

THE Devil's River NEWS

50¢

Since 1890

Volume 114 • Issue 43

SONORA, TEXAS

Thursday, October 31, 2002

Sonora Shows 'Em How It's Done At District



Sonora Middle School 7th Grade Cross Country Team

by Becca Emert

Twenty three students from Sonora Middle School competed in the last meet of the year at the District Cross Country Meet in Grape Creek on Monday, October 21st.

The runners have pushed themselves all year, and their efforts were reflected in the District Meet. Clayton Sahr led the 7th grade boys, finishing a strong 1st and setting a new personal best for himself. All the boys improved their times, with Colton Moore finishing 6th,

Hunt Wagoner 12th, Hunter Lawson 17th, Michael Chavez 19th and J.T. Downing 23rd.

The team worked hard to bring home a third place finish overall.

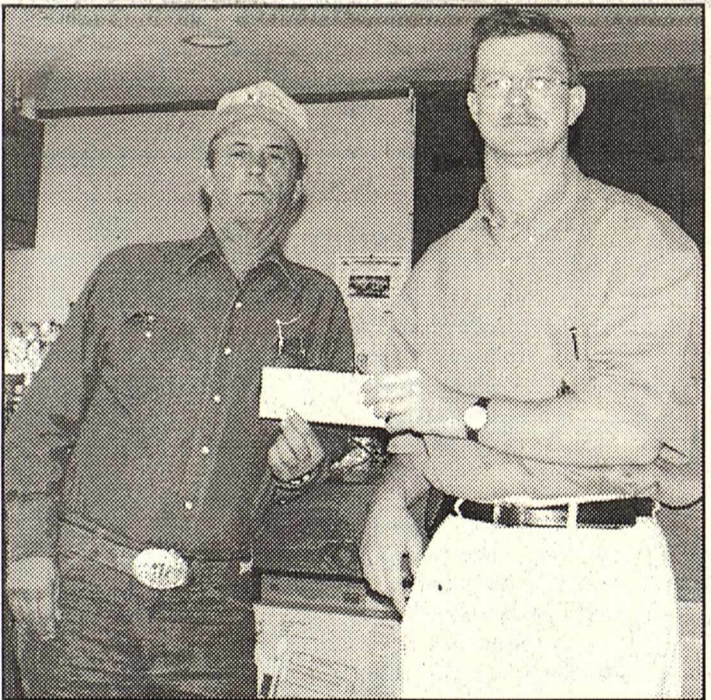
The 7th grade girls team also finished third overall, with Kelsey Watkins pushing hard to the end and finishing 3rd. Kyla Turney was 7th, Heather Hughes 14th, Kimble Luna 20th, Emily Earwood 26th, Whitney Perez 34th and Danielle Rodriguez 49th.

The 8th grade girls team

brought home a second place finish, with Alexie Ortiz topping the chart in 1st place. Amanda Berry was 11th, Kayla Fields 20th, Felisha Gamez 23rd, Allyse Edmondson 25th, Jena Teasley 31st, Jaimee Duran 35th, Taylor Liverman 36th, Erica Hernandez 37th and Emily Butler 41st.

These students did a wonderful job representing Sonora Middle School and they had an outstanding year! We are very proud of you Colts and Lady Colts!

Sonora Industrial Development Corporation Assists Expanding Business



by Storie Sharp

Justin McGeath, Manager of Sonora Industrial Development Corporation (S.I.D.C.), presented George Thorp of Thorp Water Well Service with a check to assist with the expansion of his existing water well service. Thorp recently expanded into the Water Well Drilling business, where he had focused on servicing wells in the past. This expansion created four additional primary jobs in Sutton County. By adding four new salaries to our community our local economy is increased, as well as our tax-base, which is one of the main objectives of the S.I.D.C.

The money used to assist with this and projects like it are obtained through the 4B 1/2 cent Sales Tax. For every dollar spent in Sonora, the S.I.D.C. receives 1/2 a cent, allowing for your tax money to be put back into local enhancement and to help build a better economy for your community, while helping a local merchant or company. S.I.D.C. has three main objectives: expansion of existing jobs, recruiting new jobs and retaining existing jobs that may be in jeopardy. For more information on the S.I.D.C. contact Justin McGeath at 387-6280.

Cuellar Visits District



Henry Cuellar visits with Sonorans at La Mexicana.

Henry Cuellar, candidate for U.S. representative in Congressional District 23, made a stop at La Mexicana this week while touring his district on the campaigning trail. Cuellar visited with residents about the issues in this year's campaign, includ-

ing health care, education, jobs and growth, social security and corporate accountability. The stop was one of over 11 in the District in a whirlwind tour to remind voters to be heard and get out there and vote!

AARP On The Road To Remind Seniors To Vote And Make Their Issues Be Heard

by Storie Sharp

Representatives from AARP were in Sonora last Wednesday, trying to get the word out to older Americans to vote on November 5, 2002. Pete Fredricksen, Gus Cardenas, Khelan Bhatia and George Delemen are traveling around Texas sharing AARP voters guides with communities that detail where candidates stand on issues important to older Americans. This election year, America is facing some tough challenges: prescription drugs in Medicare, Social Security reform, and keeping health care affordable for those with insurance and available for those without. AARP has also initiated an Rx Pledge that they are sending to all the candidates asking them to commit to work with AARP and enact a Medicare Prescription Drug benefit next year.

AARP is a nonprofit, non-partisan membership organization for people 50 and over. It provides information and resources; advocates on legislative, consumer, and legal issues; assists members to serve their communities; and offers a wide range of unique benefits, special products, and services for its members. These benefits include AARP Webplace at www.aarp.org, Modern Maturity and My Generation magazines, the monthly AARP Bulletin, and Segunda Juventud, a quarterly, bilingual newspaper. Active in every state, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands, AARP celebrates the attitude that age is just a number and life is what you make it.

AARP issues are already resonating with the candidates, as Social Security and Medicare are crucial questions in many states.

Of the 45 and over Americans, 65% vote. Over 2 million of these senior citizens are member of the AARP in Texas. For more information on AARP visit their website at www.aarp.org or visit the Sonora Senior Center for pamphlets.

Commissioners Vote On Softball Field Fence Project

by Storie Sharp

Superintendent Brant Myers gave a presentation to the Sutton County Commissioners at Monday's meeting, stating the positive reasoning behind moving the softball field fence up to regulation. Myers, who was joined by Athletic Director Jason Herring and Sonora City League President, Julie Martin, explained that the ball fields at the Sutton County Park complex were all in need of repair and this would be one of many changes for the better being made. By moving the fence in Sonora would be a more favorable location for softball tournaments and this would allow for an additional t-ball field to be built. Martin reiterated that this would also make the field more appealing to City League teams that participate in the girls Softball teams. Myers also explained that the Scoreboard at the Softball field was in need of repair and that S.I.S.D. was also planning on making those repairs. Myers informed the Commissioners that he understood that this would make the playing area too small for the independent men's teams that use the field for tournaments, but offered to allow them to use the main baseball field instead. Commissioner Villanueva expressed concern in this matter because of the annual Knights of Columbus fund raiser. Myers and Herring assured him that this shouldn't be a problem and scheduling could be arranged. After further discussion regarding the repairs, safety issues and use of the fields for the tournaments, a motion was made by Milton Cavaness, seconded by Belia Casteneda to approve the Sonora I.S.D. to move the fence at the softball field.

Other discussions initiated by Commissioner's Reports included having Carla Garner look at alternate electric options at the arena complex and look-

See Commissioners page 8

Sonora Merchants Prepare to Award Shoppers "Santa Bucks"

Christmas is around the corner and the Sonora Merchants, restaurants, grocery store and other businesses want to help you shop for Christmas gifts!

Local businesses will be giving away "Santa Bucks" with your purchases at their locations. Just look for the "Santa Bucks" signs on participating business windows and shop 'till you drop. The more you spend, the more you receive. All the "Santa Bucks" you collect can be used at a Silent Auction that will be held just before Christmas, with wonderful gift items to choose from!

If you spend anywhere from \$1.00 - \$25.00 in the participating businesses you will receive \$500 in "Santa Bucks"; \$25.00 - \$50.00 gets you \$1500.00 worth of "Santa Bucks"; and spending \$50.00 - \$100.00 will get you \$5000.00 worth of the special money.

The Silent Auction gifts will be on display at the businesses and the winner will be announced during the month of December, so... Shop Sonora!

The "Santa Buck" promotion is being sponsored by the Sonora Merchants, Sonora Main Street Program, Sonora Chamber of Commerce, KHOS Radio and The Devil's River News.

The EMS Wants Your Blood!

The Sutton County EMS will hold a Blood Drive on Wednesday, November 6th from 3:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at the Sutton County EMS Training Room. Call Patrick Campbell at 387-5132 for appt.

If you are age 17 or older for whole blood donation, weigh at least 110 pounds, have not donated in the past 8 weeks, and are not currently taking antibiotics or insulin. You may

not donate if you have ever used a needle to take drugs, if you had hepatitis after the age of 11 or if you have AIDS or a positive test for HIV. You cannot get AIDS or any infectious disease by donating blood.

Donors must show ID containing a given name and one of the following: date of birth, social security number, United Blood Services assigned donor number or photo of the donor.

Sonora Added To Hilderbran's District



From left to right: Representative Bob Turner, County Judge Carla Garner, Representative Harvey Hilderbran, David Ross and Joe David Ross.

On September 25th, Representative Harvey Hilderbran and Representative Bob Turner visited Sutton County during a day long tour. Due to redistricting, Sutton County will become a part of District 53.

'Bonilla Bus Tour' Comes To Sonora

submitted

The "Bonilla Bus Tour" made a stop this week in Sonora. While in town, Bonilla met with local residents, stressed the importance of voting and was honored by local small business owners.

"This mode of transportation is pretty hard to miss! Our RV is decorated with every piece of campaign paraphernalia known to man. It's all here to show my constituents that we are charged up for Tuesday's election and excited to continue representing their interests in Washington, DC," said Bonilla.

The "Bonilla Bus Tour" traveled to more than a dozen towns in West and South Texas over the span of three days. At each stop, Bonilla and volunteers visited with local residents, businesses and city leaders. The tour group emphasized the importance of voting in this year's election and remaining politically active. Free t-shirts, bumper stickers and yard signs were passed out to supporters.

"It's so important to vote. We learned in the last election that every vote really does count. This is an important year - we have several important races and mine happens to be one of them," said Bonilla. "I'm encouraging people to place a bumper-sticker on their car or a sign in their front yard. Every reminder of the election helps get people out to the polls."

Small business owners in Sonora recognized Bonilla for his service to the small business community. Much of the Sonora economy is based on small businesses, of which Bonilla is a long-time advocate. Bonilla was



George Velarde and Lois Archer of Mutli-Chem present Congressman Bonilla with an NFIB Small Business Award.

honored with the "Guardian of Small Business Award," which recognizes the congressman for his leadership on issues that are vital to the future of small businesses across America. The award is given to only those few members of Congress who vote consistently in support of small business.

"Small business owners remind us of basic business ethics, skills and the truth in the American dream. It's essential that Congress focus on legislation that assists small businesses," said Bonilla. "I'm thankful for this award, but even more thankful for the amazing small businesses and small business owners in our communities who keep our nation prosperous and strong."

Before leaving town for the next tour stop, Bonilla thanked

his supporters and encouraged them to get out and vote on election day. Bonilla has represented Sonora for almost a decade and is running for re-election to Congress.

"I'm so thankful to my long-time supporters in Sonora. The people in this community are what America is all about," said Bonilla. "America is also about Democracy and our right to vote. I'm reminding everyone today to take advantage of that right and get to the polls on Tuesday. Every vote makes a difference."

Congressman Henry Bonilla's congressional district is the largest in Texas. He is a member of the powerful Appropriations Committee, which helps fund important programs in Sonora and throughout the 23rd Congressional district.



Sonora Church Directory

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

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

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

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

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

TEMPLO JERUSALEM ASAMBLEA DE DIOS
Rev. Santos Beserra, Jr.
306 W. 4th St.
387-5713

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

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

LA IGLESIA HISPANA PENTECOSTAL DEL NOMBRE DE JESUS, INC.
387-6072

IGLESIA PENTECOSTAL UNIDA HISPANA
Pastor Isai Oviedo
509 Amistad
650-3121

THE CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD PRESBYTERIAN
Lewis Allen, Pastor
319 E. Mulberry
387-2616

LIGHTHOUSE BAPTIST CHURCH
Don Longoria, Pastor
707 Glasscock
387-5886

PENTECOSTAL CALVARY TEMPLE UNITED
Randy Greenwood
Pastor
509 Amistad
387-5266

ST. ANN'S CATHOLIC CHURCH
Father William DuBuisson,
O.M.I.
229 W. Plum
387-2278

JEHOVAH'S WITNESS
310 St. Ann's Street
387-5658 or 387-5518

NEW HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH
Interim Mike Dixon
511 Cornell
387-5207




FORD
BRONCHO FORD INC.
115 N CONCHO
SONORA, TX 76950
(915)387-2549

Kerbow Funeral Home
387-2266

Birth Announcement

Bruce, Cathy Morgan and Marshall of Jacksonville, Florida would like to announce the arrival of Kendra Marie Morgan born October 24, 2002 weighing 6 lbs. 3 ozs. She is welcomed by Great-Grandparents Angie Morgan of Sonora, Betta Schrade of Runge, Walt and Mary Meyers of New Mexico, Grandparents Bill and TaeWan Hartman of California, Jim and Lynn Perkins of Kansas and Mary Beth and Bobby Morgan of Sonora.



