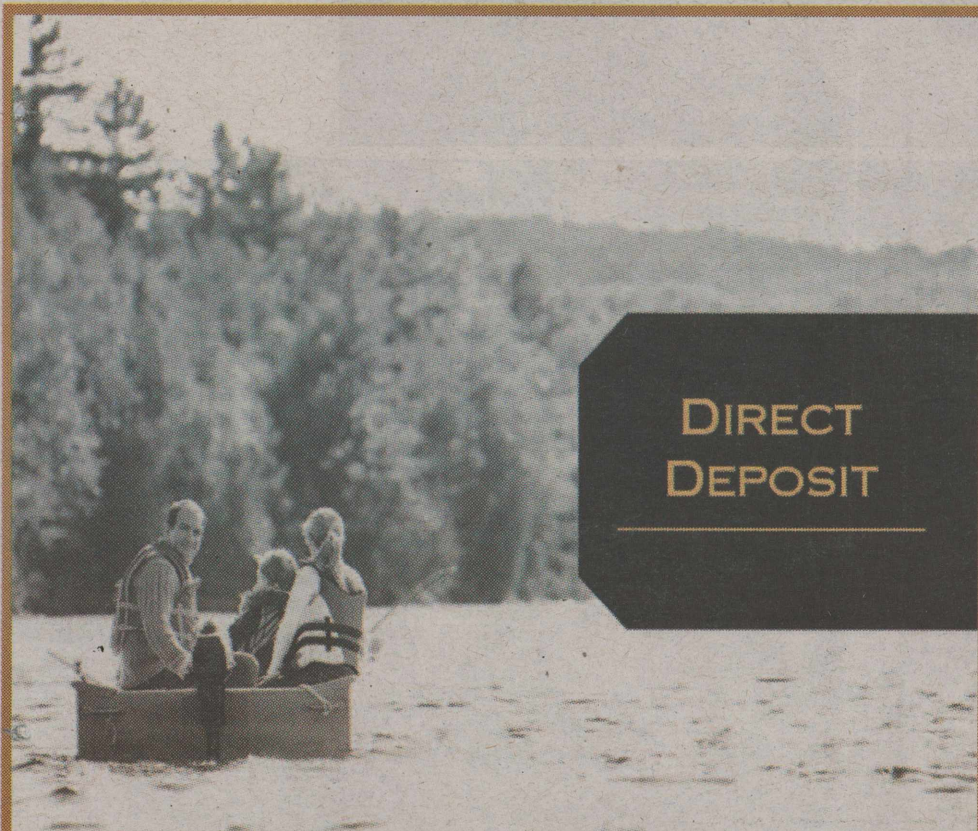
(Left), Seniors from left to right, T. J. Moore and Gaby Moya



(Right), Seniors from left to right, Jarek Wilde, Brandon York, and Ty Baker



Seniors left to right, Blake Jones and Ryan Ledesma



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Senior Jo Angel Martinez



Seniors from left to right, Destini Billington, Cassidy Carter, and Reagan Clark

Knox City High School Seniors were honored last Friday evening before the Greyhound Varsity game spectators, with the introduction of each senior, their family

members accompanying them, and the plans of each after graduation. Knox City is proud of the accomplishments of each of these seniors.

Thanks for reading the Knox County News!

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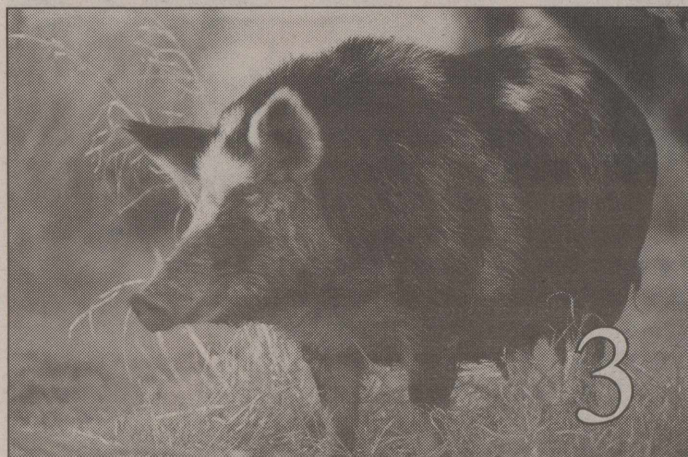
Hunter's Guide

Volume 3

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3 The License

A look back at one of the original hunting licenses sold for \$2

4 Six Tips for More Dove

Scouting, practice and sensible shots make all the difference.



Cover photo by Russel Graves

13 Know your turkey parts

A primer on snoods, dewlaps and other fleshy appendages.



Dear Reader:

Each year, thousands of hunters travel to our area to test their patience, expertise and luck. We welcome you visitors to our area and hope you take the time to visit the merchants who have made this publication possible.

The Rolling Plains and Southwestern Oklahoma are full of hard-working folk who enjoy the outdoors and big blue skies which are common here.

At Blackburn Media Group, we feel there is no place like rural America and consider ourselves fortunate to live and work in such a beautiful and rugged area.

Sincerely,

Christopher Blackburn,
CEO
Blackburn Media Group, Inc

Inside photos by Russell Graves,
See more of his work at russellgraves.com.

25 Five Things to do After Deer Season

Take a kid hunting, Join a conservation club, learn to identify plants, take up photography or videography, and keep a journal.



ADVISORY

It is the responsibility of the hunter to be aware of applicable federal regulations on federal lands (Forest Service, National Recreation Areas, etc.). The Corps of Engineers (COE) allows hunting on some, but not all, COE properties. For more information, including information on area-specific permit requirements, contact the COE District Office in Fort Worth, Galveston or Tulsa, or visit www.swd.usace.army.mil and click on the appropriate district office.

Upcoming Texas Hunting Seasons for Childress County

White-tailed Deer

- **Archery Only:** October 1-November 4, 2011. No permit required to hunt antlerless deer unless MLD permits have been issued for the property.
- **Bag Limit:** 5 deer, no more than 1 buck, all seasons combined.
General Season: November 5, 2011-January 1, 2012.
Special Late General Season: January 2-15, 2012. Antlerless and Spike deer only.
- **Special Youth-Only Season:** Early open season: October 29-30, 2011. Late open season: January 2-15, 2012. Bag limits, provision for the take of antlerless deer, and special requirements of the county, shall be as specified for the first 2 days of the general open season.
Licensed hunters 16 years of age or younger may hunt deer by any lawful means during this season.

Mule Deer

- **Archery Only Mule Deer:** October 1-November 4, 2011.
Bag Limit: One buck deer.
General Season: November 19-December 4, 2011.
Bag Limit: 2 deer, no more than one buck, all seasons combined. Antlerless deer may be taken only by Antlerless Mule Deer or MLD permit.

Squirrel:

No closed season. No bag limit.

Turkey

The annual bag limit for turkey, in the aggregate for all counties, is four (4), no more than one of which may be an Eastern turkey.

- **Fall:** Open season: November 5, 2011-January 1, 2012 (either sex).
Archery Only: October 1-November 4, 2011.
Special youth-only (general) fall turkey

season: October 29-30, 2011, and January 21-22, 2012. Only licensed hunters 16 years of age or younger may hunt turkey during this season. Bag limit as specified by the general fall turkey season.

- **Spring: Rio Grande turkey:** Open season: March 31-May 13, 2012 (any bearded bird).
- **Special Youth-Only (Rio Grande turkey):** Open season: March 24-25 and May 19-20, 2012.

Pheasant:

Open season: December 3, 2011-January 1, 2012.
Bag Limit: three cocks. Possession limit: six cocks.

Quail:

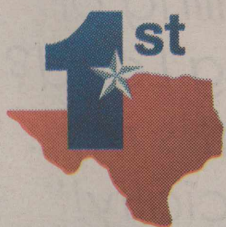
Statewide: Open season: October 29, 2011-February 26, 2012. Daily bag limit: 15 Possession limit: 45
Dove: September 1-October 23, 2011 and December 23, 2011-January 8, 2012

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Six Tips For More Dove

Scouting, practice and sensible shots make all the difference.

By Russell A. Graves

September 1 may be the most popular day in all of Texas outdoors. Friends and family from all walks of life take to the dove fields across Texas in pursuit of the winged rockets. Even with all those hunters afield, the stakes are still tilted in the dove's favor. Their penchant for fast, zig-zagging flight makes them a formidable game animal. Most shots people take at doves never connect. Some people may never get very many shots because they're hunting in all the wrong spots.

Don't fret. Success in the dove field doesn't always happen by chance. Like any other style of hunting, a little bit of preparation goes a long way.

Scout faithfully My dove season starts a couple of weeks before September 1 as I head afield looking for doves. I search for possible roosting and feeding areas. Doves love to rest on barbed-wire fences and high-line wires, so if you can find them congregating in any appreciable numbers, there's a good bet that food or roost trees are near.

During dry years, doves are bound to be close by anywhere you can find water, as they fly to and from troughs and stock ponds to drink.

Find the food Doves need lots of energy to survive, so they are constantly feeding during the day. Since they dine on small seeds, likely spots to find birds are in sunflower patches,

harvested hay patches or harvested milo fields. The simple rule is: If you find the food, you can find doves.

Practice A bit of practice can add a great social element to your dove season. A few friends and a box of clay targets is all it takes to hone your skills before opening day. For less than \$20, you can buy a box of clay targets, an inexpensive thrower and a box of shells.

Practice all sorts of scenarios. Have the birds launched towards you and across from each side. By varying the flight paths, you can learn some valuable skills in making a variety of field shots.

Wear camouflage Doves have great eyesight. In fact, if you sit out in the open in a dove field, you'll see dove flare away from you if you are wearing everyday clothing. Therefore, wear camouflage.

Although some dress from head to toe in camouflage, that isn't always necessary. Usually, jeans paired with a long sleeve camouflage T-shirt and cap suffices. The trick for effective camouflage is to situate yourself in the shade of a tree or behind some other cover to help break up your outline.

Use decoys Doves are somewhat social game birds. They congregate in flocks as they feed, roost and fly.

Take advantage of that innate behavior and use decoys. Dove decoys are cheap. Just about

Dove... continued on page 25



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Upcoming Texas Hunting Seasons for Collingsworth County

White-tailed Deer

- **Archery Only:** October 1-November 4, 2011. No permit required to hunt antlerless deer unless MLD permits have been issued for the property.
- **Bag Limit:** 5 deer, no more than 1 buck, all seasons combined.
- **General Season:** November 5, 2011-January 1, 2012.
- **Special Late General Season:** January 2-15, 2012. Antlerless and Spike deer only.
- **Special Youth-Only Season:** Early open

season: October 29-30, 2011. Late open season: January 2-15, 2012. Bag limits, provision for the take of antlerless deer, and special requirements of the county, shall be as specified for the first 2 days of the general open season. Licensed hunters 16 years of age or younger may hunt deer by any lawful means during this season.

