

The Brackett News



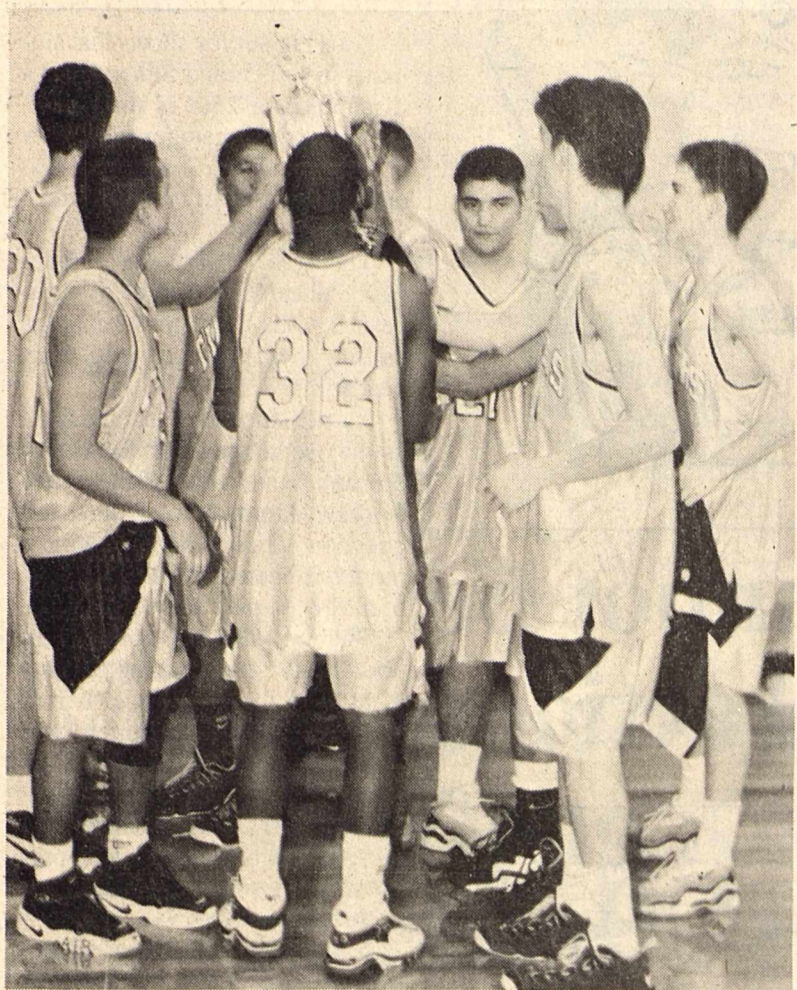
Happy New Year

The next edition of the Brackett News will be published on Jan. 9

8th year, No. 46

Serving the communities of Brackettville, Fort Clark Springs, Spofford and Kinney County

1 Section, 8 Pages



The Tigers show off the second place trophy they won Saturday in the 37th Annual Brackett Invitational basketball tournament.

Yellowjackets slip by Tigers for first place

By J.J. Guidry
News Editor

Sabinal built a nine-point lead in the first half and held on for a 74-63 win Saturday as the Yellowjackets topped the Tigers in the championship game of the 37th Annual Brackett Invitational basketball tournament.

"It feels pretty good," Sabinal coach Jesse Rodriguez said after the victory. Rodriguez coached in Brackett in the late 1980's and was the Tigers head basketball coach during the 1989-90 season.

"Our kids are finally getting in the rhythm of playing basketball. They're starting to put everything together."

Brackett defeated Sabinal 73-69 on Dec. 6 in the opening round of the Nueces Canyon tournament.

"It was a good game," Rodriguez said of Saturday's championship.

"We lost to Brackett earlier in

"The difference was that they shot the ball extremely well."

Gary Grubbs

the season so we just wanted to redeem ourselves. It's a good gauge to see how we have improved."

The Yellowjackets jumped out to a 14-11 lead after the opening stanza and then outscored the Tigers 23-17 in the second period for a 37-28 advantage at the break.

"It was a tough loss because they have beat us in the championship game the last few years," Brackett coach Gary Grubbs said.

Sabinal outscored Brackett 22-17 in the third period for a 59-45 lead going into the fourth quarter.

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New cowboy movie draws its flavor from the Far East

By John MacCormack
San Antonio Express-News

It was a classic western scene: Innocent men standing on the gallows, hands bound and nooses around their necks, moments from death or spectacular rescue.

But even as the scene was being filmed, the evil mayor who had framed the six virtuous Chinese and their blond buddy Billy was unsure of what would come next.

"I'm fixin' to hang these guys, and I expect someone is gonna stop it. I just don't know how," confided Ryon Marshall of Del Rio, 34, playing the role of bad, bad Mayor McCoy.

"In the finest tradition of Hong Kong filmmaking, adjustments are being made constantly to the script of "Once Upon a Time in China, Part Six," and possibly only the director knows what happens next. About the only sure thing in the Kung Fu Western being filmed at Alamo Village, on soil where John Wayne once died for Texas liberty, is that the high-kicking good guys will win out in the end.

"I just about have to end up dead or behind bars, but I don't know which," sighed Marshall.

With a heavyweight lineup of Tsui Hark as executive producer, Sammong Hung as director and Jet Li and Rosamund Kwan as co-

stars, the film is certain to be a hit in Hong Kong, China and South-east Asia.

And although some Hong Kong talents, such as John Woo and Jackie Chan, are breaking into the United States market, it is not certain that "Once Upon a Time in China, Part Six," will be released here.

For some actors, that would just be gravy.

"If I was from China, this would be like doing a film starring Robert DeNiro and directed by Steven Spielberg," said Jeff Wolfe, 25, an American martial arts actor who plays Billy.

"America's got it all in explosions and high falls, but these guys have it in the martial arts and stunt fighting. I actually drove 22 hours from Los Angeles to Texas to audition because Sammong is so well known," Wolfe said.

The "Once Upon a Time in China" series centers on the larger-than-life character Wong Fei Hung, a Chinese Everyman featured in uncensored films and books in situations that defy the laws of time, geography and probability.

"He's like James Bond or Billy the Kid or Ben Franklin rolled up with Wyatt Earp. There really is no equivalent in the West, but he's a big part of the consciousness in



"Once Upon a Time in China, Part Six," is being filmed at Alamo Village.
Brackett News Photo by J.J. Guidry

Hong Kong," said Alex Shum, assistant to the line producer.

"Basically, this character is put into all types of difficult situations, be it the Old West or the Chinese Revolution. A lot of issues of national identity and national character land on his shoulders and are worked out in each movie," Shum

said. In this installment, Wong Fei Hung comes to the Wild West bearing wisdom and healing but meets only prejudice and abuse, culminating in being framed for a bank robbery.

■ See AMERICAN/Page 3

Railroad Commission revs up for winter RV safety

AUSTIN - A sure sign of approaching winter in Texas is the arrival of the "winter Texans," whose sleek recreational vehicles (RVs) and campers annually migrate to this gentler climate.

Holiday travel, too, sees natives gearing up their RVs for treks to visit friends and relatives in states where snowmen are taller than six inches.

Many RV owners, whether native Texans or wannabes, rely on propane gas for cooking, heating, water heating and engine fueling.

The Texas Railroad Commission reminds these RV owners that this is a good time of year to take their vehicles to a qualified propane gas dealer or RV repair person for a checkup.

These service technicians must have current Railroad Commission licenses to work on RV's.

The propane supplier can check the system for leaks and the proper regulator settings,

while inspecting the valves and fittings, too. It's a good idea to check propane tanks for rust and dents, as well.

All propane gas appliances should be inspected, including air intake and exhaust vents. Without proper ventilation, the gas will not burn properly or light at all.

Propane dealers or repair people can also teach RV owners how to recognize the "rotten egg" smell of propane gas.

If RV travelers smell gas, they should:

- Exit the coach without using any electric switches or appliances, leaving the door open to air out the interior.
- Shut off the propane tank.
- Call a propane gas supplier or the fire department from a nearby phone.

Remember, too, when refueling, to turn off the engine, all appliances and the electronic re-igniters and extinguish all pilot lights and open flames. All passengers must exit the RV. After refueling, turn on the gas and listen

to the gas regulator. A continuous hissing sound could indicate the presence of a leak.

Many of these same RV owners may also use propane at their permanent residences to fuel furnaces and appliances.

The Railroad Commission urges those homeowners to contact their local propane gas supplier about having their delivery account put on "automatic."

With an "automatic" or "keep full" account, a homeowner never has to worry about having an adequate supply of propane no matter how cold the weather or treacherous the road conditions.

■ **Editor's note:** For more information on how to stay warm safely this winter, or to get a copy of the Railroad Commission's propane services directory, which lists propane suppliers and refueling stations statewide, look under "gas/propane" in the Yellow Pages for your nearest propane dealer, or call the Commission's Alternative Fuels Division at 800-64-CLEAR.

INSIDE

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Politicians in general and much of society approaches problems without using much common sense.

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■ **Taylor Stephenson**

Seems the same in 1996 as it was so many years ago in my youth, there's no place like home for the holidays!

Community/Page 3

■ **Brackett tops Cotulla**

Brackett jumped out to a 35-12 halftime lead and never looked back Friday, picking up a 59-20 victory over the Cotulla Cowgirls.

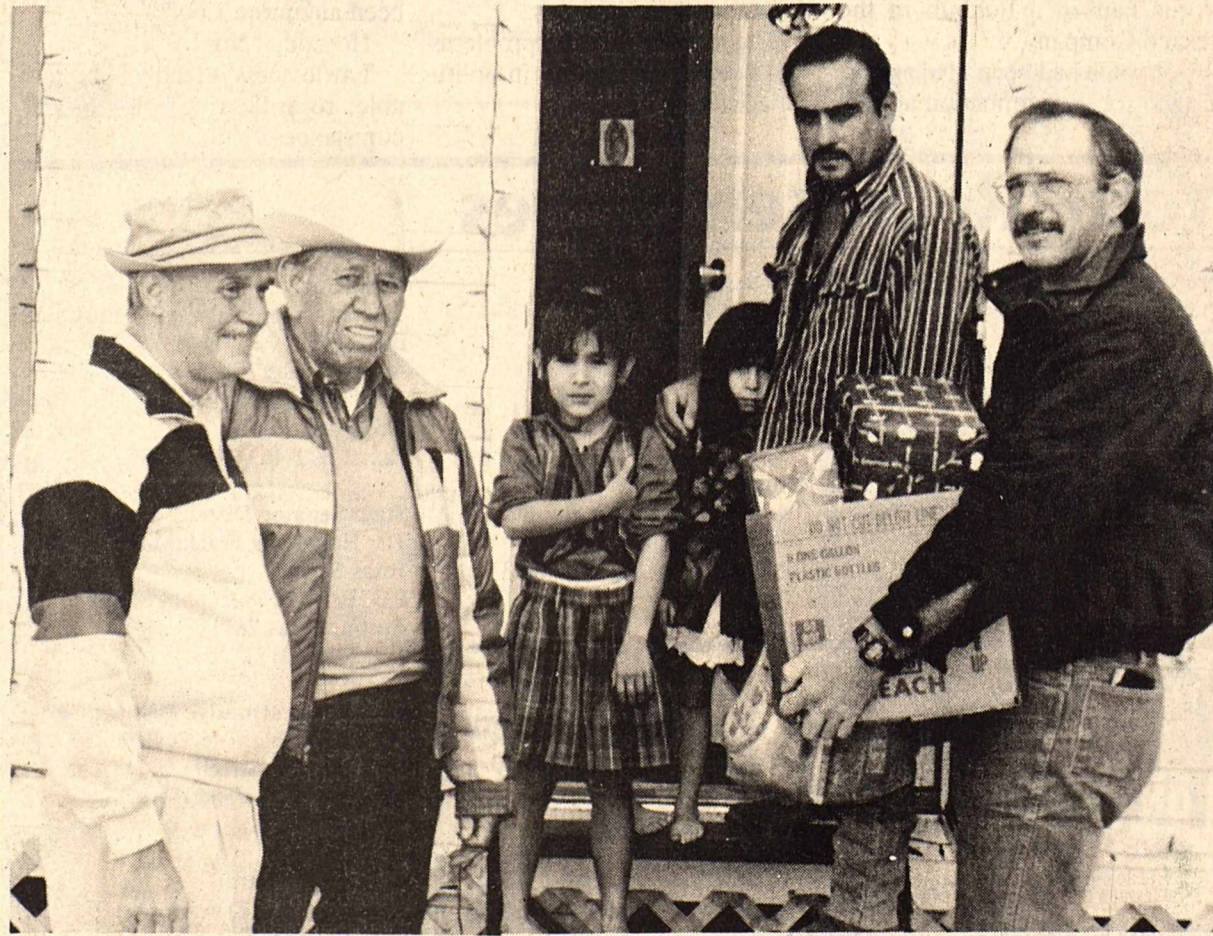
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CHRISTMAS BASKET PROGRAM



Dave Dalton (from left) presents a Christmas basket to Augustine, Genele and Lorena Cortez as Agapito Saenz and Joe Goebel look on as a part of the Christmas Basket Program sponsored by the Lions Club.
Brackett News Photo by J.J. Guidry

Environmental Impact Statement on International Bridge crossings available

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Fort Worth District, has recently completed a Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (DPEIS) on international bridge crossings along the United States-Mexico border from El Paso to Brownsville.

Prepared for the U.S. Department of State, the DPEIS addresses the cumulative impacts of existing bridges and related structures along the border, as well as the anticipated cumulative impacts of reasonably foreseeable future bridge permit applications.

The Office of Mexican Affairs, U.S. Department of State, is the responsible agency for issuing Presidential permits for construction of all bridges along the border between the United States and Mexico.

Since the passage of the International Bridge Act of 1972, the Department of State has granted permits for nine bridges that have been constructed to date. Six ad-

ditional bridges have been permitted, but not yet constructed.

With respect to each of these projects, the Department of State has conducted an Environmental Assessment in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. Four other proposals for bridge construction or expansion are currently pending.

Copies of the DPEIS are available for review at the following libraries: McAllen Memorial Library; Harlingen Public Library; Mercedes Memorial Library; Laredo Public Library; Donna Public Library; Val Verde County Library; Eagle Pass Public Library; Weslaco Public Library; El Paso Public Library; Sul Ross State University; Bryan Wildenthal Library; University of Texas at Brownsville; Arnulfo Olivera Memorial Library; and the University of Texas, Pan American Learning Resource Center.

Deadline for comments or questions is Jan. 31.

Letter to the Editor

Paper and cardboard recycle program for the Fort rejected

About mid-November, 1996, I spoke with Bob Walker about starting a paper and cardboard recycle program on Fort Clark Springs.

He told me about what had been done previously with the City of Del Rio and Eagle Pass. Bob Walker was not favorably impressed with either program due to cost.

My wife and I were going to San Antonio for a week and I asked if I could do some leg work to see about selling paper, cardboard and glass in San Antonio, and Bob Walker was in favor of this.

I did the research and found that paper might be a break-even situation even using volunteer help; cardboard would be a little better; and glass was definitely not possible as the glass could not be broken (cost of transportation).

On my return, I was told there was a newspaper program in effect. I went down to the Maintenance Shop and found this true - sort of.

There had been such a program in the past and people continued to drop off their newspaper at the maintenance facility. When space would run out, the maintenance crew would load the 'garbage gobbler' and haul it to the garbage transfer station. This cost the Fort about \$500 a load.

Bob Walker told me that this would happen about five times a year, costing the Fort about \$2,500 a year.

I told Bob Walker that I thought we could save the Fort the entire amount, although I did not believe we could make much profit. I asked if I could take a load in to San Antonio to see if it was worthwhile, but was told I would have to get permission from Bill Haenn.

I set up an appointment for Dec. 6, at 8:30. I arrived about 8:25 on Friday and was told by office staff that he would be available very soon.

About 8:45, I was told that he was being delayed by incoming phone calls. I wondered if someone else could take care of these calls, or at least take a message, as this was a scheduled meeting.

At 8:50, I was told that I could see Mr. Haenn and went to his office to find Bob Walker had also been invited, which was not a problem.

I told Bill Haenn of my plan to save the Fort about \$2,500 a year. I was told that this could be, but what would happen after two or three years, lose interest or die.

I tried to explain that if I hauled only one load the Fort would be ahead that much as the paper was already being dropped off.

Then, he threw more cold water on the all-volunteer project by saying the Fort would have responsibility as it would be a Fort project.

My intent, as I state in the beginning, would be if any money was made on this project that the proceeds go to the Christmas For Kids program in Brackettville.

About this time, Bill Haenn picked up a piece of paper from his desk and appeared to study it. When you are meeting with someone and ignored in this fashion, I can not understand.

I got up, stating this meeting was going nowhere, and started to exit. I stopped at his door, turned, expressed my displeasure for the type of treatment, and left. I received no reply.

I'm sure that this is not the way the Board of Directors expect the general manager to treat a member trying to volunteer to help the Fort by cost savings of many dollars a year.

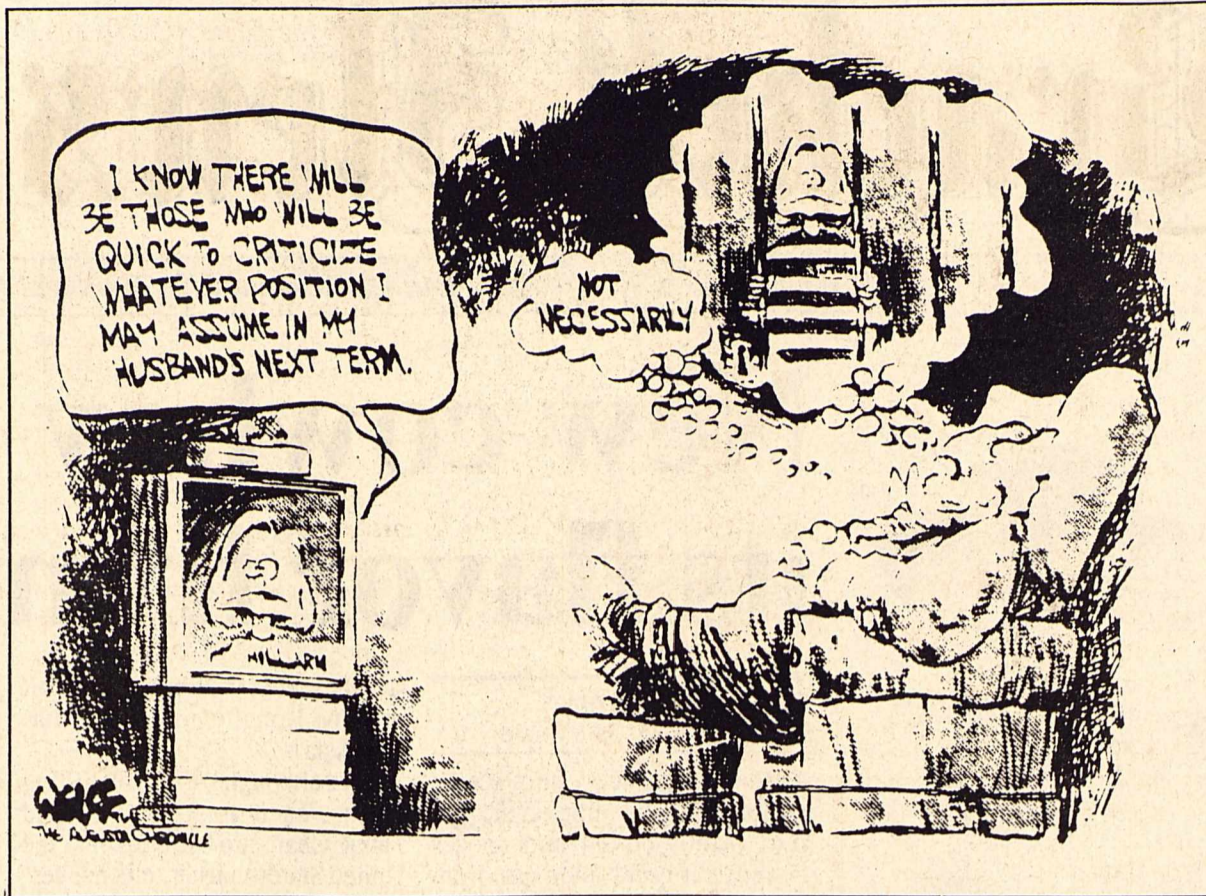
I will find it very hard to step forward again to help the Fort.