Happy 10th Birthday Chelsey Lou

Love,
Mom, Dad
and Chance

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sales@sonoratr.net

Obituary

Maria C. Leija

Maria C. Leija, beloved mother, grandmother and friend, went peacefully into Jesus' arms on Monday, October 28, 2002.

Maria was born to Preciliano and Lupe Leija on October 8, 1918.

Maria was a very humble woman. She never met a stranger and always was ready to help others. She loved her family, but her whole love was for her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She loved attending the Senior Center, she worked for Green Thumb and was a caregiver for people younger than her. Flowers were her favorite thing in life.

She was preceded in death by her brothers, Benito, Martin and Lalo; sisters, Cheva Tames and Goya Gonzales; her parents; and a very beloved granddaughter, Belinda.

Left to remember her with so much love are son, Israel Leija and wife, Betty, of Oxnard, Calif.; daughter, Nelda L. Yorba and husband, Ruben, of Sonora; grandchildren, Rick Sanchez, Eliazar Yorba and Sandra Yorba, all of Sonora.

Patty Covarrubiaz and husband, Alfonzo, of Oceanside, Calif., Joe Sanchez and wife, Christiana, Chuckie Yorba and Lorena of San Angelo, and Dena Grange and husband, Adrian, of Oceanside, Calif., great-grandchildren, Elizabeth Ojeda and husband, Danny, of Temacula, Calif., Armando Badillo and wife, Iyette, of San Angelo, Erika McClintock of Sonora, Brittany and Angel Covarrubiaz of Oceanside, Calif., and Natalie and Jessica Sanchez of Rosenberg; great-grandchildren, Daniel Badillo of San Angelo and Daniel Ojeda of Temacula, Calif.; and many loved nephews, nieces and friends.

God loved you so much Mom He gave you eternal life through Jesus Christ. Till we meet again. You will forever live in our hearts. Vaya con Dios, nuestra Linda Madre.

Services are at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, October 30, in Kerbow Funeral Chapel and at 10:00 a.m. Saturday, November 2 at Primera Baptista Church with burial in Sonora Cemetery.

School Lunch Menu • Nov. 4 - Nov. 8, 2002

Breakfast

Mon. - Pancakes, syrup, applesauce.
Tues. - Muffins, fruit or juice.
Wed. - Peanut butter toast, fruit or juice.
Thurs. - Cinnamon roll, fruit or juice.
Fri. - Egg & ham burrito, fruit or juice.

Milk and cereal offered with all breakfasts.

Lunch

Mon. - Grilled cheese sandwich, vegetable soup, apple half, carrot sticks.
Tues. - Salisbury steak, mashed potatoes, gravy, green beans, hot roll, jello.
Wed. - Beef & cheese nachos, pinto beans, tossed salad, cobbler.
Thurs. - Corn dog, macaroni & cheese, orange half, corn, chocolate pudding.
Fri. - Cheeseburger, French fries, lettuce, tomatoes, pickles, peaches.

Cards of Thanks

The Sonora Elementary PTO would like to thank the following individuals and businesses for their generous contributions to our Pre-Game Dinner Fundraiser we had last Friday.

Kirk Joy, Lola Beth and Cleve T. Jones/T-Saucer Ranch, Lenora and Ben Pool, Carolyn and Edward Earwood, Dr. Charles Pajestka, M.D., Ronnie Cox, Schlumberger Wireline, Taco Grill, Dairy Queen, Town & Country #97/John Chancellor, Sonora Chemical, Main Street Realty and Sonora Senior Center.

Thanks to all those who prepared parts of the meal before serving time, to those who helped serve the meal, and to those who stayed behind for clean-up. Without everyone's support and hard work we would not have been able to host this event with such great success.

The family of Eugene and Barbara Lasky would like to extend a heartfelt thank you for all the love, prayers, support and overwhelming generosity that the community of Sonora shared with us during our recent tragedy. Tommy touched all of our lives and your actions during this hard time show that he was special to us all.

The flowers, cards, food and other contributions were greatly appreciated and your kindness will never be forgotten. May God Bless You All.

Eugene and Barbara Lasky

My arms aren't big enough to hug the whole town to thank everyone for all that you have done for me and my family during our recent tragedy and loss. I just hope that you all know how your love, generosity, and prayers were a shining light during our dark time. Thank you and May the Lord Bless You and Keep You.

Vonni and Tom Van Veghel

Dear Friends,

It was Saturday, August 29, 1969 when our family officially moved to Sonora although Hershel had been there 2 weeks as Manager of Evans Foodway. Son George, then a student at Texas Tech, helped us move from Amarillo where our daughter lives, and Matt began his Sophomore year at Sonora High on Monday. Little did we know how enriching our lives would become living in such a loving and caring community. Words hardly express our appreciation for those 33 years. We enjoyed the many activities Sonora offers; especially good friends and hospitality.

To say we miss you sounds trite, as we always will and we look forward to visiting in the future. We missed seeing so many of you before we left and regret it, but time ran out on us and moving day arrived before we knew it.

We are presently living with Jeanne's sister, Ann Cates, (former Editor of DRN) while our home is being built and expect to be in it by Thanksgiving. Our address is P.O. Box 6678, Albuquerque, NM 87197. Phone for us is (505) 842-1554.

Thank you dear friends for your kindnesses and wonderful memories.

Hershel and Jeanne Davenport.

BLOOD DRIVE

Wednesday, November 6th

3:00 to 6:30 p.m.

Sutton County EMS • EMS Training Room
Patrick Campbell • 387-5132 for appt.

Ronnie Cox
loves
being your
Pharmacist

Senior Center News

Nov. 4 - Bingo with Kindergarten classes after lunch.
Nov. 5 - Allstate Insurance Program at noon.
Nov. 7 - Work on Holiday Crafts after lunch.

Senior Menu

Nov. 4 - Baked chicken, fried rice, zucchini with tomatoes, juice, rolls, peach cobbler.
Nov. 5 - Ground beef with vermicelli, pinto beans, tortillas, tossed salad, mixed fruit cup.
Nov. 6 - Baked ham, green beans, sweet potatoes, rolls, peanut butter cookies.
Nov. 7 - Roast beef with gravy, mashed potatoes, green beans, rolls, cake with strawberries.
Nov. 8 - Catfish, spinach, pinto beans, cole slaw, cornbread pudding.

Lunch is served Monday thru Friday at 12:00 Noon.
\$1.50 donation is suggested for those 60+ and \$4.00 for others.
Menu is subject to change.

Dining Out Directory

Dairy Queen
134 Hwy. 277 N.
387-2118

La Mexicana
240 N. Hwy 277
387-3401

Pizza Hut
401 Hwy. 277 N.
387-3540

Sutton County Steakhouse
1306 N. Service Rd
387-3833

Taco Grill
232 Hwy. 277 N.
387-9127

THE DEVIL'S RIVER NEWS

USPS (155-920)

every Thursday at 228 East Main Street Sonora, Texas 76950
Phone: (915) 387-2507 FAX (915) 387-5691

Periodical postage paid at Sonora, Texas

Storie Sharp, Publishing Editor

Erica Morriss, Advertising • Danni Price, Financial

Guest Columnist: Jo-Ann Palmer

Email: General Information: editor@sonoratr.net

Advertising: sales@sonoratr.net, Financial: danni@sonoratr.net,

Owner: Cam Longley Campbell.

\$20 per year in county • Seniors \$18.00 per year (in & out of county)

\$25 per year out of county

Attn. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Devil's River News,

228 East Main St., Sonora, TX 76950

Copy and Ad deadline -

Monday, 5:00 p.m.

Any erroneous reflection upon the character, standing or reputation of any person, firm, or corporation which appears in the columns of this paper will be corrected upon due notice given to the Editor of this publication.

The views expressed in submitted articles are not necessarily the views of the staff.

TPA Member 2002
TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

Community

Nov. 6
Blood Drive
3:00 - 6:30 p.m.
Sutton County EMS Training Room
Patrick Campbell 387-5132 for appt.
Nov. 9
Sutton County Game Dinner
6:00 p.m.
Sutton County Civic Center

The Community Calendar

First NATIONAL BANK
P.O. BOX 788 - SONORA, TEXAS 76950
(915) 387-3881
Member FDIC

Calendar

Nov. 11
County Commissioners Meeting
9:00 a.m. • Annex Building
Nov. 19
City Council Meeting
2:00 p.m. • City Hall
Nov. 25
County Commissioners Meeting
9:00 a.m. • Annex Building

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Member FDIC
207 N Hwy 277 N • 387-2593

Letters To The Editor Policy

The Devil's River News encourages letters from its readers. Letters should be to the point, typed if at all possible and signed. Name, address and telephone number should be included for verification purposes. Letters will be printed on a space available basis. Letters should stick with issues, and not simply be personal attacks. Letters endorsing a particular position on issues of local interest will be accepted, however letters endorsing a candidate for political office will not be accepted.

We reserve the right to edit for length, content, and potentially libelous statements.

Letters to the Editor published in this newspaper do not necessarily reflect the position of this publication on any subject. Correspondence should be mailed to: The Devil's River News-Letters to the Editor, 228 East Main, Sonora TX. 76950.

Email us at editor@sonoratr.net

Ask the Historical Society

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

Q. Where did you get that picture you say is Pryce Taylor?

A. That picture has hung in the Old Jail with the name Pryce Taylor on it since before I came to Sutton County (over 13 years.). Since I had never seen the gentleman I took the word of researchers that came before me that it was correctly labeled. No one has ever said anything to me indicating otherwise.

Believe me, from now on I will double check all pictures before I print them in the paper. I want to thank Sheriff Fincher, Turney Friess, Mrs. Moore and a few others who called for setting me straight on just who was in the picture. I have even called Mrs. Edmiston and apologized to her for saying that a picture of Orval was Pryce Taylor. I still can't understand how a picture of a Schleicher County Sheriff wound up in the Old Sutton Co. Jail with the wrong name on it? Another history mystery around here.

Also Bill Stewart kindly came down and went through all the rest of the pictures of local lawmen we have on file and verified that they are who it says on the picture. If anyone else would like to come in and look through them at the office, Mon., Tues. am, or Fri., you are welcome to stop. I really prefer to have 3 verifications of a picture on file.

Q. Did you get hurt Friday?

A. Yup! I may fly well but I just can't seem to get the landings quite right yet. I hit a slick wet spot and crash landed on my right side. Now as to why I wasn't in my chair...well, I didn't want to get the tires all dirty on the wet ground and drag the dirt into the office on the new carpet. See we haven't been able to budget a vacuum cleaner yet. Poor excuse.

Special thanks to the won-

derful men who work for the County. Eddie Castro heard me holler when I hit and yelled for Johnny Solis. Johnny had men bring blankets to keep me warm until the ambulance came and stayed with me keeping me comfortable and calm. Carlos Gallegos called Rick at work and told him to come. Sheriff Fincher pulled up and helped. I think every officer, City and County, in town heard the call go out that the ambulance was going to the Old Jail and a woman had fallen there. They all knew it had to be me and made a beeline in to help load me into the ambulance. Pat Campbell that was the easiest time you have ever had getting me into an ambulance and thanks for not cutting my "lucky" red, white and black shirt. Everyone at the hospital was great, special thanks to Dr. Calderon and my apologies to the cleaning staff for all the mud we left behind in xray, on the stretcher and floor. I spent a few days in bed and will hurt in a few places for a while longer but am fine otherwise. I will be much more careful in the future!

Q. Do you have anything on file on a Mr. Morris that raised horses in Kerr Co.?

A. Devil's River News, November 7, 1891 - The Stockman's Paradise as a Fine Horse Country.

Charles Morris who is in charge of John A. Morris' fine horse ranch in Kerr county spoke as follows to a San Antonio Express reporter recently: Preliminary steps were taken five years ago and were followed by a shipment of six thoroughbred stallions from the farm of John A. Morris, situated in West Chester Co., near New York City. Adjoining this farm is the celebrated West Chester Race Track, of which Mr. Morris, senior was the chief promoter. He furnishes a good

list of horses for the turf each season. B. W. Walden trainer of his animals lives in Maryland, where the training grounds is situated. "After the importation of the first six thoroughbred stallions," he said, "we began the work of crossing them with Texas mares, and very good results were obtained. We now have about 150 select Texas mares and from them have seventy-five geldings. The crossed breed make good carriage horses which are very decided improvement on the native Texas animal. We now have forty thoroughbred mares on the ranch. Their geldings are shipped as yearlings to West Chester farm where they are taken in charge by the trainer, who selects the best ones for racing purposes. The first shipment from the ranch was made in 1889, and out of that number there is one horse which has made an enviable record as a racer. If the yearlings are found not to be up to standard they are sold as carriage horses. The last shipment from the ranch was made last spring, and one horse has been kept from that consignment by the trainer who thinks it has promising racing qualities."

There are many advantages to breeding in W. Texas, "the lime properties of the soil give the horses good feet, strong legs and solid substantial bones. Then it is a mountainous country, the rare atmosphere and steep hillsides giving the horses good lungs. Another great advantage is that the horses can run out the whole year. It makes a horse weak to keep him in a stable several months out of the year. On a ranch we have a splendid mesquite range which affords plenty of grazing but we feed the thoroughbreds ground oats, bran and some wheat. There is plenty of water on the place, there being two running streams."