Mule Deer

Archery Only Mule Deer: October 1-November 4, 2011.

Bag Limit: One buck deer.

General Season: November 19-December 4, 2011.

Bag Limit: 2 deer, no more than one buck, all seasons combined. Antlerless deer may be taken only by Antlerless Mule Deer or MLD permit.

Squirrel:

No closed season. No bag limit.

Turkey

The annual bag limit for turkey, in the aggregate for all counties, is four (4), no more than one of which

Collingsworth... continued on page 16

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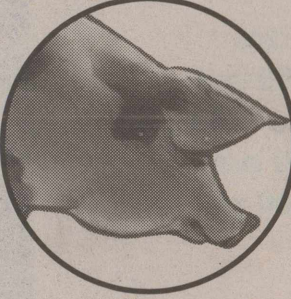
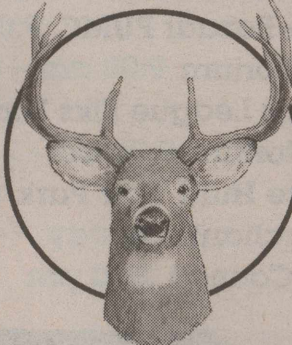

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Childress Chamber of Commerce

Calendar of Events

- 09-17-11 Chamber of Commerce Golf Tournament StoneyRidge 9:00 am
09-24-11 All School Reunion City Auditorium 9:00 am
10-01-11 Tour D'Cotton Bike Ride Fair Park 8:00 am
10-01-11 Lions Club Cowboy Breakfast 501 3rd St. N.W. 8:00 am
10-01-11 City Wide Garage Sale & Sidewalk Sale
10-01-11 Pumpkin Palooza @ The Seed Bin Carnival like games all day
10-08-11 Pregnancy Outreach Fundraiser Goodlett TX 6:30 pm
10-08-11 Alzheimers Memory Walk Fair Park 9:30 am
10-08-11 Carey School Reunion Main Events 10:00 am – 9:00 pm
10-14-11 4H Mexican Stackup Dinner City Auditorium
10-15-11 Bras for a Cause Elks Lodge 6:00 pm
10-21-11 Wizard of Oz Jr. High Auditorium 7:30 pm
10-22-11 City Wide Clean up
10-22-11 NRA Banquet City Auditorium 5:00 pm
10-22-11 Wizard of Oz Jr. High Auditorium 7:30 pm
10-23-11 Wizard of Oz Jr. High Auditorium 2:30 pm
10-31-11 Downtown Trick or Treating Main & Commerce 5:30 pm
10-31-11 First United Methodist Church Pumpkin Palooza 6:30 pm
10-31-11 Chili Supper by Childress Women's Council Main Events 5:00 pm
11-01-11 Cancer Survivors Celebration Main Events 6:00 pm
11-05-11 Christmas in the Park Banquet City Auditorium 6:30 pm
11-12-11 United Methodist Women Bake Sale & Bazaar FUMC 9:00 am
11-12-11 Gun Show by the Chamber City Auditorium 9:00 am – 5:00 pm
11-12-11 EAT WILD hosted by Childress Womens League Elks Lodge 6:30 pm
11-13-11 Gun Show by the Chamber City Auditorium 9:00 am - 3:00 pm
11-25-11 Christmas Festival of Lights & Treasure Hunt Fair Park 6:00 pm
12-03-11 Christmas Open House with local merchants all day
12-04-11 Tour of Homes by Childress Womens Council 2:00 pm

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HUNTING ON HIGH

In addition to providing a better view, a well-placed tree-stand can make it harder for deer to see and smell you.

By Russell A. Graves

The date scrawled across the back of an aging photograph that hangs on my shop wall is still legible: 11/19/89. In the photo, I am 19 and in my grandfather's barn as I proudly pose with my first white-tailed buck. A couple of hours before my dad snapped the photo, I sat perched in a treestand in the cool November mist 15 feet above a well-worn trail.

The stand, which still exists, rests on a huge forked tree branch that radiates from a stately post oak. Planks of Wolmanized two-by-fours bridge the gap between the forks and provide a platform on which to sit. Stretching all the way to the ground is a homemade ladder fashioned out of the same material as the platform and wired to the tree to keep it from falling away from the behemoth should the well-placed nails slip.

Earlier in the day, I carefully slinked up the ladder and settled in. At the time, I'd already hunted from treestands dozens of times. Occasionally I would hunt from the ground, but I always felt more immersed in nature when I was among the trees. Often, fox squirrels sidled up beside me and chirped angrily when they recognized me as an intruder. Blue jays, crows and other birds constantly lit in limbs around me, seemingly unconcerned with a human juxtaposed halfway up

a tree. Being among the trees offers a completely new perspective and affords a view of the landscape that you cannot get from the ground.

I love hunting in treestands and shy away from ground blinds and box blinds as much as I can. Sure, I sacrifice some comfort, because sometimes I sit in cold and damp weather, but for me, being intimate with nature as a nice, fat whitetail sneaks below is a hard experience to beat.

Selecting the proper stand

When I started hunting back in the mid-1980s, portable treestands were just coming into vogue among deer hunters. A few manufacturers cranked out mass-produced models, but many of the stands were heavy and hard to carry around. As recently as the late 1980s, most hunters in the northeast Texas woods where I hunted still climbed into permanently affixed wooden stands.

As interest in bowhunting gained momentum in the late '80s and into the 1990s, an aggressive market for portable stands emerged. Responding to the burgeoning demand, manufacturers quickly developed schemes to utilize metals like aluminum and fabricate the material into lightweight stands whose portability rivals any other hunting accessory. With portability, hunters can react quickly to variables such as changes in wind direction and shifting feeding areas. As the treestand market developed, three types of portable treestands emerged: ladder stands, hang-on stands, and climbing

stands.

Of the three types of stands, ladder stands are usually the heaviest and most bulky to carry. However, they can be among the most versatile. Ladder stands work on a larger variety of trees than either climbing stands and hang-on stands. In order to secure the stand to a tree, most ladder stands employ a chain or ratchet-type strap that secures the stand to the tree's trunk.

Although bulky and less portable than other tree stands, ladder stands are superior for a number of reasons. For example, getting in a ladder stand is relatively safe because most have wide ladders that make climbing easy. Ladder stands typically employ wider platforms that are more comfortable if you plan on sitting for long periods. Additionally, the stands often come standard with a padded bar that doubles as a safety restraint and gun rest. In terms of price, ladder stands with a platform run from \$100 to \$200 and will get you anywhere from 12 to 20 feet off the ground.

Hang-on stands are perhaps the most portable, and arguably the most versatile of all the types of treestands. They fit in virtually any tree that grows straight up and hang at heights from mere inches off the ground to as high as a tree will allow. Furthermore, many hang-on stand models weigh less than 10 pounds and support weights up to 275 pounds.

With hang-on stands, you must buy separate climbing
Hunting on High... continued on page 23

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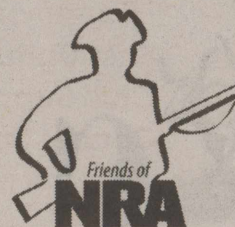
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NRA Red Ryder 1938 BB Gun

Upcoming Oklahoma Hunting Seasons for Harmon County

White-tailed Deer

• **Archery Only:** October 1-January 15, 2012.
General Season: November 5, 2011-January 1, 2012. (only in open zones).

Special Late General Season: January 2-15, 2012

Muzzleloaders: October 22 - 30 (antlerless days vary by zone).

Holiday Antlerless Deer Gun: December 16 - 15 (only in open zones).

Special Youth-Only Season: October 14-16, 2011. One antlered and one antlerless deer. The harvest of antlerless mule deer is prohibited during the youth deer gun season.

Bear

Archery: October 1 - 21 (only in open counties, closed once quota is met).

Muzzleloaders: Open Season: October 22-30 (only in open counties, closed once quota is met).

Squirrel: Open Season: May 15, 2011 - January 31, 2012

Turkey

Fall: Open season: October 29 - November 18, 2011 (Only in open counties).

Archery Only: October 1, 2011-January 15, 2012.

Spring:

Spring Statewide: (excluding SE Region):

Open Season: April 6 - May 6, 2012.

Special youth-only spring turkey season: March 31 - April 1, 2012 (statewide, excluding SE region). **SE Region Youth:** Open season: April 21 - 22, 2012.

SE Region Open Season: April 23 - May 6, 2012.

Quail: Open season: November 12 - February 15, 2012

Rabbit: October 1, 2011 - March 15, 2012

Pheasant: December 1, 2011 - January 31, 2012 (only in open counties).

For licensing and permit requirements and hunting regulations, please see <http://www.eregulations.com/oklahoma/hunting/>.

Licenses and Permits are Valid from Jan. 1 to Dec. 31 (unless otherwise noted)

All of these licenses or permits are valid from July 1 to June 30, annually.

These licenses are valid for five years from date of purchase.

Available online, through ODWC headquarters, or through license vendors with computer sales capability.

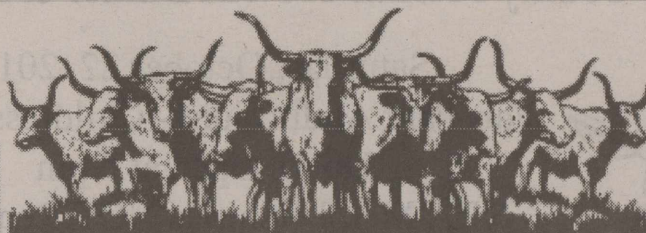
May be purchased by senior citizens who will turn 65 years old or older during the current calendar year.

Bear licenses have purchase deadlines.

Resident License Costs (see page below for residency requirements)

License / Permit	Cost
Resident Annual Hunting	\$25
Resident Combination Hunting/Fishing	\$42
Resident Youth Hunting (valid for 16 & 17 years old only)	\$5
Resident Youth Combination Hunting/Fishing (valid for 16 & 17 years old only)	\$9
Resident Fiscal-Year Hunting (valid July 1 to June 30)	\$32
Resident Fiscal-Year Combination Hunting/Fishing (valid July 1 to June 30)	\$53
Resident Youth Fiscal-Year Hunting (valid for 16 & 17 years old only, valid July 1 to June 30)	\$7
Resident Youth Fiscal-Year Combination Hunting/Fishing (valid for 16 & 17 years old only, valid July 1 to June 30)	\$19
Resident Disability Hunting	\$10
Resident Deer Archery	\$20
Resident Deer Primitive Firearms (antlered)	\$20
Resident Deer Primitive Firearms (antlerless)	\$20
Resident Youth Deer Gun (antlered)	\$20
Resident Youth Deer Gun (antlerless)	\$20
Resident Holiday Antlerless Deer Gun	\$20
Resident Youth Deer Archery (under 18)	\$10
Resident Youth Deer Primitive (antlered) (under 18)	\$10
Resident Youth Deer Primitive (antlerless) (under 18)	\$10
Resident Youth Deer Gun (antlered) (under 18)	\$10
Resident Youth Deer Gun (antlerless) (under 18)	\$10
Resident Youth Holiday Antlerless Deer Gun (under 18)	\$10
Resident Elk	\$51
Resident Antelope	\$51
Resident Bear	\$101
Turkey (spring)	\$10
Turkey (fall)	\$10

Harmon Hunting Seasons... continued on page 13



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Upcoming Texas Hunting Seasons for Floyd County

(County seat: Floydada)

Note: Please read the **Advisories** and notes on the previous page.