For your further information, my wife and I have volunteered over 7,000 hours of our time with the state of Oregon (State Parks and the Department of Fish and Wildlife).

We have never been treated like this, from the regional managers, office personnel to field technicians.

I have, from time to time, had some real stupid ideas regarding changes on how to do various things. Some have been accepted and utilized while the others were stupid ideas, but never treated as on Dec. 6.

Glenn Heesacker



Racial problems cannot be solved with political actions

Politicians in general and much of society approaches problems without using much common sense. One of the greatest problems in our nation today is racism.

The radicals of racism are not the masses of people, but is delineated by radical racists.

There are relatively few whites who are rabid racists. Also there are relatively few blacks who are radical racists. It is also true that there are relatively few Hispanics that are rabid racists.

The real problem is centered in a relatively few irresponsible loud mouths who don't show they are able to think outside a rigid bias of bloated egotism that demands feeding on wispy actions they can exalt out of all proportions.

A man runs for the U.S. Senate in Texas simply because he dreamed of all Hispanics voting for him because he was "one of them."

His comments regarding another Hispanic seeking reelection clearly revealed his racism.

A woman in California grew up in a city and married a "white" man. She changed her name to his, which is still the accepted norm. She filed for office but lost.

She decided to play the "race" card. She filed for office again, but used her maiden name, a Hispanic name.

She ran the typical "democratic" race of demagoguery and slander. Her racist actions put her in office.

Someone ratted on an executive meeting and revealed two of the men used degrading terms about blacks. Of course, in government by radical racists there is no such thing as freedom of speech, except for them.

Jessie Jackson spends his time like a buzzard circling and waiting for some excuse to make headlines. His vitriolic actions and words caused a hubbub in the Texaco Company.

A lawsuit had been filed against Texaco for discrimination against

blacks. Jackson demanded they settle the suit favorably before the weekend.

Now stupidity came on in full force. Texaco bowed - no trial, no judgement, just a handout on demand.

Jackson demanded a boycott of Texaco. A "black" preacher grabs the opportunity to get his name and picture in the news.

He has the news cameras present and, before his congregation, holds up an oversize pair of scissors and tauntingly cuts his card in two. He claimed it was a Texaco card; it was impossible to tell on TV. Beating his chest in victory, Jackson called off the boycott.

"Black" leaders in Dallas, to show their independence, refused to call off the boycott. They would follow a racist leader into a mud fight, but would not throw down their mud when Jackson did.

It's high time politicians and others learned you can't successfully legislate social problems. Sure, you can make it possible for all people to ride a street car and eat in a cafe, but don't count this as solving the race problems.

Affirmative action is and always has been unconstitutional and a violation of the Civil Rights Act. And yet when the people of California vote solidly to do away with "affirmative action," a liberal judge appointed by Democrat Jimmy Carter stopped it and President Bill Clinton now will fight it.

It is alright for him to be elected by 49 percent of the voters, but it is wrong for 54 percent of the voters of California in the same election to vote their desires.

The answers to race problems will never find answers in political actions.

Until the masses of the people solve the problems and dethrone loud mouth radicals, the problems remain real.

Compromising, bowing to unconscionable demands, giving heed to such racists is certainly counter productive.

As long as there is the concept that racism is a trait of "whites," the problem will never be solved.

Racism is alive and blazing among "leaders" of "blacks," "Hispanics," and "Native Americans." Until this is recognized and faced by the masses of people, the pot will continue to boil and from time to time blow the lid off.

Every riot with looting and burning testifies to the racists who foment it. Too often soft-headed do-gooders place the blame on some event rather than the rioters.

I was in Baltimore, Md., soon after much of the "colored" section of the city was burned out by a racist riot.

In meeting with the "black" church leaders, I asked what the prospects were. They told me that following the riot the governor, Spiro Agnew, came to meet with the "black leaders."

He said, "The next time something like this happens, I'm sending in the National Guard and their guns will have live ammunition and they will be ordered to use them."

I asked what the people thought.

My friend, who was the pastor of a large "black" Baptist Church, said, "They didn't like it. In fact, many got up and walked out."

I then asked, "In these two years since the riot, have there been any more riots?"

He said, "No." Lawlessness is totally unacceptable, regardless of color or circumstances.

Between Us

By Joe Townsend



Letters to the Editor Policy

The Brackett News welcomes and encourages letters to the editor. The Editor reserves the right to edit all letters submitted for length, potentially libelous statements and accuracy of information.

All letters must be signed and include a mailing address and phone number for verification purposes.

Letters published and columnist's viewpoints do not necessarily reflect the editorial beliefs of this newspaper.

Big Mama Sez!



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Parents, teachers know best

By Henry Bonilla
U.S. Congressman, 23rd District

A recent survey shows that students in the United States rated a disappointing 28th in mathematics compared to students in other countries. The U.S. students' science scores weren't much better - 17th.

The U.S. Department of Education doesn't seem to be too concerned with these low rankings, calling them "insight into what needs improving."

It's not surprising that the folks at the Department of Education downplay this news. If they were to draw attention to it, it would question what good the department has been doing for our children for the past 19 years!

The way the big government liberals talk, it's amazing that any of us who went to school before 1977 (when the department was created) ever received an education.

The administration believes that more money and more federal programs can solve the education problem.

Over the last 10 years, education spending per pupil increased by 20 percent. Does that mean that our students are 20 percent smarter?

Unfortunately, no. The answer is not just money. The answer is getting the money and power back to parents and teachers.

The Department of Education bureaucrats are the only ones who think that the federal government should have a major role in education.

Even though the Department of Education will spend almost \$29 billion of your tax dollars this year, Washington contributes only 6 percent of education funding.

However, Washington still wants to dictate education policy to states and localities. Well, Washington doesn't know best; parents and teachers do.

The administration and the teachers' unions are content with the status quo, that's the way they keep power. The status quo and more federal tax dollars are not educating our children. Americans are fed up with our education program's failing report cards.

The power and control over educating our children should lie at home, in Texas, not in Washington.

Moving the resources and decision making closer to parents and teachers puts the power where it belongs.

Instead of continuing to fund a bloated bureaucratic Department of Education, our money needs to be sent directly home where it can do some good.

The administration is spinning its wheels when it comes to education. How many bad report cards will it take to prove to them that more money and more programs haven't given our kids a better education?

It's common sense that parents are more qualified than Washington bureaucrats to make education decisions for their children. And as parents, we have a responsibility to get involved in our children's education.

Our children are our greatest assets, but if we don't look clearly at the record and realize what works and what doesn't, then they don't stand a chance.

The Brackett News

The Brackett News (USPS 003987) is an entirely locally owned, independent newspaper published weekly on Thursday for \$20 per year in Kinney County, \$25 outside of county but in Texas, and \$27.50 outside of Texas, by The Brackett News, Inc., 507 S. Ann Street, Brackettville, Texas, 78832, and entered as second class matter at the U.S. Post Office at Brackettville, Texas, under the Act of March 3, 1878.

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Any erroneous reflection upon the character, standing or reputation of any person, firm or corporation which may appear in the pages of The Brackett News will gladly be corrected upon being brought to the attention of the publisher.

Bridge Results

The following is a list of winners in the Fort Clark Springs Bridge Club:

December 3

Don Smith and Harvey Jones, first place in the north-south direction; Joan Lindley and Dianna Daniels, first place in the east-west direction; Fred and Nita Clayton, second place in the north-south direction; Molly Schroeder and Carol Benfield, second place in the east-west direction; Rozetta Pingnot and Flo Stafford, third place in the north-south direction; Dena Scott and Mona Miller, and Betty Schlatterer and Mary Edgar tied for third place in the east-west direction.

Beta Sigma Phi meets

Theta Sigma Chapter of Beta Sigma Phi met in the home of Alicia Raymer on Monday, Dec. 16, for the sorority's annual Christmas party and meeting.

After a delicious array of goodies was enjoyed by all, a secret sister gift exchange was held, with the names of the secret sisters being revealed.

A short business meeting was held and new names were drawn following the festivities.

The sorority's next meeting will be held at the home of Jean Land on Jan. 6, at 6:30 p.m.

Moncus' Meditations

By Mike Moncus

Autumn

Bastrop's leaves, though not as noticeable as those of maybe the Lost Maples in the fall, are, as far as Central Texas is concerned the most spectacular display this season.

Flameleaf sumac is strikingly noticeable backed up by the dark green loblollies as are the black-jack oaks, some of which are dark red while others are rich in gold and yellows. Even more towards the gold are the Texas hickories.

Not so far over there is a very light yellow sugar hackberry. Hackberries in the valley never fooled with changing, they, like tourist, stay warm as they can.

Today is right before the leaves let loose. A very special time, I think. One where you feel that feeling of anticipation like that you have the night before Christmas morning or the few hours a man feels before his wife gives birth. Not anxiety, just excitement of impending change. Have you ever felt you just wanted to keep those leaves hanging on their limbs? If there was a way would you? It's good to photograph them but somehow you can't get them in little pictures how they really are in the big world.

As unique as individual finger prints, every glance in various directions give you fresh splashes of continuing change in colors.

It's good to be home for the holidays

Seems the same in 1996 as it was so many years ago in my youth, there's no place like home for the holidays!

Could be a universal truth or at least a great theme for a song. But, unfortunately it has already been used! So let's use this concept for a holiday message.

We're ready for you folks that are visiting! Every conceivable type of program - Holiday Tour of Homes, Band Concert, Elementary Music, Cantana, Church Play - has been held.

The Citywide party held at City Hall was an outstanding success. Every child got a toy, and there was good food and entertainment for all.

Lots of folks worked hard for this one, especially Rose Mary Slubar, our toy chairperson who collected money and bought toys for some 500 children. It was quite a show.

The town and Fort Clark are decorated prettier than ever! Folks have taken such pride in their decorations this year.

In Brackettville, there are more, and they are prettier than ever before!

At Fort Clark, we stopped in to see Charlie and Wanda and their

December 10

Fred and Nita Clayton, first place in the north-south direction; Joyce Bell and Alice Seargeant first place in the east-west direction; Ben and Rozetta Pingnot second place in the north-south direction; Molly Schroeder and Carol Benfield, second place in the east-west direction; Mac and Marie McCandles, third place in the north-south direction; Joyce and Choppi Anderson, third place in the east-west direction.

December 17

Walt Geeze and Bob Barnett, first place in the north-south direction; Ray Kurtz and Evelyn Whitely, first place in the east-west direction; Betty and Vern Ebert, second place in the north-south direction; Betty Schlatterer and Mary Edgar, second place in the east-west direction; Fred and Nita Clayton, third place in the north-south direction; Joyce Bell and Alice Seargeant, third place in the east-west direction.

By Frances McMaster
Contributing Writer

The Brackettville Rotary Club celebrated the Christmas season musically with spouses and invited guests last Thursday.

The program was opened by violinist Celeste Hill who was introduced by Taylor Stephenson. Celeste's parents, Rocky and Patsy Hill, were present to hear her perform.

Celeste is a fifth grade student



CELESTE HILL

at Jones Elementary School and has been playing the violin for two years.

On Thursday, she played "The First Noel" and "A Holly, Jolly Christmas."

Frank Cheaney introduced the rest of the program after commenting that a tradition had been started in the local Rotary Club. Each past president has to sing on the Christmas program.

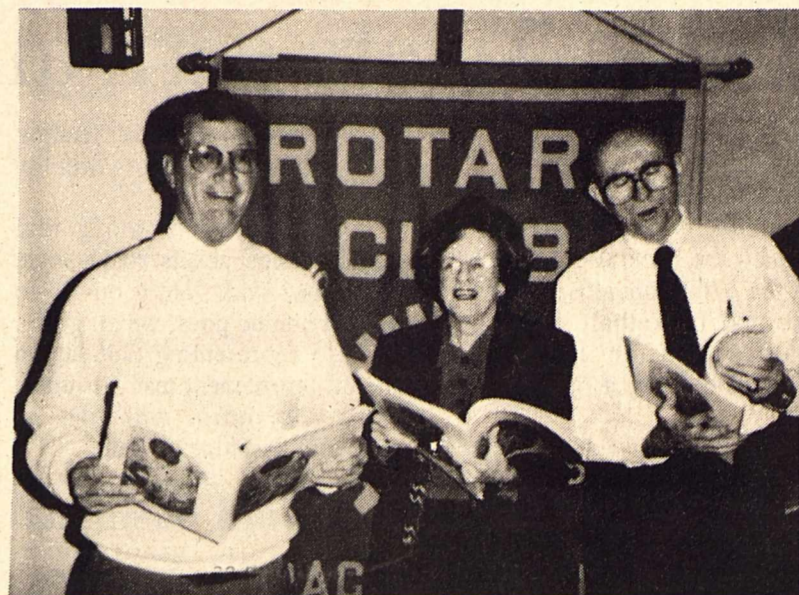
Cheaney was president three years back, and Stephenson succeeded him. Frances McMaster then became president.

However, Mike Holley, the present president, announced that this year would be the end of that tradition.

The three of them entertained until everyone joined in singing carols.

Cheaney began the carols by singing the first verse of Silent Night in German.

Ruby Cheaney accompanied the singing.



The "Singing Presidents," Taylor Stephenson, Francis McMaster and Frank Cheaney, perform at the Rotary Club meeting.

American actors appreciate Hong Kong improvisation

Continued from Page 1

He is rescued from the hangman's noose by friendly Native Americans and nearly falls for an alluring Indian princess, a twist that offers romantic tension.

Ultimately, Wong Fei Hung saves his people, and along the way he kicks the hell out of a host of blackguards, the finale being a spectacular fight with Australian kung fu expert Joe Sayah.

"Probability is never an issue in Hong Kong films. Anything is possible, and the goal is ultimately to entertain. A lot of it has the flavor of Buster Keaton comedies," Shum said.

It's also easy to tell the good guys and bad guys apart in this one.

Characters are color-coded down to hair dye, with a host of large, hairy, dirty and menacing cowpokes and deputies, all packing heavy artillery and dressed in black, inflicting outrages upon a colony of elegant Chinese with half-shaved heads.

"Take the character Bart, for example. 'I'm a mean, badass that strictly picks on Chinese. I'd prefer them to move out of town. And when the leading Chinese lady refuses my offer of a drink, I get especially nasty,'" said Robert Hooker of San Antonio, who plays bad Bart.

But, Hooker said, the upside of the improvisational directing is the possibility for the actor actually to influence the part.

"After the first day of filming, they rewrote my character, and I became the mayor's assistant," he said.

Other American actors were equally appreciative of the Hong Kong method.

"They are constantly open to suggestion. If you are in the middle of a scene and you have an idea to make it smoother or better, they will at least listen. I'm extremely impressed," said Dave Crowe, 53, of Fort Clark Springs, who plays a sheriff's deputy.

"Everything is in the director's head. You may have dialogue you've learned, but when he has an opportunity to listen to it on the monitor, he may not like it. And he gets what he wants before he moves onto the next scene," said Crowe.

Filming began in late October after a two-week

"Everything is in the director's head. You may have dialogue you've learned, but when he has an opportunity to listen to it on the monitor, he may not like it. And he gets what he wants before he moves onto the next scene."

Dave Crowe

delay, and other scenes have already been shot around Del Rio, at Fort Clark Springs and at a ranch near Leakey. "The weekend we were going to start, it rained after three years of drought. Then when we were in Leakey it snowed," said Noel Vega, the line director.

"These guys come to the United States for their first film, and to them it is a big-budget deal. Then we encounter all these situations out of our control, and what started as a small project mushroomed," Vega said.

With the project running over budget and behind schedule, the atmosphere at Alamo Village in the final weeks is understandably hectic.

Commands ring out constantly in Cantonese and English, and the muddy streets of the old fake village are overrun with horses, actors, extras and support personnel.

"I'm very unfortunate. Every movie I've worked on, when I get to the end, there is never enough time," moaned director Hung.

"I feel like screaming for help. We need more time. Daylight is just not long enough," he said.

For actor Tommy Worrell, 60, who played alongside "The Duke" years ago in the filming of "The Alamo" at Alamo Village, a bandit's role in a Kung Fu Western has been an interesting return.

"I never did a Spaghetti Western. I don't know what you'd call this one. A Noodle Western I guess," Worrell joked.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE
By TAYLOR STEPHENSON, BISD Superintendent

display in Unit 14. It's worth the trip over!

Colony Row is just beautiful. Our folks at the RV Park have lights and messages that make you feel the spirit of the Season.

On Airport Road, the lights seem to be more and brighter than before. J. E. and Sondra have their train and all of the happy lighted sights that accompany the train.

The Sweets have an outstanding display. I have seen pride and beauty everywhere. There are many more.

So, is that all? Turn off the lights, the party's over!

Far from it. The idea that the Christmas Candle is White and that it represents hope for the future is what it's all about.

One local minister held up this candle Sunday as worshippers rang out - Joy to the World! That's the reason for the season.

There's another meaning here. It's one that is the glue that holds our society together.

It's called family. We all belong to one. We realize it more so at this festive season when there's no place like being home for the holidays!

Welcome home Family! We're glad you're here.

This is a big season for me personally! Seems that my mom and dad planned my arrival two days and 1937 years after The Star was hung in the east.

My wife and I, some 30 years ago, planned our wedding ceremony on my birthday!

Whoa, wait a minute! Christmas, Birthday and Wedding Anniversary all within a two day period? That's right. So you can see it's a special time for me and my family.

My son, Michael, and fiance, Della, from Lexington, Ky., are home. My daughter, Traci, and her husband, Nathan, are home. It's a festive time for us.

Thanks Brackettville and Fort Clark for getting things ready in

such a splendid way!
I'm proud to be home for the holidays in the best place in the U.S.A.! Have a great New Year!

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Sabinal's Martinez named MVP

Three Tigers earn all-tournament honors

By J.J. Guidry
Sports Editor

Sabinal's Jesus Martinez was named the Most Valuable Player of the 37th Annual Brackett Invitational basketball tournament Saturday after leading the yellowjackets to a first place finish.

Martinez scored 22 points in

the championship game, leading Sabinal to a 74-63 victory over the Brackett Tigers.

"Jesus has come along real well," Yellowjackets coach Jesse Rodriguez said. "He is our go-to guy. When he goes, we all go."

Also representing Sabinal on the all-tournament team is junior Abel Alejandro, who had 20 points in Saturday's finale.

"Abel is a pleasant surprise," Rodriguez said. "We lost all of our posts to graduation. He has stepped up and done a good job."

The Tigers had three players named to the all-tournament team, seniors Moses Hernandez, Ramon De Leon and Beau Smallwood.

Hernandez averaged 21.8 points a game in the tournament, scoring 87 points in four games.

"Moses controlled the boards every game," Tigers coach Gary Grubbs said. "He scored well inside, and that says a lot for a guy that is only 5-foot-11."

De Leon scored 56 points in four games for a 14 points-per-game average.