The present consignment

of horses now in the city will leave this morning for Kerrville over the San Antonio & Aransas Pass road. They are decidedly the most valuable lot of horses that ever passed through San Antonio. The two cars in which they are being shipped are those of the Arms Palace Car Co. They are equipped with every convenience and safety appliance. The capacity of each car is eighteen horses. Charles Morris left New York with the horses on Oct. 14, and will have been nearly two weeks on the road when Kerrville is reached. Among those horses are eleven imported mares, several of which are: Contradiction, by Sterling; Certamen, by Ben Battle; Palatina, by Fernandes; Princess Palatina, by George Frederick; Abu Kru, by Ben Battle; Opalescent, by Melton; Lowland Duchess, by Lowlander; and Rose by Thurio.

If you have any questions, concerning Sutton County history, send them to "Ask the Historical Society," P.O. Box 885, Sonora, TX 76950-0885 or e-mail them to schs@sonoratrax.net. If you would like to have a birthday announcement or old wedding story rerun for a special date, please notify us at least 2 weeks in advance. It takes a little time to dig through the old papers, type the article up and get it into the paper for the date you want. Sometimes there is a picture with the story and we can get it scanned to go along with the article. You can call me at the new office at 387-5084 on Mondays, Tuesday mornings and Fridays, my home number is 387-2855. Rental of the "Depot" John & Mildred Cauthorn Memorial Trust Building will be done at the new office on the days listed previously. Deposits must be paid to hold a date and rental is due when you pick up the keys.

Sonora TxDOT Employees Compete At District Truck Rodeo

Three Texas Department of Transportation employees from the Sonora Maintenance Section received awards at the annual San Angelo District Truck Rodeo on Oct. 16.

Jesse Solis and Sally Gonzales were recognized as winners from their local compe-

dition. Solis won the Sonora Maintenance Section competition in September with a score of 305 points. Gonzales placed second, scoring 295 out of a possible 350 points. Their scores advanced them to the annual district competition that included 28 finalists from across San Angelo.

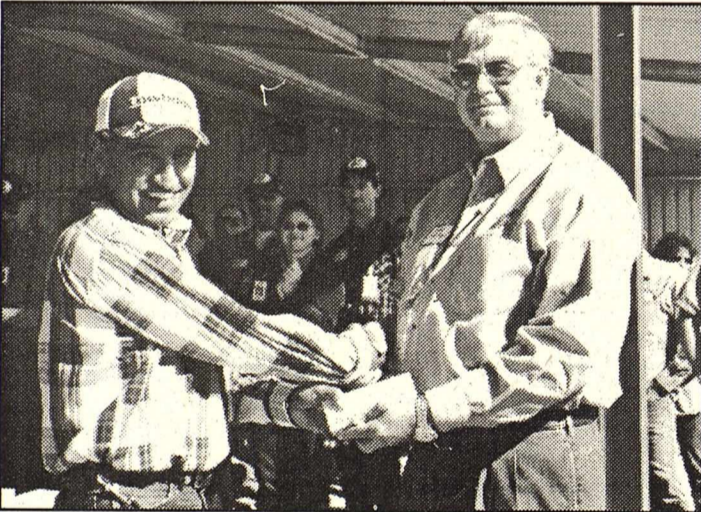
During the awards presentation, Romeo "Red" Perez was presented an award for winning the supervisor's competition. Perez scored 330 points.

Waylan Ensor from the District Maintenance Office won the district competition. Second place winner Gary Maricle from Sterling City Maintenance will also advance to the state event.

The annual program promotes safe vehicle operation. Additionally, the competition also challenges and recognizes the skills of all the TxDOT commercial drivers license operators. The drivers are judges while driving through an obstacle course.

The annual event requires the roдео participant to weave the dump truck through a course that simulates equipment maneuvers on a daily basis. Backing the truck into a confined loading dock area and driving forward and backward in a figure-eight pattern are a few of the skills that are scored.

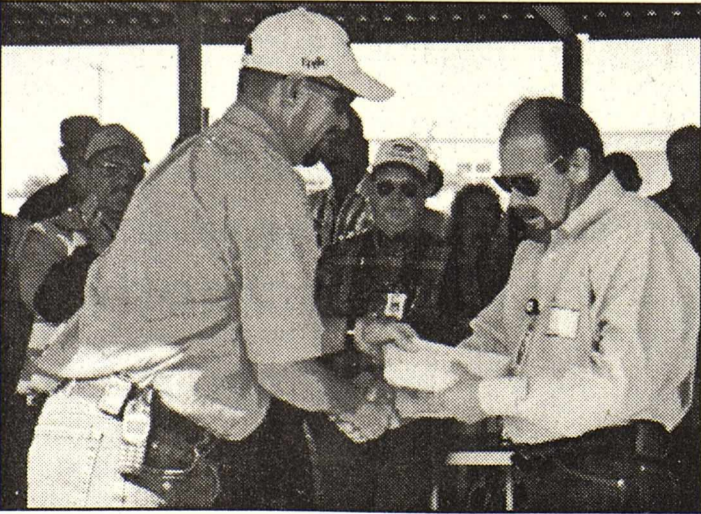
First and second place winners from the 25 districts advance to the state competition. The program also allows the State winner to advance to a national contest.



Jesse Solis won the local Truck Rodeo in September.



Sally Gonzales was second in September's Rodeo.



Romeo "Red" Perez received an award for Supervisor's competition.

Happy Birthday

October 31 - Juanita McBride, Fernando Emiliano, Santiago Faz, Jr., Stacey Pennington, Terry Martin, Emily Newton, Terry Schenkel

November 1 - Curry Campbell, Christian Harper, Ricardo Steele, Slavador Trinidad, Baylen Crites, Joy Wood, Danny White

November 2 - Becky Purvis, Bridget Maloney, Michael Whitehurst, Meagan Berry, Lee Gandar

November 3 - Caleb Taylor, Keri Rennels, Jesse Crain, Jerry Watkins

November 4 - Skyler Wood, Ben Pool, Vivian Van Zandt, Carla Gonzalez, Bubba Alewine

November 5 - Earl J. Johnson, Terry Surrledge, Thomas Adkins, Bruce Kerbow, Kylie Johnson, Jose Longoria, Jason Chadwick

November 6 - Martin Lopez, Mary Tabarez, Randy Lewellen, Kathy Lewellen, Platt Glasscock, Ron Pincince

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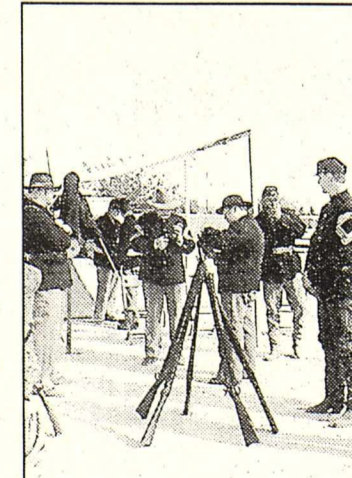


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- ★ Chuck Wagons

Fun for the entire family, and admission is FREE



F.Y.I.
 Open House on Tuesday, Nov. 19th from 5pm to 7pm at the Middle School Campus.
 Flu Shot Clinic - Texas Department of Health - November 1st 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 and 1:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. \$10 - Medicaid and Medicare accepted.

Sonora ISD is looking for volunteers to participate on the District Site Base Committee. At the current time we need two community members and one business representative. If you might be interested in being a part of this advisory team, contact John Berry, Middle School Principal, phone 387-3023 or email john.berry@netxv.net. The District's next advisory meeting will be Nov. 6th at 4:30 p.m.

Brownie Troops 104, 297, & 296 will have a meeting on Oct. 30 at 5:00 p.m. at the Girl Scout Hut.

Investiture Ceremony: We would like to take this time to honor our Sonora Girl Scouts. We will be having a pinning ceremony. Date: 11/03/2002 Time: 5:00 P.M. Place: 4-H Civic Center Reception following ceremony. Bring your cameras!

Cub Scout Pack 19 will have their annual FOOD DRIVE on 11/03/02. They will pick up food from 2:00-4:00 P.M. Placing a bag with your donations at your mailbox would be helpful.

Attention ALL Cub Scouts: The Scouts of Pack 19 will have their monthly pack meeting on November 11, 2002 at 7:00 P.M. at the Sonora Junior High Snack Bar. Bring your popcorn order forms and money. For any further questions or information, please contact Jan Stephens at 387-5821.

Cub Scout Pack 19 is selling an assortment of popcorn. Your support will be greatly appreciated! The Popcorn sale ends on 11/11/02 and delivered on 12/09/02. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact our leaders as follow: Loretta Garmon 387-5538, Monica Buitron 387-3361, Lauri Smith 387-2461, Sonia Gamez 387-7121, Jan Stephens 387-5821.

The next Grief Support Group will meet Tuesday, November 12th at 7:00 p.m. at The Bank & Trust Community Room. If you have experienced the death of someone close to you, you are urged to attend. For more information contact Kathy Hearn at 387-2593 or 387-2096.

The Girl Scouts are selling an assortment of nuts, peanut brittle and chocolate covered nuts. Your support will be greatly appreciated! The Nut sell ended on 10/25/02 and deliveries will be made on 11/14/02. If you made a purchase, please feel free to contact our leaders as follows: Tammy Favila 387-3661; Amy Sykes 387-5019; Laurie Garza 387-2387; or Marrisaz Faz 387-2041.

A new bilingual service for anyone needing help to fill out applications for social security or other programs will be offered at the Sr. Center starting on the 3rd Wed. of November or by appointment. Maria Carrasco will be available. Please call 387-5657 or 387-3941 Monday - Friday from 8:30 a.m - 4:30 p.m or come by the Center FMI.

Mark your calendars for the Scholastic Book Fair, Monday, November 18th through Friday, November 22nd from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. A special Family Event is planned for Tuesday, November 19th which you won't want to miss. Proceeds from this event benefit the school library. Classroom Wish Lists will also be available.

Tennis anyone. We would like to have Bentwood come to Sonora for private tennis lessons on Saturday and group sessions on Sunday at least once a month. Please contact Sandi Ainsworth at 387-3737 and leave a message if your child is interested. Attentative date: Nov. 16th.

El consulado De México en Del Rio, Texas, Informa A La Comunidad Mexicana: Que estará ofreciendo sus servicios en la ciudad de San Angelo, Texas, el sábado 16 de noviembre de 2002. Se expedirán pasaportes mexicanos, matrículas consulares, cartillas del servicio militar nacional, registros de nacimiento y declaraciones de nacionalidad a todos los mexicanos que cumplan los requisitos. Asimismo, se ofrecerá orientación en general. "Consulado Movil" - Lugar: 508 West Concho Ave. San Angelo, TX 76903 - Día: Sábado 16 de noviembre de 2002 - Horario: De 9:30 a 15:00 hrs. Para solicitar información sobre requisitos: Teléfono gratuito 1-866-701-7777.

Early voting for General Elections by personal appearance at the County Clerk's Office Oct 21 - Nov 1 M-F 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Parent information classes are being offered weekly at the elementary auditorium. Classes are on Tuesday afternoon from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. Area agencies along with school staff will be presenting information on a wide range of topics such as positive behavior support, building self-esteem in your children, nutrition, and much more. Anyone interested is encouraged to attend. Refreshments and childcare will be provided.

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

Social and Health Resources Coalition Seminar, appropriate for nurses, social workers and child care providers. Thursday, Nov. 7. CEUs provided. San Angelo Convention Center, \$45.00. For registration, call Sherrill Dooley at 657-4214.

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Local Teen Attends Leadership Challenge In Washington, D.C.



Elizabeth Elliott visits a memorial during an educational trip to Washington, D.C.

Washington, D.C. - Miss Elizabeth Elliott, daughter of Al and Sandra Elliott, attended the National Young Leaders Conference (NYLC) from October 15 through October 20, 2002 in Washington, D.C. She is a Jr. at Sonora High School. This unique leadership development program invites high school students - based on scholastic merit, community involvement, and leadership contributions - to interact with today's national leaders. NYLC scholars work through many issues facing our nation today through a series of simulations and meet face-to-face with members of the U.S. Congress or their staff, as well as other influential personalities.

"The National Young Leaders Conference motivates exceptional high school students like Elizabeth to responsibly meet challenges head-on and to gain confidence in making positive changes in communities throughout the world," said Michael Lasday, executive director of the Congressional Youth Leadership Council (CYLC), the organization that sponsors the NYLC.

U.S. Representative Ken Bentsen of Texas welcomed the students to the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives, an honor usually reserved for members of Congress and their special guests. Bentsen also pointed out several features of the historic chamber and explained the Congressional voting process.

Elizabeth said that one of her favorite parts of the trip was being split into groups or "caucuses" and given the assignment of coming up with an amendment and getting it passed. She was chosen to go to each "cau-

cus" and try to make them pass her amendment.

Elizabeth was also 1 of 10 students, out of the 400 attending, chosen to visit the Saudi Arabian Embassy and meet with the Ambassador. While there he discussed the different cultures, including clothing and food differences.