White-tailed Deer

- **Archery Only:** October 1-November 4, 2011. No permit required to hunt antlerless deer unless MLD permits have been issued for the property.
- **Bag Limit:** 5 deer, no more than 1 buck, all seasons combined. **General Season:** November 5, 2011-January 1, 2012. **Special Late General Season:** January 2-15, 2012. Antlerless and Spike deer only.
- **Special Youth-Only Season:** Early open season: October 29-30, 2011. Late open season: January 2-15, 2012. Bag limits, provision for the take of antlerless deer, and special requirements of the county, shall be as specified for the first 2 days of the general open season. Licensed

hunters 16 years of age or younger may hunt deer by any lawful means during this season.

Mule Deer

Archery Only Mule Deer: October 1-November 4, 2011. **Bag Limit:** One buck deer. **General Season:** November 19-December 4, 2011. **Bag Limit:** 2 deer, no more than one buck, all seasons combined. Antlerless deer may be taken only by Antlerless Mule Deer or MLD permit.

Squirrel:

No open season.

Turkey

The annual bag limit for turkey, in the aggregate for all counties, is four (4), no more than one of which may be an Eastern turkey.

- **Fall:** Open season: November 5, 2011-January 1, 2012 (either sex). **Archery Only:** October 1-November 4, 2011. **Special youth-only (general) fall turkey season:**

October 29-30, 2011, and January 21-22, 2012. Only licensed hunters 16 years of age or younger may hunt turkey during this season. Bag limit as specified by the general fall turkey season.

- **Spring: Rio Grande turkey:** Open season: March 31-May 13, 2012 (any bearded bird). **Special Youth-Only (Rio Grande turkey):** Open season: March 24-25 and May 19-20, 2012.

Pheasant:

Open season: December 3, 2011-January 1, 2012. **Bag Limit:** three cocks. Possession limit: six cocks.

Quail:

Statewide: Open season: October 29, 2011-February 26, 2012. Daily bag limit: 15 Possession limit: 45

Dove:

September 1-October 23, 2011 and December 23, 2011-January 8, 2012:

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Upcoming Texas Hunting Seasons for Knox County

White-tailed Deer

- **Archery Only:** October 1-November 4, 2011. No permit required to hunt antlerless deer unless MLD permits have been issued for the property.
 - **Bag Limit:** 5 deer, no more than 2 bucks, all seasons combined.
 - **General Season:** November 5, 2011-January 1, 2012. **Special Late General Season:** January 2-15, 2012 (antlerless and spike buck deer only).
 - **Special Youth-Only Season:** Early open season: October 29-30, 2011. Late open season: January 2-15, 2012.
- Bag limits, provision for the take of antlerless deer, and special requirements of the county, shall be as specified for the first 2 days of the general open season. Licensed hunters 16 years of age or younger may hunt deer by any lawful means during this season.

Javelina:

Open Season: October 1-February 24. **Bag Limit:** 2.

Squirrel:

No closed season. No bag limit.

Turkey

The annual bag limit for turkey, in the aggregate for all counties, is four (4), no more than one of which may be an Eastern turkey.

- **Fall:** Open season: November 5, 2011-January 1, 2012 (either sex).
- **Archery Only:** October 1-November 4, 2011.
- **Special youth-only (general) fall turkey season:** October 29-30, 2011, and January 21-22, 2012. Only licensed hunters 16 years of age or younger may hunt tur-

Knox County... continued on page 25



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Upcoming Texas Hunting Seasons for Hall County

White-tailed Deer

- **Archery Only:** October 1-November 4, 2011. No permit required to hunt antlerless deer unless MLD permits have been issued for the property.
- **Bag Limit:** 5 deer, no more than 1 buck, all seasons combined.
- **General Season:** November 5, 2011-January 1, 2012.
- **Special Late General Season:** January 2-15, 2012. Antlerless and Spike deer only.
- **Special Youth-Only Season:** Early open season: October 29-30, 2011. Late open season: January 2-15, 2012. Bag limits, provision for the take of antlerless deer, and special requirements of the county, shall be as specified for the first 2 days of the general open season. Licensed hunters 16 years of age or younger may hunt deer by any lawful means during this season.

Mule Deer

Archery Only Mule Deer: October 1-November 4, 2011.

Bag Limit: One buck deer.

General Season: November 19-December 4, 2011.

Bag Limit: 2 deer, no more than one buck, all seasons combined. Antlerless deer may be taken only by Antlerless Mule Deer or MLD permit.

Squirrel:

No closed season. No bag limit.

Turkey

The annual bag limit for turkey, in the aggregate for all counties, is four (4), no more than one of which may be an Eastern turkey.

- **Fall:** Open season: November 5, 2011-January 1, 2012 (either sex).
- **Archery Only:** October 1-November 4, 2011.
- **Special youth-only (general) fall turkey**

season: October 29-30, 2011, and January 21-22, 2012. Only licensed hunters 16 years of age or younger may hunt turkey during this season. Bag limit as specified by the general fall turkey season.

• Spring:

Rio Grande turkey: Open season: March 31-May 13, 2012 (any bearded bird).

Special Youth-Only (Rio Grande turkey): Open season: March 24-25 and May 19-20, 2012.

Pheasant:

Open season: December 3, 2011-January 1, 2012. **Bag Limit:** three cocks. Possession limit: six cocks.

Quail:

Statewide: Open season: October 29, 2011-February 26, 2012. Daily bag limit: 15 Possession limit: 45

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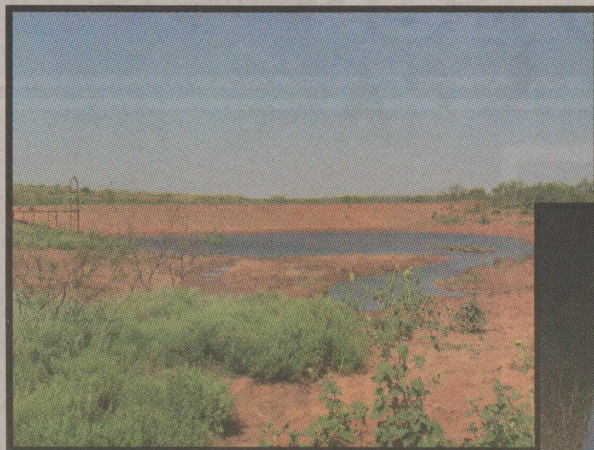
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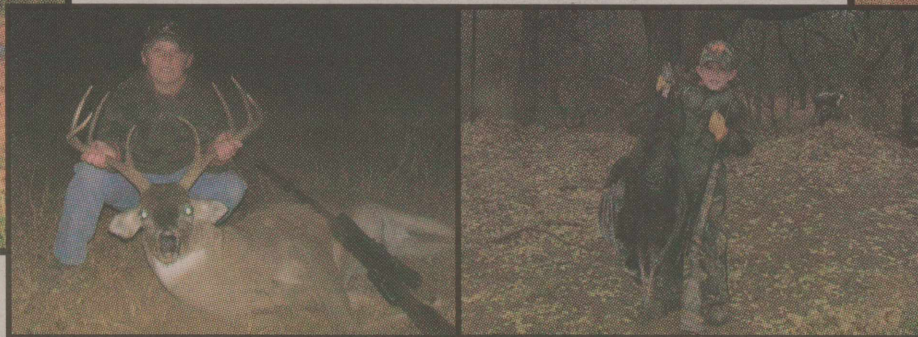


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Harmon Hunting Seasons... continued from page 8

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Oklahoma Waterfowl (waterfowl stamp)	\$10	Turkey (fall)	\$10
Federal Duck Stamp (at post office or duckstamp.com)	\$15	Fur License (Bobcat – Raccoon – River Otter – Gray/Red Fox)	\$51
Federal Harvest Information Program (HIP Permit)	\$3	Trapping (available only through ODWC headquarters)	\$345
Federal Sandhill Crane Permit	\$3	Oklahoma Waterfowl (waterfowl stamp)	\$10
Resident 5-Year Hunting	\$88	Federal Duck Stamp (at post office or duckstamp.com)	\$15
Resident 5-Year Combination Hunting/Fishing	\$148	Federal Harvest Information Program (HIP) Permit	\$3
Lifetime Hunting	\$625	Federal Sandhill Crane Permit	\$3
Lifetime Combination Hunting/Fishing	\$775	Land Access Permit (Honobia Creek WMA & Three Rivers WMA)	\$85
Lifetime Senior Citizen Hunting	\$15	Wildlife Conservation Passport	\$26
Lifetime Senior Citizen Combination Hunting/Fishing	\$25	5-Day Rattlesnake Permit	\$5
Lifetime Disabled Veteran Combination Hunting/Fishing (under 60 percent disability)	\$200	Licenses and Permits are Valid from Jan. 1 to Dec. 31 (unless otherwise noted)	
Lifetime Disabled Veteran Combination Hunting/Fishing (60 percent or more disability)	\$25	All of these licenses or permits are valid from July 1 to June 30, annually.	
Wildlife Conservation Passport	\$26	These licenses are valid for five years from date of purchase.	
Land Access Permit (Honobia Creek WMA & Three Rivers WMA)	\$40	Available online, through ODWC headquarters, or through license vendors with computer sales capability.	
3-Day Resident Special Use Land Access Permit (for nonhunting/nonfishing users at Honobia & Three Rivers WMA)	\$10	May be purchased by senior citizens who will turn 65 years old or older during the current calendar year.	
5-Day Rattlesnake Permit	\$5	Bear licenses have purchase deadlines.	
Nonresident License Costs (see below for definition of nonresident)	Cost	Resident License Costs (see page below for residency requirements)	Cost
License / Permit		License / Permit	
Nonresident Annual Hunting (not valid for antelope, bear, deer or elk)	\$142	Resident Annual Hunting	\$25
Nonresident Fiscal-Year Hunting (not valid for antelope, bear, deer or elk)	\$176	Resident Combination Hunting/Fishing	\$42
Nonresident 5-Day Hunting (not valid for antelope, bear, deer, elk or turkey)	\$75	Resident Youth Hunting (valid for 16 & 17 years old only)	\$5
Nonresident Deer Archery	\$280	Resident Youth Combination Hunting/Fishing (valid for 16 & 17 years old only)	\$9
Nonresident Deer Primitive Firearms	\$280	Resident Fiscal-Year Hunting (valid July 1 to June 30)	\$32
Nonresident Deer Gun	\$280	Resident Fiscal-Year Combination Hunting/Fishing (valid July 1 to June 30)	\$53
Nonresident Elk	\$306	Resident Youth Fiscal-Year Hunting (valid for 16 & 17 years old only, valid July 1 to June 30)	\$7
Nonresident Antelope	\$306		

Harmon Hunting Seasons... continued on page 18

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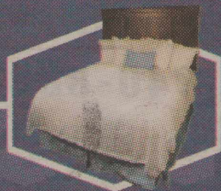
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An explosion in the feral hog population causes problems on ranches and in suburbia

By Russell A. Graves

A tough winter left the mesquite trees barren of leaves and the grass a dormant shade of brittle brown. From a helicopter, the landscape is unremarkable, save for the occasional canyon that scours through the rust-red dirt of the Texas Rolling Plains. A hundred feet beneath us, the land slipping past is mostly a contiguous patchwork of brush, cactus and grass. Conspicuously, though, large swatches of freshly turned earth break the topographical monotony. This ranch is overrun with feral hogs.