"Ramon is starting to get back into it right now," Grubbs said. "He had two outstanding games scoring-wise, but defensive is

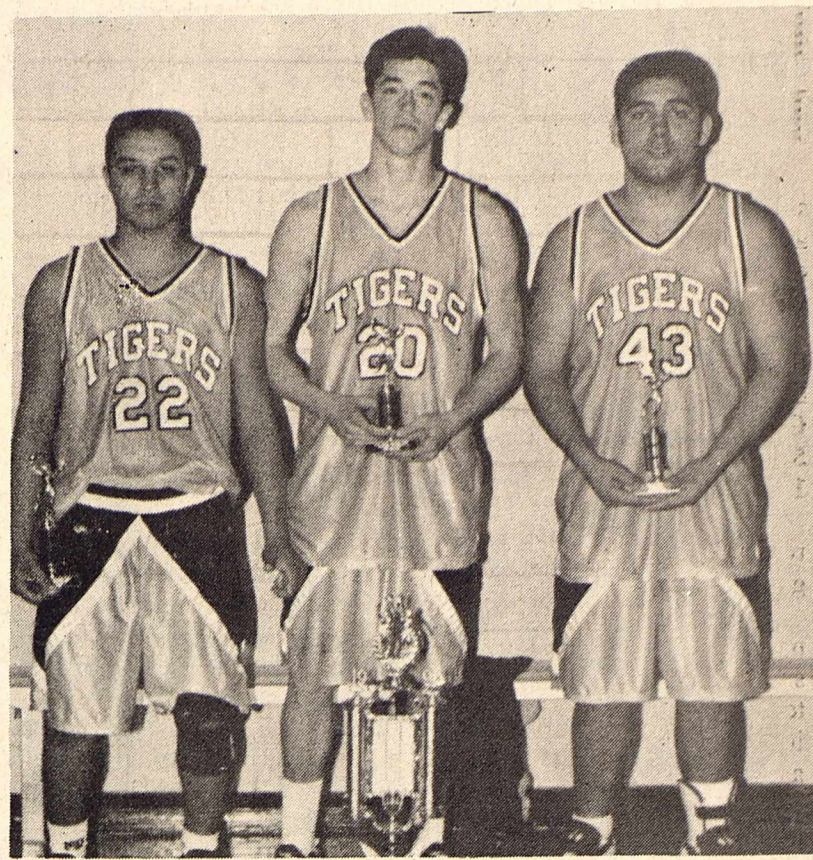
where he's starting to pick it up again."

Smallwood averaged 13.5 points in the tournament, scoring 54 points in four games.

"Beau did a great job playing inside, both offensively and defensively," Grubbs said. "He does a good job of scoring against guys that are a lot bigger than him physically."

The Tigers won three of four games in the tournament, upping their season record to 12-5.

"We had a good tournament," Grubbs said. "We won the first three games, beat some good teams, and improved in all the areas we have been working on. Hopefully, that will carry over into the next few games before we start district."



Earning all-tournament honors for Brackett were Ramon De Leon (22), Beau Smallwood (20) and Moses Hernandez (43).

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Brackett takes second place

Continued from Page 1
"We played good against Sabinal," Grubbs said. "They got a big lead. We fought back in the third quarter and got it within two. They put another little run on us and we couldn't quite overcome that in the end."

"The difference was that they shot the ball extremely well," he said. "That's what it takes to beat us because we get so many shots in a game."

Moses Hernandez paced the Tigers in the championship game. He finished with 27 points.

Beau Smallwood and Ramon De Leon also finished in double figures. Both scored 11 points.

Rene Luna had six points for Brackett, Matthew Smallwood scored four, and Luis Guajardo and Brian Flores had two apiece.

The Tigers opened the tournament with a 77-61 victory over Del Rio White.

"We played real well against Del Rio White," Grubbs said. "We ran well, but what we did best is play great defense, and that created a lot of easy baskets."

Hernandez had 24 points against Del Rio, Beau Smallwood scored 19, De Leon had 16, Flores pitched in 10, Luna had four, and Matthew Smallwood and Josh Crumley each had two.

In the second round, Brackett defeated Eagle Pass' J.V. 78-62.

"I thought we played even better against Eagle Pass than we did against Del Rio," Grubbs said. "We had a big halftime lead. It was a fun game because everybody got to play quite a bit."

Hernandez scored 23, Beau Smallwood had 14, Flores finished with 11, Guajardo and Matthew Smallwood had seven apiece, De Leon scored six, Crumley had four, and Luna, Demitrous Williams and Caleb Crumley all added two.

Brackett picked up a 74-57 win over Crystal City in the semifinals.

"We played really good," Grubbs said. "We shut their big scorer down, Eric Cuellar. They had a hard time breaking our press and we outran them. I thought the guys played outstanding. It was a big victory."

De Leon finished with 23 points, Hernandez scored 13, Guajardo had 12, Beau Smallwood scored 10, Matthew Smallwood had eight, Luna scored four, and Flores and Josh Crumley each had two.

Tigerettes run by Cowgirls, 59-20

COTULLA - Brackett jumped out to a 35-12 halftime lead and never looked back Friday, picking up a 59-20 victory over the Cotulla Cowgirls in non-district basketball action.

Amanda Meek scored a game-high 22 points to pace the Tigerettes, who improved to 9-6 on the season.

Courtney Harrison and Katy Hagler both scored eight points for Brackett, Chica Garza and Lindy La Mascus each had eight, Patty Lopez chipped in three, and Reccia Jobe and Sandra Hernandez added two apiece.

The Tigerettes will resume action this weekend as they participate in the 42nd Annual Devine Holiday Tournament.

Brackett opens tournament play tomorrow afternoon at 1:30 as they face 4A Pleasanton (5-10).

If the Tigerettes win, they will play tomorrow night at 6 If they lose, they will play at 7:30.

In the second round, Brackett will face either Devine (8-7) or Texas Military Institute (4-3).

Other teams competing in the tournament are Pearsall (14-1), La Vernia (8-2), Jourdanton (8-5), and Floresville (3-9).

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The terrain of the Leona Ranch is varied, consisting of plateaus covered with scrub-brush and grass meadows, intermixed with deep heavily wooded draws, many of which contain dry creekbeds. Windmills are located in various places providing water for wildlife.

For information call (210) 563-2961 8-5, M-F, or (210) 563-2077 evenings.

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1997 January 1997						
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5	6	7 Dr. Michael Singer Ophthalmologist	8	9 Dr. R. Evans Ophthalmologist Dr. Harvey Komet E.N.T. Doctor	10 Dr. Jeffery Warman Pediatric /Orthopedic Dr. Raymond Hernandez Ophthalmologist	11
12	13	14 Dr. G. Sherrod Cardiologist Dr. M. Singer Ophthalmologist Dr. Estrada Ped. Oncology	15 Dr. B. S. Mittler Cardiologist I.M.	16 Dr. S.J. Fisher Ophthalmologist Dr. Harvey Komet E.N.T. Doctor	17 Dr. David Dean Neuro Surgeon Dr. Raymond Hernandez Ophthalmologist	18
19	20 Dr. Perry W. Nadig Urologist	21 Dr. Michael Singer Ophthalmologist	22 Dr. Miller Dermatology Dr. B. S. Mittler Cardiologist I.M.	23 Dr. Richard Evans Ophthalmologist Dr. Harvey Komet E.N.T. Doctor	24 Dr. Raymond Hernandez Ophthalmologist	25
26	27 Dr. Paul Geibel Dr. Stuart Pipkin Spinal Surgeons	28 Dr. Mitchell Cardiologist Dr. Singer Ophthalmologist Dr. Estrada Ped. Oncology	29	30 Dr. S.J. Fisher Ophthalmologist Dr. Harvey Komet E.N.T. Doctor	31 Dr. David Dean Neuro Surgeon Dr. Raymond Hernandez Ophthalmologist	

To schedule an appointment with one of these physicians, please call the OutPatient Center at (210) 703-1730. All physicians see patients at the Val Verde Memorial Hospital OutPatient Center, 801 Bedell Ave., Del Rio, Texas (new wing of the hospital). Easy access through South entrance of the building.

Kinney County Livestock show January 17-18 1997 Project Show January 17, 1997

Any youth 19 and under, residing in Kinney County and/or attending Brackettville Schools is eligible to enter the Kinney County Project Show in the Youth Division. The ages are divided in the following manner: **Under School Age; Pre-K and Kinder; Grades 1 & 2; Grades 3, 4, & 5; Grades 6, 7, & 8; Grades 9, 10, 11 & 12; Adult.**

Any adult over 19 years of age, residing in Kinney County is eligible to enter the project show.

Exhibitors in the youth division must be under the direct supervision of the vocational agricultural teacher, vocational home economics teacher, county extension agent, a classroom teacher or parent. The exhibitors entry form must be signed by the respective supervisor.

Exhibitors in the adult division may pick up entry forms at the Adult Center, Library, Jeans's. Entry forms should accompany project when submitted.

Youth Divisions - Entries in writing must be submitted to the

classroom teacher, vocational agricultural teacher, or vocational home economics teacher.

There will be a limit of 5 entries for all exhibitors. Youth exhibitors will receive either a blue, red or white ribbon based on judges opinion.

Adult exhibitors will receive 1st., 2nd. or 3rd. place ribbons in each class. There will also be a best of show plaque in the Adult Division.

The project show will be at the Kinney County Civic Center on January 17. Only school entries will be accepted Thursday, January 16, after 3:30 p.m.

Food and adult entries should be brought on Friday, January 17, before 9:00 a.m.

Judging will begin promptly at 9:30 a.m.

Viewing of exhibits will be at 11:00 a.m.

Exhibits will remain on display under supervision on the 17th. Exhibits must be removed from the building between the hours of 5 and 6 p.m. on the 17th.

The area must be cleared for the BBQ the next day.

Your cooperation will be appreciated.

Divisions and classes for the project show.

Division I. Foods

Classes:
1. cakes 2. decorated cakes 3. yeast breads 4. quick breads 5. 1 crust pies 6. 2 crust pies 7. jellies 8. jams & marmalade 9. pickles & relish 10. candy 11. cookies 12. meat dishes.

Division II Needlework

Classes:
1. crocheting 2. hand embroidery 3. knitting 4. needlepoint 5. hand quilting 6. machine used needlework 7. weaving 8. crewel 9. counted cross stitch 10. miscellaneous.

Division III Clothing

(one or more garments constructed by sewing as a unit of wearing apparel)

Classes:
1. tailored 2. non-tailored 3. evening.

Division IV Clay, Glass &

Wood Sculpture

Classes:
1. pottery 2. ceramics 3. stained glass 4. glass etching 5. sculpting - any medium.

Division V Paintings

Classes:
1. oil 2. acrylic 3. water color 4. pastels 5. miscellaneous.

Division VI Drawings

Classes:
1. ink 2. charcoal 3. crayola 4. pastels 5. miscellaneous.

Division VII Flower Arrangements

Classes:
1. live material 2. artificial material.

Division VIII Photography

Classes:
1. color 2. black & white.

Division IX Leathercraft

Division X Metal Work

Division XI Educational Exhibits-All Divisions

Classes:
1. poster 2. displays 3. charts 4. science exhibits.

Division XII Miscellaneous (anything not covered above).

Better forages, improved hay quality await Texas producers

Everything's big in Texas
The "Big D." Big farms and ranches. And big expectations of growers who demand the most of their forage production inputs.

Fortunately, there's a new herbicide available to alfalfa producers whose performance is big enough to meet and exceed those expectations:

Zorial herbicide from Sandoz Agro, Inc.

Recently EPA approved for use in alfalfa, Zorial controls a broad spectrum of grasses and broadleaves, including such pests as foxtail, chickweed, henbit, crabgrass, shepherdspurse and nutsedge.

A critical role

"Whether you're producing alfalfa for sale or for dairy and livestock feed, the ultimate goal is producing the best quality forage possible," says Ken Smith, Sandoz field scientist from Overton, Texas. "A Zorial weed control program helps producers improve the relative feed value (RFV) of their first cutting, which

holds the greatest potential for both quality and price."

He adds: "Reducing weed competition with a longer residual material prior to that first cutting not only results in better RFV, but also more efficient utility of moisture and fertility inputs, and extension of a healthier stand of alfalfa. Weather often plays a big role in the productivity of alfalfa, and with a longer growing season compared to alfalfa production in the Upper Midwest, weed control takes on a more critical role."

Smith says that Zorial used alone or in a tankmix with other approved alfalfa treatments provides excellent control of both cool season and warm season grasses and broadleaves.

"This chemistry is versatile enough to handle tough cool season weeds like chickweed, cheat, wild barley and the bromes," he explains, "with enough residual activity to perform on warm season pests such as crabgrass, foxtails, barnyard grass, nutsedge and pigweed."

Economic injury disaster loans available for small business

SAN ANTONIO-Businesses depending on farmers and ranchers in some Texas counties can now apply for low interest Economic Injury Disaster Loans from the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA).

These loans are available to help businesses meet normal operating expenses that cannot be met due to the effects of a disaster. Drought, freeze, high winds, freezing temperatures, sleet and snow which occurred June 1, 1995 through June 11, 1996 and continuing caused many farmers and ranchers to experience reduced incomes which may have had an adverse economic effect on businesses depending upon these producers. Farmers and

ranchers are not eligible for this loan program but may be eligible for disaster assistance through other Federal agencies.

However, nurseries that are victims of drought disasters can apply.

To obtain an application or receive additional information, interested business owners may call the SBA toll free at 1-800-366-6303 or TDD 817-267-4688 for the hearing impaired.

The deadline for filing applications is June 24, 1997.

The loan is designed for those businesses with substantial disaster related needs and is intended to supplement monies the business owner can provide from other sources.

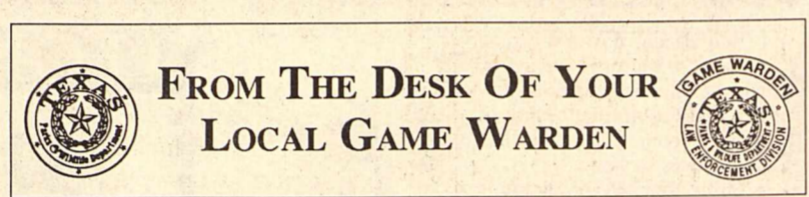
Operation Game Thief gives highest reward ever

The committee that oversees Operation Game Thief (OGT), which rewards people for calling in tips on fish and wildlife crimes, has authorized reward payment of \$2,200 to one caller, the highest reward paid to an individual in the history of the program.

Sponsored by the law enforcement division of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, OGT operates a toll-free telephone hotline and pays rewards to callers whose information leads to the arrest and conviction of Texas fish and wildlife law violators.

The caller receiving the record reward, who wishes to remain anonymous, reported illegal commercial fishing activity involving several violators.

Based on critical information provided by the caller, a subsequent investigation by TPWD



game wardens yielded numerous criminal cases, with fines approaching a total of \$40,000.

The record reward payment includes a \$1,000 bonus, based on factors including resource restitution values, degree of violation flagrancy and the level of caller involvement.

About \$1,000 in civil restitution values were also assessed.

The payment also includes a separate \$500 B. Stan Cook Memorial reward, which is given at the discretion of the OGT committee to recognize outstanding contributions.

The record reward recipient is

one of seven callers to receive rewards for the six month OGT reporting period that ended Sept. 30.

Another caller, who also reported illegal commercial fishing activity, received \$1,000, includquest a reward, an additional \$20,000 in authorized reward payments has gone unclaimed because the anonymous callers have failed to call back and check on the outcome of their reports.

Through Sept. 30, the program logged more than 19,000 calls, resulting in 6525 criminal cases filed and \$897,614.79 in

assessed fines.

Anyone who learns of an on-going or planned violation should call 800-792-GAME (4263). This line is answered by a game warden dispatcher 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Citizen involvement is critical to curbing the unlawful taking of Texas fisheries and wildlife resources," said Stewart Stedham, a Houston businessman who chairs the 10-member OGT committee.

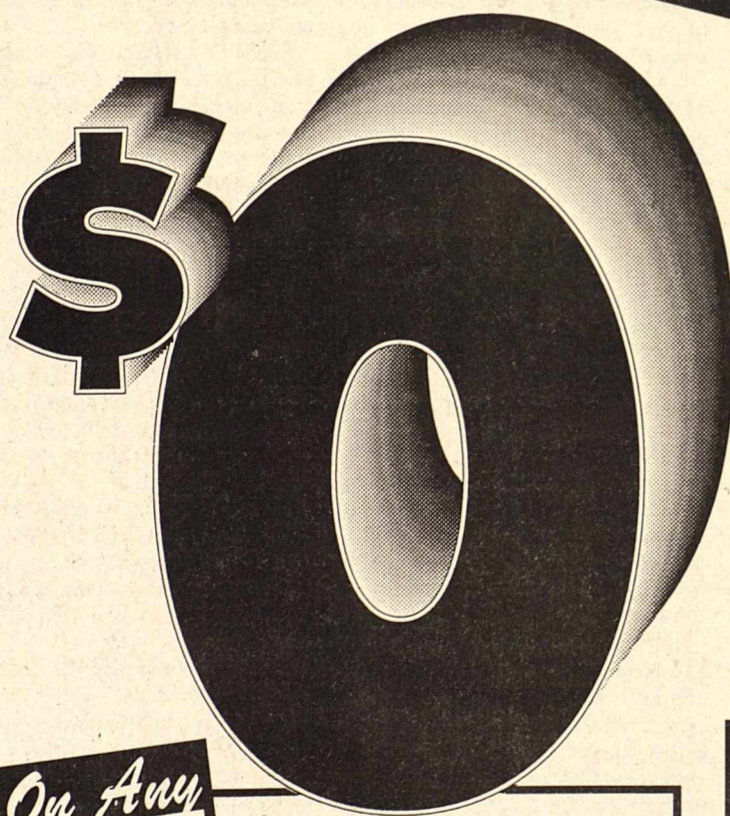
"The vast majority of hunters and anglers abide by the law and greatly resent those few who violate it at the expense of honest sportsmen.

The OGT Committee is committed to providing significant financial incentives to strengthen public involvement in conservation law enforcement.