Because leadership goes beyond what happens on Capitol Hill, Elliott had the opportunity to interact with a panel of renowned journalists, including Nancy Ambrose (formerly of CNN), Michael Cottman (*The Washington Post*), Jonathan Karl (CNN) and Karen Tumulty (*TIME*). Students had the chance to ask questions regarding national and international current events, journalistic ethics and new prioritization, as well as advice and perspectives on how to start a career in journalism.

Elizabeth also did quite a bit of site-seeing during her trip, visiting the Smithsonian, the Arlington Cemetery, and a dynamic 9/11 Memorial.

The trip was not only educational but fun for Elizabeth and she won't soon forget all that she learned.

CYLC is a nonprofit, non-partisan leadership education organization. Founded in 1985 CYLC is committed to educating, motivating and inspiring young people to achieve their full leadership potential. Each year, 7,000 outstanding select youth participate in twenty-four sessions of NYLC. To date, more than 100,000 students have taken part in CYLC programs. For additional information on CYLC and NYLC, please visit us on the Internet at www.cvlc.org.

Main Street News
Main Street Turkey Golf Scramble

by Ann Kay

The Main Street Turkey Golf Scramble will be on Saturday, November 16, 2002. Tee time is at 11:00 a.m. at the Sonora Golf Course and the cost is \$15. Green fees have been waived by the Sonora Golf Course. The Main Street Program would like to extend an invitation to all golfers to come and play in the benefit scramble. All proceeds from the scramble will go toward community activities.

Prizes of cash, golf balls, free nights at the Best Western Inn, Sonora and Devil's River Days Inn, meals and a day of

Main Street Program Membership Drive

The following accomplishments of the Main Street Program could not have been possible without the supporting members of our community. We have been awarded the National Main Street Program Award for the last three years, Texas Downtown Association awarded us the "Best Promotion 2001" and "Public Improvement Project 1998", the Sonora Chamber of Commerce awarded the Main Street Program the "Best Organization of the Year 2001", listed as a director on the Texas Downtown Association and the Mayors Award of Excellence 1999.

By choosing to become a member of the Friends of Historic Sonora you are helping to preserve the past in the present. All it takes is to choose which price plan is comfortable with your budget. You may fill out the form online. Our program's web site is www.friendsofsonora.org/join1.html.
 The first 50 businesses and

golf at participating golf courses.

Sponsors for the Main Street Turkey Scramble are: Bar Y Ranch, AEP-WTU, Alco, KHOS Radio, The Devil's River News, Dairy Queen of Sonora, First National Bank, The Bank & Trust of Sutton County, Devil's River Days Inn, Best Western Inn, Sonora Golf Course, San Angelo Quicksand Golf Course, San Angelo Riverside Golf Course, Abilene Fair Way Oaks Golf Course, and Del Rio San Felipe Golf Course.

Come on out and play golf for the Main Street Program

professional sponsors will receive 1 month free of front-page advertisement on our web site. You may also receive e-mail with some of the plans.

For more information call Ann Kay at 915-387-2248 or visit the web site or check out the membership plans listed below. We hope you will support your Main Street Program with your membership and we may work to continue to accomplish our goals to spotlight Sonora, Texas, our home.

Individual - List of name on Website as an individual supporter - cost \$25.00 per year;

Associate - List of name on Website and access to email - cost \$75.00 per year;

Professional - List of name, address on our web site with access to e-mail

Golden - List of name on our Website as an individual supporter (60 years +)

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Hawks Top Broncos

by Tryon Fields

For some, last Friday's loss to the Wall Hawks might have spelled the end to everything.

However, the sun did rise in the east (even if we didn't see it), your dog didn't leave home, and the world continued to revolve on its axis! The young men dressed in Red and Black have nothing to hang their heads about! These young men gave everything they had and left everything on the field. Yes, the Broncos may not make the playoffs this year, but there comes a time when even great dynasties come up a little short (Roman; Ming, Cowboys, etc...). An old coaches saying; "those with the most horses; usually win."

Friday's game pitted two teams against each other with the hoss count fairly equal. In the end, the running attack of the Wall Hawks, proved to be the difference in a three point game.

Sonora opened this District 2-2A match-up on offense. Gambling on the first play from scrimmage, Coach Jason Herring called for the half-back pass. Back up quarterback, Lance Roberts, lofted up a pass. Hawk defender, Luke Cauley, read the play all the way and intercepted the pass at the Wall thirty-nine. Working out of the wish-bone formation, the Hawks began to grind out the yardage. Averaging four yards a carry; Jaron Haney, Josh Holik, and Sean Scribner moved the ball across the mid-field stripe to the Bronco forty-six. On a second and six call, Josh Holik would take the pitch to the outside. Forty-six yards later the Wall Hawks were up by six. The PAT by Brian Raspberry would split the uprights to give the Hawks an early seven point lead. Wall 7 - Sonora 0.

Sonora's woes would continue on the ensuing kick-off. Whether by design or by accident, the kick-off would hit one of the Bronco up lineman square in the back as he was retreating to block. A hustling Jared Ripple would recover the wet pigskin at the Wall forty-eight. It would take the Hawks three plays to return the favor. A tremendous hit by Israel Arevalo on the Wall running back, Jaron Haney, would knock the football loose; Bronco secondary back, Wilson Wallace, would recover the

bounding ball at the Hawk forty-seven. Before the Bronco Express could get untracked, they would turn the ball over for the second time. Bronco full-back, Chris Martin, breaks into the open, and just as he was going to change gears, the football squirted out. Hawk defender, Luke Cauley, would snatch the ball out of the air and give Wall possession at the Hawk thirty-five. A swarming Bronco defense led by Justin Sims, Luis Segura, Thomas Bloodworth, and Dustin Martin would force the Hawks to punt the football after using a little over four minutes of the first quarter game clock and only gaining seven yards. A nice punt by the Hawks would put the Red Hosses in a hole at their own seventeen. Stoking the boilers of the Bronco Express, the Broncos began a four and a half minute drive of their own. Juan Rodriguez and Chris Martin provided the power on the ground, while Bronco quarterback, Scottie Moore, would use laser strikes to Chris Martin, Doug Yocham, and Dustin Martin to advance the ball to the Wall thirteen. At the thirteen, Scottie Moore would pinpoint a pass to a slanting Doug Yocham for the Bronco touchdown.

A booming PAT by Zedekiah Snodgrass would split the uprights to knot the score at seven apiece. Wall 7 - Sonora 7. An energized Red Hoss defense picked up the pace and forced the Hawks to quick-kick the football. The quick-kick, catching the Broncos off guard, would put them in a hole at the Bronco fifteen. Ball control at its finest.

The Bronco Express orchestrated a six and a half minute seventy-three yard drive. Juan Rodriguez and Chris Martin, giving excellent second and third efforts while running the ball, aided the short passing game of Moore to Rodriguez, C. Martin, and Luis Segura.

Coach Herring going to the razzle dazzle on this series, used the hook and ladder from Scottie Moore to Doug Yocham who lateraled to Juan Rodriguez sprinting down the sideline. Wall speedster, Josh Holik, saved the touchdown by catching Rodriguez at the Wall thirteen. A short gainer by Chris



#73 Jared Parks and #55 Thomas Bloodworth line up against the Wall Hawks. Photo by Robin Street

Martin, an incomplete pass, and a pass caught by Chris Martin just over the end zone line set up a fourth and nine at the Hawk twelve. Bronco place kicker Zedekiah Snodgrass would give the Broncos a three point lead on his twenty-seven yard field goal with a minute and twenty-nine seconds left in the half. Wall 7 - Sonora 10.

Deviating from their game plan, the Hawks went to the air. Excellent secondary coverage and tremendous pressure by Lance Roberts, Justin Sims, and Israel Arevalo would force the Hawks to turn over the ball on downs with thirty-three seconds left in the half. A nine yard gain by Juan Rodriguez, and a sack of Scottie Moore would close out the final seconds of the second quarter.

Halftime: Wall 7 - Sonora 10.

Defense - Defense - Defense: Both teams came out of the break with their defensive ears pinned back. Three and out met both teams on their first possessions of the second half.

Wall's second possession would begin at their own forty-six. Going back to their game plan of pounding the ball down the field; alternating between Jaron Haney and Josh Holik the Hawks drove the ball to the Bronco one. Faced with a fourth and goal at the one, the Hawks tried to muscle their way into the end zone. The middle of the Bronco defense, led by Jared Parks, Israel Arevalo, Thomas Bloodworth, and Shaun Ramos, would out muscle the Hawks and deny them. Wall's defense responded with a stand of their own. After only gaining two tough yards on two plays; the

Broncos elected to quick-kick. An excellent kick by Scottie Moore would give the Hawks the ball at their own forty-three.

Wall, staying with the girl that brought them, kept the ball on the ground and once again began gobbling up the yardage. Five running plays aided by a face mask advanced the ball to the Broncos seven. Learning from their previous mistakes; the Hawks went to the air this time. Wall's quarterback, Sean Scribner, would find Josh Holik all alone in the endzone for the go ahead touchdown. With a minute and eleven seconds left in the third quarter, the PAT by Raspberry would be blocked by the middle of the Bronco defensive line making the score: Wall 13 - Sonora 10. The remainder of the third quarter and all of the fourth quarter would turn into a defensive duel. Neither team would be able to get past the opponents forty yard line until the Hawks used the last four minutes and twelve seconds of the fourth quarter to get inside the Broncos twenty to close out the game.

Hawks 13 - Broncos 10.

Even though the Broncos lost this game, they are not totally out of the play-off picture. They will have to win their last two games and have a lot of help from the Reagan County Owls and others. It all starts with the District leading Ozona Lions. The Lions, bringing a perfect three and 0 district record into Fridays match-up will provide a formidable foe for the Broncos. Game time is 7:30 p.m. at Lion Stadium in Ozona.

GOOD LUCK BRONCOS!!! BEAT OZONA!!!

J.V. Broncos Fall Short To Wall Hawks

by Maray Cearley

On a cold, wet evening the Sonora Junior Varsity Broncos had hopes of beating the undefeated Wall Hawks.

On Wall's first possession they went the distance, scoring 6 with the 2 point conversion attempt failing after a bobbled snap.

Sonora then went 3 and out. After a 42 yard punt by Travis Heard, Wall took control at their own 28. After successfully moving the ball, Wall had their first miscue, a fumble, in which Cullen Parker recovered.

From Wall's 45 Sonora began to move the ball. On the ground, Cameron Cox had carries of 4 and 7. Clint Cearley and Steven Duhon connected in the air for a gain of 13. On 3rd and 7, Cearley found Duhon for a 27 yard score. Cox added the extra point and Sonora takes the lead 7 - 6.

The Bronco Defense led by Brian Payton, Roland Solis and Nash Traylor held the Hawks to minus yardage and they were forced to punt.

Once again Sonora was unable to move the chains, and they too were forced to punt. Defensively Embre Smith, Hilton Bloodworth, Boomer Galindo and Austin Wagoner kept the Hawks from getting into the endzone and the Broncos took over at their 20. After a gain of 4 by Cox and an 8 yard completion to Duhon, Cearley throws deep and it is intercepted on the Wall 41. It doesn't take long for the Green to capitalize on the turnover. After the touchdown the 2 point pass attempt was incomplete, leaving the score Sonora 7, Wall 12.

With good field position and on the 1st down, the Broncos run the counter with Traylor picking up 9 yards. On 2nd, Cearley finds his "go-to" receiver Anthony Longoria for a gain of 22. The Wall Defense stiffened and was able to stop the Broncos on the 18. The ball went over on downs and on the 1st down the Hawks took it 82 yards for the score.

The 2 point conversion was good and the score is now

Sonora 7, Wall 20.

Sonora wasn't able to move the ball and was forced to punt. With only seconds left in the first half, Wall wasn't satisfied with their lead and they decided to go long only to have Longoria intercept it.

On Sonora's first possession of the second half Stetson Perez had carries of 4 and 5, only to be stopped on third down. The Red once again were forced to rely on their defense. Frank Gallegos, Traylor and Wagoner had valiant efforts, but the bigger and faster Hawks were able to get to the secondary and eventually the endzone. The extra point was blocked by J.R. Solis, leaving the score 7 to 26.

In hopes of jump-starting the Bronco offense the coaches made a quarterback change. Embre Smith gained 6 on The Keeper, then Cox gained 6 up the middle. After an incomplete pass and minus yardage on the The Sweep, Smith fumbled with Wall recovering at Sonora's 38.

On defense, J.R. Solis forced a hurried incomplete pass, Duhon stops the ball carrier at the line of scrimmage and then on 4th down, Wagoner forces an incomplete.

Sonora took over at their own 30. Cox and S. Perez combined to move the chains and then Cearley had a 20 yard com-

pletion to Duhon. To start the 4th quarter Cearley connected with Wagoner for 10. When it looked as if Sonora was back on track their troubles began again. First Cearley was sidelined for an injury and then the Broncos committed several penalties, which found them 4th and long. Unable to convert, the ball was turned over on downs. On defense, Jeb Hunt had a QB Sack, while Wagoner and Gallegos held the Hawks to minus yards. They were forced to punt, with Sonora taking control near mid-field. Cearley and Longoria connected for 8 while Cox had carries of 5 and 18. From the 16 Cearley finds Longoria in the endzone for the apparent touchdown, but it was called back due to an illegal block. The Broncos were then called for an Illegal Procedure.

After a Cearley sack and Cox for minus yards, the ball was turned over on downs.