"From the ground, you can see where the hogs root," explains pilot Luke Boedeker as he checks the integrated GPS unit to make sure that we're within the ranch boundaries. "But once you get in the air, it's pretty amazing how much ground they actually tear up."

On a warm February day, I controlling the exploding wild northeast of Lubbock. Boedeker management, and in the Big and a shotgunner are an efficient population that has become

"Control is the key word," they because they breed too couple of years that I've flown I see each time I come here, anything. All we can do is hope slow down the damage they

As we traverse the ranch, Overnight, dozens of pigs had areas to cake themselves in. Their rooting upsets native plant of rangelands from a livestock-wildlife species like the ground-whose numbers have been slip-

A long snout and broad, stout the earth in search of seeds and food. When the weather warms, lows in the mud to cool them-also detrimental to wetlands.

When the day is done, we lation, but the numbers will Capable of having two litters a year and six to 10 babies at a time, pigs are a veritable time bomb. Their numbers continue to expand across the state. Currently, Texas is home to roughly half the nation's feral pig population.

"There are two kinds of landowners in Texas — those with feral hogs and those about to have feral hogs," says Billy Higginbotham, wildlife and fisheries specialist for Texas AgriLife Extension Service in Overton. Higginbotham is on the front line in the war on feral pigs.



join Boedeker on his latest assignment: hog population on an expansive ranch ker is licensed to perform animal dam-Country of northern Texas, a helicopter means of putting a small dent in a hog increasingly problematic.

Boedeker tells me. "We can't eradicate fast. This is the third time in the past this ranch, and by the number of pigs you wouldn't know that we've done to control them to the point that we can cause."

damage is everywhere, and it's fresh. rooted for food and wallowed in wet mud. That's where the problem begins. communities, affects the productivity grazing standpoint and affects native dwelling bobwhite quail — a bird ping for the past half-century.

shoulders enable pigs to efficiently turn insects in their never-ending search for the pigs, unable to sweat, create walselves. Attracted by water, feral pigs are

know we've made a dent in their popu-creep back — pigs are made that way.

"We estimate that probably 90 percent of our 254 counties have feral hogs," he explains. "Pig populations have progressed steadily northward and westward over the past two decades. The far western Trans-Pecos and the extreme western Panhandle are the only hog-free counties. For now ..."

While estimation models on population are hard to establish, Higginbotham says the number probably falls between 1 million and 2 million. That's a lot of variability, but that's the mysterious nature of the feral pig.

For 350 years, pigs have called Texas home. First brought to North America by Spanish explorers, domestic pigs spread throughout the continent as pioneer settlements fanned across the nation. The term "feral" refers to wild animals whose lineage is traced to domestic stock.

While the feral hog population was kept in check throughout most of the hog's North American history, the introduction of European (Russian) wild boars for sporting purposes in the 1930s set the stage for the pig population in Texas today.

Wild boars interbreeding with free-ranging domestic hogs and domestic hogs released from captivity on farms lit the fuse on the population bomb. Biologists generally agree that there probably aren't any full-blooded Russian hogs left because of breeding with pigs whose lineage is traced to domestic pigs. Instead, Texas pigs are a mixture of a few hybrids. Two decades ago, the Texas pig population reached a critical mass, and the population grew exponentially.

The growth brought major problems. Farms and ranches pay the price for the incessant rooting, with the annual damage to agricultural crops exceeding \$50 million. According to Higginbotham, that's a conservative estimate.

"The dollar estimate does not include damage to urban and suburban landscapes like parks, golf courses and lawns," he says. "Nor does it include property damage caused during hog/vehicle collisions or the number of human injuries and deaths."

Texas AgriLife Extension puts the average vehicle damage at \$1,200 per incident. While the total number of pig-and-vehicle collisions is hard to estimate, anecdotally, the trend is on the rise — especially in populated areas, where pigs have found an abundance of water and cover to their liking.

Jessica Alderson, an urban wildlife biologist with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department in Dallas/Fort Worth, paints a bleak picture for suburban landowners whose neighborhoods overlap with feral pig territory. These suburban pigs cause problems beyond landscape damage. Water standing in wallows creates breeding pools for mosquitoes, which increases the risk for mosquito-borne illnesses like West Nile virus. Stagnant water poses additional water quality issues, such as creating breeding areas for biological enemies like E. coli.

Alderson provides technical guidance to municipalities and homeowners associations, and she says there is no cookie-cutter method for controlling the problem in a given area. "It is recommended that feral hogs be trapped and euthanized," she explains. "However, it is up to the municipality or landowners to determine the appropriate feral hog management technique best suited for them."

Ninety miles northeast of Dallas/Fort Worth, Garry Mills is doing all he can to control pigs on his properties. Mills raises crossbred cattle and farms hay on several places east of Bonham. He hasn't seen the problem decline in his 20 years of farming and ranching.

"Fighting them back is a constant battle around here," Mills says. "I can beat them for a while, but they always come back."

Mills, like others in the agriculture industry, deals constantly with a multitude of problems. On his ranch, pigs squeeze under fences and break tightly stretched barbed wire, allowing his calves to escape. They eat pecans that fall from his trees, reducing the yield potential on his commercial pecan crop. Pigs root in his hay fields, creating swine-sized divots that damage

Feral Hog... continued on page 20

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Upcoming Texas Hunting Seasons for Garza County

White-tailed Deer

- **Archery Only:** October 1-November 4, 2011. No permit required to hunt antlerless deer unless MLD permits have been issued for the property.
- **Bag Limit:** 5 deer, no more than 1 buck, all seasons combined.

General Season: November 5, 2011-January 1, 2012.

Special Late General Season: January 2-15, 2012. Antlerless and Spike deer only.

- **Special Youth-Only Season:** Early open season: October 29-30, 2011. Late open season: January 2-15, 2012. Bag limits, provision for the take of antlerless deer, and special requirements of the county, shall be as specified for the first 2 days of the general open season. Licensed hunters 16 years of age or younger may hunt deer by any lawful means during this season.

Mule Deer

Archery Only Mule Deer: October 1-November 4, 2011.

Bag Limit: One buck deer.

General Season: November 19-December 4, 2011.

Bag Limit: 2 deer, no more than one buck, all seasons combined. Antlerless deer may only be taken by Antlerless Mule Deer or MLD permit.

Squirrel:

No closed season. No bag limit.

Turkey

- The annual bag limit for turkey, in the aggregate for all counties, is four (4), no more than one of which may be an Eastern turkey. **Fall:** Open season: November 5, 2011-January 1, 2012 (either sex).

Archery Only: October 1-November 4, 2011.

Special youth-only (general) fall turkey season: October 29-30, 2011, and January 21-22, 2012. Only licensed hunters 16 years of age or younger may hunt turkey during this season. Bag limit as specified by the general fall turkey season.

Spring:

Rio Grande turkey: Open season: March 31-May 13, 2012 (any bearded bird).

Special Youth-Only (Rio Grande turkey): Open season: March 24-25 and May 19-20, 2012.

Pronghorn:

Open Season: October 1-9, 2011. **By permit only.**

Quail:

Staterwide: Open season: October 29, 2011-February 26, 2012. Daily bag limit: 15 Possession limit: 45

Dove:

September 1-October 23, 2011 and December 23, 2011-January 8, 2012

Migratory Bird Hunting Report No. 4

Weekly migratory bird hunting reports are posted from early September through early February.

North Zone Dove: Best hunts have been in milo, corn and sunflowers around Abilene, Lubbock and Amarillo. Ag fields north of Dallas are holding flights in the afternoon around tanks still holding water. The front forecasted for this week should deposit a new crop of mourning doves to Texas. Hunters around the Red River have only seen sporadic flights and hunter participation has waned. Prospects are fair.

Collingsworth... continued from page 5

may be an Eastern turkey.

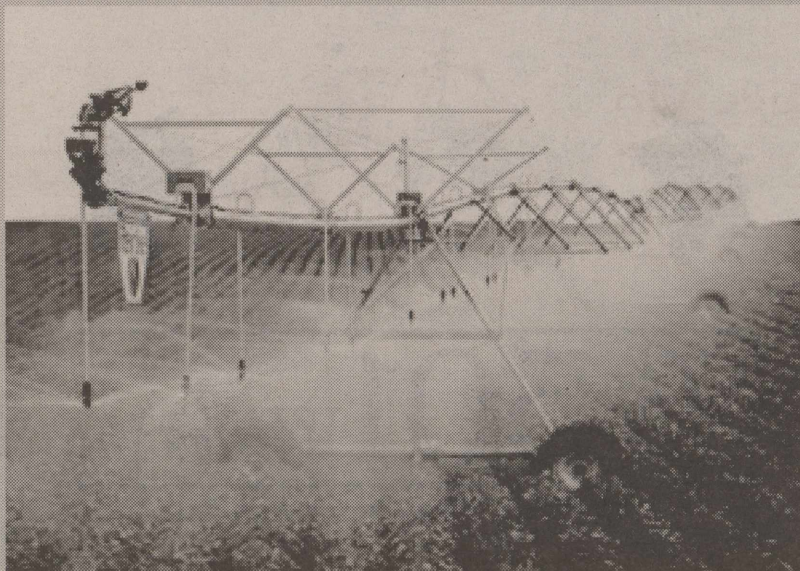
- **Fall:** Open season: November 5, 2011-January 1, 2012 (either sex).
- **Archery Only:** October 1-November 4, 2011.
- **Special youth-only (general) fall turkey season:** October 29-30, 2011, and January 21-22, 2012. Only licensed hunters 16 years of age or younger may hunt turkey during this season. Bag limit as specified by the general fall turkey season.
- **Spring: Rio Grande turkey:** Open season: March 31-May 13, 2012 (any bearded bird).
- **Special Youth-Only (Rio Grande turkey):** Open season: March 24-25 and May 19-20, 2012.