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Many of the insight of the saint stems from his experience as a sinner.
 —Eric Hoffer

Super Crossword

ACROSS
 1 Adroit
 5 Actress
 9 Forest father
 13 Pageant prop
 18 Buffalo
 19 Singing syllables
 20 Cartoonist
 21 You'll get a kick out of it
 22 Hartman of TV
 23 PDQ, politely
 24 Haberdashery stock
 25 Chased rainbows?
 26 Start of a remark by Henry Youngman
 30 Season firewood
 31 Little pest
 32 Another little pest
 33 Dolphin Dan
 37 TV's "Major"
 39 Idolize
 42 Weaken
 45 Be an accomplice
 46 Sweater stuff
 48 Frasier's brother
 49 Seance sound
 51 Peasants
 53 "...hungry mouth is..." (Kilmer)
 56 Brown or Paul
 57 Hotelier
 59 Philatelist's purchase
 60 Verso's opposite
 61 — Altos, Calif.
 62 Soprano
 63 Paper quantity
 65 Noun suffix
 67 Cellist Pablo
 68 Middle of remark
 73 Cautioned
 75 Strong — ox
 76 Stocking stuffer?
 77 Mine entries
 78 Sportscaster
 80 Austerly
 82 Serengeti
 87 "Waiting for —"
 88 — "Believer"
 ('66 hit)
 89 Opera's Grace
 90 Romulus' river
 91 Unit of work
 92 Lend — (listen)
 94 Couldn't be better?
 96 Joy's lioness
 97 Cornhusker st.
 99 With 16
 100 Accomplished
 101 Firstborn
 103 Movie pooch
 105 Ronny & the Daytonas' hit
 107 Prospector's prize
 108 End of remark
 116 Maestro
 118 Faucet
 119 Medieval weapon
 120 Thomas —
 122 Flow
 123 Plucky
 124 A Karamazov brother
 125 Survey
 126 Disreputable
 127 "Pretty Little Angel —" ('61 tune)
 128 Soil
 129 Vacation sensation
DOWN
 1 Verdi's "La Forza — Destino"
 2 Carmen or Clapton
 3 "Barney Miller" spinoff
 4 Gum drop?
 5 Scottish port
 6 Haste
 7 Jack of "Rio Lobo"
 8 Wine valley
 9 Fancy fabric
 10 Wagner hero
 11 Once again
 12 "Jeepers!"
 13 Tucker or Roberts
 14 Metal bars
 15 Bill of Rights grp.
 16 See 99
 17 Link letters?
 21 Cinema site
 27 Singer Janis
 28 Down in the mouth
 29 Way out
 33 Red planet
 34 Border on
 35 Melodious
 36 Article
 37 Scale starters
 38 One of the Waughs
 40 Funny Phyllis
 41 Bread spread
 43 Appetite stimulants
 44 Jury
 47 Daytime TV figure
 50 Elapse
 52 Most nimble
 54 Remains
 55 Phonograph part
 57 Tract
 58 All-star game side
 64 LAX letters
 66 "Vesti la giubba" singer
 67 Security grp.
 68 Nose part
 69 Till
 70 Islamic greeting
 71 Kicked a field goal
 72 Skirt shapers
 73 Carry on
 74 Decorate
 78 Ancient
 79 Part of EMT
 81 Asian desert
 83 Fabricated
 84 Skilled
 85 Stack role
 86 "Confound it!"
 92 National notes
 93 '81 Cagney film
 95 Persecution
 98 Teased
 100 Female goat
 102 Tenor Slezak
 104 Get side-tracked
 106 Hunts and pecks
 107 "Sesame Street"
 108 "The Way We —"
 109 Brink
 110 Revealing photo?
 111 Surrounded by
 112 Sitarist
 113 Place for pews
 114 Lamb's pen name
 115 Monsieur Montand
 116 Ltr. addenda
 117 Hwy.
 121 Wonderment

MagicMaze

THINGS TO DRINK

B N J G D A X U R O L J G D A
 X V S P N K I F C A X V S Q O
 L C H A M P A G N E J H E C A
 X V T R P N L S J C O H F D E
 B Y X V T R P O R I S M K I D
 G E D B Z X W E U U S A T R A
 Q O N L J I Z A G J E F L D N
 C R A Y X T W O D T R U V E O
 T S E K L I M C T O P R Q N M
 P O N E E F F O C L S K J I E
 I G S F B E H C C R E T A W L
 Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions—forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.
 Ale Beer Champagne Cocoa Espresso Hot tea Juice Lemonade Liqueurs Milk Seltzer Soda Tea Water Wine

Natasha's Stars

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Some downtime is just what you need to recharge your batteries before the big holiday. Later in the week, seek out leisure activities, especially with children. Couples are in for an exciting weekend of romance and holiday bliss.
TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Career interests are heavily favored during the early part of the week, despite the holiday rush. A new moneymaking opportunity comes to you from a very surprising source. If considering asking for a raise, be sure to be diplomatic.
GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Meetings, seminars and business appointments are favored once the holiday excitement calms down somewhat. Something you hear from someone far away proves beneficial to you. Feel free to socialize this weekend and celebrate the holidays.
CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Making deals involving finances is a good idea for you at this time. Domestic interests are also favored, so spend a happy holiday with family members. You finish your week on a very peaceful, satisfied note.
LEO (July 23 to August 22) Gains made in your career are multifaceted and far-reaching. However, avoid a tendency to buy into the workplace rumor mill being fueled by someone who loves to stir up trouble. This is ultimately detrimental.
VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) Friends provide a great deal of holiday amusement, along with family. Don't be afraid to do more than dream about that trip you've been dying to take, since travel is in the stars. Your mate is supportive.
LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) News received is good, particularly where finances are concerned. A close friend surprises you with what you consider to be a very extravagant holiday gift. This person is merely repaying you for past generosity, so enjoy!
SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) You've been ignoring someone who was always important in your life, so make amends before the holiday begins. Creative projects come to the fore later in the week. Happiness is achieved through partnerships since those around you are being cooperative.
SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) Love is in the air and some of you singles could be walking down the aisle soon! Married folks seek a special holiday time together this week. Keep your ears open this weekend for news on the financial front.
CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) Family members rejoice in the good news all receive at a holiday gathering. If looking at making a real estate deal, it's a good time to clinch it. You spend the latter part of the week productively.
AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) What goes on at work proves very enlightening for you. Some even receive an offer to switch jobs or assignments. Shopping expeditions aren't particularly favored, so be sure you've gotten all your gifts.
PISCES (February 19 to March 20) You come up with a new approach to an old problem on the work front. However, co-workers think you're just being bossy. Ignore them and you accomplish much.
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Vision Teaser

Two panels of a cartoon showing a man in a 'GYM' t-shirt. The first panel shows him with a normal t-shirt. The second panel shows him with a t-shirt that has 'ABE'S GYM' on it. Find at least six differences in details between panels.
 Differences: 1. Window is wider. 2. Inscription is changed. 3. Dumbbells are added. 4. Rope is longer. 5. Headband is re-moved. 6. Exercise bike is missing.

The president of the United States is entitled to a 21-gun salute. The vice president or the Speaker of the House to a salute of only 19 guns.

Doctors recommend people with leg cramps massage the muscle a few minutes and gradually force it to function. Persistent or frequent leg cramps should be brought to the attention of a physician.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Dec. 26	Pam Melancon	Jan. 1	Valerie Vela
Dec. 26	Dorothy Clark	Jan. 1	Tootsie Herndon
Dec. 26	Pat Foster	Jan. 1	Naomi Smith
Dec. 27	Margarita Pena	Jan. 1	Chonita Garza
Dec. 27	Taylor Stephenson	Jan. 2	Jerry Melane
Dec. 27	Christina Smith	Jan. 2	Jerry Taugner
Dec. 27	J.J. Smith	Jan. 2	David Burton
Dec. 28	Jessie Garcia	Jan. 3	Janelle Senne
Dec. 28	Hortencia Castro	Jan. 3	Genovena Gutierrez
Dec. 28	Kerry Berry	Jan. 4	Kevin Cavender
Dec. 28	Patricia Garberick	Jan. 4	Inga Haglund
Dec. 28	Tiny Castro	Jan. 4	Ronald Theis
Dec. 29	Judy Hooker	Jan. 5	Maxine Schoolfield
Dec. 29	Patsy Foster	Jan. 5	Norman Butler
Dec. 29	Joan Boutwell	Jan. 7	Jose A. Cabello
Dec. 29	Myrna Gonzalez	Jan. 7	Fay Gooch
Dec. 29	Clarisa Aguirre	Jan. 7	John Osborn
Dec. 30	William D. Thornton	Jan. 7	Juan Manuel Flores
Dec. 30	Wallace Dimery	Jan. 7	Michael Garcia
Dec. 30	Jason Kelley	Jan. 7	Steve Mills
Dec. 31	Jerry Adams	Jan. 8	Viola Peel
Dec. 31	Vera Nash		



First Baptist Church
Rev. Gil Ash, Pastor
"The Pastor's Pen"

Do you find it interesting to listen to the endless lists of "New Years Resolutions"? Not really? I'm with you. What is interesting, though, is the fact that the same people keep making the same resolutions over and over each year with out any real intent on following through with them.

Ouch, that smarts. Let's not be too hard on them (or us). Maybe this year a new trend can begin. Forget about all those mindless, endless and unimportant resolutions and settle for just one significant, important resolution; one that will be life changing. Let it be one that will really make a difference in your life. One that because of the change that is made

in your life, will make a difference in the life of others too!

One great resolution is all that is necessary. Paul the Apostle had one, I think. He shared it with the Philippians in chapter 3 verse 13 and 14... "forgetting those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus."

That was one life-changing resolution. It made a difference in his life and caused a change for the better in the lives of countless others. What will your one great resolution be? May I suggest a commitment to seek God's forgiveness and love daily and seek to yield yourself to Him? Write it down. Do it today and forever.

Gateway Ministries
Pastor Charolette Corey

GLORY TO GOD! GLORY TO THE CROSS OF JESUS CHRIST! WE GLORY IN THE WORD OF GOD that does not return to Him void. We glorify God for who He is and the mercy and grace He has poured down upon us through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We boast in the Lord for He is good and His mercy endures forever.

As we face the new year, we are confident that The Great Shepherd watches over us and has gone before us to "prepare our steps" and "light the way". We are secure in the dominion He has given us over all persecutions, trials and tribulations.

Our Heavenly Father is willing and eager to bless us (those who have become joining heirs of Jesus Christ). The Father is raising His church, the Body of Christ up to a higher level of glory this year. This He is achieving so that all the glory goes to Him and He

is glorified.

Our Heavenly Father desires to come into every believing church or group of believers and manifest His glory. He desires to "fill the temple" with His glory. The holy presence of God will be made manifest in all the churches of God this year who open themselves to the move of the Holy Spirit. We shall see signs and wonders, miracles and healings. But most of all, we shall see an abundance of people being "loved" into the kingdom of God unto salvation.

This is the YEAR that the Lord has purposed. Get in on His plan. Receive His blessings. Glorify God in the highest. Let peace reign in your hearts. Let joy shine forth from your face. REJOICE FOR YOU ARE LOVED! THE HAND OF GOD IS MOVING IN A GREAT WAY! TO GOD BE THE GLORY! STAND IN FAITH, REST IN HOPE, WALK IN LOVE.



St. John's Baptist Church
Pastor Wm. P. Adams, Sr.
210-563-2582

I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help.

My help cometh from the Lord, which made heaven and earth.

He will not suffer thy foot to be moved: he that keepeth thee will not slumber.

Behold, he that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep.

The Lord is thy keeper; the Lord is thy shade upon thy right hand.

The sun shall not smite thee by day, nor the moon by night.

The Lord shall preserve thee from all evil: he shall preserve thy soul.

The Lord shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth, and even for evermore. Psalms 121.

Praise the Lord, Happy New Year.

Come feast with us in the Lord the table is set.

Midnight services 10:30 p.m. December 31 at St. John's Baptist Church 116 W. Crockett. The public is invited



Brackettville's 'Molinar triplets' Daniel, Elena and Elidia just celebrated their fifth birthday! Their parents are Jose Antonio and Maria Elena Molinar



Frontier Baptist Church
Rev. Joe Townsend, Pastor

"For there was no room for them at the inn." What a most significant portent. T'was a most significant occasion.

All the people of the tribe of Benjamin were ordered by the Roman emperor to report to Bethlehem so the Roman Empire could determine the amount of tax to be assessed. Comes Joseph and Mary from Nazareth 76 miles away, by foot with Mary riding on a donkey. On arrival at the inn they were turned away. This inn was an important stop on the way from Jerusalem to Egypt. Because of the influx on the mass of people the inn was crowded. Mary and Joseph were turned away because of commitments to other people. Christ is crowded out to-day because many people are committed to things other than to God.

It was apparent Mary was with child and the bother of a baby being born to a strange family from Nazareth was not relished by the inn keepers. The inn was basically a walled compound with only a few rooms. These rooms

were reserved for more important personages. It would cause some disruption and trouble for a baby to be born. Today many people crowd Jesus out of their lives because they think it would be too much trouble to follow Him.

Think what the inn missed out on. Had Jesus been born in the inn, it would forever have been famous. The whole world would point to this inn as where Jesus had been born.

To take a back seat to a cave where livestock were sheltered was a public relations debacle.

Such specious reasons for crowding Jesus out of life truly present a debacle. Any impediments to rich living and happiness are purely mental pit falls.

The greatest thing that can happen to any life is to open ones heart and invite Jesus to come in and make Him welcome forever.

There will be another seasonal message at Frontier Baptist Church Sunday morning at 11:00. Come and see.

Unsung Hero

By Joe Townsend

This time I want to call attention to a group of men. We are fortunate to have a fine and capable crew of men taking care of the city. Randy Castillo and David Martinez along with the "outside" crew of city workers deserve high commendation.

I have found that in addition to taking care of the various channels of service, when an emergency arises there is immediate

and effective response.

These men are friendly and carry out these responsibilities with dispatch capably. It is easy to take for granted people who are an integral part of every day living.

Were these men incapable or reticent to do their jobs the entire city would suffer.

Surely the "outside" crew at City Hall are all Unsung Heroes.

For Today Only

There are two days in every week about which we should not worry, two days which should be kept from fear and apprehension.

One of these days is yesterday with its mistakes and cares, it's faults and blunders, it's aches and pains. Yesterday has passed forever beyond our control.

All the money in the world cannot bring back yesterday. We cannot bring back yesterday. We cannot undo a single act we performed; we cannot erase a single word we said. Yesterday is gone.

The other day we should not worry about is tomorrow with it's possible adversaries, it's burdens, it's large promise and poor per-

formance. Tomorrow is beyond our immediate control. Tomorrow's sun will rise. Until it does, we have no stake in tomorrow, for it is yet unborn.

This leaves only one day - today. Any man can fight the battles of just one day. It is only when you and I add the burdens of those two awful eternity's yesterday and tomorrow - that we break down.

It is not the experience of today that drives men mad - it is remorse or bitterness for something which happened yesterday and the dread of what tomorrow may bring. Let us, therefore, live but one day at a time.

Author unknown

Church Directory



St. Andrews Episcopal Church: Henderson & Fort Sunday Church Service 10:30 a.m. Vicar: Rev. Bill Koons, 563-2071.
Frontier Baptist Church (A Southern Baptist Church): Sunday Services 11:00 a.m., 6:00 p.m., Joe Townsend, Pastor, 563-2158.
First Baptist Church (A Southern Baptist Church): 307 N. Ann St., Sunday School 9:45 a.m., Sunday Worship 11:00 a.m., and 7:00 p.m., Wednesday Worship 7:00 p.m., Gil Ash, Pastor, 563-2245.
Baptist Hispanic Mission: 307 N. Ann Street, Sunday 9:45 a.m.; Wednesday 5:30 p.m.; Friday, 6:00 p.m., Eugenio Duran, Pastor.
Church of Christ: N. Ann St., Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Worship Service 10:30 a.m., Bible Study Sunday 6:30 p.m., Wednesday 6:30 p.m.
St. Mary Magdalene Catholic Church: Masses Monday and Friday 7:00 a.m., Wednesday and Saturday 6:30 p.m., Sunday (Spanish) 8:00 a.m., Regular 10:30 a.m., Confession Wednesday and Saturday 6:00 p.m., Religion Classes Wednesday 6:00 p.m. Sunday 9:00 a.m. Prayer Meeting (Spanish) Wednesday 7:00 p.m., Father Donald La Vell.
First United Methodist Church: "Celebrate and Witness" Fellowship 9:30 a.m., Church School Classes 9:45 a.m., Service of Worship 11:00 a.m., Choir Rehearsal Wednesday 5:00 p.m., Sheree Harris, Pastor.
St. John's Baptist Church: Crockett at Keene St., Sunday School 10:00 a.m., Worship 11:00 a.m., Wednesday Bible Study 7:00 p.m., Worship Service Thursday 7:00 p.m., William P. Adams, Sr., Pastor, 563-2582.
Our Redeemer Lutheran Congregation E.L.C.A Services: 9:00 A.M. Corner of Fort & Henderson in Brackettville. Bible Study; Monday morning at the parish hall -10:A.M., also at the corner of Fort & Henderson. Rev. Nathan La Frenz, 563-2047.
Templo Elim Asambea de Dios: North Street, Sunday 10:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m., Wednesday and Friday, 7:00 p.m., Rev. Abundio Mancha, Pastor, 563-9237.
Apostolic New Jerusalem: 514 E. Louise St., Sunday School 10:45 A.M. and Morning worship 11:30 A.M., Missionary Meeting every 3rd Thursday of the month. Everyone Welcome! Pastor, Rudy Goodloe
Gateway Ministries (Non-Denominational): 301 E. Spring St. (across from post office), Praise & Worship Fellowship Sunday 10:00 a.m., Bible Study Wednesday 6:30 p.m., Robert W. Corey, Pastor, Charolette Corey, Associate Pastor, 563-9331.

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Left to right: "White Cloud" Valerie Davis, "White Dove" Miranda Letsinger, "Sunflower" Harmony Pettett

Daisy Girl Scout Troop #166 Investiture

The First United Methodist Church has sponsored a fine little troop of beginning Girl Scouts, called Daisies. Kathryn Letsinger and Jill Woodson are the Troop leaders of seven kindergarten aged girls. They began their meetings in October and meet once a week in Slator Hall.

Miranda Letsinger, Harmony Pettett, Analis Flores, Samantha Kuhns, Valerie Davis, Rebecca Mann, and Katie Braesicke make up the troop. They officially received their beginning certificates, Daisy pins, and tunics, courtesy of the church's sponsorship, on Tuesday, December 17th in an investiture. The girls decorated Slator Hall and Daisy cookies, and prepared special places for their parents to sit and watch their program. The pastor of the Methodist Church, Sheree Harris, was the special guest of honor and was presented with a spray of Daisies from the girls. The girls were also

each presented with flowers which they gave to their mothers.

At the weekly meetings, the girls learn about themselves, their country, God, and the world. The girls chose to make their own uniforms that they will wear to school on Tuesdays. Each girl put their handprints on a troop shirt. This saved the troop money and gave each girl a permanent memento of the friendships they will form as a member of Daisy Troop #166!!

The local Girl Scouts are searching out "Hidden Heroines"! If you were a Girl Scout or a leader in days gone by, call Kathryn C. Letsinger at 563-9393. The local troops would like to hear from you and to honor you at a special gathering for the 85th birthday of Girl Scouts on March 12th of 1997. Any person interested in Girl Scouting in any manner is also invited to call for more information.

Yes, Virginia, there is a Rudolph

Last Tuesday an unusual Christmas event happened at the home of Clara and Allen McCord on Fort Clark.

Around 5:00 a.m. Clara arose and as usual glanced out the front window into the dark morning. Twelve feet from the window she saw a large bodied deer attacking their pine tree. Then she saw that it was a buck, so she thought it

was scraping and rubbing its rack and damaging the tree. She quickly awoke Allen saying "a big buck is ruining our tree."

Allen arose and saw it was a ten point buck but exclaimed "he's caught in the string of lights on the tree." They watched for 20 minutes as he pulled hard, hurled himself into the tree, ducked, darted to the right and left, and

cavorted, trying to become disengaged, but to no avail. He looked like he was attacking the tree and the McCords knew they couldn't attempt to free him.

After considerable time the buck finally decided to pull and pull against the tree and stretched the string out ten feet before breaking the set of lights and nonchalantly walked down the

road into the night with 150 lights entangled in his rack.

Believing this deer will have an interesting life, Clara remarked "If anyone sees him and plugs in the lights they will have a beautiful live Christmas deer and Yes, Virginia, a red light will probably be on his nose and Santa probably did use him Christmas night."

ADOPTION

ADOPTION: A BABY is our dream. Loving couple wishes to start family. Let's help each other. Allowed legal/expenses paid. Call Karen/Bob. Toll free 1-888-999-4255. It is illegal to be paid for anything beyond medical/legal expenses.

ANTIQUES

SCOTT ANTIQUE MARKET, two mammoth facilities, 2,400 booths - Jan. 10-12, 2nd weekend of every month. Atlanta Expo Centers - Atlanta, Georgia. I-285 at Jonesboro Road, 614-569-4112.

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DALLAS CARRIERS DRIVERS- we appreciate you working hard to deliver America's freight. Happy holidays!! If you are not driving for us call 1-800-727-4374. E.O.E.

DRIVER \$\$\$1,000\$\$ SIGN ON bonus. Starting \$26/27. Paid benefits/bonus/more. Need: 1 year OTR experience-age 23. CX/Roberson needs OTR drivers for dry vans/flatbeds for PFT/Roberson. Call 1-800-473-5581.EOE/MF.

DRIVER - CALARK INTERNATIONAL offers great pay, benefits and the chance to get home more often! Must be 22 with CDL and HazMat endorsement. 1-888-422-5275.

DRIVER-TEAM DRIVERS needed now! Immediate seating, outstanding pay programs, new conventionals, new 97 incentives. CDL with 1 year experience call Comet Transport: 1-800-351-1437.

DRIVERS ARTIC EXPRESS, a reefer carrier running 48 and Canada is in search of lease purchase/no \$ down. Owner operators/company drivers. Call now! 1-800-927-0431. EOE.

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DRIVERS - THE FACTS! 94'-96' K W conv. walkins; .28 -.30 cts./mi. + \$40. tarp/load. Day 1 rider program. Min. 1 yr. experience. Call Melton Truck Lines 24 hrs./7 days 1-800-635-8669 Ext. CG-8.