On Wall's last possession, Will Crittendon and Steven Barthelemy were credited with 2 tackles each. The Hawks ran the clock out with Sonora 7, Wall 26.

The Broncos will play their last home game this week against the Ozona Lions. Come out and support them in their quest for another victory.



The "Spartan Cheerleader" made a special visit to the Colt Pep Rally and proved they could "Bring it on!"

Colts Win One, Lose One

The 7th & 8th Grade Colts were scheduled to play the second of only three home games this season, this past Thursday, but due to all the rainfall, the games were relocated to Wall. This would make for a full afternoon and evening of football with both Colt teams and the Junior Varsity team playing from 4:00 pm until 9:30 pm.

The 7th Grade Colts played an excellent game coming out on top for the win with a score of 22 - 6. Their record now improves to 5-2.

The 8th Grade Colts did not fare as well and lost 14 - 36. These Colts fought hard and came on strong, unfortunately they just ran out of time.

Their record is now 3-4.

The Colt teams will travel to Ozona this week to take on the Lions. 7th Grade starts at 5:00 pm with the 8th Grade Colts starting immediately following at approximately 6:30 pm.

GO COLTS!!! BEAT the LIONS!!!

2002 Bronco Football Schedule
COLT FOOTBALL
 Oct. 31 • Ozona
 There • 5:00/6:30 p.m.
 Nov. 7 • Grape Creek
 Home • 5:00/6:30 p.m.
JV FOOTBALL
 Oct. 31 • Ozona
 Home • 6:30 p.m.
 Nov. 7 • Grape Creek
 There • 6:30 p.m.
VARSITY
 Nov. 1 • *Ozona
 There • 7:30 p.m.
 Nov. 8 • *Grape Creek
 Home • 7:30 p.m.

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As of October 29, 2002

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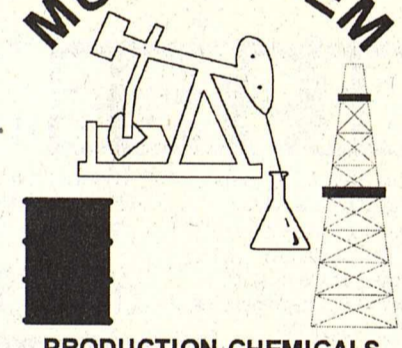
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The Touch Of Agriculture



by only people working for this huge industry. Agriculture supports your neighbor who works at the clothing production plant, your friend who manages the local grocery store and even your family pharmacist.

No doubt about it - agriculture fuels our economy. The agriculture industry accounts for two percent of our nation's gross domestic product. It also accounts for \$50 billion in exports each year. Let's not forget that farmers pay incredible sums of money to cover their business expenses. In recent years, farmers paid as much as \$73 billion in purchases and over \$25 billion in employee wages.

When you add up the products, the jobs and the economic advantages you can come to just one conclusion: the agriculture industry is literally the backbone of our country. This was true when the founding fathers met in Philadelphia, it was true during the industrial revolution of the 1800s, and it is still true today.

So the next time you're in the grocery store picking out apples or at a department store selecting a new shirt, think about the time and energy invested in every product you see. We may take these things for granted, but for thousands of people nation-wide these items are truly a necessity of life. Let's be thankful for our agriculture industry and for the men and women who work hard every day to keep it strong.

Congressman Henry Bonilla is chairman of the Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee. As chairman, Mr. Bonilla oversees all of the nation's agriculture funding, the nation's food supply, emergency disaster relief, and farm and ranch programs. Mr. Bonilla is in his fifth term as a Congressman from Texas' 23rd district.

Pesticide Re-certification Course

There will be a Pesticide Re-Certification Course on Thursday, November 14th, 2002 in Eldorado at the Memorial Building on the Courthouse Square. Registration will begin at 8:30 a.m. and the program will start at 9:00 a.m. There will be 6 CEU's available for those with a Private Pesticide Applicators License/Certificate. There will be a \$10 charge per person to cover the cost of the noon meal. Topics will range from crop production to brush control.

Oil & Agribusiness

Rig Locations as of October 25, 2002

RIGDATA
A Rig Location & Permit News Service

Sutton County
Dominion; 8925' Brown-Whitehead - 2 - #3, Patterson Drilling.
Dominion; 8800' Mayer - 3D - #4, Patterson Drilling.
Dominion; 8600' Hudspeth - 53 - #4, Patterson Drilling.
New Dominion; 8600' Mayer - 3 - #4, Patterson Drilling.
Dominion; 8550' Randee Hill - Fawcett TR - F - #2, Patterson Drilling.
New Dominion; 7250' Shurley - 166 - #13, Patterson Drilling.
Dominion; 7150' Shurley - 165 - #5, Patterson Drilling.
Dominion; 6650' Davis - C - #38, Patterson Drilling.
New Dominion; 6550' Davis - C - #37, Patterson Drilling.
New Dominion; 5500' Wallace - 115 - #1, Patterson Drilling.
Dominion; 5850' Askew - 44B - #1, Patterson Drilling.

Crockett County
Oxy Permian/Houston; 5600' South Cross Unit #216, Capstar Drilling.
Harrison Interests; 6800' University Land 19 - 30 #49, Patterson Drilling.

Terrell
ExxonMobil Dev. Co.; 16000' Banner Estate #25, Patterson UT/LV.
Conoco; 15300' Culbertson - 16 - #3, H, Nabors Drilling.
Athamor Texas; 12500' Mitchell - 3 - #2, Nabors Drilling.
EOG Res; 10000' Noelke - 5 - #1 H, TMBR/Sharp Drilling.
New Fasken Oil & Ranch; 7500' Monroe SW - 187 - #7, Patterson Drilling.

Devil's River Internet
387-2507

Directors Elected to Southwest Texas ACA Board

Stockholders recently elected five directors to the Southwest Texas ACA board. Elected were, Louis f. Woodward of Girvin; **Glen C. Richardson of Sonora**, Edwin L. Yanta of Devine; Jack Kingsbery of Crystal City and James B. Carlson of La Villa. Woodward, Richardson, Yanta, Kingsbery and Carlson are well known agricultural leaders throughout South and West Texas and bring a combined total of almost 100 years of Farm Credit director experience to the Southwest Texas ACA board. According to CEO Rick Rothee "stockholders of Southwest Texas ACA are fortunate to be represented by such outstanding agricultural leaders and businessmen." They join F. Shelby Henke of Campbellton; Larry McBee of Del Rio; Paul Aelvoet of Hondo; Katherin J. Crittendon of Valentine; Truman De Lux of Eldorado; Wilburn Malm of Lyford; Victor J. Niemyer of Knippa; Danny Parker, Robert L. Price and Mark Vanham of Uvalde; **Billy Savell of Sonora**; Robert C. Surratt of Clint; Gene S. Walker of Aguilares, and Roy Grady Wheeler of Pleasanton as members of the board.

Southwest Texas ACA is a part of the Farm Credit System and provides financing for livestock, equipment, rural homes, farms and ranches in Southwest Texas. According to CEO Rothee "continued demand for rural real estate and low interest rates has provided for phenomenal Association loan volume growth during the past year." Loan volume for the Association now exceeds Four Hundred Fifty Million Dollars.

NOVEMBER 5, 2002 (5 de noviembre de 2002)

OFFICIAL BALLOT (BOLETA OFICIAL)

INSTRUCTION NOTE: Vote for the candidate of your choice by placing an "X" in the square beside the candidate's name. Place an "X" in the square beside the statement indicating the way you wish to vote. You may cast a straight-party vote (that is, cast a vote for all the nominees of one party) by placing an "X" in the square beside the name of the party of your choice. If you cast a straight-party vote for all the nominees of one party and also cast a vote for an opponent of one of that party's nominees, your vote for the opponent will be counted as well as your vote for all the other nominees of the party for which the straight-party vote was cast. You may vote for a write-in by writing in the name on the line provided and marking in the box provided to the left of the line.

(NOTA DE INSTRUCCION: Vote por el candidato de su preferencia marcando con una "X" el cuadro al lado del nombre del candidato. Ponga una "X" en el cuadro al lado de la linea que indica la manera en la cual usted quiere votar. Usted podrá votar por todos los candidatos de un solo partido politico ("straight-ticket") marcando una "X" en el espacio cuadrado a la izquierda del nombre de ese partido politico. Si usted vota por uno de los partidos politicos y tambien vota por el contrario de uno de los candidatos de dicho partido politico, se contará su voto por el contrario tanto como su voto por todos los demás candidatos del partido politico de su preferencia. Usted podrá votar por inserción escrita escribiendo el nombre del candidato en la linea provista y llenando completamente el espacio cuadrado a la izquierda de la linea.)

Candidates for: (Candidatos para)	Republican (Republicano)	Democratic (Democrático)	Libertarian (Libertariano)	Green (Verde)	Write In (Voto Escrito)
United States Senator (Senador de los Estados Unidos)	<input type="checkbox"/> John Cornyn	<input type="checkbox"/> Ron Kirk	<input type="checkbox"/> Scott Lanier Jameson	<input type="checkbox"/> Roy H. Williams	<input type="checkbox"/> Write-In (Voto Escrito)
United States Representative, District 23 (Representante de los Estados Unidos, Distrito Núm. 23)	<input type="checkbox"/> Henry Bonilla	<input type="checkbox"/> Henry Cuellar	<input type="checkbox"/> Jeffrey C. Blunt	<input type="checkbox"/> Ed Scharf	
Governor (Gobernador)	<input type="checkbox"/> Rick Perry	<input type="checkbox"/> Tony Sanchez	<input type="checkbox"/> Jeff Daise	<input type="checkbox"/> Rahul Mahajan	<input type="checkbox"/> Write-In (Voto Escrito)
Lieutenant Governor (Gobernador Teniente)	<input type="checkbox"/> David Dewhurst	<input type="checkbox"/> John Sharp	<input type="checkbox"/> Mark David Gessner	<input type="checkbox"/> Nathalie Paravicini	
Attorney General (Procurador General)	<input type="checkbox"/> Greg Abbott	<input type="checkbox"/> Kirk Watson	<input type="checkbox"/> Jon Roland	<input type="checkbox"/> David Keith Cobb	
Comptroller of Public Accounts (Contralor de Cuentas Públicas)	<input type="checkbox"/> Carole Keeton Rylander	<input type="checkbox"/> Marty Atkins	<input type="checkbox"/> Bowie Ibara	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruben L. Reyes	
Commissioner of the General Land Office (Comisionado de la Oficina General de Tierras)	<input type="checkbox"/> Jerry Patterson	<input type="checkbox"/> David Berman	<input type="checkbox"/> Barbara A. Hernandez	<input type="checkbox"/> Michael B. McInerney	
Commissioner of Agriculture (Comisionado de Agricultura)	<input type="checkbox"/> Susan Combs	<input type="checkbox"/> Tom Rainsby	<input type="checkbox"/> Vincent J. May	<input type="checkbox"/> Jane Woodward Eloseff	
Railroad Commissioner (Comisionado de Ferrocarriles)	<input type="checkbox"/> Michael L. Williams	<input type="checkbox"/> Sherry Boyles	<input type="checkbox"/> Nazrite R. Flores Perez	<input type="checkbox"/> Charles L. Mauch	
Chief Justice, Supreme Court (Jefe Presidente, Corte Suprema)	<input type="checkbox"/> Torri Phillips	<input type="checkbox"/> Richard G. Baker	<input type="checkbox"/> Eugene J. Flynn		
Justice, Supreme Court, Place 1 (Jefe, Corte Suprema, Lugar Núm. 1)	<input type="checkbox"/> Mike Schneider	<input type="checkbox"/> Linda Yanez	<input type="checkbox"/> Quanah Parker		
Justice, Supreme Court, Place 2 (Jefe, Corte Suprema, Lugar Núm. 2)	<input type="checkbox"/> Dale Wainwright	<input type="checkbox"/> Jim Parsons		<input type="checkbox"/> Brad Rockwell	
Justice, Supreme Court, Place 3, Unexpired Term (Jefe, Corte Suprema, Lugar Núm. 3, Duración Restante del Cargo)	<input type="checkbox"/> Wallace B. Jefferson	<input type="checkbox"/> William E. Moody			
Justice, Supreme Court, Place 4, Unexpired Term (Jefe, Corte Suprema, Lugar Núm. 4, Duración Restante del Cargo)	<input type="checkbox"/> Steven Wayne Smith	<input type="checkbox"/> Margaret Mirabal			
Judge, Court of Criminal Appeals, Place 1 (Jefe, Corte de Apelaciones Criminales, Lugar Núm. 1)	<input type="checkbox"/> Tom Price	<input type="checkbox"/> John W. Bull	<input type="checkbox"/> Stephan Kinsella	<input type="checkbox"/> Robert C. (Rob) Owen	
Judge, Court of Criminal Appeals, Place 2 (Jefe, Corte de Apelaciones Criminales, Lugar Núm. 2)	<input type="checkbox"/> Paul Wornack	<input type="checkbox"/> Pat Montgomery			
Judge, Court of Criminal Appeals, Place 3 (Jefe, Corte de Apelaciones Criminales, Lugar Núm. 3)	<input type="checkbox"/> Cathy Cochran	<input type="checkbox"/> J. R. Molina		<input type="checkbox"/> Ollie Ruth Jefferson	
Member, State Board of Education, District 1 (Miembro de la Junta Estatal de Educación Pública, Distrito Núm. 1)	<input type="checkbox"/> Trini Muñoz	<input type="checkbox"/> Rene Nuñez	<input type="checkbox"/> Catherine F. Harrell		
State Senator, District 19 (Senador Estatal, Distrito Núm. 19)		<input type="checkbox"/> Frank Mada			
State Representative, District 53 (Representante Estatal, Distrito Núm. 53)	<input type="checkbox"/> Harvey Hilderbran		<input type="checkbox"/> James E. Harrell		
Chief Justice, 4th Court of Appeals District (Jefe Presidente, Corte de Apelaciones, Distrito Núm. 4)	<input type="checkbox"/> Paul W. Green	<input type="checkbox"/> Alma L. López			
Justice, 4th Court of Appeals District, Unexpired Term (Jefe, Corte de Apelaciones Distrito Núm. 4, Duración Restante del Cargo)	<input type="checkbox"/> Sandee Bryan Marion				
District Judge, 112th Judicial District (Jefe del Distrito, Distrito Judicial Núm. 112)		<input type="checkbox"/> Brock Jones			
County Judge (Jefe del Condado)		<input type="checkbox"/> Carla Gamer			
District and County Clerk (Secretario del Distrito y Condado)		<input type="checkbox"/> Veronica E. (Betty) Hernandez			
County Treasurer (Tesorero del Condado)		<input type="checkbox"/> Joyce Hearn Chalk			
Justice of the Peace (Jefe de Paz)		<input type="checkbox"/> Adolita Smaling Alvarez			