Pheasant:

Open season: December 3, 2011-January 1, 2012. **Bag Limit:** three cocks. Possession limit: six cocks.

Quail:

Staterwide: Open season: October 29, 2011-February 26, 2012. Daily bag limit: 15 Possession limit: 45



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Seven Things To Do After Deer Season

By Russell A. Graves
Executive Editor

Opening day of deer season in Texas is, perhaps, one of the most anticipated single days on the calendar. Gear is checked, rifles are sighted, licenses are bought, camo is washed, and magazines are read to look for a new pointer that will give a venison hunter the extra edge in getting to use one of their tags.

In Texas, deer hunting is a billion-dollar industry. In 1996, according to numbers released by the National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife Associated Recreation conducted by the United States Fish & Wildlife Service, Texans spent \$1.3 billion on hunting. With approximately 913,000 hunters in the state, that figures to be \$1,423 that every hunter spent. Without a doubt, white-tailed deer hunting garnishes the lion's share of this figure.

However, it has been estimated that one's chances of taking a buck big enough to make the Boone & Crockett record book are literally one in a million. For many, the season ends on a less-than-perfect note as the sun sets on the final Sunday of the deer season. Therefore, there is little wonder that some hunters are "lost" as the season wanes.

Here is a list of things to do after deer season to help keep your skills honed and your longing for the wild lands of Texas alive.

Take a Kid Hunting

Although the deer season has closed,

there are still some hunting opportunities available in the state. Typically, quail season is still in full swing across the state. And the young hunter has several other types of game to hunt. Cottontail rabbits and fox squirrels are challenging game many adult hunters cut their teeth on as beginners.

Taking young hunters in pursuit of these small game species is inexpensive because many landowners will let you hunt on their land for little or no charge. It also allows a young hunter to develop skills such as gun safety and appreciation for the outdoors that they will carry with them as they mature and, eventually, will pass on to younger hunters. In addition, small game give young hunters a chance to be successful and teach them lessons in patience and hard work.

Visit a State Park or Wildlife Management Area

They are everywhere. State-owned lands, in the form of state parks and wildlife management areas, dot every region of the state and give Texans a unique opportunity to see nature the way Mother Nature meant it to be.

For a small fee (\$2 for most state parks or \$10 per year for wildlife management areas, or an annual \$50 Conservation Passport), one can visit 123 Texas state parks and experience the wildlife, cultural and historical diversity that the Lone Star State has to offer. In addition, hiking and horseback trails are provided at many Texas state parks as

well as aquatic recreation on the lakes that accompany many parks.

Want something a little wilder? Try a wildlife management area (WMA). Touted by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department as the "uncut gems of Texas," WMAs offer visitors an opportunity to venture onto three-quarters of a million acres of state land that have been largely undeveloped. Known primarily for their hunting opportunities, WMAs also have many nonconsumptive activities to participate in such as hiking, bird watching, photography and nature study.

Imagine, if you will, a weekend road trip where you can fish for bass at Cooper Lake State Park then see mule deer, longhorns and an abundance of other wildlife at Cooper Breaks State Park near Quanah. In Texas, it can happen.

Join a Conservation Club

Private conservation organizations are the backbone of the modern wildlife management movement, and their members help provide financial and in-kind support for many worthwhile conservation and education projects.

For starters, Quail Unlimited, Ducks Unlimited, The National Wild Turkey Federation, Pheasants Forever, Safari Club International and other organizations are available to interested sportsmen in many areas of Texas. By joining a conservation club, you can network with like-minded sports-

men in supporting habitat enrichment programs and educational ventures such as the Bobwhite Brigade, which spreads the good word about wildlife management and conservation in Texas.

Read A Sand County Almanac

This timeless environmental classic written by the father of wildlife management, Aldo Leopold, was penned in the 1930s and published in 1949 as a collection of essays on wildlife, nature, conservation and hunting. Although 50 years have passed since it first was released, Leopold's words echo through the years with a simplistic clarity that applies now more than ever.

For outdoor lovers, Leopold's observations of the natural world conjure up a primordial longing for the outdoors. For hunters, his words deliver thought-provoking topics that force intrinsic reflection. In the section "Wildlife in American Culture," Leopold challenges the reader:

A particular virtue in wildlife ethics is that the hunter ordinarily has no gallery to applaud or disapprove of his conduct. Whatever his acts, they are dictated by his own conscience, rather than by a mob of onlookers. It is difficult to exaggerate the importance of this fact.

Voluntary adherence to an ethical code elevates the self-respect of the sportsman, but it should not be forgotten that voluntary disregard of the code degenerates and de-

Seven things... continued on page 21

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Harmon Hunting Seasons... continued from page 13

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Resident Antelope	\$51	Nonresident Deer Gun	\$280
Resident Bear	\$101	Nonresident Elk	\$306
Turkey (spring)	\$10	Nonresident Antelope	\$306
Turkey (fall)	\$10	Nonresident Bear	\$506
Fur License (Bobcat - Raccoon - River Otter - Gray/Red Fox)	\$10	Turkey (spring)	\$10
Resident Annual Trapping	\$10	Turkey (fall)	\$10
Oklahoma Waterfowl (waterfowl stamp)	\$10	Fur License (Bobcat - Raccoon - River Otter - Gray/Red Fox)	\$51
Federal Duck Stamp (at post office or duckstamp.com)	\$15	Trapping (available only through ODWC headquarters)	\$345
Federal Harvest Information Program (HIP Permit)	\$3	Oklahoma Waterfowl (waterfowl stamp)	\$10
Federal Sandhill Crane Permit	\$3	Federal Duck Stamp (at post office or duckstamp.com)	\$15
Resident 5-Year Hunting	\$88	Federal Harvest Information Program (HIP) Permit	\$3
Resident 5-Year Combination Hunting/Fishing	\$148	Federal Sandhill Crane Permit	\$3
Lifetime Hunting	\$625	Land Access Permit (Honobia Creek WMA & Three Rivers WMA)	\$85
Lifetime Combination Hunting/Fishing	\$775	Wildlife Conservation Passport	\$26
Lifetime Senior Citizen Hunting	\$15	5-Day Rattlesnake Permit	\$5
Lifetime Senior Citizen Combination Hunting/Fishing	\$25	Licenses and Permits are Valid from Jan. 1 to Dec. 31 (unless otherwise noted)	
Lifetime Disabled Veteran Combination Hunting/Fishing (under 60 percent disability)	\$200	All of these licenses or permits are valid from July 1 to June 30, annually.	
Lifetime Disabled Veteran Combination Hunting/Fishing (60 percent or more disability)	\$25	These licenses are valid for five years from date of purchase.	
Wildlife Conservation Passport	\$26	Available online, through ODWC headquarters, or through license vendors with computer sales capability.	
Land Access Permit (Honobia Creek WMA & Three Rivers WMA)	\$40	May be purchased by senior citizens who will turn 65 years old or older during the current calendar year.	
3-Day Resident Special Use Land Access Permit (for nonhunting/nonfishing users at Honobia & Three Rivers WMA)	\$10	Bear licenses have purchase deadlines.	
5-Day Rattlesnake Permit	\$5	Resident License Costs (see page below for residency requirements)	
Nonresident License Costs (see below for definition of nonresident)	Cost	License / Permit	Cost
License / Permit	Cost	Resident Annual Hunting	\$25
Nonresident Annual Hunting (not valid for antelope, bear, deer or elk)	\$142	Resident Combination Hunting/Fishing	\$42
Nonresident Fiscal-Year Hunting (not valid for antelope, bear, deer or elk)	\$176	Resident Youth Hunting (valid for 16 & 17 years old only)	\$5
Nonresident 5-Day Hunting (not valid for antelope, bear, deer, elk or turkey)	\$75	Resident Youth Combination Hunting/Fishing (valid for 16 & 17 years old only)	\$9
Nonresident Deer Archery	\$280	Resident Fiscal-Year Hunting (valid July 1 to June 30)	\$32
		Resident Fiscal-Year Combination Hunting/Fishing (valid July 1 to June 30)	\$53
		Resident Youth Fiscal-Year Hunting (valid for 16 & 17 years old only, valid July 1 to June 30)	\$7

Harmon Hunting Seasons... continued on page 19

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Resident Disability Hunting	\$10	Lifetime Disabled Veteran Combination Hunting/Fishing (60 percent or more disability)	\$25
Resident Deer Archery	\$20	Wildlife Conservation Passport	\$26
Resident Deer Primitive Firearms (antlered)	\$20	Land Access Permit (Honobia Creek WMA & Three Rivers WMA)	\$40
Resident Deer Primitive Firearms (antlerless)	\$20	3-Day Resident Special Use Land Access Permit (for nonhunting/nonfishing users at Honobia & Three Rivers WMA)	\$10
Resident Deer Gun (antlered)	\$20	5-Day Rattlesnake Permit	\$5
Resident Deer Gun (antlerless)	\$20	Nonresident License Costs (see below for definition of nonresident)	Cost
Resident Holiday Antlerless Deer Gun	\$20	License / Permit	
Resident Youth Deer Archery (under 18)	\$10	Nonresident Annual Hunting (not valid for antelope, bear, deer or elk)	\$142
Resident Youth Deer Primitive (antlered) (under 18)	\$10	Nonresident Fiscal-Year Hunting (not valid for antelope, bear, deer or elk)	\$176
Resident Youth Deer Primitive (antlerless) (under 18)	\$10	Nonresident 5-Day Hunting (not valid for antelope, bear, deer, elk or turkey)	\$75
Resident Youth Deer Gun (antlered) (under 18)	\$10	Nonresident Deer Archery	\$280
Resident Youth Deer Gun (antlerless) (under 18)	\$10	Nonresident Deer Primitive Firearms	\$280
Resident Youth Holiday Antlerless Deer Gun (under 18)	\$10	Nonresident Deer Gun	\$280
Resident Elk	\$51	Nonresident Elk	\$306
Resident Antelope	\$51	Nonresident Antelope	\$306
Resident Bear	\$101	Nonresident Bear	\$506
Turkey (spring)	\$10	Turkey (spring)	\$10
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Lifetime Combination Hunting/Fishing	\$775		
Lifetime Senior Citizen Hunting	\$15		
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his equipment.

"When I drive through a hog wallow in one of my fields, I can count on breaking teeth on my hay rake," he says. "The wallows are hard on my swathers, hay balers and tractors. While it's never happened to me, I know of a guy who ran into a hog wallow in one of his fields — it snapped off a front wheel on his tractor."

Short of using a helicopter, Mills employs all of the recommended techniques for population and damage mitigation on his property. As a hunter, he and others often dispatch pigs with rifles. Since this invasive species is considered an exotic animal by TPWD, they can be legally hunted year-round with no harvest limit. This makes Texas a popular destination for hunters nationwide. (A license is required for recreational hunting, but not to control hogs that are damaging crops or property.) The feral pig problem has created new opportunities for hunters in Mills' area.