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EMPLOYMENT

The Middle Rio Grande Development Council is taking applications for the position of Director of 9-1-1 Services. Job duties and responsibilities for this position include: This position is responsible for formulating plans for the implementation of the Emergency Response 9-1-1 System in the Middle Rio Grande Region; and to coordinate all 9-1-1 related activities of the Regional Council and its members with the Advisory Commission on State Emergency Communications. This position requires in-region and some out-of-region travel with overnight to conferences, seminars, and meetings. Preferred qualifications include the following: Bachelor degree from an accredited college or university in Business Administration or related field, computer experience in word processing using Wordperfect, demonstrated ability to make oral and written presentations, and knowledge of relevant federal, state statutes and regulations. Salary range for this position is \$26,671 - \$32,419, negotiable based on experience. Persons interested in applying for this position should send a resume or file an application to the attention of: Ramon S. Johnston, Deputy Director of Administration, Middle Rio Grande Development Council, P.O. Box 78834, Carrizo Springs, Texas 78834. Applications and/or resumes will be accepted for this position until 5:00 p.m. Thursday, January 2, 1997. The Middle Rio Grande Development Council is an equal opportunity employer and auxiliary aids and services may be made available upon request to individuals with disabilities. For information please contact our Voice or TDD telephone (210) 876-3533.

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WANTED

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Answers to Super Crossword

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The Brackett News

1996 Hunter's Guide



Welcome Hunters!

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The Brackett News

The Brackett News (USPS 003987) is an entirely locally owned, independent newspaper published weekly on Thursday for \$20 per year in Kinney County, \$25 outside of county but in Texas, and \$27.50 outside of Texas, by The Brackett News, Inc., 507 S. Ann Street, Brackettville, Texas, 78832, and entered as second class matter at the U.S. Post Office at Brackettville, Texas, under the Act of March 3, 1878.

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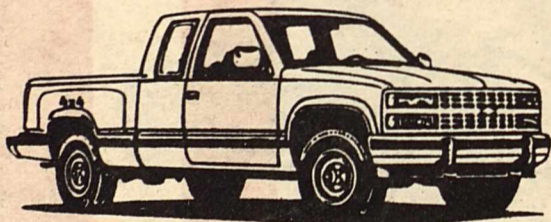
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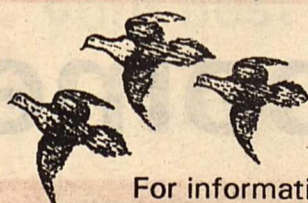


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For information call (210) 563-2961 8-5, M-F, or (210) 563-2077 evenings.

Waste of game and the law on Criminal Trespass

By Henry Lutz
Kinney County Game Warden

During the recent Hunter Education Course, discussion arose regarding some of the laws about hunting, specifically some conflicts in some of the laws such as the following: Waste of game and the law on Criminal Trespass. It was suggested by one of the people in the class that an article on the subject would be appropriate. Also since we had several problems with Criminal Trespass with in the last year or so, I agreed. So here goes.

There is a law that says that a hunter should make a reasonable effort to retrieve the animal or bird that he kills and keep the edible portions in an edible condition. It is a Class C misdemeanor offense to violate this law. (waste of game.) But what happens if the deer or bird that was shot ends up across the fence on a neighboring property. There is a law that says a person commits an offense if he enters or remains

on property without the effective consent of the owner and he had notice that the entry was forbidden or received notice to depart but failed to do so. (Notice is defined as: A. oral or written communication by owner of property or his agent, B. fencing or other enclosure designed to exclude intruders or to contain livestock, C. visible signs posted on the property indicating entry is forbidden, or D. visible presence on the property of a crop grown for human consumption.) It is a Class B misdemeanor offense (worse crime than a Class C.) to violate this law. It is a Class A misdemeanor (worse than a Class C or B) to Trespass while carrying a deadly weapon. So what is a hunter to do?

Again, it is a worse crime to Trespass than to waste game. The correct answer is to let the animal or bird lay and do not cross the fence or enter someone elses property without their permjssion. The hunter is required to make a reasonable effort to contact the neighboring landowner for permission to enter the property and retrieve

his game. (The landowner might even wish to accompany the hunter to make the retrieval.) If he does not know who the landowner is, call someone to find out, including the Sheriff's Department or the Game Warden. They cannot give the hunter permission to go onto the property but can assist in locating the landowner. The hunter (or landowner, if the hunter and landowner are one and the same) should make an effort to know who his/her neighbors are before the hunting seasons start, not after game is lying on the ground across the fence. Another possibility for the hunter who is leasing the land is to contact the

person who they leased the land from and let them contact the neighboring landowner. Finally, if a reasonable effort is made to locate the neighboring landowner or the neighboring landowner says "no" to the hunter's request to retrieve the game, then the hunter has no choice but to leave it lay, in which case there probably would not be a violation committed on the part of the hunter if he truly made a reasonable effort.

For more information on the game laws, consult the Texas Hunting Guide available where licenses are sold or contact your local Game Warden.

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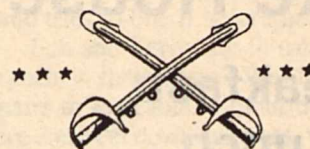
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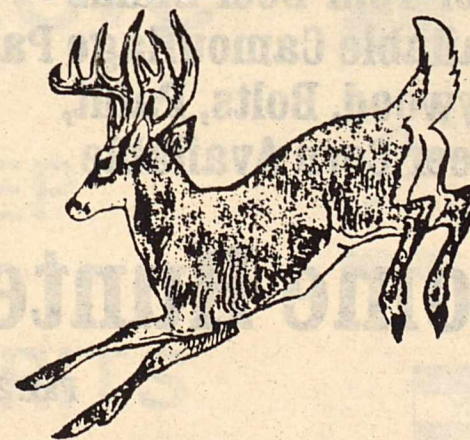
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Filling up a gas can may be dangerous

AKRON, Ohio - Filling up a gas can while it's sitting in the back of your pickup or car can be dangerous. Nearly 30 fires or explosions have been linked to filling gas cans while they are sitting on a plastic surface such as a pickup bedliner or auto carpeting, according to the Oklahoma-based Petroleum Equipment Institute.

In July, a 71-year-old suburban Columbus, Ohio, man was hospitalized with severe burns when a gas can sitting in the back of his hatchback exploded as he tried to fill it.

The problem is static electricity, which can build up as gasoline flows through a hose and into a gas can. If the can is not properly grounded while its being filled, and it's not if it's sitting on plastic, a little zap can ignite the gasoline fumes and cause a fire or explosion.

To avoid the danger, people should place gas cans directly on the ground before they fill them with gasoline and keep the pump nozzle against the side of the can.

Chevron and Exxon stations have already posted warnings on their gas pumps,

and other petroleum companies are planning to follow suit, according to Chris Kelly of the American Petroleum Institute, which is issuing a warning to members this month.

A safety team at Chevron discovered the danger in 1994 during a routine review of incidents at its gas station.

Grounding is the key.

The team discovered a pattern in five incidents at Chevron stations where cans placed on plastic pickup bed liners or in sport utility vehicles had exploded or caught fire while being filled.

Mike Libbey of Chevron explained it this way. Ordinarily, a gas can being filled is grounded in two ways. One is when the can's bottom touches the ground, allowing any charge to dissipate into the earth. The other is when the nozzle of the gasoline hose touches the edge of the can, grounding the can to the pump.

But if the can is sitting on a plastic truck bed liner or synthetic carpeting in a car trunk, the plastic prevents the can from being grounded.

If, at the same time, the gas hose nozzle is moved to the center of the can's opening, so that the nozzle doesn't touch the can at all, the gas can is not grounded at all.

In that situation, it takes only a slight arc of static electricity to trigger an explo-

sion or fire, according to Frank Fire, who teaches a course in the chemistry of hazardous materials at the University of Akron.

Humidity helps

Fire said such explosions are more likely to occur on days when the air is dry, high humidity acts as a conductor of sorts and can disperse static.

Although Chevron sent warnings to others in the petroleum industry and to truck and bedliner manufacturers, little happened until last summer, when three explosions occurred on the same day at stations in Connecticut.

Connecticut officials asked the Petroleum Equipment Institute to explore the problem said group executive vice president Robert Renkes.

Renkes' report, issued in May documented 27 similar incidents involving both metal and plastic gas cans from 1990-1995.

"People have been burned, People have been hurt," Renkes said. "At least half (the incidents) resulted in significant fire damage- the fireball took the canopy and the truck.

■ *Editors Note: This article is printed with the approval from Texas Animal Damage Control Service District Supervisor Uvalde District.*



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Maverick County:

Gus Sorola: 210-773-8255, Armando
Guzman: 210-773-1874 or Sheriff's
Department: 210-773-2321.
Or Operation Game Thief:
1-800-792-GAME.

Deer camp on the Sabinal

The day before deer season opens, every hunter is on the lease. Sammy has cleaned the cabin, washed the dishes that have collected dead bugs since last season, and sprayed insecticide. The hundred plus year old cabin has cracks everywhere, and each year someone is bitten by a mysterious blister bug.

Ben, who had been in camp for a week, has cleaned the old railroad caboose and stocked the pantry. He has created recipes for ranch slime, sotol blossoms, kidney, heart, liver, and the assorted glands of everything from squirrels to hogs. The jury is still out on the "Ubres a la Sabinal."

Jimmy zeros in his rifle, a daily routine. A former Marine sniper, he is never entirely happy with his shots. Sonny fine-tunes the remains of a Willys Jeep. The fenders and hood have rusted out, but it runs, in a cloud of blue smoke. Ken and Mike return from spraying wasp nests in their blinds and putting corn in their feeders. Jug, leaseholder for fifty years, has been driving the memory filled river pasture, conjuring a vision for the morning hunt. Ernie and Trey return from the hills that are hunted by throwing rocks in brushy canyons and running deer out the other side.

It's time for pranks. Inspired by Dan, a practical joker, I put bar-b-que-flavored dog chews in a Ziploc bag. The rawhide

resembles jerky, and while the hunters sample the chews, Jimmy and I return to the pasture. When we get back, two rawhide chews remain in the bag. Ben thought the jerky was stale, so he surreptitiously dropped his in the trash so as not to embarrass me. Kenneth cut off a few bites with his knife before giving up. Sonny ate two pieces. The first tasted so bad he ate another to see if it was better and then reported he had to circle his bunk twice before he could lie down.

Sammy and Ben have fried catfish, hush puppies, and potatoes for dinner. It's tradition. For dessert there is sponge cake with strawberry icing. Except that Jug's piece is sponge with strawberry icing. Unable to cut it with a plastic fork, Jug picks it up and tries to bite it before he catches on.

Eck and Leroy are in camp now. This ranch is their home. We don't make repairs to the cabin without their approval, we don't cut down oak trees, we don't leave trash in their yard, and we leave gates the way we find them. These two men represent the best of Texas to us, and we walk around them with respect.

After dinner, we sit around a bonfire and reminisce. Eck and Leroy describe the days when the spring and the river were the only water on the seven-thousand acre ranch, before the windmill and stock tanks. They tell of putting up fences over rocky

hills, trapping for pocket money, riding out each morning to check the stock for screw-worms.

After Eck and Leroy leave, we talk about the time Jimmy shot a twenty one point buck. His dad bought a case of champagne to toast each point. And the time Dan covered the windows of Jugs blind with black plastic because Jug always got in his blind early and napped until daylight. Jug napped until mid-morning of opening day.

We talk about the big bucks we've seen the big horns that turn into little horns when they hit the ground, the fake turkey that Doc made that everyone shot at least once. We talk about the headless padre who haunts the cabin and the night Bubba was awakened by a screaming woman and baby who stood by his bunk. Bubba thought it was a dream until someone pointed out the boarded over door beside his bunk. And we tell again the story of the woman and baby killed by Indians nearby.

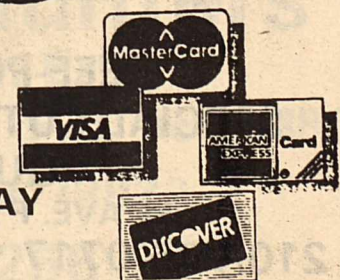
We talk about those who have gone to happier hunting grounds. Doc, who turned every day into an adventure. Sid, who came to the lease when he was too sick to hunt. Jim, who said "Why do you worry?" whenever we complained. Dan, whose ashes line the river. Then we put out the fire and go to bed to dream of the wonderful hunts we've known and all the hunts to come.

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Black Bear sightings on the rise in Texas

AUSTIN - If you judge by recent reported sightings, the black bear could be making a significant comeback in Texas. However, the public interest in an animal often has a way of fueling additional sightings, especially during poor visibility conditions. This is true not only with bears, but with other elusive and intriguing animals, such as mountain lions. In other words, some of the bear reports could be false.

For example, of the 282 reports of black bears from Sept. 1, 1994 through Aug. 31, 1995 TPWD personnel investigated 53 of these. Forty one reports were considered valid, while 12 were considered invalid. Of the total number of reports, 193 sightings and numerous signs of bear activity came from Big Bend National Park. The remainder of the reports came from

scattered places in West Texas and a few from South and East Texas.

Black Bears are not as dangerous as some people might think. For one thing, most of their typical diet is vegetation, so they may pose less of a threat to livestock than some other predators. And like most wild animals, they will seldom approach people.

Annual surveys by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department are used to determine the status of black bears in Texas. The principle investigator is biologist Rick Taylor of Uvalde.

The black bear, *Ursus americanus*, is on the state endangered species list, so it's illegal to harm them, and TPWD biologists encourage people to report bear sightings to Taylor or to the TPWD Wildlife Division in Austin at 1-800-792-1112.

General hunting information

Annual Bag limit: The maximum number of (deer, antelope, turkey, etc.) that may be taken during a license year.

Closed Season: Game animals or non migratory game birds not listed in this guide, the season is closed for that species and no hunting is allowed for that animal or bird.

Daily Bag Limits: The maximum number of (quail, pheasant, squirrel, etc.) that may be killed during the legal shooting hours in one day.

Legal Shooting Hours: Shooting hours for all game animals and nonmigratory game birds is from one half hour before sunrise to one half hour after sunset.

Open Seasons: Dates shown are opening and closing dates for the open season.

The open season includes both dates and all days between. Unless otherwise specified the open season is the "general" season and all legal means, as specified in this guide, may be used in taking the species. Where the open season is designated as "Archery," only legal archery equipment as specified in this guide may be used.

Possession Limit: The maximum number that may be in one person's possession at any time after the first day. On the first day of any open season the possession limit is the same as the daily bag limit. For all wildlife resources taken for personal consumption and for which there is a possession limit (except migratory birds and fur bearing animals), the possession limit shall not apply after the wildlife resource has reached its final destination.

Processing in camp

If there is no cold storage processing facility established on property where hunting occurs, a person may only quarter a deer or pronghorn in the field before the carcass reaches its final destination.

You are allowed to prepare and eat all or part of a wildlife resource while in camp; however, all tagging and identification regulations apply to remaining parts.

A quartered carcass is not more than two forequarters with the leg portion (to the knee) attached to the shoulder blade, two hindquarters (legbones must be attached to the hock) or two backstraps and the trimmings from the neck and rib cage (the boned out neck and rib cage may be discarded).

It is unlawful to possess a deer, pronghorn antelope, pheasant, or turkey (turkey taken in other than an either-sex county) with proof of sex removed. The following

is considered proof of sex and must accompany the carcass until it reaches its final destination and is fully processed: The unskinned head of a buck deer with antlers attached; the unskinned head of an antlerless deer; the unskinned head of a pronghorn antelope; one foot or the entire plumage attached to a pheasant carcass; the beard attached to the breast of a turkey.

The exception to the rule is if the hunter obtains a receipt from a taxidermist or a statement from the landowner or the landowner's agent containing the following information: Name of the person who killed the wildlife resource. Date the wildlife resource was killed and one of the following, as applicable: whether the deer was antlered or antlerless; the sex of the antelope; the sex of the turkey and whether a beard was attached; or the sex of the pheasant.



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Should you go for the bullet with the flatter trajectory for greater accuracy at longer distances, or a bullet that will mushroom perfectly on impact without fragmenting? Too often, a hunter has to choose between accuracy and performance impact, and this choice has to be made before the actual shooting conditions are re-

ally known.

Hornady understands that hunters want a combination of accuracy and dependable performance in a bullet. They've designed their premium InterLock bullet to be the "right" bullet to take into the field for almost any game under any condition.

The science behind bullet design is fascinating. Hornady pioneered the secan to give design in bullets: simply stated, the bullet is extremely pointed but still has plenty of surface to engage the rifling, resulting in added stability, very low drag and flatter tra-

jectory. The company knows that usually the first shot is the best shot and InterLock bullets have shown that one well placed shot is all it takes.

Barry Lukritz, a big game hunter from Australia, agrees that one shot accuracy is hard to beat, "On my African safari, using the InterLock bullet, one shot was all I needed when hunting eland, impala and black wildebeest."

P.J. Pellerino, a deer hunter from Camarillo, California., has had equal success and reports, "I've taken five elk and several black tail and mule deer with

them. I owe my success as much to the bullet I use as to my skill as a hunter.

Well designed bullets give you more than just accuracy. The InterLock ring is locked into the bullet's core, and prevents the core and jacket from separating as the bullet expands, and the one piece core won't separate like a two piece core.

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The result is the classic mush-

room shape, the most efficient shape a bullet can take. All this results in a bullet that retains more mass, energy and momentum after impact, giving the Interlock bullet a deadly reputation among hunters world wide. Hornady's InterLock bullets take the guess work out of choosing a bullet.

Serious hunters all over the world have decided that InterLock is the reliable choice for any hunting situation, and the bullets live up to their expectations. This Fall whether you're going after white-tails or wildebeest, be sure to choose the right bullet.

Hunter Education

Every hunter (including out of state hunters) born on or after September 2, 1971, must successfully complete a Hunter Education Training Course.

If you were born on or after September 2, 1971, and you are: age 17 and over, you must successfully complete a hunter education course; age 12 through 16, you must successfully complete a hunter education course or be accompanied by a licensed hunter 17 years of age or older; under 12 years of age, you must be ac-

companied by a licensed hunter 17 years of age or older.

Minimum age of certification is 12 years and cost of certification is \$10. Proof of certification is required to be on your person while hunting; it is not required to purchase a license.

For course information or exemptions, please contact your local TPWD Law Enforcement office; call Austin at 512-389-4999 or call toll-free 1-800-792-1112 (select course information menu).