Pct. 2
Commissioner John Wade

Pct. 4
Commissioner Belia Castaneda

Constitutional Amendment Election (Elección Sobre Enmiendas a la Constitución)

For (A Favor De)

The constitutional amendment authorizing the commissioners court of a county to declare the office of constable in a precinct to be dormant if the office has not been filled by election or appointment for a lengthy period and providing a procedure for the reinstatement of the office. (La enmienda constitucional que autoriza a la

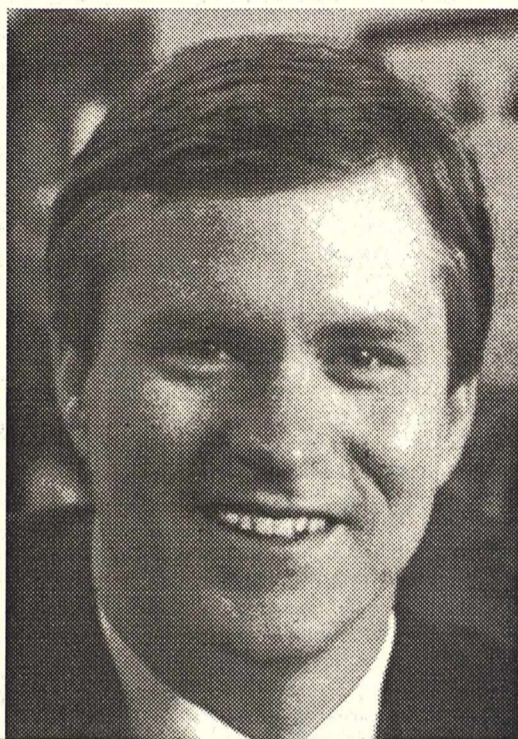
Superbowl Saturday Hits Sonora



Saturday November 2, 2002 is the big day for the Pee Wee and Heavy Weight Broncos. The Superbowl of the YMCA Football league will be held at Bronco Stadium starting at 9:00 a.m. Games played by Sonora, Eldorado, Ozona and Big Lake football players will take place all day at Bronco Stadium, with Sonora teams playing at 9:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m and 3:00 p.m. Concession stands will be open. Don't miss a chance to see future Broncos in action.

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 • THE RING ds (PG-13)..... 1:50 4:40 7:15 9:50
 • THE TRANSPORTER (PG-13)..... 2:10 4:20 7:10 9:35
 • KNOCKAROUND GUYS (R)..... 2:25 4:25 7:35 9:40
 • SWIMFAN (PG-13)..... 2:30 4:45 7:30 9:20
 • THE TUXEDO (PG-13)..... 2:40 5:10 7:25 9:30
 • SPY KIDS 2 (PG)..... 2:20 4:30 7:05 9:15
 Times good for the week of 11/01 thru 11/07
 \$3.00 Matinees before 6:00 p.m.
 Monday-Thursday
 • SANTA CLAUSE 2 (ds) (G)..... 4:30 7:00 9:40
 • THE RING ds (PG-13)..... 4:40 7:15 9:50
 • THE TRANSPORTER (PG-13)..... 4:20 7:10 9:35
 • KNOCKAROUND GUYS (R)..... 4:25 7:35 9:40
 • SWIMFAN (PG-13)..... 4:45 7:30 9:20
 • THE TUXEDO (PG-13)..... 5:10 7:25 9:30
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been his priorities. His 1995 welfare reform legislation started a national trend, and his 1997 legislation protecting residents of Texas nursing homes addressed the needs of our seniors. His fellow legislators recognized him last session by voting him Vice Chair of



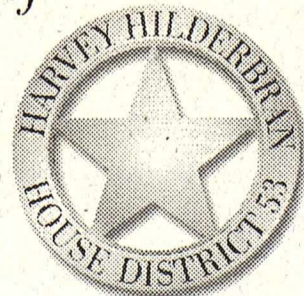
the Republican Caucus for the House of Representatives. His service on the House Natural Resources Committee is a contin-

uation of his fight to assure rural Texans have the water we will need. Harvey is a family man, an outdoorsman, rancher, and businessman. His love of



Texas and Texans is obvious in every legislative endeavor. Most important at this time in our region's history, we need Harvey's leadership in the Texas House. And Harvey wants your vote.

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STATE REPRESENTATIVE ★ DISTRICT 53

Back Talk

Chiropractic Care Questions & Answers

The nervous system, consisting of your brain, spinal cord and all the nerves of your body, controls every cell, tissue, organ, and system of your body. Bones (vertebrae) that cover your spine (the nervous system's information superhighway) can rub, stretch, choke, or irritate delicate nerve tissue.

This is referred to as the Vertebral Subluxation Complex.

Chiropractic doctors locate and help correct spinal problems interfering with the nerve supply to the entire body. Without drugs or surgery, the body's inborn healing ability is released. This safe and conservative approach to relief and wellness makes chiropractic the most popular form of natural health care in the world.

Back Talk

Chiropractic Care Questions & Answers

Dr. Rico Forlano
 Forlano Chiropractic Family Health Center
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Commissioners from page 1

ing for possible grants to help with the replacement of the grandstands at the arena.

Another main concern of the Commissioners was the continuation of looking for a solution to the TRAX van problem.

Judge Carla Garner informed the commissioners that she had spoke in length with the CVOG last week and it was suggested that if the County were to take over operations of the TRAX van, it be done in January. She explained that by bringing on 2 drivers at 30 hours a week at \$7.75 an hour with benefits that the total would be over the current budgeted amount. However, there were some other issues to look at including the possibility of one of the drivers not being able to work 30 hours, and therefore a new driver would have to be hired at a lower beginning rate. Garner continued by explaining that CVOG will provide the phones, supplies, desks, computers, vans, maintenance, gas and a back up driver if needed. Judge Alvarez said that the office could be located in a room across the hall from her office in the Courthouse. Garner also explained that since one of the drivers, Sonia, is the daughter of a Commissioner, Belia, that Belia would have to abstain from any voting pertaining to the TRAX program. After further discussion a motion was made by Mike Villanueva to take over the TRAX program, beginning in January of next year. Cavaness seconded the motion and all Commissioners voted in favor, with Belia abstaining from the vote.

The Sutton County Extension Agents then gave a presentation to the Commissioners, catching them up with some of the current programs that they are working on.

Kelly Thorp and Noemi Samaniego told about the concho Valley Health Partnership Project they were working on together. This Partnership is a collaborative effort involving health and human service providers and health consumers, in assessing community health status and developing interventions to improve public health outcomes. Thorp and Samaniego explained that they would be donating many refer-

ence materials to the Sutton County Library for people to use. These materials will cover a wide range of health issues and can be accessed for free at the public library. Samaniego also explained that she is available to present programs for any organizations, regarding health issues and she and Thorp will soon be initiating Diabetes Information programs in Sutton County.

Preston Faris then introduced Sherry Ingham as a 4-H leader in our local program. Ingham gave a presentation on how 4-H is a positive outlet for the youth of Sutton County. She explained that she has two girls who are very active in many projects in the 4-H and they have learned a lot while enjoying their experiences. Ingham is a leader in 3 projects and recently attended leadership forum where she and 14 other leaders from Sutton County learned many important things to share with the 4-H members.

Ingham reported that the annual awards banquet was held recently and 64 kids received project completion certificates. She also said that 45 kids validated livestock last week, in preparation of upcoming stock shows. Ingham ended her presentation by encouraging everyone present to become involved in 4-H or encourage a child to become involved.

Faris ended the County Extension presentation by informing the Commissioners of a current Tri-county program that they are involved in regarding Ag & Natural Resources issues. He said that this is a pilot program and he and 10 local ranchers have traveled to several informative programs and will continue to do so over the next couple of years.

Garner then informed the Commissioners that the Workers Compensation Insurance would be taking a significant rise because of the 9/11 tragedies. Maura Weingart, County Auditor informed the court that the county employees were doing very well and that this increase was not because of claims locally. A motion was made and approved to accept the Workers Compensation proposal and the meeting was adjourned.

This Saturday, November 2nd, the public is invited to enjoy the 12th annual Living History Day at the Historic Fort in Fort Stockton, TX. Step out of your car and into the past. The grounds will be open from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Come enjoy a full day of fun, food and entertainment for the entire family - and it's all free.

Living History Day celebrates the Indian Wars post and the frontier of the 1800's. Enjoy the West Texas history and culture as it comes to life right before your eyes. Soldiers from Forts Stockton, Concho, Davis, Lancaster and McKavett will include infantry, calvary, and artillery. There will be native Americans, medicinal herbs and poets and storytellers. Learn how frontier women did tatting and lace making, weaving and spinning and quilting. The Fort Stockton Laundresses will teach the art of washing clothes, making soap and starch. Visitors will be encouraged to try their hand at those daily chores or domestic life at the Army Post.

Visit with the re-enactors: Pat Cheatam, the San Angelo blacksmith and his wife Ann will have a wide variety of hand-crafted iron tools, chimes and inner bells for sell. Cynthia

News From The Neighbors

Schneider the Midland "Soap Landy" and husband Don will have handmade soap to sell, along with some really interesting tales. Beverly Hartman paints and sells gourds and has been commissioned to do 2002 Christmas gourds for "Christmas at old Fort Stockton".

There will be a western feel in the air as the Pecos River Gang keeps the peace and Gerry Allison gets into a scuffle over the story of his ancestry. Doug Whitaker will have the public spell bound with his rope tricks and fast draw. The chuckwagon camp will stay busy all day as they feed the re-enactors.

There will be entertainment from all over the state of Texas. Ricky Boen and Texas Mud and Washtub Jerry and Glenn Moreland will have you tapping your toes and clapping to the beat of the music. Gloria Espino and Wallace Moore, followed by the 6th grade Intermediate Stars will perform in the afternoon. The Daylights will be back again this year and have some good music planned for us. The Sahawee Indian dancers will also be back this year. We are adding Celtic Dancers and bagpipers this year.

Fort Stockton was one of a

string of 19th century military posts that protected travelers and commerce on the San Antonio/El Paso road during the Indian Wars (1867-1886). In fact, military history in this area goes back to the 1850's when Camp Stockton served as a base for the expeditions throughout the region. During the Civil War, the post was occupied by units of the Army of the Confederacy.

This history will again come to life with soldiers setting up camp on the old fort's parade grounds. Once again, the infantry will drill to the sergeant's commands, cavalry will take the field, and cannons

and small arms will fire, and the air will be filled with the music of the bugle, the fife and drum, and the fiddle.

Don't forget to stop by the Silent Auction in Officer's Quarters 8. All sales benefit Historic Fort Stockton. There will be over 100 items to choose from. Remember, Christmas is just around the corner. The auction ends at 5:00 p.m. when the evening gun fires.

All this and so much more is going on at Living History Day 2002 at Historic Fort Stockton, 301 E. Third. Saturday, November 2nd, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Howard College Announces Free Computer Training

Howard College in San Angelo announced it will offer free computer training for the general public every Friday beginning November 1 and ending December 13. Location for the training will be Room B119 at the West Texas Training Center, 3501 N. US Hwy. 67. Every Friday during this period, between 11:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m., computer lab monitors will be available to assist the general public with the development of basic computer skills including: Basic Keyboarding, PC Fundamentals, Internet & E-mail Usage, Microsoft Word 2000, Microsoft Excel 2000, Microsoft Access 2000 and Microsoft PowerPoint 2000. For more information about the free training, contact the Director of Workforce Training, Donna Guthrie at 481-8322.

Senate District 25 Owns State's Best Voter-Turnout Record

by Jeff Wentworth
State Senator, District 25

Writing a column about the importance of voting for newspaper readers in Senate District 25 is like "preaching to the choir."

I am very proud that the current Senate District 25 has the best voter-turnout record in all of Texas. It is my firm belief that the pattern of high voter turnout will continue in the reconfigured Senate District 25 that will include all of Comal, Guadalupe, Kendall and Hays counties and parts of Bexar and Travis.