"I am seeing guys who would never allow hunting on their property letting people go pig hunting," he says while scanning the broad creek bottom. "We need all the help we can get."

When he's not shooting pigs, Mills traps them throughout most of the winter. He makes a little pocket change by selling the pigs to a local hog buyer. Pig trapping is a cottage industry that's providing landowners and hunters the means to make a little money while keeping porcine numbers in check.

Near Paducah, Gaylon Tucker says the number of hogs coming into his hog-buying station is steadily growing. Tucker's business is just one of more than 90 Texas Animal Health Commission-sanctioned holding stations where trappers are allowed to transport and sell pigs. The commission regulates wild hog movements because of their potential for spreading diseases to domestic livestock herds.

A study conducted between 2003 and 2008 showed that 20 percent of wild swine tested positive for pseudorabies and 10 percent had swine brucellosis. Pseudorabies is an economically harmful disease that affects domestic pigs as well as animals such as deer, coyotes and raccoons. Despite

Feral Hog... continued from page 15

its name, it is not a rabies-type disease but a swine herpes virus that can affect the respiratory and nervous systems. Brucellosis affects fertility and induces abortions in both cattle and pigs.

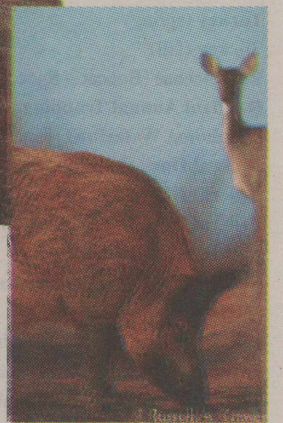
For the past 15 years, Tucker has bought about 1,500 pigs a year from local trappers. The pigs are shipped to a Fort Worth meat processor, and most of the meat is shipped to Europe. Tucker says that he won't buy just any pig. It has to weigh at least 50 pounds to make the cut.

"Business is brisk," he says while swatting at gnats congregating on an unusually sticky June evening. "On my best year, I bought 2,600 pigs that averaged 156 pounds each."



While he talks, I scribble on a notepad and do some quick math. That's more than 400,000 pounds from this one station in one year. His busiest time is in fall and early winter. "I've got 35 regu-

lar trappers who bring me pigs," Tucker says. "I can't see that they are even making a dent on the pigs around here. These wild pigs are going to be around for a long time to come."



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Seven things... continued from page 17

praves him.

Learn to Identify Plants

One of the best things you can do to improve your outdoor skills as well as your appreciation of nature is to learn to identify plants in the area in which you hunt. Doing so can help you gain a more complete understanding of the game you hunt, as well as of nongame species that live in the area. In addition, it can help you realize the importance of plants many people consider merely weeds. Do you know what Illinois bundleflower is? Bumelia? Partridgepea? Ever heard of broomweed? What is it good for? If you know your plants, you will quickly extol the virtues of this often-maligned plant. In many parts of Texas, such as the Rolling Plains, broomweed is perhaps the most valuable plant for bobwhite quail. It provides seeds that are high in energy and because it grows from a single woody stem and branches out at the top, it also provides screening cover for bobs.

Under a canopy of pale green broomweed, a bobwhite can travel from loafing cover to feed without being seen by an avian or terrestrial predator. This fact is pretty important when you are only six inches tall and not a very good fighter.

To get started learning about plants, go to your local library, your county extension agent or a bookstore and look for references that will help you learn to identify the plants found in your area. The

book Texas Range Plants, published by Texas A&M Press, is an excellent resource to start. Now, get outside and start learning. The catclaw sensitive brier awaits you.

Take up Photography or Videography

If there is one way to preserve the memories of a hunt, spend more time outdoors and learn about nature, it is by looking through the lens of a still or video camera. Many hunters have expanded their enjoyment of the outdoors by toting along a camera during preseason scouting trips. By documenting happenings in the field, outdoor enthusiasts can capture those special moments, such as a fawn nursing, or a kid's first deer, on film forever.

Getting started is simple. Today's cameras, both still and video, are practically foolproof. Just about anyone can pick one up and produce optimal results without learning a master's degree worth of techno-jargon.

When choosing a video camera, pick one that is lightweight, yet durable enough to handle the rigors of toting it into the field. Also, choose one that has a 10X zoom.

Don't worry about the size of the video cassette. Most video cameras that use 8mm or DV format cassettes can be easily hooked into a conventional VCR and recorded to a VHS tape, so that you can take

your big buck footage to a friend's house and watch it.

Choosing a still camera also is easy. Pick one that uses 35mm film and has interchangeable lenses. A good starter outfit would be a 35mm camera body, a 35mm 70mm zoom, a 70mm 210mm zoom and a couple of rolls of 400 speed film.

Lens power is measured by focal lengths and expressed in millimeters. A 50mm lens is equivalent to normal eyesight while a 200mm makes the subject appear four times closer. In hunting scope terms, a 50mm lens is the same as a 1X scope. A 200mm lens would give you the same magnification as a 4X scope.

Keep a Journal

Every time I go afield to hunt, photograph or just look, I carry along a journal. Immediately after the trip, while my mem-

ories are still fresh, I record everything. The sights, the smells and the sounds of nature, in my opinion, are more entertaining than any TV show that has ever been made. By keeping a journal, I can record my thoughts and feelings about the natural world.

Try starting your own journal by carrying a small, spiral-bound notebook into the field next time you go. Take notes on the weather, the animals you saw, the plants you identified and anything else you want to. The goal is to make an accurate record of that day in the history of your life. As you grow older you can bask in the memories of your trips afield and it will be an enduring record of your outdoor adventures you can pass on to your children.

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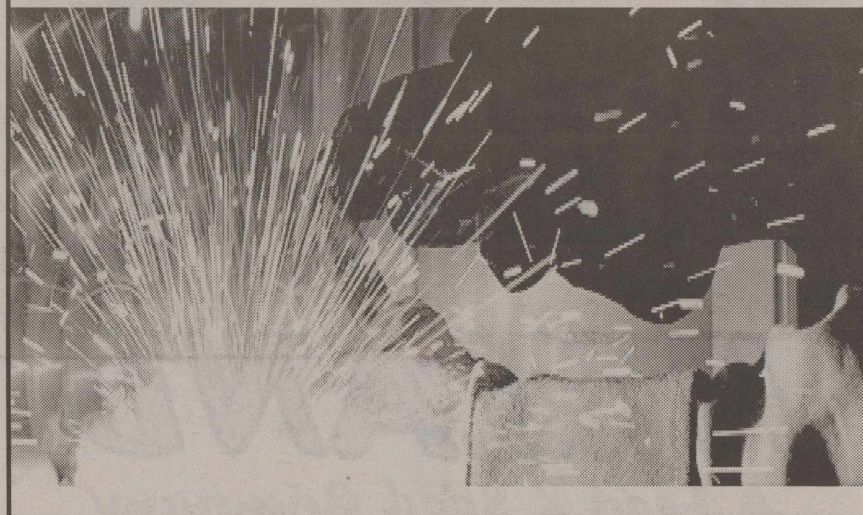
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Calling All Wildlife

By Russell A. Graves,
TexasOutdoorsman.com Executive Editor
I'll never forget the sight...

Creeping slowly into the broomsedge bluestem prairie of northeast Texas one afternoon, I had a singular purpose in mind: to see what kind of animals I could call up and photograph. My equipment and the technique in which it was used were surprisingly low tech. Besides my camera gear the only equipment I had was a portable cassette player, speaker, and a pre-recorded cassette tape with the looped sounds of a crying rabbit.

Camouflaged from head to toe, I nestled in at the base of a big red cedar tree along a small creek that was lined with hardwoods. I waited a couple of minutes and turned on the cassette. Turning the volume up sent a wave of decibels echoing throughout the trees.

Within a minute, songbirds began darting back and forth in front of my field of view. Some perched on trees and stared down at my speaker while others simply flew noisily by. The line up of birds was a veritable catalog of prairie avian species. Field sparrows, cardinals, meadowlarks, blue jays, crows, and others I could not identify showed up to investigate the strange sounds.

Five minutes after I sat down, I noticed movement in the grass twenty yards from me. At first, all I saw was the top of an animal. A second or two later a full grown male

coyote, complete with piercing yellow eyes and full grizzled gray pelt, stepped into a small clearing and stood broadside and stared toward the rabbit sounds.

Quickly focusing my camera's big telephoto lens, I fired off a single frame. The whirring of the motor drive, although relatively quiet, caught the coyote's attention. Two pictures later, the wild canine turned and bolted out of site. The tape fooled him long enough for me to capture him on film for eternity.

For the uninitiated, calling wildlife is a simple yet effective method for attracting all sorts of game and non-game animals in range for hunting, photography, and general observation. The neat thing about calling is that it can be done any time of the year with a minimal amount of expense.

"Wildlife calling is the simply practice of reproducing a sound that attracts various species of wildlife for a variety of reasons," says Gerald Stewart, son of one of the calling industry's founders and consultant to Hunter Specialties who recently acquired Johnny Stewart Wildlife Calls. "With a call you can call everything from the most common and abundant of wildlife to the rare and exotic."

Gerald adds that the advantage of calling animals is that it can be done virtually anywhere. "Calling can be done anywhere: your backyard, local park, or in the wild. The beauty of it is that people from all walks of

life can enjoy the thrill of seeing wildlife up close using a variety of calling products at a minimal expense. Calling can make your binoculars obsolete."

Stewart's statements are indeed true. By using a call effectively, animals of all types can be called to merely feet away.

Ready to get started? Here are some ideas that will help you get a jump-start on calling and into the field.

The Gear for Deer

Calling deer isn't a new concept but its popularity has recently seen resurgence over the past decade. Once thought as being primarily silent creatures, research and observation has shown that deer, especially whitetails, are more vocal than most think. To capitalize on the deer's vocal behavior, many companies offer a variety of calls that should help hunters, photographers, and nature observers see more deer if used correctly.

Deer calls can be broken down into three main categories: bleat, grunt, and rattling antlers.

Bleat calls mimic the bawling sound that does and fawns often make. They come in various shapes and sizes but are most often made of wood or plastic and are blown through. The sound, which can arouse curiosity of both does and bucks, is perhaps the least favorite of all of the major calls manu-

factured to attract deer.

Running neck and neck as the most popular call for deer is the grunt call. Grunt calls are long, tubular calls that often come with an extended plastic sound chamber that helps accentuate the sound as air is blown through it. The call makes a low pitched sound that mimics the guttural grunting sound that white-tail bucks make as they are tending to does during the rut (mating season). Many find the call to be an extremely effective for attracting bucks that hear the sound and think another buck is trespassing on their territory.

The last common call for deer is unique in the sense that it is not breath activated. Rattling antlers are ground together and the friction between the two antlers causes the sound. The sound attracts both bucks and does to the caller because it imitates the sound of two deer fighting.