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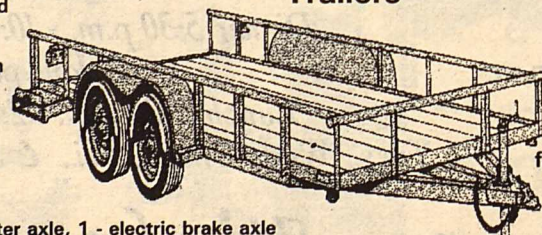


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The turkey limit in Kinney County is four per license year. The general season, either sex, is from Nov. 9 to Jan. 19. south of U.S. Highway 90, and from Nov. 2 to Jan. 5 north of U.S. Highway 90. The spring season, which includes only gobblers, is from Mar. 29 to May 4. TPWD Photo



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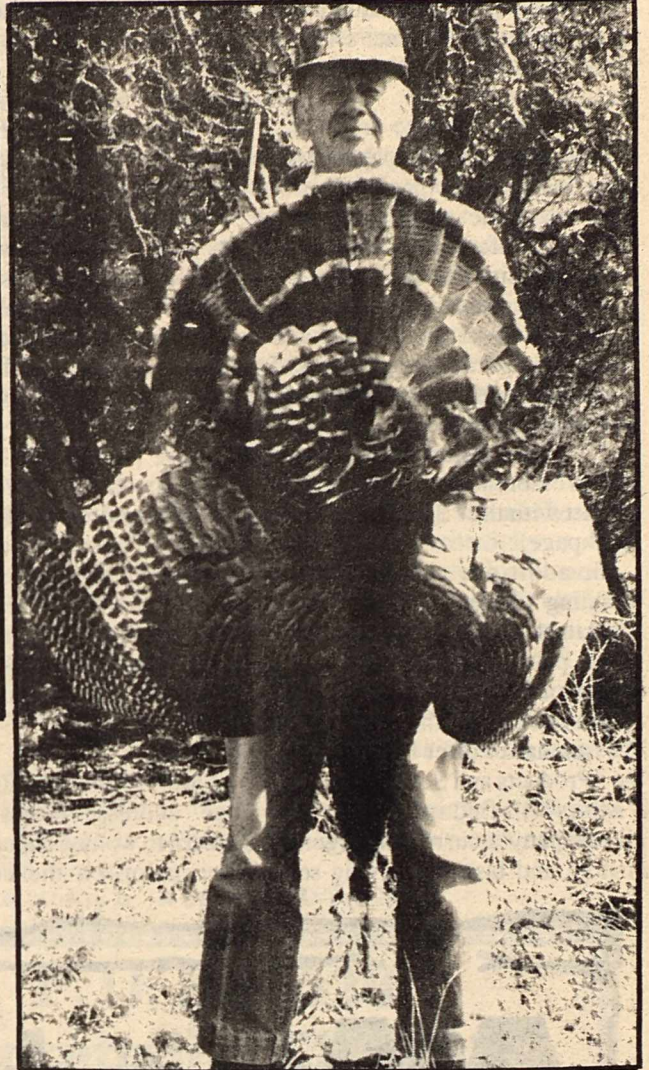
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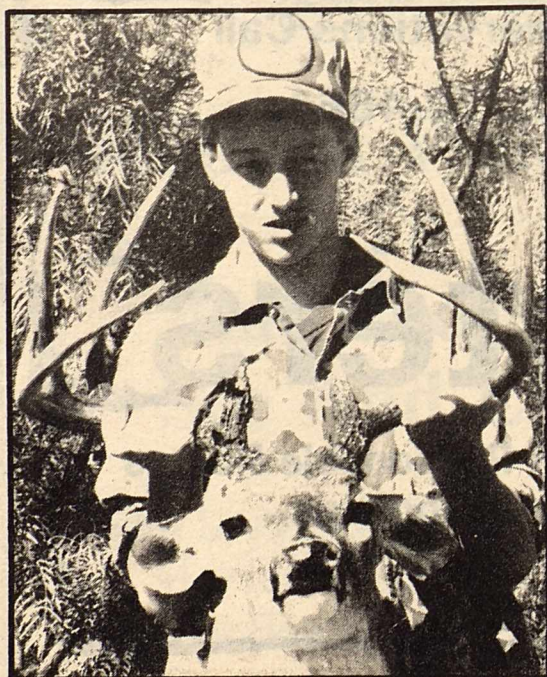
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Smith & Wesson takes aim at web page

Smith & Wesson, the worlds largest manufacturer of handguns for sporting, law enforcement and military use, recently announced its arrival on the Internet's World Wide Web at <http://www.smith-wesson.com>.

From apparel to the latest products, the new web page will provide users the connection to a wealth of information on all aspects of Smith and Wesson.

Firearm ownership comes with a number of responsibilities and among these are knowing and practicing safe handgun handling and storage rules.

First time visitors to the Smith and Wesson Web site are urged to start with the "Safety and Storage" page.

In addition, the "National Training Center" page provides the latest information from the oldest private training facility in the country.

Discover all that Smith & Wesson has to offer by exploring the "Products and Services" page. Visitors will find information on all company's current handguns, custom and laser engraving ser-

vices, the Smith and Wesson Performance Center, The Firearms Training Center and a complete catalog of apparel and accessories. See "What's Hot" for a look at the very latest from Smith and Wesson. Frequent visitors will see and read about the newest products before they become available on the market.

The Law Enforcement community will find information on the most popular handguns in the line. They will also find helpful information on Smith & Wesson handcuffs, the Identi-Kit facial composite system and Law Enforcement training.

There is a special area, "For New Shooters," where browsers can learn more about the basics of firearm usage. Learn about choosing the right handgun, training at the Smith & Wesson Academy, caring for firearms and much more. A glossary of terms relevant to the shooting world is also provided.

The "Women's Range and Page" addresses issues of special concern to women shooters. From information on the company's

LadySmith line to tips on how to make the right selection then shopping for equipment or looking for training, this section will provide the answers.

In the "Customer Assistance" section, visitors will find information on a variety of services, including a listing of all Warranty Repair Centers world wide. In addition, consumers can check the complete state by state listing of stocking dealers or have their questions answered in the "Q&A" section.

The Smith and Wesson Library is also a great resource of information on the company, yesterday and today.

For optimum graphics recall and ease of use, Netscape 2.0 is the search engine recommended for accessing the Smith & Wesson World Wide Web site.

Founded in 1852, Smith & Wesson is the largest manufacturer of quality handguns. For information on all products and services call (800) 331-0852 or visit the Smith & Wesson home page at <http://www.smith-wesson.com>.

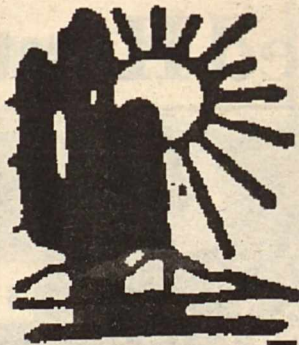


Nesther Castro, 11, shows off the wild hog that his father, Lazaro Castro, shot on the Leona Ranch. The hog weighed in at over 300 pounds.

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Snake bite - It can happen to you

To a person bitten by a poisonous snake, it's little consolation that fewer than three people die of snakebites in Texas each year. Despite the odds, you or a companion could be bitten.

As with any other accident, panic is the first thing to overcome, panic which could be lessened by knowing beforehand what to do in such a crisis. Armed with common sense, a few facts about snakebites, venom and first-aid care, you can survive a bite from a poisonous snake or help a companion survive.

Of course, the best care for snakebites is prevention through knowledge of the reptiles' habits and how to avoid the dangerous ones. But, let's assume that in spite of all your precautions, you or someone along with you on an outing has been bitten by a snake. First, identification of the snake is important. Of the 113 species and subspecies of snakes found in Texas, only 15 are potentially dangerous to man. Ten of these are rattlesnakes, three are copperheads, one a cottonmouth and one a coral snake.

A snakebite victim can save himself a great deal of anxiety if he can make proper identification of a snake and its bite and distinguish between venomous and nonvenomous ones. There are a number of good reference books available which describe and picture reptiles common to Texas.

Some are listed at the end of this article.

Identification of the snake is essential in any snakebite incident since it determines the nature of treatment or even whether treatment is required. If it is possible to do so without additional risk or delay, the snake should be killed and taken to the hospital with the victim. This should be done with extreme caution, since reflex action can cause a snake to strike even after it has been killed.

To make certain that a poisonous snake and not a harmless one has caused the bite, first examine the wound for teeth marks. With the exception of a coral snake, the pattern from a typical bite by a poisonous snake will reveal two distinctly larger holes where the fangs have entered the skin. In addition, there may be two rows of small tooth perforations below the first group.

But don't depend on a clear bite pattern. If the snake pulls to one side as it disengages the fangs after a strike, the result is a series of scratch marks instead of punctures. There also is the possibility the snake will engage only a single fang; or perhaps during fang replacement two fangs could be temporarily in position on one or both sides of the upper jaw.

Coral snakes lack the two prominent fangs of pit vipers and it's more difficult to distinguish their bites from those of nonpoisonous snakes. Since the coral snake

imbeds its smaller fangs, frequently with a chewing motion, the pattern created by its bite may be groups of closely spaced punctures where the fangs have entered the flesh a number of different times.

A clearly defined, harmless snakebite pattern consists of uniformly small punctures, and always without fang holes. If the bite pattern is that of a poisonous snake, it's possible no poison was injected. Such dry bites have been reported in up to one-third of snakebite cases.

Symptoms of pit viper bites - rattlesnakes, copperheads and cottonmouths - generally can be divided into three broad categories. The first category is one in which there are no symptoms because of no envenomization. Moderate symptoms include mild swelling, discoloration, moderate pain at the bite site, tingling sensations, rapid pulse, weakness, dimness of vision, nausea, vomiting and shortness of breath. Severe symptoms include rapid swelling, numbness, severe pain at the bite site, pinpoint pupils, twitching, slurred speech, shock, convulsions, paralysis, unconsciousness and absence of breathing or pulse.

Venom from a coral snake is highly toxic and most of the symptoms are systemic and delayed, possibly for hours. Euphoria, drowsiness, nausea and vomiting may appear early. Excessive salivation usually is

present, not so much from the overproduction of saliva, but rather from a reduced ability to swallow. Other serious symptoms develop within several hours, well beyond the normal time required to get the victim to a hospital.

Snake venoms are complex substances. As a general rule, pit viper venom strongly affects capillaries and red blood cells. Coral snake venom affects the nervous, respiratory and cardiovascular systems.

Even after it's certain the bite is from a poisonous snake, it isn't immediately possible to predict the course it will follow. Severity of each case of snake bite poisoning depends on how quickly the symptoms progress, which in turn determines the type of first aid to be administered.

Several factors must be taken into consideration: the victim's age, size and health; any allergy complex and sensitivity to protein poisoning; victim's emotional condition; location of the bite on the victim; amount of fang penetration and venom injection; number of times bitten; kind and size of the snake; whether or not the snake has recently fed (and injected venom into a prey species); and condition of the snake's fangs.

There are six basic steps to be followed in first aid treatment for poisonous snakes.

■ See SPEED/PAGE 15



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Black Bear shooting in West Texas

AUSTIN- State and federal wildlife officials are investigating the shooting death of a protected black bear in Maverick County near the U.S. Mexico border and are considering charges under the federal Endangered Species Act.

The incident occurred September 30th and involved a rancher who admitted having shot the bear in his pecan orchard. Acting on a tip received by Texas Parks and Wildlife Department law enforcement officials, Texas game wardens Capt. Bill Hellums and Dennis Gazaway of Uvalde began investigating the case. Wardens

Gustavo R. Soroja Jr. and Armando Guzman of Eagle Pass went to the ranch the following day and recovered the bear's head and hide as case evidence.

Federal charges for violation of the Endangered Species Act are being considered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, according to senior resident agent Jim Stinebaugh in San Antonio. The penalty for killing a federally protected animal is a fine up to \$100,000 and /or up to one year in prison. Because the black bear is also protected under Texas law, a Class C misdemeanor case could also be filed in state

court which carries a fine of \$25-500 and \$1,800 restitution.

Examination of the bear's remains by TPWD experts indicate the animal was a female black bear, approximately 15 years old, and weighed about 175 pounds. There was no evidence of reproduction and officials do not believe the bear was accompanied by a cub.

TPWD officials said the bear could have been the same animal which had reportedly been sighted in recent weeks near the Mexican town of San Isidro, but added they have no means of verification.

According to TPWD bear expert Rick Taylor, "We've had a half dozen reports along this area of the border throughout the summer. Supposedly, there was a bear going around killing livestock in Mexico, but I have no way to validate those reports and question the accuracy. Typically, bears are not active killers and with habitat conditions as they are right now, there's not going to be bears looking for food; everything is so green and lush, there's no need."

Last week's shooting is the second reported occurrence of a black bear being killed in Texas this year. A black bear was killed along a highway near Alpine earlier this summer, and the case is still under investigation.

"I think it's really sad that our department spends so much time and effort trying to educate the public about the impor-

tance of respecting wildlife and there are still those individuals out there who still don't know," said Albert Gonzalez, TPWD law enforcement regional commander for South Texas.

Taylor said the last known bear killing case prosecuted in Texas came in 1978 and involved a Frio County incident where a male black bear was chased by dogs and shot. The outlaws bragged of the kill to the extent of having their picture appear in a local newspaper, which amounted to a confession of guilt.

Prior to 1983, several counties in West Texas still allowed bear hunting. In 1987, the black bear was listed by Texas Parks and Wildlife as an endangered species. Black bears received federal protection in Texas in 1992.

According to Taylor, numerous reports of bear sightings are received each year by TPWD and as populations expand in Mexico and throughout the Big Bend region, more contact with humans is expected.

"People don't understand the bear," Taylor noted. "People have been living in fear after hearing these big, bad bear stories all their lives. But, bears are more of a pest than anything and if you provide proper habitat on your land, you probably won't have a problem. They're secretive animals who'd prefer to avoid human contact if at all possible."



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Prepare for hunting season now

By Henry Lutz
Kinney County Game Warden

The days are getting shorter. The temperatures are beginning to cool down just a little. Can the hunting season be far behind? Preparations for a successful and promising hunting season are in full swing all across Texas.

But before you load up the truck and head to the pasture, take a few minutes to learn, or refresh your memory, about the rules and regulations that govern the game animals and game birds that we seek to put on the dinner table.

Here are just a few reminders: First of all, buy your license and all necessary stamps. A hunting license is required for everyone hunting regardless of age. For hunters under age 17, no stamps are required, only the \$6 Special Resident Hunting license is needed. Remember, you must have your hunting license and state issued driver's license or identification (if 17 years of age or older) with you at all times while you are hunting. If you were born on or after September 2, 1971 and you are 17 and over, you must successfully complete a hunter education course and carry proof of certification with you while hunting. Also, remember to tag your game, if required, using the appropriate tag. Tag the deer or turkey immediately upon kill, filling out all the blanks on the tag and cutting out, not marking out the dates.

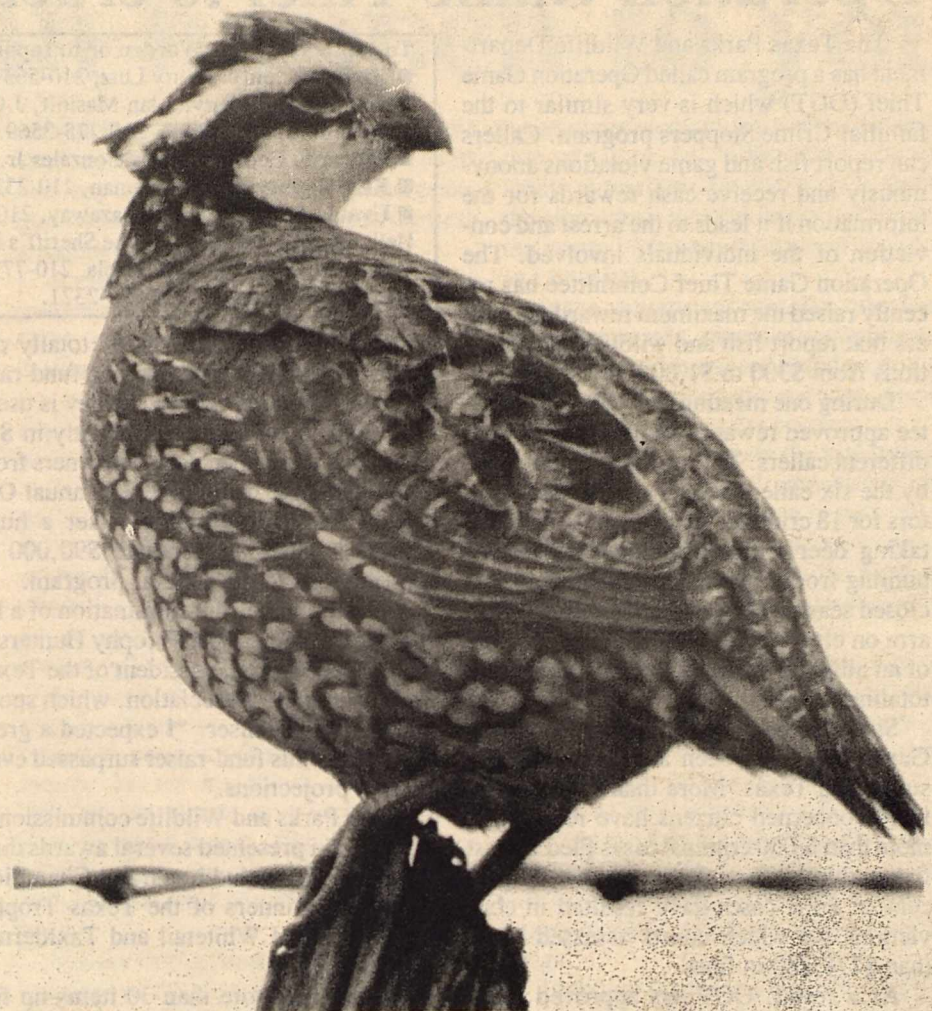
Whether you are deer, turkey, or dove hunting, determine the county or counties, and which part of that county, where you plan to hunt. Check the county listings in the Texas Hunting Guide and any pamphlet for the season dates and bag limits for that area. In many cases there are 2 or maybe 3 different season dates in 1 county.

Hunting times are based on official sunrise and sunset times available from the National Weather Service. The official sunrise and sunset times are different depending on the part of the state in which you are hunting. Shooting hours for all game animals and non migratory game birds is from one half hour before sunrise to one half hour after sunset. For migratory birds (doves, ducks, etc.) the shooting hours are different and dependent on the species and seasons. Check the Texas Hunting Guide and Migratory Bird Hunting regulations for more information.

If you are on a hunting lease, be sure that there is a Hunting Lease License or copy thereof and a hunting lease record book for your camp. Every hunter on the lease must fill out the lease record book according to the instructions in the record book.

Finally, we all want to enjoy the hunting seasons and the abundant Texas wildlife. But there are a few individuals who take more than their share or who violate the laws to obtain their share.

■ See PREPARE EARLY/Page 14



The statewide quail season lasts from Nov. 2 to Feb 23. Hunters may take 15 quail per day, 45 in possession. TPWD Photo



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Operation Game Thief to crack down on fish and game violators

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department has a program called Operation Game Thief (OGT) which is very similar to the familiar Crime Stoppers program. Callers can report fish and game violations anonymously and receive cash rewards for the information if it leads to the arrest and conviction of the individuals involved. The Operation Game Thief Committee has recently raised the maximum reward for callers that report fish and wildlife law violations from \$300 to \$1,000.

During one meeting, the OGT Committee approved rewards totaling \$2,050 to 6 different callers. The information provided by the six callers helped convict 10 violators for 18 criminal violations that included taking deer without landowner consent, hunting from a public road, killing deer in closed season, hunting with an illegal firearm on closed area, and illegal possession of an alligator in closed season, with fines totaling \$5,140.

Since its inception in 1981, Operation Game Thief has been an unquestionable success in Texas. More than 17,600 calls from concerned citizens have resulted in more than 6,000 criminal cases filed against fish and wildlife violators. About 98 percent of these cases have resulted in convictions for which courts assessed more than \$778,780 in fines.

As a result, OGT has approved more than \$100,000 in rewards for callers. Many people may not realize that Operation Game Thief, although a program of TPWD, is a

To contact a Game Warden or to report poaching, call:

- Kinney County: Henry Lutz, 210-563-2507, 210-563-2788, 210-775-3569.
- Val Verde County: Alan Masloff, J.C. Flores, Mack Caudle, or Marco Alvizo, 210-774-7513, 210-774-2733, 210-775-3569.
- Edwards County: Albert Gonzales Jr., 210-683-4104.
- Real County: Shane Hohman, 210-232-5201.
- Uvalde County: Dennis Gazaway, 210-278-5279; Jimmy Mangum, 210-966-3773; Bill Hellums, 210-278-4739, or the Sheriff's Department, 210-278-4111.
- Maverick County: Gus Sorola, 210-773-8255; Armando Guzman, 210-773-1874; or the Sheriff's Department, 210-773-2321.

charitable organization that is totally dependant on private donations and fund-raisers to pay rewards. No tax money is used.

A fund-raiser was held recently in San Antonio as sportsmen and landowners from across the state made the first annual Operation Game Thief Fund-raiser a huge success by helping generate \$90,000 in contributions to the popular program.

"The event was the culmination of a lot of effort from the Texas Trophy Hunters," said Jerry Johnston, president of the Texas Trophy Hunters Association, which sponsored the fund-raiser. "I expected a great benefit, but this fund-raiser surpassed even my best projections."

Texas Parks and Wildlife commissioner Nolan Ryan presented several awards during the event, including Grand Champion Awards to winners of the Texas Trophy Hunters annual Whitetail and Taxidermy competition.

Among the more than 30 items up for bid during the auction were several hunts and pieces of wildlife art.

Even with Game Wardens putting in

countless hours out in the field, it is necessary for everyone who cares about wildlife, the outdoors, or the future of hunting, to report any violations that they see or have any knowledge about, and to report the violation or suspected violation immediately.

When calling, give as much information as you can, such as license numbers, vehicle color and description, exact loca-

tion of violation and names or numbers of people involved.