Because the general election on November 5 is the first since congressional and Texas Senate and House district lines were redrawn after the 2000 census, many of you will be voting in different districts for fed-

eral and state offices.

It would be wise to check your local newspapers for possible changes in polling locations for November 5. Your voter registration card includes your voting precinct number. Check your voting precinct number against polling site addresses published in the public notice section of newspapers.

In addition to possible changes in polling locations, voters also may be facing longer ballots than usual. Historically, new district lines mean more candidates. Voters in more densely populated counties will be confronted with two-page ballots.

Comal and Kendall County voters will elect a representative to the Texas House from a new district. Republican Carter Casteel and Democrat Virgil

Yanta are vying to be the first Texas House member from District 73.

Although Williamson County will no longer be in Senate District 25 after January, some voters in that county will be voting in a new congressional district. Texas' population growth resulted in Texas' gaining two new seats in the U.S. House of Representatives. Texans also will be voting on judges, members of the state board of education and district and county offices, such as county commissioners, district clerks and justices of the peace.

In addition to candidates, the ballot includes one constitutional amendment that, if approved, would allow a county commissioner court to declare a constable's office dormant.

Many counties include

other issues on their ballots, such as the creation of groundwater conservation districts and/or directors to already existing districts.

Because the first general election after redistricting may result in long lines on election day, voters may want to cast their ballot during the early voting period which began October 19. Remember that you no longer need an excuse to vote early.

Early voting sites are in malls, supermarkets, schools and county courthouses. Texas has made voting as convenient as possible.

Please don't fail to exercise one of democracy's greatest privileges, your right to cast your vote at the ballot box.

A CLEAR CHOICE

PUBLIC SERVICE

ENDORSEMENTS:

- Texas Farm Bureau
- Veterans of Foreign Wars — PAC
- Texas Association of Business
- National Rifle Association

AWARDS:

- Guardian of Small Business (NFIB)
- Property Rights Champion (League of Private Property Voters)
- American Cancer Society Public Policy Leadership
- Friend of the Taxpayer Award (Americans for Tax Reform)
- Champion of Small Business (Small Business Survival Committee)
- Guardian of Seniors' Rights
- National Association of Community Health Centers Champion of the Year Award
- TRIO Honorary Achiever Award (Education)

HONORS:

- Co-Chair Congressional Border Caucus
- Co-Chair Community Health Center Caucus
- Rural Health Care Coalition (Steering Committee Member)



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SELF SERVICE

**Next time you see
Henry Cuellar, ask him, "Why?"**

WHY did Henry Cuellar suddenly quit as Secretary of State after only eight months, *without explanation and without telling the Republican Governor who appointed him?*

WHY did Henry Cuellar request *compensation pay*, expecting taxpayers to pay his salary as Secretary of State, *even after he left?*

WHY did Henry Cuellar suddenly quit the Texas Legislature, leaving his district without representation *as a critical legislative session began?*

WHY did Henry Cuellar pass *laws that benefitted his business?*

WHY did Henry Cuellar give up our seniority in the State House and now wants to take away our seniority in the US Congress?

WHY is Henry Cuellar supported by Hillary Clinton and Ted Kennedy?

**HENRY CUELLAR
TOO MANY QUESTIONS
TOO LITTLE TRUST**



BONILLA

Pan-American AMGA National Meat Goat Evaluation

The 2002 State Fair of Texas was held at the Fair Park in Dallas, Texas from September 27th through October 20, 2002. Local ranchers played a part of this year's event by helping with and participating in the Pan-American AMGA 2nd National Meat Goat Evaluation on Saturday, October 12th.

Marvin Shurley, AMGA President assisted in presenting awards to this year's winners as follows:

Buck Kid Class

1. Ty II - owner: James Agnew & Brenda Lerner of Weatherford, TX; Breeder: Roger & Nancy Sparks.
2. American Star - owner/breeder: Carol Rochester of Springtown, TX.
3. Texas Star - Owner/Breeder: Carol Rochester of Springtown, TX.
4. JRA1 Gusto - - Owner: Tricia Carolton Fowlkes of Weatherford, TX; Breeder: Agnew Boers.
5. Matt Dillard LP51 RBGR - Owner/Breeder: Katie Boyd of Merkel, TX.
6. SSS Bambino - Owner/Breeder: Dale Schlundt of San Antonio, TX.
7. Circle R Native Star - owner/breeder: Carol Rochester of Springtown, TX.
8. Rocket - owner/breeder Toni Hawkins of Whitesboro, TX.
9. FSE Highlander's Magic - owner: Bea Baker, Dennie of Alvarado, TX; breeder: Farmers Stock Exchange.
10. Warpaint - owner: Carol Rochester of Springtown, TX.
11. WRAGE Capehorn - Owner/Breeder: Frank G Gomez of Weatherford, TX.
12. TRIR Comet - Owner/Breeder: Triple R Boer Goats of Denton, TX.

Yearling Buck Class

1. CNT Titan - Owner: James Agnew & Brenda Lerner of Weatherford, TX; Breeder: Nelson Ranch.
2. KALR Sharp - Owner: R.E. King of Lincoln, TX; Breeder: Kallie-Harie Reds.
3. JRA1 Risky - Owner James Agnew & Brenda Lerner of Weatherford, TX; Breeder: Agnew Boers.

Four-Tooth Buck Class

1. AABF Circle R Mutumbo - Owner/Breeder: Carol

2. Rochester of Springtown, TX.
2. Double A Boer Goats Rocky - Owner/Breeder: April Ashley of San Angelo, TX.
3. Double A Boer Goats Doc - Owner/Breeder: April Ashley of San Angelo, TX.

Aged Buck Class

1. Bodie - Owner: Tiffany Cox of Fort Worth, TX; Breeder: Texas Boerbok Stud.
2. Topline - Owner Martin W. Peters of Barksdale, TX; Breeder Robert Dressler DVM.
3. Triple R's 2525 I Walk the Walk - Owner: Triple R Boer Goats; Breeder: Powell/Holman.
4. Circle R Easy Choice - Owner: Carol Rochester of Springtown, TX; Breeder: Ash Creek.

Grand Champion Buck:

1. AABF Circle R Mutumbo owned by Carol Rochester

Reserve Grand Champion Buck

1. TyII - Owner James Agnew & Brenda Lerner; Breeder Roger & Nancy Sparks.

Doe Kid Class

1. JRA1 Celine - Owner/Breeder: James Agnew & Brenda Lerner of Weatherford, TX.
2. Natalia - Owner: James Agnew & Brenda Lerner; Breeder: Don Smith
3. Lucky Charm's Angel - Owner/Breeder: Toni Hawkins of Whitesboro, TX.
4. BPLL Poo5 - Owner/Breeder: Brice & Larry Lambert for Weston, TX.
5. Circle R Cheokee - Owner/Breeder: Carol Rochester of Springtown, TX.
6. Eggs Plaination Accepted - Owner James Agnew & Brenda Lerner; Breeder John & Jackie Edwards.
7. Dr. Lady Love - Owner Randy Rogers of Sunnyvale, TX; Breeder: High C Ranch.
8. LL581 Double L Jem - Owner/Breeder: Lee Mesnard of Moody, TX.
9. Eggstail - Owner: James Agne & Brenday Lerner of Weatherford, TX; Breeder: John & Jackie Edwards.
10. #20 Norma - Owner/Breeder: Tiffany Cox of Fort Worth, TX.

Yearling Doe

1. RRD Misty Blake - Owner: James Agnew & Brenda Lerner; Breeder: Rocking R Boers.

2. GLA Ms Lil - Owner: James Agnew & Brenda Lerner; Breeder: Allen Boer Goats.
3. SSS Reba - Owner/Breeder: Dale Schlundt of San Antonio, TX.
4. SSS Showgirl - Owner: Dale Schlundt; Breeder: EGGS
5. Circle R Lee's Star - Owner/Breeder: Carol Rochester of Springtown, TX
6. Molly - Owner/Breeder: Toni Hawkins of Whitesboro, TX.
7. Marva - Owner/Breeder: Bea Baker of Alvarado, TX
8. CED Emily (Meat) - Owner/Breeder: Glynn Mitchell of Kaufman, TX.
9. Helga - Owner/Breeder: Glynn Mitchell of Kaufman, TX.

Four-Tooth Doe

1. Circle R Fiesta - Owner/Breeder: Carol Rochester of Springtown, TX
2. BGR'S Sissy LN707 RGGR/017 - Owner Katie Boyd of Merkel, TX; Breeder Shelton & Joetta Boyd.
3. Rodeo Lil - Owner: Tiffany Cox of Fort Worth, TX; Breeder: Allen.
4. Foxy Lady - Owner: Dale Schlundt of San Antonio, TX; Breeder: Glen & Lillian Allen.
5. NK M124 - Owner R.E. King of Lincoln, TX; Breeder Norman Kohls/Tommy Morriss
6. BGR M176 Frosty - Owner Katie Boyd of Merkel, TX; Breeder Don Williams.
7. TRIR Delight - Owner/Breeder: Triple R Boer Goats of Denton, TX.
8. WRA Watney - Owner/Breeder: Frank G Gomez of Weatherford, TX.
9. IDH DNF Hello Darlin - Owner: Triple R Boer Goats of Denton, TX; Breeder: Double Hill Farms.
10. HBS M22 - Owner R.E. King of Lincoln, TX; Breeder: Hugh or Ann Schaefer.

Aged Doe

1. Circle R Kay-9 - Owner/Breeder: Carol Rochester of Springtown, TX.
2. Ask Creek Bright Eyes - Owner: Orvil Patterson.
3. Fancy - Owner: Tiffany Cox of Fort Worth, TX; Farmers Stock Exchange.
4. SSS Cookie - Owner/Breeder: Dale Schlundt of San Antonio, TX.
5. Walking K Lotta - Owner:



AMGA Vice President, Bill Laning of Kerrville (left) and AMGA President, Marvin Shurley of Sonora (right) present the Premier Exhibitor of the AMGA 2nd National Meat Goat Evaluation.

- James Agnew & Brenda Lerner; Breeder: Walking K Meat Goats.
6. BGR'S JR L705 RGRB - Katie Boyd; Breeder: Shelton & Joetta Boyd.
7. AKM Red Rider - Owner: Amy McGuffey of Rowlett, TX; Breeder: Outback Boers.
8. Triple Rs Suzy Q - Owner/Breeder: Triple R Boer Goats of Denton, TX.
9. LSGB L774 Annabelle - Owner: Toni Hawkins of Whitesboro, TX; Breeder: Lone Star Boer Goats.
10. Circle R Mardi-Gras - Owner/Breeder: Carol Rochester of Springtown, TX.
11. SSS Dolly - Owner/Breeder: Dale Schlundt of San Antonio, TX.

Reserve Grand Champion Doe

1. James Agnew & Brenda Lerner

Best Pair of Kids

1. James Agnew & Brenda Lerner
2. Carol Rochester
3. Bea Baker

Best Pair of Yearlings

1. James Agnew & Brenda Lerner

Breeders Herd

1. James Agnew & Brenda Lerner
2. Carol Rochester
3. Dale Schlundt

Premier Exhibitor: Agnew & Lerner

Premier Youth Exhibitor: Tiffany Cox

Open Wether Grand Champion - Lambert

Open Wether Reserve Grand Champion - Hawkins



Joe David Ross, one of the judges at the AMGA National Meat Goat Evaluation, presents the Premier Youth Exhibitor Award to Tiffany Cox.

A Halloween Reminder

With scary ghouls and goblins on the way, the Texas Department of Public Safety is reminding Texans to be safe and responsible this coming Halloween.

"Halloween is a fun time for both children and adults, but often times people act or drive carelessly or are not aware of their surroundings," said Col. Thomas A. Davis Jr., director of the DPS.

On Halloween of 2000, there were 546 injuries and 11 fatalities in Texas. Motorists are urged to drive slowly in neighborhoods and to be on the lookout for trick-or-treaters.

Safety tips for pedestrians include:

* Look both ways before crossing roadways. Always walk, don't run.

* Cross the roadway at intersections and crosswalks when possible.

* Avoid toy guns and knives-- they could be mistaken for the real thing.

* Wear costumes that are light in color, and short enough to avoid tripping.

* Reflective material of some kind on the costume is strongly encouraged.

* Avoid masks- use face paint instead for better visibility and peripheral vision.

* Travel in groups with adult supervision.

* Do not enter the cars and homes of strangers. Avoid homes without visible porch lights.

* Carry a flashlight and make sure an adult accompanies small children. Exercise caution when crossing streets.

* Never trick-or-treat in unfamiliar areas.

* Take all treats home for an adult to inspect before eating anything. Never eat unwrapped candy.

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This spacious 2000+ sq. ft. 3 BR, 2 BA home is situated on 1.856 acres of land on Hwy. 277 north of Sonora. Special amenities include a large 550 sq. ft. living room with tiled floors and a fireplace, abundant storage, a 2 car garage, screened in back porch and a concrete swimming tank with deck.

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Real Estate

Mobile Home for Sale. 3 BR, 2 BA, CH/CA. For more information call 650-2089.

For Sale by Owner. 2 BR, 1 BA, CHA, \$41,000.00. 401 E. 2nd (corner Prospect Ave.) Please do not bother tenant. Call 915-387-5921.