The deer come for a couple of reasons. Primarily, dominant bucks within an area think that the sound is of two bucks fighting for does in his territory. Also, many deer, like subordinate bucks and does, are attracted by the sound because they want to watch a fight.

Rattling antlers come in three main types: real antlers, synthetic antlers, and rattling bags.

Calling All Wildlife... continued on page 24

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Hunting on High... continued from page 7

equipment. Steps that screw into trees are popular on private land where no restrictions on their use exist. On public land such as the Pat Mayse Wildlife Management Area in Lamar County, the use of spikes or screw-in steps is prohibited. Therefore, hunters there must use strap-on tree steps or strap-on ladders to access their hang-on treestands.

For the record, hang-on stands run from \$50 to \$200 at most major retailers.

The last type of portable treestand, climbing stands, employs tree-gripping lugs that allow users to climb trees as high as they'd like and position the stand where it's most advantageous. Incredibly comfortable, climbing stands have many of the same advantages as hang-on stands without the use of steps.

One of the shortfalls of climbing stands is that their use is limited to straight growing trees with no low limbs. However, climbing stands shine in pine forests or ash bottomlands. On price, \$140 to \$300 will get you climbing.

Location, location, location

"The three things I look for when placing a stand are concealment, good ambush zones and wind direction," confides Tyge Floyd, a Dallas-based professional video-grapher and owner of an Internet-based hunting marketing firm. "When I choose a stand location, I want thick vegetation behind me to help me blend in with the surroundings so I can move slowly without being spotted."

Floyd ought to know. He has hunted big game all over the southwestern United States and has arrowed record-book-class elk and white-tailed deer using treestands. He explains

that he likes to look for areas that serve as natural speed bumps for wildlife. Often, he'll hang his stands close to an interior fence line or creek where animals pause before crossing. The tactic, he says, buys him extra time to get a shot away.

One of the biggest factors that dictates Floyd's stand placement is wind direction. White-tailed bucks have a super-sensitive nose and Floyd considers that fact every time he climbs in a stand.

"If you don't have the wind in your favor, the chances of taking game from any stand are slim. I always pick a stand where the wind will blow my scent away from the direction I think the deer will be coming. If the prevailing wind is from the south-southwest, as it is so often in October, I like to hang my stands north-northeast of my targeted ambush zone. If the wind is wrong for a particular stand, I move somewhere else."

Brandon Ray has a slightly different take on stand placement. Ray, an outdoor writer and photographer from Claude, Texas, has taken 20 Pope and Young class big game animals because of his bowhunting acumen.

"When I'm deciding where to hang stands, I scout and try to determine where deer funnel through a specific area," says Ray. "Often I try to watch an area - a panhandle river bottom, for example - with binoculars so I don't spend any more time than necessary in the ambush area."

Ray reminds me that spending too much time in an area alerts deer to your presence and may push them away. He also says that in areas where glassing is impractical, look for well-worn trails or gather intelligence from landowners on where

they've been seeing deer.

"I try to home in on spots where the terrain funnels deer to a specific area like a creek crossing or a low spot in a fence leading to an agricultural field," he says.

Ray says that for bow stands, he'll place his stand within 30 yards of a funnel but moves back as far as 100 yards when hunting with a gun.

Concerning elevation

When determining how high to hang a stand, Ray uses the vegetation as his guide.

"For stand height, I go as high as I can to be out of sight while still trying to stay as low as possible," explains Ray. "In other words, if the tree has sufficient leaf cover or a dense canopy, I'm comfortable hunting from a 10- to 12-foot ladder stand or hang-on stand."

Ray concedes that the higher you go the less chance of a buck scenting you. However, he believes a combination of quality cover scent, full camouflage and timing your movements when a tree or leaves obstructs a deer's vision makes hunting at lower levels very effective.

Floyd's take on treestand elevation is the opposite of Ray's.

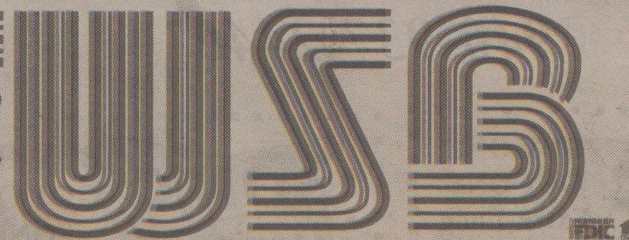
"My stands are typically as high as I can get them - up to 20 feet off the ground," Floyd explains. "The number-one reason I hunt high is scent disbursement. The higher I am, the less likely a buck will bust me, since my scent is disbursed over a wider area. Being high up in a tree also affords me some invisibility because I don't think deer look for danger

Hunting on High... continued on page 27

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Calling All Wildlife... continued from page 22

Those wanting to use make their own rattling antlers can use shed antlers or antlers sawed off of a skull. Typically, an eight point or better with ample mass make the best set of rattling antlers. A tip though: be sure to saw off the brow tines so they won't stab your hands when slamming the antlers together. Also, tie a piece of twine on the base of each antler so you can carry them into the field easily.

Synthetic antlers have basically the same look and feel of reel antlers except they are made of fiberglass or other materials. Ergonomically designed, synthetic rattling antlers are probably the best choice for hassle-free rattling but they'll cost you more to buy.

Rattling bags are another choice for hunters not wanting the space restrictions of larger rattling antlers. Rattling bags are mostly made of camouflage nylon material and are about a foot long. They are filled with long pieces of hardwood rods as well as synthetic materials. When worked between two hands it makes the same sound as deer sparring yet not nearly as loud.

Turkey Talk

From a wildlife management standpoint, the wild turkey can be called the poster species for success. Around the turn of the century, seeing a wild turkey was rare. Now, thanks to habitat restoration and restocking efforts, wild turkeys can be found in all fifty states.

In Texas, the two dominant sub-species of turkeys are the Eastern and the Rio Grande. Eastern wild turkeys can be found and form an Austin to Houston line north and east of Interstate 35. Rio Grande turkeys can be found most everywhere else in the state.

Although extremely wary, turkeys do respond well to calls. Luckily for outdoor enthusiasts, there are a host of calls on the market today. The major categories of turkey call are friction and mouth calls.

Friction calls are the easiest to use. These calls mimic the clucks, purrs, cuts, and yelps that the hen makes and is extremely effective for attracting males. Toms, or gobblers, as they are often called, are attracted by the sounds because of the prospects of finding a willing mate.

Friction calls are a best bet for beginners. These calls come in three common types, which include box, slate, and push button calls.

Box calls are long, slender wooden boxes with a paddle-like appendage that rotates on a single axis. When the paddle is slid across the body of the call, sound is produced. Long, quick strokes make clucking sounds while short, sharp strokes produce cuts. On the other hand, a slow push of the paddle across the body of the call makes a soft purr that is very seductive to the ears of a lovesick tom.

Slate calls come in two pieces. The main

piece, the slate, is a round cylinder that is about four inches across and an inch thick. The top is covered in slate or plastic while the bottom often has holes drilled in it to improve its acoustics. To be most effective, the surface of the slate call needs to be roughened with sand paper to provide more friction for the other part of the call - the striker. The striker is a long wooded or plastic dowel that is dragged across the surface of the slate to produce sound. Movements of the striker include quick strokes, drawing a "J" on the slate or a slow drag.

Push button calls are the easiest friction calls to use. They are usually made of a simple box with a small dowel protruding from it. Quick pushes of the dowel causes friction inside of the box and produces sounds.

Mouth, or diaphragm, calls are the toughest of all turkey calls to use but they are also the most versatile because the sound can be varied greatly. They are made of up layers of dental dam held in place by a half circle of synthetic leather. Diaphragm calls come in all sorts of reed and reed cut configurations to vary the sounds of the calls.

Diaphragm calls are placed in the roof of the mouth and air is forced between the tongue and the call. Sounds are controlled by the amount of air pushed pass the call and the shape of the caller's mouth. Since

using the diaphragm call needs no movement, they are a favorite among many turkey hunters so they can hide form the keen-eyed birds.

Aside from calls that mimic turkeys, a couple of other sounds can help you locate turkeys. Crow and owl calls are often marketed to turkey hunters. When blown, toms will often respond with a gobble and let you know where they are.

Predators, Song Birds, and Feral Hogs - OH MY!

This sounds like an oxymoron. After all, what do predators, songbirds, and feral hogs have in common? They all respond to the same calls - but for different reasons.

Predators, such as coyotes, bobcats, and raccoons are easily called to the sounds of an injured animal because they are looking for an easy meal. Songbirds come, it seems, out of curiosity. Feral hogs are lured using the sounds of a distressed piglet or other pigs feeding.

One of the most effective tool for calling predators, birds, or pigs is the electronic caller. Commercial callers come most often play cassettes and come built with a rechargeable battery and bullhorn type speaker. In addition, some may come will small amplifiers to deliver the sound further distances.

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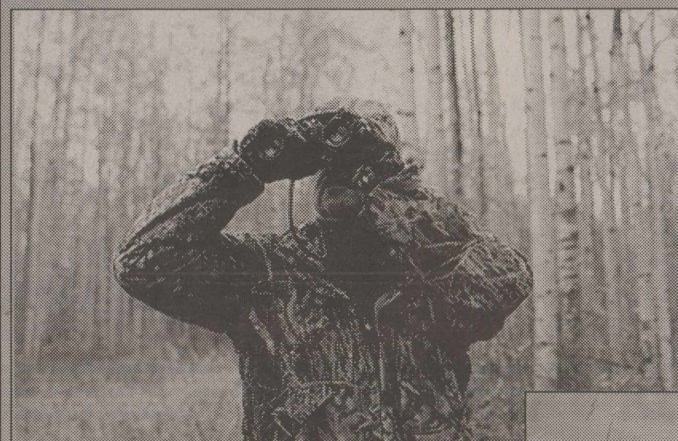
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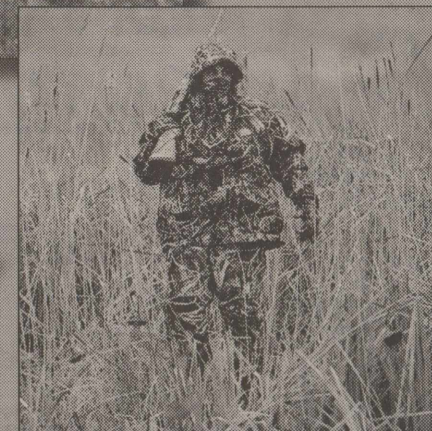
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Dove... continued from page 4

any sporting goods store carries them right before the opening day of dove season, and they usually run just a few dollars apiece. The best decoys are ones manufactured with clothespin-type clips on the bottom. These clips make it easy to put the decoys on barbed-wire fences, in dead mesquite trees or anywhere doves like to congregate.

Make high-percentage shots I read a statistic once that the average dove hunter fires 10 shells for every bird he hits. That's only a 10 percent success rate! Granted, doves fly erratically and are hard to hit, but you can improve your odds by taking high-percentage shots.