Just as any other law enforcement agency depends on the citizens of the town to report suspicious activity or crimes that they see, we depend on the additional eyes and ears of the people of Texas to help us stop illegal poaching activities and as you can see, it works!

So, who you gonna call? The toll free, 24 hour number to call and report a game violation (OGT) is 1-800-792-GAME. You don't have to give your name if you don't want to. Of course, you can always contact your local Game Warden anytime to provide the same information and that toll free, 24 hour number is 563-2507 or 563-2788. Remember, if you see a violation of any kind, game violation or any other crime, the key is to report it immediately.

Prepare early for hunting season

■ Continued from Page 13

They are called poachers. If you know of a poacher or of poaching activity or other game law violations, report them, anonymously if you wish, to Operation Game Thief by calling 1-800-792-GAME or contact your local game warden.

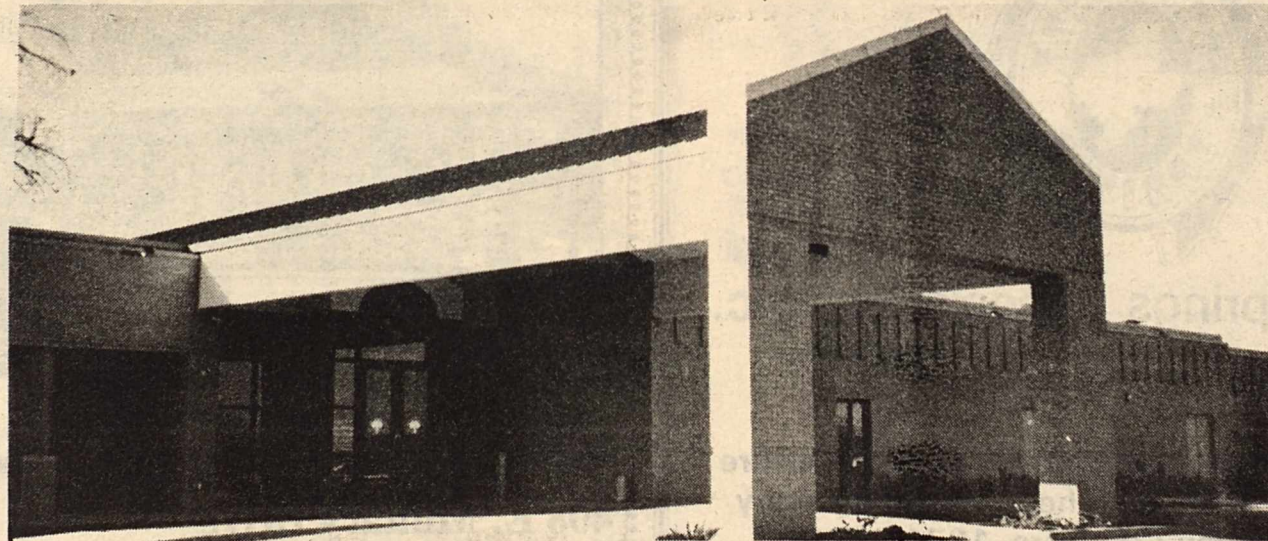
Of course, this is by no means a complete listing of all game laws. Pick up a copy of the Texas Hunting Guide and any of the Migratory Bird pamphlets available where you buy your license or contact your

local game warden for more information.

This year, take your children along or, with parents permission, the child of a friend or neighbor. Introduce them to the great outdoors and all that nature has to offer this time of year. Remember, the children are our future. There is a saying that goes something like: If you take your kids hunting, you won't have to hunt for your kids.


Hope you have a SAFE and successful hunt.

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Speed is very important in treating snake bites

■ Continued from Page 11

First-aid procedures outlined here are conservative and generally in accordance with those recommended by the National Academy of Sciences.

1. Keep the victim calm and preferably in the prone position.

2. Keep the victim quiet with a minimum of movement.

3. Immobilize the bitten limb with an improvised splint and keep it below the level of the heart.

4. Check for symptoms; if symptoms of a poisonous snakebite are absent, get the victim to the nearest medical facility as quickly as possible. While on the way continue to monitor the victim for symptoms. If none appear and a hospital can be reached in an hour or two this is as far as first aid need be carried.

5. A constricting band should be used if mild to moderate symptoms are present and the nearest medical facility is no farther than one to two hours away. The band is a loose tourniquet placed some two to four inches above the bite site but not around a joint such as the elbow, knee, wrist or ankle; and not around the trunk, head or neck.

The band should be made of some broad material - belt, rag or strap - about a half-inch to an inch wide. Keep it loose enough to slip a finger underneath. This will inhibit the flow of lymph and superficial venous blood but arterial blood flow will not be seriously impeded. To be certain the band is loose enough, periodically check the pulse below the bite site. Transport the victim to the hospital but continue to monitor for pulse and onset of additional symptoms.

More drastic steps are called for if severe symptoms are present or if medical facilities are several hours away.

6. Incision and suction must begin immediately. Only during the first 30 minutes after a bite can much venom be removed by incision and suction. Up to 50 percent can be removed by the technique if started within the first three minutes of the bite.

With a sterilized blade, cut through each fang mark along the long axis of the limb. Make each cut no deeper than just through the skin and about a quarter- to half-inch long, but never longer than the suction device to be used. Never make a cross cut or an incision on the head, neck or trunk. If an antiseptic solution is available, swab the skin with it before making cuts.

Use your mouth if no suction device is available. Avoid swallowing the venom and rinse your mouth frequently. There is very little danger to the rescuer who uses mouth suction.

Remember, speed is important. To be effective, suction has to be started immediately.

These are the basics of first aid for

snakebites. Other factors should not be overlooked, many of which could have effects as harmful to the victim as snake venom. If there are signs of shock, keep the victim prone and comfortable and maintain body temperature. If breathing stops, give mouth-to-mouth resuscitation. When both breathing and pulse stop, cardiopulmonary resuscitation. When both breathing and pulse stop, cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) should be administered by a qualified person.

Use of cold compress, ice, dry ice, chemical ice packs, spray refrigerants and other methods of cooling the bite are not recommended. The cold can damage tissues. Do not give alcohol, sedative, aspirin or other medications.

A small, compact snakebite kit is a necessity if traveling into isolated areas where snakes are likely to be encountered and where medical facilities cannot easily be reached. Essential components of a kit are constricting band, lancet or other sharp blade and suction apparatus. Less essential but desirable are antiseptic solutions, adhesive bandages and an ammonia ampule to revive the victim who has fainted.

It might seem insignificant, but remember to remove all rings, bracelets and other jewelry. Swelling could make it impossible to remove them later.

Since more than 98 percent of the snakebites in the United States are from pit vipers, most of what has been mentioned is first aid to minimize the residual effects of their bites. Coral snakes account for very few bites, but such bites can be very serious.

The first five steps in first aid for pit vipers should be taken to treat coral snake bites. Keep the victim prone and calm, restrict his activity, immobilize the bitten limb, apply constricting band and transport to the nearest medical facility. Incision and suction are not considered effective first aid for coral snakes' bites.

Severe envenomization by a very large pit viper or an exotic snake, such as a cobra or krait, calls for use of a tight occluding tourniquet. This is to be done as an immediate life-saving measure or when treatment facilities for a lesser bite are many hours away. You should realize, however, the bitten limb in this extreme case likely will require amputation as a result.

But these cases are isolated and extremely rare; the information presented here is intended to describe first-aid care for most snakebites which could happen in Texas.

There is a great deal of polarity existing between responsible, knowledgeable dedicated members of the medical profession on snakebite first aid and clinical treatment. Calmness and common sense should help the victim or rescuer decide what to do and rule out those procedures which would be ineffective or excessively risky to the victim.



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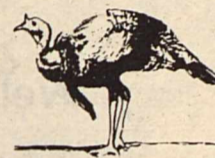
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Wildlife officials predict average year for bowhunters

AUSTIN- For some 75,000 Texas bowhunters who'll take part in this year's archery-only deer season, recent rainfall across most of the state may force some changes in strategy, according to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD).

Bowhunters who've been providing supplemental feeding for deer through the drought could be barking up the wrong treestand on opening morning as an

above average mast crop in East Texas and recent onset of forb production will likely push deer to newfound browse.

The archery-only season for white-tailed deer runs Sept. 28 through Oct. 27 in all counties with a general white-tailed deer season, and in Grayson County.

Typically, the success rate for Texas bowhunters is about 15 percent, or only three percent of the overall whitetail harvest in Texas,

which accounts for between 15,000 to 20,000 deer killed statewide, according to TPWD.

But, as any bowhunter will confirm, "The harvest is always going to be low, just because of the high skill level required to get a shot at a deer," said Butch Young, TPWD whitetail deer program leader.

And, according to Young, the habits of some hunters may need to change in order to get close to deer

"I look for deer to be in good physical condition because there are a lot of forbs growing since the last rain. But, the rains have come much too late to contribute to antler growth. There will be some trophy bucks, but fewer than usual."

Pleasanton biologist Joe Herrera

this season.

Due to decent amounts of rainfall throughout the Edwards Plateau and in East Texas in July and August, deer may not be as susceptible to food plots and feeders, especially during bow season.

"Native foods will probably be more productive than supplemental food plots or feeders because recent rains have increased forb production," said Young.

Field reports from around the state echo Young's assessment and many biologists are noting a decline in fawn production due to the drought.

"The drought has obviously reduced numbers in

the central and western parts of the Edwards Plateau," said Kerrville-based biologist Max Traeweek. "But, counties such as San Saba, McCulloch, Lampasas and Coryell are holding up good on fawn numbers. The rains have brought a lot of forbs and I expect deer body conditions to be good for bow season."

One effect from the drought which will probably be evident in South Texas is a lack of antler growth, according to Pleasanton biologist Joe Herrera.

"I look for deer to be in good physical condition because there are a lot of forbs growing since the last rain. But, the rains have come

much too late to contribute to antler growth. There will be some trophy bucks, but fewer than usual."

Although providing supplemental food sources for deer has become routine for many hunters in Texas, there are some concerns which should be considered.

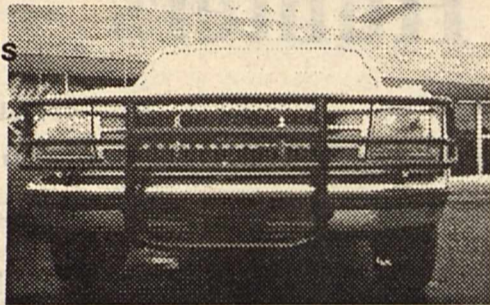
Hunters who prefer to use corn as supplemental deer food are encouraged to keep it as dry as possible, due to the potential threat of aflatoxins.

Aflatoxin is a strain of mold which grows in corn under humid conditions and can be extremely deadly when ingested by birds and mammals. Because growing conditions for aflatoxins can be created when corn is stored in areas of high moisture content, poorly constructed wildlife feeders that allow corn to get wet can cause an increase in toxicity.

All bowhunters must purchase the \$7 Archery Stamp in addition to possessing a valid Texas Hunting License.

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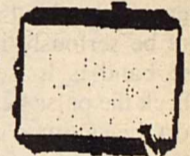
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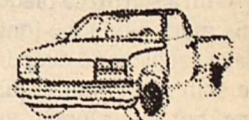


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Deer hunting outlook good, despite drought

Recent rainfall provides "jump start" heading into season

AUSTIN - It is no big news that Texas was subjected to a drought in 1996, but the dry conditions are at an end almost everywhere in the state and the prospects for the 1996-97 whitetail deer hunting season look good.

Even though the drought has had an effect on this year's fawn crop, Texans can again expect good deer hunting in much of the state. Late summer thunderstorms brought rain and much-needed forbs to deer.

The general gun season for whitetail deer runs Nov. 2 through Jan. 5 north of Highway 90, and lasts from Nov. 9 to Jan. 19 south of Highway 90.

"Many ranchers reduced livestock numbers to allow for the drought," said Butch Young, white-tailed deer program leader for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD). "The reduction in livestock may help create better conditions for white-tailed deer."

Young said deer managers should follow the example of ranchers and reduce deer numbers if deer habitat is obviously suffering from overuse.

Recent rainfall across much of the state has provided a "jump start" for deer with new forb production and may give a green and healthy impression to the landscape.

"The recent rains came a time when late acorns were developing and there are good acorn crops in much of the state."

Butch Young

But, a closer inventory of browse plant species during the upcoming weeks and months will provide land managers with a better indicator of available food supplies for wildlife.

"The recent rains came at a time when late acorns were developing and there are good acorn crops in much of the state," Young said. "Broad-leafed plants are also looking good and as a result, deer may not be as likely to visit feeders during the early part of the season. We can only hope this is the end of the dry cycle."

Deer managers should strive for lower doe numbers in most areas to help provide adequate forage for the remaining deer should food sources appear to be running thin.

The following is a regional outlook for the upcoming 1996-97 deer hunting season in Texas based on field observations by TPWD biologists.

South Texas

This has been a poor year for moisture in South Texas and the country was in its "worst shape in years" during the spring, according to biologists.

Food plots should be productive with recent rainfall.

"Good antler production can still be expected on managed ranches where deer numbers have been lowered and moisture is available," District Leader Joe Herrera said.

Hunting prospect: Down from 1995.

Edwards Plateau

Long recognized as the state's most productive area for deer, the Hill Country has suffered from the drought conditions. Past increases in the population, however, have pushed numbers higher than the habitat can easily support. Especially with the lack of rain, deer numbers need to be reduced to bring them within the capability of the habitat to support them.

"There may be fewer fawns than usual, but prospects are good for hunting in the Plateau," Biologist Max Traweck said.

Artificial feeders, water sources, and planted fields may not be as productive. This is a good time for ranchers to reduce deer numbers.

Hunting prospect: Better than 1995.

Oak Prairie

The acorn crop is a factor in deer production in the Oak Prairie and can also affect hunter success.

The dry spring of 1996 did not produce a good acorn crop.

District Leader Bob Carroll thinks antler development and deer numbers will be lower because of the drought.

Hunting prospect: Below 1995.

Trans-Pecos

The Trans-Pecos in far western Texas has been a victim of a six-year drought, but recent rains have improved conditions.

"White-tailed deer numbers are down, and antlers will not be as large on areas which have suffered from the dry spell," Biologist Mike Hobson said.

West Texas deer managers should consider reducing deer numbers to allow for the extensive dry weather.

Hunting prospect: Below last year.

Post Oak

Sporadic light spring rains and late summer rains produced good forage. Drought conditions reduced fawn survival in most of the Post Oak and antler quality will decline slightly.

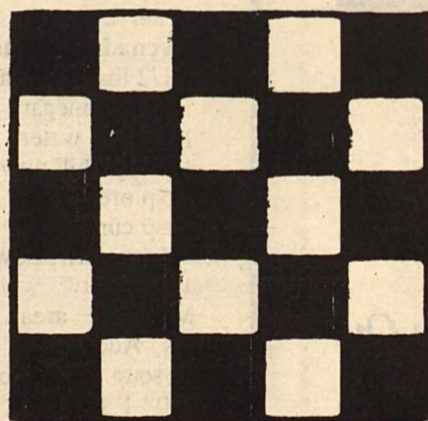
Deer entered the drought period with good fat reserves.

■ See OUTLOOK/Page 21

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Recipes

Venison Calzones

8 ounces ground venison
(or other ground meat)

1/4 cup finely chopped
onion

1/4 cup finely chopped
green pepper

1 clove garlic, minced

1 (8 oz) can tomato sauce

2 cups shredded mozza-
rella cheese (about 8 oz)

2 (11 oz) pkg refrigerated
bread stick dough

In skillet, over medium-
high heat, cook ground
meat, onion, pepper and
garlic until meat is no longer
pink, stirring to break up
meat; pour off fat. Add to-
mato sauce and steak sauce.
Heat to a boil; reduce heat
to low. Cook for 5 minutes
or until slightly thickened.
Remove from heat; stir in
cheese. Cool for at least 15
minutes.

Divide each package of
dough into 8 strips. Using
2 strips for each, roll dough
into 8 circles, pressing
edges well to seal. Pat or
roll out to 6 inch circles.
Place 1/2 cup beef mixture
in center of each circle.
Brush dough edges lightly
with water; fold dough
over, sealing well with tines
of fork. Place on lightly
floured baking sheet; cut 3
to 4 slits in top of each
calzone. Bake on lowest
oven rack at 400° F for 17
to 18 minutes or until
browned. Cool for 10 min-
utes. Serve warm.

Venado-Adobado

1 1/2 lbs Venison steak

1/4 cup vinegar

1 1/2 cup water

1/4 cup chili powder

1 tsp oregano

1 tsp cumin

1/4 tsp garlic powder

1 tbsp salt

Marinate meat 12-24
hours. Add can of mush-
room soup. Bake uncovered
at 300° F for 1 1/2 hours.
Watch that it does not bake
dry. Add water if necessary.

Chili con Carne

de Venado

2 lbs Venison chili meat

1/4 cup corn oil

2 tbsp chili powder

1 can tomatoes

1 tbsp salt

1 large onion, sliced

1/2 green pepper chopped

1/2 tsp garlic powder

1 tsp comino

1 tsp oregano

8 coriander seeds

Saute onions and green
pepper. Flour meat and
brown well. Add other in-
gredients and simmer for
one hour. Add one can pinto
beans if desired.

Deer Jerky Use some of
your trimmings (or a more
tender cut) to make Jerky.
Store the finished product in
zip-lock bags or other air-
tight containers.

Venison - any cut sliced
into strips 1/4 to 3/8 inch
thick

1/2 cup soy sauce 2 tsp
Accent 2/3 tsp garlic pow-
der 1/2 cup worcestershire
1 tsp seasoned salt 2 tsp
onion powder 2/3 tsp black
pepper

Mix all the above ingre-
dients well to make the
marinate. Soak the strips
overnight. Lay the mari-
nated strips on oven rack.
Cook 6 - 8 hours at 150 de-
grees.

Ranch Biscuits

1 pkg yeast dissolved in
1/2 cup warm water

1/2 cup cooking oil

1/3 cup sugar

2 tsp salt

4 tsp baking powder

1/2 tsp soda

2 cups buttermilk

4 1/2 cups flour

Stir all ingredients to-
gether, then add 4 1/2 cups
flour, mix well. Make into
biscuits and let rise, then
bake at 400° until golden
brown.

Aluminum Foil Cooking

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need for these easy meal
ideas.

Foiled hamburger

Form 4 oz of hamburger
into a thick cake. Cut 1 po-
tato into strips. Peel and
slice 1 onion. Cut 1 medium
carrot into sticks. Place all
on a piece of foil. Season.
Seal foil into a package.
Place on coals and cook for
15 minutes.

Stew

Cut 4 oz beef into bit-
sized cubes. Place on foil
with 1 cubed potato, 1 quar-
tered onion, and 1 sliced
carrot. Season, wrap, and
cook 20 minutes

Steak and potatoes

Place 1 potato and 1 on-
ion, peeled and sliced, on
foil. Dab with butter and
season. Wrap and cook 15
minutes. Place an 8 oz steak

on foil directly on the coals.
Cook a 1 inch steak 3-5 min-
utes on each side for rare,
5-7 minutes for medium, 7-
9 minutes for well done.

Chicken and corn roast

Smear with butter 2 ears
of corn, 1 drumstick, and 1
thigh. Season and wrap
separately. Cook chicken on
coals for 20 minutes, corn
10 minutes.

Baked fish

Wrap 1 or 2 slices of bac-
con around fish. Wrap and
bake on coals 15 to 20 min-
utes.

Biscuits

Prepare biscuits accord-
ing to recipe. Wrap loosely
in greased foil. Bake 6 to
10 minutes. Turn halfway
through baking.

Baked Onions

1 large white onion per
person beef bouillon cubes
or granules worcestershire
sauce grated cheese (op-
tional) Foil

Peel onion and cut 1/2
inch off from top. Core, tak-
ing care not to cut a hole in
the bottom. Place one on-
ion on a square of foil, then
fill core with 1 bouillon
cube or tsp of granules and
1 tsp worcestershire sauce.
Top with grated cheese.
Wrap foil up and around
onion and twist top closed.
Bake on a cookie sheet 1
hour at 350° open carefully
to avoid steam.

Bundled Potatoes

On a 10 inch square of
foil, place a potato cut into
1/2 inch slices, a 1/4 slice
of onion, and 1 tbsp of but-
ter. Season with salt and
pepper. Fold and twist foil
to cover. Bake on hot coals
or on grill 45 minutes.

Baked Apples

Core and fill an apple
with sugar, raisins, and
nuts. Wrap in foil. Bake on
hot coals until soft.

Pork Pockets

1 pork chop per person
1 potato per person 1 carrot
per person 1 onion per per-
son preferred seasonings

On a sheet of foil, place
sliced potato, carrot, and
onion on top of pork chop.
Season, wrap shiny side in
and bake 1 hour at 325°.

Swiss Steak

1 1/2 lbs chuck or round
steak, cut 1 inch thick 1 pkg
Lipton onion soup mix.

■ See RECIPES/Page 19

Recipes

■ Continued from Page 18

Campfire Popcorn

1/4 cup popcorn 2 tbsp oil 1/4 tsp salt

In the center of an 18 inch square of heavy duty aluminum foil, place ingredients. Form into a bundle, leaving enough room for the popcorn to pop when cooking. Wire bundle to a long, sturdy stick for cooking over campfire. Or grasp top of bundle with tongs and place directly on coals. Cook, shaking constantly, just until corn stops popping. Before serving, add additional salt, if desired, and melted butter or grated cheese.

S'mores

Roast a marshmallow over coals. Place on a graham cracker half. Top with half of a thin chocolate bar and another graham cracker. You're not a full fledged camper until you've tried one of these.

Venison Gusada

1 lb. venison, cut in chunks

1/2 can of tomatoes with green chilies

1 med. onion, chopped
1 tables. flour
1 cup of water
salt and pepper to taste
Brown venison in small amount of grease, stir in flour. Add onions, tomatoes with chilies and water. Stir and simmer. Cook until meat and onions are tender. More water may be added if needed. Good over rice or with flour tortillas.

Venison Stew

1 lb cubed venison
2 cups water
1 tsp salt
1/8 tsp pepper
1/2 cup dry red wine
4 carrots, chopped
2 potatoes, chopped
1/2 cup chopped onions
1 stalk of celery
1 clove minced garlic
2 tbsp sugar
2 tbsp worcestershire sauce

1 1/2 tsp paprika
2 whole cloves
1 bay leaf
1/4 cup rye flour
Combine venison, 1 1/2 cups of water, salt and pepper in large pan. Bring to boil, cover and simmer one hour. Add more water when

needed. Stir in remaining ingredients except flour. Cover and simmer until vegetables are tender. Mix flour and remaining 1/2 cup water and stir into stew. Stir and cook until thickened.

Oven Baked Dove

10 to 12 doves skinned and washed.

1 package of onion soup mix

3 cans of cream of mushroom soup.

Preheat oven to 325 degrees. Place birds one layer in a large cook in roasting bag, lay inside a roasting dish. Sprinkle the dried onion soup over the birds. Pour mushroom soup on top of that and tie bag. Cook for about 2 hours or until tender.

Dove in Wine

Skin and wash about a dozen birds. Roll whole birds in flour seasoned with salt and pepper. Brown birds in butter or margarine in an iron skillet. Turn heat low, arrange birds on their backs, and sprinkle lightly with thyme and rosemary add enough water to partly cover them. Add a half cup of good red wine, cover and simmer on low heat for

about an hour or until tender. Lift out birds and place in a deep dish, thicken the liquid in skillet and pour over them and serve.

Mary's Stuffed Baked Quail

6 to 8 whole quail
4 strips of bacon cut in half

2 tbsp. butter or margarine

2 eggs

Lawry's Seasoned Salt
Lawry's Lemon Pepper
Bread Crumbs

5 oz. Foil Pack Lawry's seasoned Marinade

Quail livers and hearts

Finely chop the hearts and livers and combine with butter, two eggs well-beaten and Lawry's seasoned salt and Lawry's Lemon Pepper. Add enough fresh bread crumbs to form a soft dressing.

Meanwhile put the quail in a bowl and cover with Lawry's Seasoned Marinade for 10 to 15 minutes.

This is enough to give the birds just a hint of hickory smoke flavor. Remove let drain and stuff.

Don't worry about pinning or sewing the cavity, let the dressing protrude.

Put the quail close together in a baking pan, breast side up, and drape half a slice of bacon on each bird. Preheat oven to 450 degrees and cook for five minutes, then lower heat to 350 degrees and bake until tender, about 30 minutes. A combination of wild rice and baked quail is not just a delicious meal it's an event!

■ *Editor's note: For a free booklet of 18 wild game, fish and bird recipes, drop a note or postcard to: Lawry's Game Recipes, P.O. Box 14390, Scottsdale, AZ, 85267.*

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Garland man wins Texas Grand Slam

Holland wins four hunting trips

AUSTIN - Larry T. Holland of Garland isn't on an exclusive deer lease, and probably won't be entering a bid for a big-horn sheep hunt at any upcoming sportsmen's club fund-raisers. Then again, he doesn't need those things after winning this year's Texas Grand Slam sweepstakes drawing.

Holland, a life long hunter who works in a warehouse in Fort Worth, will receive an all expense paid package of four hunting trips, including guide and taxidermy service, which includes a desert big horn sheep hunt, a whitetail deer hunt, a mule deer hunt and a pronghorn antelope hunt. The package is estimated to be worth about \$100,000.

Holland was among 7,365 who paid a \$10 application fee for the once in a lifetime hunt package drawing. His name was selected through a computer drawing and announced during the Texas Wildlife Expo '96 in Austin on Oct. 6.

The Grand Slam is the centerpiece of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Sweepstakes, which also announced winners of several fishing, hunting and outdoor adventure

trips. Winners of the Sweepstakes trips were selected from over 1 million residents who have purchased hunting and fishing licenses in the past year and some 19,000 who have bought Texas Conservation Passports.

Following is a list of Sweepstakes winners and their respective trips:

Gibbons Creek Reservoir Bass Fishing - Brian K. Newport of Burkvilleville; Matagorda Bay Red Drum and Seatrout Fishing - James A. Hower of Humble; Lake Fork Bass Fishing - Alan J. Kane of Austin; Upper Laguna Madre Red Drum and Seatrout Fishing - Timothy L. Austin of Denison; Lake Texoma Striper Fishing - Christopher G. Hines of Houston; Elephant Mountain WMA Mule Deer Hunt - Warren B. Hayes of Austin; Kerr WMA Turkey and Exotic Big Game Hunt - Edward L. Williams II of Sonora; Chaparral WMA Whitetail Deer Hunt - Lawrence L. Vaughn of Denison; The Ulitimate Expedition - William L. Aldridge of Angelton; Coastal Bird Watching Extravaganza - Robert J. Still Jr. of Austin.

The proper camouflage makes it easier to blend into background

Even if you are a long time hunter, an experienced wing shot, or both, getting a clear shot in the field is a challenge. If you're not properly camouflaged while hunting waterfowl, it's nearly impossible.

Many duck and goose hunters have enjoyed success in the field with the standard tan camouflage developed by the military. But the science of camouflage has come a long way and today a variety of terrain specified patterns are available that provide better concealment and a clear advantage.

The outdoor clothing experts at Columbia Sportswear recommend the new Delta Marsh II™ camouflage pattern, which is available in Columbia's cold weather hunting garments. Delta Marsh II™ has a unique "Cattails and cornstalks" design that was specifi-

cally created for cornfields and river zones.

Its raindrop-like pattern forces the eye to roam, making it an extremely and versatile camo for both waterfowl and big game hunting. Columbia offers its new Delta Marsh II™ camo in a variety of garments for head-to-toe concealment.

The company's Omni Quad Parka™, Pant™, and Bib™, have kept water-fowlers warm and dry for years and offer the versatility of being able to provide comfort in a variety of seasons, from September teal to late January goose hunting.

The popular Omni Widgeon Parka™, Peterson's Marsh Parka™, and new Fore and Aft Hunting Pack™, are also available in this exclusive camo pattern. Columbia also offers a variety of warm and weather proof headgear in this pattern.

Rough camping made smoother

Roughing it was fun (so say outdoor lore). But smoothing it, with modern technology, is even better. Think of Boone, Crockett, Cody and Lewis and Clarke. Their socks must have been wet all the time. Not so, today. A couple of pair of socks will remain dry within a sealed plastic baggie no matter how hard it rains and sleets.

Other camping, hiking tips: Never go backpacking without a small candle. With it you can start a fire with the soggiest of kindling.

During summer, store your camera film in an ice chest to avoid heat damage.

Nothing works better than a flexible, double ended cotton swab (human ear cleaners) for zapping ticks attached to a dog. Dip swab in rubbing alcohol, drench tick gently pull out.

Davey would have traded his coonskin hat for a roll of duct tape. Infinite varieties of camping gear ties and patches can be fashioned from the silver finished self-stick tape.

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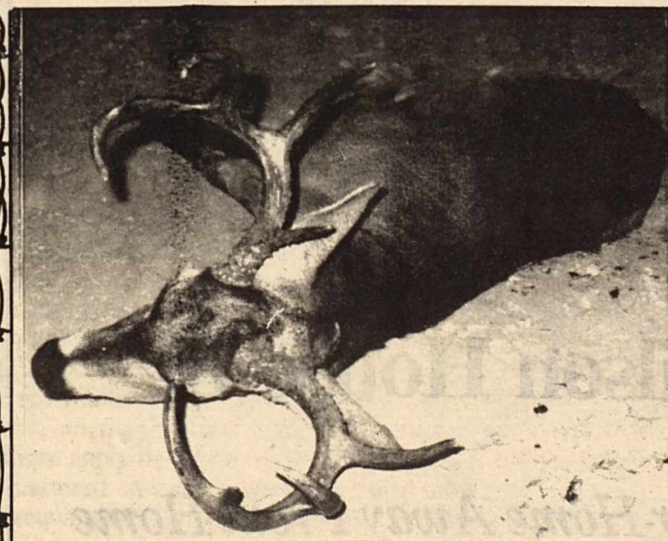
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Outlook is good for deer hunting

Continued from Page 17

Antlerless deer can be taken only by permit in much of the Post Oak.

Biologist Kevin Herriman believes this will be a good year to use permits to reduce doe numbers where recommended by biologists to reduce damage to the habitat.

Hunting prospect: Similar to last year.

Cross Timbers
The western Cross Timbers area has been affected by the drought over the past few years and some deer have been lost. Surprisingly, quite a few trophy antlered bucks came from

the area in 1995 and more can be expected in 1996.

Deer numbers in the northern and eastern portions of the area are on the increase.

Hunting prospect: Up from 1995.

Pineywoods
The northern portions of the East Texas Pineywoods are behind schedule on moisture for the year. The southern half is better after recent showers. Deer surveys show an increasing trend over much of the area over the last five years.

Antlers may suffer from the dry weather last spring. This would be a good year to reduce herds on ranches

and hunting clubs which have wildlife management plans.

Hunting prospect: Same as last year.

Panhandle
White-tailed deer populations are growing in much of the Panhandle where there is adequate habitat. In spite of the drought, most whitetails are in good condition and a normal fawn crop is expected.

"Antlers may not be as good as 1995 in some counties thanks to poor range conditions early in the year," District Leader Danny Swepston said.

Hunting Prospect: Same as last year.

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Cowboys assist in manhunt capture

TULIA - Thanks, in part to "the code of the west" ethic, two Amarillo men are behind bars here in the Swisher County Jail facing attempted capital murder charges in connection with a shootout with Texas game wardens.

Like a chapter right out of a Louis L'Amour western, an intensive, two-day manhunt ended when cowboys on a ranch in northeast Armstrong County held the suspects at bay until authorities could arrive.

Ruben Rodarte Jr., 28, and Christopher Logan, 28, both of Amarillo, had managed to elude law enforcement for some 40 hours by weaving their way through the rugged Palo Duro Canyons in the Texas Panhandle. The chase ended approximately 18 miles, as the crow flies, from where it began, when the suspects showed up at the JA Ranch seeking water.

"One of the suspects had done some poaching in this area before, so they knew where they were," said Armstrong County Sheriff Carmella Jones, who made the initial arrest. "But, the cowboys working the ranch were aware that these guys were being sought and

"One of the suspects had done some poaching in this area before, so they knew where they were."

Sheriff Carmella Jones

they held them until I got there. A former family member has a place near here and we knew there was a chance they might try to get there."

Regardless of their intended destination, Rodarte and Logan are currently being held in the Swisher County jail on two counts each of attempted capital murder after being arraigned by Armstrong County Justice of the Peace Jackie Cartwright. Bail has been set at \$150,000 apiece.

The two men are accused of opening fire on game wardens Gary Hunt of Clarendon and Gary Self of Childress. The incident occurred when the wardens attempted to confront the suspected poachers for shooting mule deer out of season.

As the wardens approached the suspects' pickup, they were fired upon. The wardens returned fire and as the subjects fled the scene in their pickup, gunfire was ex-

changed during a chase across an open field.

Neither warden was injured, although two bullets struck their vehicle.

The suspects abandoned their vehicle a short time later and eluded the wardens in a wooded creek bed near MacKenzie Reservoir. Four dead mule deer were recovered from the suspects' disabled pickup. The general hunting season for mule deer in Briscoe County opens Nov. 23.

Search efforts involving some 40 law enforcement agents began covering the area around Palo Duro Canyon. Roadblocks were established along the highways surrounding MacKenzie Reservoir and a DPS helicopter was used to cover the more remote areas of the canyon.

"We forced them to change their direction," said Butch Shoop, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department regional law enforce-

ment director, who coordinated the search effort. "We didn't want to let them get through south or west and hit the highway, but we certainly didn't think they'd cross the river.

"I figure those guys probably traveled 40 to 50 miles. I know they covered a lot of ground going up and down those canyon walls."

Shoop said the search also had its share of ups and downs, with deadend leads drawing away resources and the rugged terrain providing a constant barrier.

"We had a report that some bloody clothing had been recovered from a trash can near one of the suspects' residence, so we pulled off some wardens to follow up," said Shoop. "And, we had tips they'd been spotted in such and such town.

"You can't fault everyone providing the leads because they were just trying to help, but we were getting spread pretty thin after awhile. I want to thank all the agencies who came in and helped, and especially our wardens. They worked their tails off. I think our folks are more exhausted than the ones in jail."

Safe hunting tips for your youngsters

Here are some valuable tips for making a youngster's first outdoor experience a good one.

Keep the youngster's comfort level in mind. His or her first experience in a deer blind shouldn't be on a day when its 20 degrees below with a howling wind.

Make sure that clothing is appropriate for the elements. Some coaching in the wardrobe department may be in order prior to the outing, especially if the child's parents aren't outdoor enthusiasts.

An extra change of clothes is a must for younger children and not a bad idea for older kids.

Be mindful of the shorter attention spans that kids have and plan activities accordingly.

Make sure the equipment is of a size that the young sportsman can handle. Keep it fun and design it to be successful.

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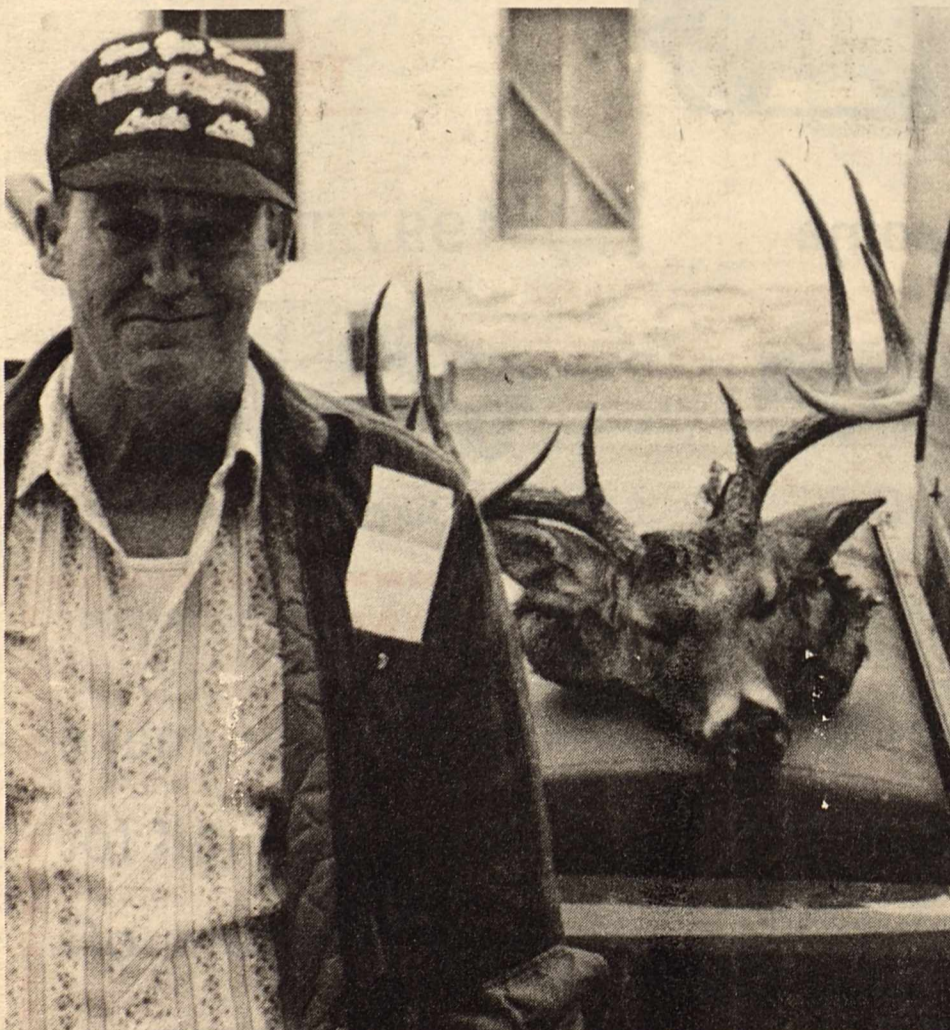
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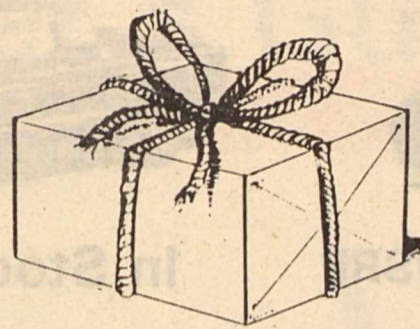


Bob McWilliams took this 10 point, with a 17 1/2 inch inside spread and 10 1/4 inch tines, off Leona Ranch.

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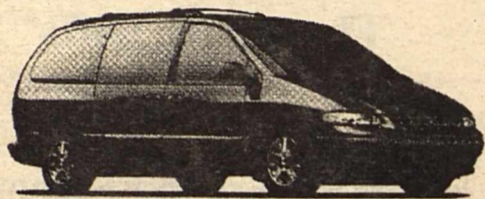
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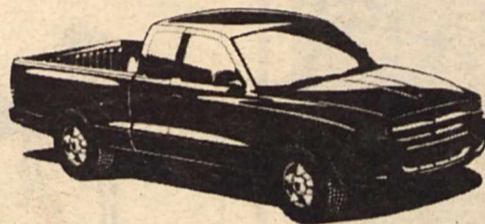
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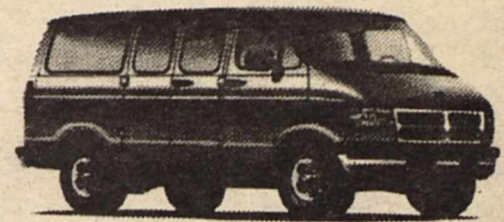
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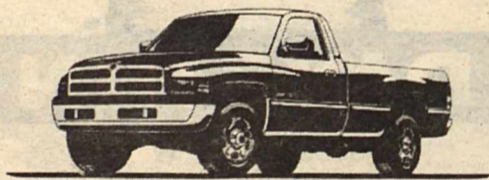
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