Generally, high-percentage shots are when a bird is either crossing in front of you or flying towards your position, and when it is close. I always find that birds quartering are a bit harder, as are birds coming from behind me.

Keep in mind the altitude of the bird as well. Don't waste shells on high-flying birds, as they are more difficult to hit. The greater the distance between you and a dove, the more you will have to lead it to take a shot. Naturally, the more you have to lead a bird, the harder it is to hit. So, as a bird is flying toward you, wait a second or two longer before taking the shot.

Commission Adopts Revisions to Aerial Management Permit

AUSTIN - Effective Sept. 1, qualified individuals can pay to take depredating feral hogs or coyotes from a helicopter under rules adopted by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission.

The commission at its Thursday, Aug. 25 public meeting approved permit requirements for implementation of HB-716 passed by the 82nd Texas Legislature. The new law is aimed at helping manage feral hogs or coyotes by allowing qualified landowners or their agents to participate in management of feral hogs or coyotes from a helicopter. Previously, a person was prohibited from paying, bartering or exchanging anything of value to participate as a gunner or observer from an aircraft.

About 130 helicopter operations are currently permitted by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department to conduct aerial management of depredating feral hogs or coyotes. The new rules permit qualified landowners or their qualified agents to pay these helicopter operators to participate in aerial operations.

To qualify, landowners or landowner agents must have on file with TPWD a completed Landowner's Authorization to Manage Wildlife or Exotic Animals by Aircraft (LOA) form. There is no application fee to become qualified, but the LOA does not take effect until TPWD issues an authorization number. Individuals convicted of a federal Lacey Act violation, or a Parks and Wildlife Code Class A misdemeanor or felony, are prohibited from obtaining an aerial management permit, and from being a gunner, observer or pilot under an aerial management permit.

Feral hog populations in Texas are estimated at upwards of 2 million. According to a Texas Department of Agriculture study, each hog is responsible for \$50-500 in damage to agriculture and wildlife habitat annually.

SL 2011-08-25

As fall hunting seasons get under way, keep fire safety in mind

Most hunters and outdoor enthusiasts consider a blazing campfire the soul of camping, but with burn bans posted in all but four Texas counties this fall, Texans are going to have to do without unless the state gets a lot of rain.

With much of Texas severely affected by the ongoing drought and with wildfires continuing to ignite across the state, hunters and campers need to be especially careful this fall.

Fire activity remains steady, and wildfires can easily ignite. All it takes is one spark from an unattended campfire, lit cigarette or even the muzzle of a gun.

"As responsible stewards of the land, hunters need to take wildfire conditions into consideration - especially when they're elevated as they are now," said Justice Jones, coordinator for the Texas Forest Service's Wildland Urban Interface and Fire Prevention programs. "In doing so, they're protecting the resources and wildlife they strive to conserve."

Hunters aren't the only people who should take precautions. Anyone enjoying the outdoors should keep fire safety in mind for as long as extraordinarily dry conditions persist.

If you're heading outdoors this fall, the Texas Parks and Wildlife passes on these wildfire safety tips from TFS:

Obey outdoor burning bans.

Don't build a fire during dry or windy conditions.

If conditions are right and there is no burn ban in place, you may build a campfire. But keep the fire small and never leave it unattended.

Make sure the fire is extinguished and cold to the touch before you leave it.

Avoid burning feed bags and other materials that can create flying embers.

Keep water handy when welding on stands or

working around hunting camps.

Drive only on designated trails. Don't park or idle vehicles in tall, dry grass, which can be ignited by contact with a hot muffler.

When shooting close to the ground, be sure there is no dry grass or tinder in front of your muzzle. Though rare, it's not impossible for a shot to ignite nearby tinder.

Use caution with cigarettes and matches.

Use spark arresters on all power equipment.

For more information on fire safety and other hunter education materials, visit our Texas Hunter Education site at www.tpwd.state.tx.us/learning/hunter_education/

**Knox County...
continued from page 10**

key during this season. Bag limit as specified by the general fall turkey season.

Spring:

Rio Grande turkey: Open season: March 31-May 13, 2012 (any bearded bird).

Special Youth-Only (Rio Grande turkey): Open season: March 24-25 and May 19-20, 2012.

Quail:

Statewide: Open season: October 29, 2011-February 26, 2012. Daily bag limit: 15 Possession limit: 45


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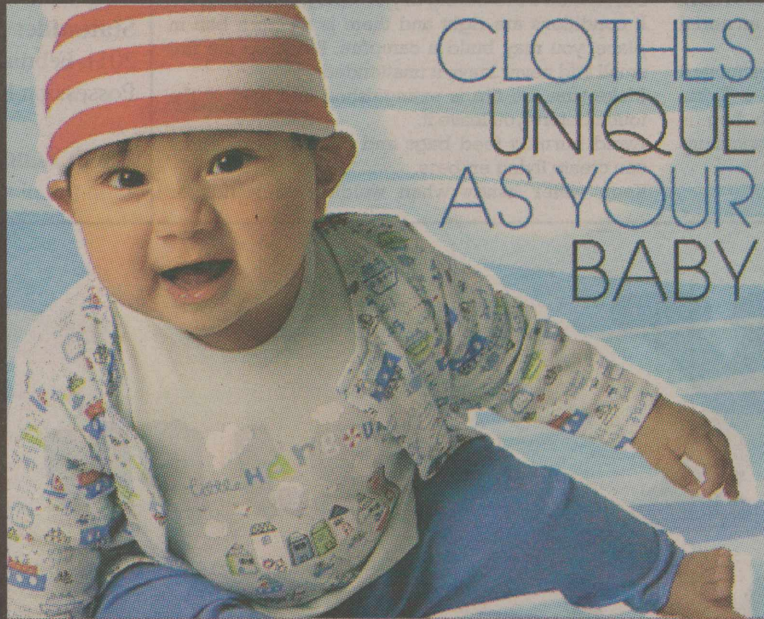
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coming from 20 feet above them.”

Ray and Floyd both agree that they like the portability that treestands offer. Because of treestands' relative affordability, both employ multiple stands on a piece of property and don't hesitate to move their stands if needed. Each hunter agrees that being flexible and thoroughly scouting a property is essential for success.

“When you're hunting mature bucks you'll typically only get one chance at him - particularly inside bow range. If he smells you or sees you, the odds of getting another opportunity at him from the same stand are slim to none,” emphasizes Ray. Therefore, he never takes the wind direction for granted and is constantly cognizant of his scent.

“I never take chances with the wind, and I always reduce my scent as much as possible by using cover scents and wearing clothing that mitigates odor. Additionally, I carefully plan my entry and exit routes from my stands to avoid spooking deer.”

Ray is also a big proponent of preparedness in the stand by packing snacks and water for a long day of waiting. He reports that one of the first things he does when climbing into a stand for the first time is employ the use of a laser rangefinder to predetermine distances. He will laser the distance from his stand to rocks and trees in the area so that when a deer does step out, he won't have to calculate distances at a critical moment.

Hunting in the trees is rewarding. The successes of Brandon Ray, Tyge Floyd and countless other hunters ought to serve as testament. Treestands are an affordable and extremely versatile way to pursue Texas big game and work espe-

Hunting on High... continued from page 23

cially well for getting you close to game.

Although I have never downed a recordbook buck, I keep climbing trees and trying. Whether I hunt with a gun or a bow, the chance to be close to nature is what drives me afield. For me, nature doesn't come much closer than when I'm standing on a platform that's strapped to an ancient oak.

Safety in the Stand

In 2000, the International Hunter Education Association reported that non-firearm-related treestand accidents led to 20 deaths nationwide. Although that number sounds alarming, hunting from treestands is indeed a safe tactic. Like many outdoor activities, though, you should always be well prepared ahead of your trip. Before heading afield, follow these simple rules to make sure your next treestand hunting trip is a safe one.

Precheck your equipment at home

Before you even load your stand in the truck, take some time to look everything over. Check the welds and make sure that none of them appears cracked or broken. Then, check to make sure that the bolts that hold parts of the stand together are still tight and haven't lost any nuts. Finally, check the cables and straps and make sure they aren't frayed or rusted so they won't break when weight is applied.

Dress rehearsal

After you're satisfied the stand is in good shape, hang the stand a couple of feet off the ground and climb up in it to make sure everything is as solid as it should be. With the stand hung low in a tree, stand on the platform, sit on the seat, then bounce up and down on it, trying to see if the straps, welds,

or bolts may be in danger of failing. Testing the stand in this manner, listen for metal slapping against metal or any other rattles that may spell trouble. When the hanging test is over, go over the stand again and check the construction again.

Always have three points of contact

Once your stand hangs in the tree from which you intend to hunt, you should take special precaution when climbing the tree. Stand manufacturers like Gorilla Treestands make a climbing harness that straps around the tree and affords a measure of safety from falling when climbing. The bottom line is that any time you are climbing, always maintain three points of contact with the tree. By keeping two hands and a foot or two feet and a hand on the tree at all times, you'll significantly reduce your chances of falling.

Use a safety harness

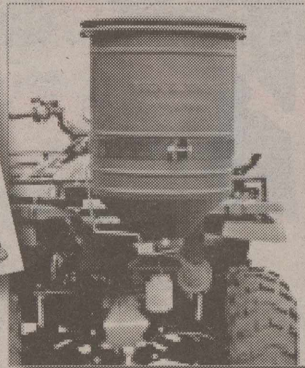
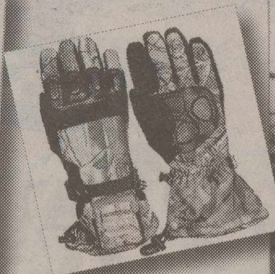
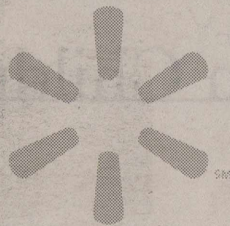
Once you've settled into your stand, always wear a safety harness. Even the shortest falls can result in injury, so it's best not to take chances. In the past, safety belts were common but full-torso safety harnesses are the best bet today. Safety harnesses will cradle your whole body if you fall and won't slip off as a belt can.

Maintain a short tether

When you wear a safety harness, make sure you're attached to the tree by a short tether. As a rule, you should only have enough tether to allow you to sit down in the stand while the line attached from your harness to the tree remains taut. The idea behind a short tether is that if you fall, you don't want to plummet several feet before you stop. Ideally, should you slip and fall from your stand, you won't fall far and will be able to get back on the platform easily.

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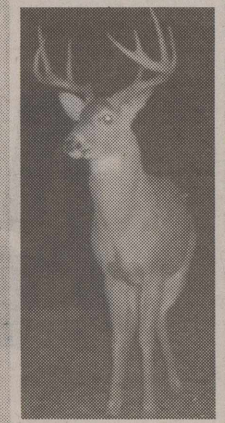
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