Public Notice

INVITATION FOR BIDS FOR FUEL FROM A DISPENSING CONTRACTOR FOR THE MUNICIPAL FLEET

NOTICE is hereby given that the City of Sonora will receive bids for fuel from a Dispensing Contractor for the Municipal Fleet that has a fuel security system operating within close vicinity of the city. Sealed and marked on the outside "FUEL BIDS" shall be received in the office of the City Secretary, City Hall, 201 E. Main, Sonora, Texas 76950 no later than 2:00 p.m. on November 12, 2002, at which time bids shall be opened publicly and read aloud. Bid specifications are available by calling the City Secretary's Office at (915) 387-2558. The City Council has the right to accept or reject any and/or all bids.

Automobiles

For Sale: '95 S-10 Chevy pickup. Good condition. Call 387-2900 or 277-2009.

For Sale: 1995 Ford 350, 123,000 miles, grill guard, headache rack, running boards, good condition. 387-3625 or 277-3353.

Agriculture

Hay for Sale
 Round bales, fertilized and irrigated, delivered, Sudan \$35.00, Red-Top Cane \$38.50, Coastal also available. Call 915-643-3039 or 915-642-0321.

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COOK FARMS
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 Alfalfa Square & Round, Alfalfa Round (rained on), Alfalfa/Wheat Mix Round, Wheat Round, Hay Grazer Round, Coastal Round, Jose Wheat Grass Round, Oat Hay Round. Kyle Cook (915) 556-3566 or (915) 268-9755 or Kevin Cook (915) 425-1823.

For Sale

For Sale: Nordic Track Ski Machine. \$225.00 Call 387-3307.

For Sale: One only! Used 14 x 20 Portable Building. Free Delivery. Call 915-658-7088.

Employment

Help Wanted: Ranch hand needed. Single man preferred. Ft. McKavett area. Call mobile (915) 650-6542 or office (915) 655-9585.

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Detail Graphix is now hiring an attendant. Monday thru Friday 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Call 915-387-3153 or 830-367-6096.

Help Wanted at Taco Grill for cashier and waitpersons. Call 387-9127.

Laborer needed. Daily pay for daily work. Call 387-5454.

La Mexicana Restaurante is currently hiring waitstaff. Apply in person 308A Hwy. 277 N.

John E. Meador Construction is now hiring operators and laborers in Sonora, Ozona and Eldorado areas. Apply in person at Hwy. 190 E in Eldorado.

The CDI Head Start Program is now accepting applications for the following Administrative position:

The position of **Family Worker**. Minimum qualifications include High School Diploma or GED with three years experience and at least one year of college required. **AA/BA degree preferred.** This position supports and assists families as they identify and meet their own goals through a case management model for developing and carrying out the program family Partnership Agreements. Also assists with the completion of the child health requirements and other required screenings and assessments.

Closing date for applications is Friday, November 1, 2002. Apply in person at Day Head Start 3026 N. Oakes St. or fax resume to (915) 659-2617.

Employment

EXPERIENCED DRIVERS NEEDED!

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

CNA'S NEEDED

Crockett County Care Center is now hiring qualified CNA's to work in their 56 bed facility in Ozona. Applicants hired will be compensated for:

- 1) Newly revised pay rate (Inc. differentials)
- 2) Mileage compensation (outside of Ozona)
- 3) Paid Health Insurance (after 90 days employment)

Come join our Nursing Department, now under new management. A great place to work. Call 392-2671 and ask for Vicki or Benny. CCCC is an EOE.

I-10 Exxon is looking for reliable candidates to join our team. The following position is available: Part-time cashier. Retirees welcome. Come by the corner of IH-10 and Hwy. 277 N. EOE.

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For Rent in Eldorado: Approx. 1 acre, 2 BR, 1 BA, large kitchen, large living room with fireplace, carport, carpet and new paint. Call Ike at 713-462-1603 or 713-817-5218.

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Hunters

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**The Devil's River News
2002
SUTTON COUNTY
HUNTERS GUIDE**



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Game Warden Notes

by Will Allison

As evidenced by the increased number of camo-clad individuals purchasing corn at the local feed stores, the regular deer and turkey season is at hand and Sutton County ranches will once again be hosting hunters from all parts of the globe as they attempt to escape the hustle and bustle of their urban lives. While it is true that most of these hunters are hoping to take a trophy animal home with them, there are many others who use hunting as an excuse to be with friends and family out-of-doors, to exchange a few wild tales, to spend an evening photographing wildlife, or to enjoy such simple pleasures as watching the stars on a night when nothing else can be heard but the hooting of an owl or the wind in the trees.

While dove season has proven to be somewhat uneventful this year due to the long-awaited rains finally arriving, these same rains are going to make for some good deer and turkey hunting in the County this year. Prior to the arrival of the rains, the deer were sporting some impressive headgear on some rather thin bodies; however, the improved range conditions have allowed these very same deer to increase their body weights substantially and in a very short period of time. Expect hunting to be somewhat tougher as a result. The deer really don't like corn as well as most people think and will forsake even the best "buck corn" for a couple of mouthfuls of acorns or other native food sources growing in abundance in most of the pastures. My travels

around the county have revealed some tremendous deer this year, so be patient and let that young buck grow, you just might be pleasantly rewarded when you see his older brother that was following him. You turkey hunters are going to be well pleased too when you take a look at the size of some of those big toms that are out there. I can't wait to hear some of the stories!

For those of you who are wondering, my name is Will Allison and I am trying to fill the huge void caused by the retirement of that well-known Game Warden named Rodney Knight. I grew up in this area and was formerly stationed in Concho County until I was lucky enough to be assigned to Sutton County. As for Rodney.....well..... he is doing just fine and is enjoying his retirement. I make it a point to call him at least once a day (or night) to ask some pressing question, just to keep him on his toes. In fact, if I'm lucky, he will be on patrol with me quite often this season and, in case you don't know which one of us is Rodney, he is the big dude with the "weak" handshake.

Hunters, in case you do not already have one, I would highly recommend obtaining a free copy of the 2002-2003 Outdoor Annual printed by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and available at any of the local businesses that sell hunting licenses. This publication contains a wealth of information regarding state game laws and regulations and will answer most of the questions that you might have

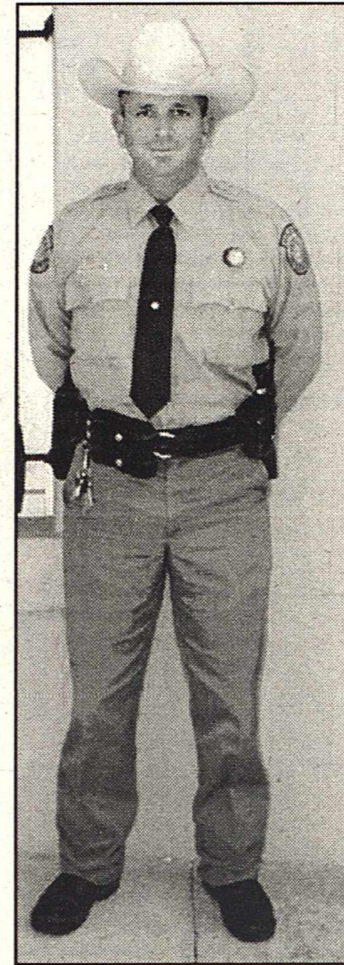
regarding how to hunt legally in our state. Although little has changed since last season with regard to the game laws, I would like to point out one new requirement for those of you who are planning to harvest a whitetail deer. On the back of this year's hunting license, you will note that there is a harvest log for the recording of all whitetail deer taken by you during the license year. This harvest log must be filled-out (in ink) immediately upon the harvest of your deer, regardless if it is a buck or is antlerless. (See pg. #70 in Outdoor Annual for additional information.) The tagging requirements are still the same, so remember to fill in, cut out, and attach the proper tag as well.

One of the most common questions asked me by hunters involves the poaching situation in Sutton County and the surrounding area. Thanks to the many law-abiding citizens of this county and the quality of hunters that this area attracts, I feel safe in saying that Sutton County experiences fewer instances of poaching than many other counties. However, this said, there will always be those who choose to illegally take our wildlife resources, giving no thought to the impact their actions have upon the resource, the local economy, the rights of the landowner and his law-abiding hunters, or to the safety of themselves or anyone around them. History shows that these thugs can be any age, any gender or ethnicity, or of any economic level or profession. Some live within our community and some just show up in the

middle of the night from who knows where, but the sad fact remains, our county is not exempt from poaching. Be diligent and take a stand. Should you see or hear something suspicious, immediately call the Sutton County Sheriff's office at (915) 387-5159 or 1-800-792-GAME. These numbers are manned 24-hours-a-day for the purpose of dispatching myself, or any of my fellow officers living here, to your location. Don't try to play "hero" by trying to apprehend anyone suspected of poaching, that's our job; however, you can do your part by immediately calling and giving us such details as an accurate vehicle description, license plate number, number of people, your exact location, the suspect's direction of travel, etc., and most importantly, a call-back number. Remember, a law enforcement officer is merely a precision tool that belongs to the law-abiding citizen, but like any tool, you must pick it up and use it if you expect to get the job done.

My thanks to the many ranchers who have trusted me with their gate keys and combinations, to the citizens and officers of this county who are not afraid to stand up for what is right, and to the many hunters who have welcomed me into their camps and have made my job so very rewarding. This looks like a really great hunting season, so take a kid hunting with you, and get out there and introduce him, or her, to the out-of-doors.

See you in camp!



Sutton County Game Warden, Will Allison

White-Tail Hoof Prints Provide Information

Whitetail deer hoof prints provide a wealth of information to hunters over the years. They are repeatedly found along trails which lead straight to their bedding, feeding, and watering spots. Trails reveal deer's home boundaries as well as the number of whitetail deer within the range. In addition to this, conglomerations of hoof prints reveal the every day activity of the whitetail deer. Many hunters and scientists even believe that the whitetail hoof prints can divulge the sex of the animal. While some people believe that this is an inaccurate practice, it has proven to be an effective way of locating adult bucks on numerous occasions.

Full grown buck's hoof prints

are usually much larger than doe and fawn footprints. An average mature buck will have hoof prints of 5-1/2 inches in length or longer, which is normally one inch larger than an adult doe. A buck with a tip-to-dew claw measurement of 6 inches or more is very likely a 300+ pound deer.

Another way in which to tell the sex of a Whitetail deer is through their path of travel. Doe's and fawn tracks will meander through the woods. Adult bucks do not have time for strolling about. They head straight in the direction they aim for.

Also, an adult buck's footprints leave distinct drag marks in the areas they roam because they do

not pick their feet up as high when they walk. In deep snow, however, deer tracks that drag should be discounted because the female's drag tracks become noticeable. Because of the trophy bucks enormity, drag marks are more prevalent during the rut when they have gained an excessive amount of weight. The rut is a difficult time for the adult male because of this extra weight.

In order to relieve some pressure off of their hooves, heavy bucks will walk with their front hooves turned out, putting pressure on the less hurtful areas. This activity causes the tips of the hooves to become rounded, giving hunters yet another method of distinguishing the males from the females.



The bucks on the Finklea Brothers Ranch met their match when the Crites family came to hunt, Neil, Jim, Johnny, Andy and Jeff proudly show off the trophies they got last November.

Big Game Awards Program Offers Early Entry Special

For 12 years, the Texas Big Game Awards program has recognized the contributions that landowners, land managers and responsible hunters make to managing and conserving wildlife and wildlife habitat on Texas' private lands.

A partnership between the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and the Texas Wildlife Association, the Texas Big Game Awards program is designed to promote big game hunting and encourage sound habitat management in Texas. The program recognizes the quality of big game ani-

mals in Texas, the hunters who harvest these animals, the land managers who enhance the habitat, the importance of our hunting heritage and the achievements of young and new hunters.

New for this year is an "Early Entry Special" prize drawing for hunters who mail in their Big Game Awards entry form along with a photo for promotional purposes.

Scored entries are recognized in eight regions of Texas. Scored categories include typical and non-typical white-tailed deer, typical and non-typical mule deer, and pronghorn antelope. All scoring is based

on the Boone & Crockett Club scoring system. Entries must be scored by an official Big Game Awards scorer and are subject to re-scoring. Rankings are based on net green Boone & Crockett scores.

Hunters of any age who harvest their first big game animal in Texas are eligible for the First Big Game Harvest category. And, any youth hunter (those younger than 17 years of age when they purchase their hunting license) with a Special Resident Hunting License who harvests a white-tailed deer, mule deer, or pronghorn antelope is eligible for the Youth Division whether they

harvest a buck or doe, regardless of score.

Hunters who harvest Scored-Entry qualifying animals and have their completed entry form in by the 30th of each month beginning

in October through December will qualify for a drawing for a pair of binoculars, a rifle scope and more. Entries must include a quality field photo of the hunter and their trophy and entry forms must be complete.

There will be one winner chosen for each of the three months. For the Early Entry Grand Prize, everyone who has their completed entry form in by Jan. 15, including

First Harvest and Youth Division entries, will be eligible for a Lifetime Hunting and Fishing License. Photos for this drawing are not required but are encouraged.

Information about the Texas Big Game Awards is available on line at <http://www.texas-biggameawards.com/> or by calling 800-839-9453, ext. 114. The deadline to enter the Texas Big Game Awards for the 2002-03 season is Feb. 15, 2003.

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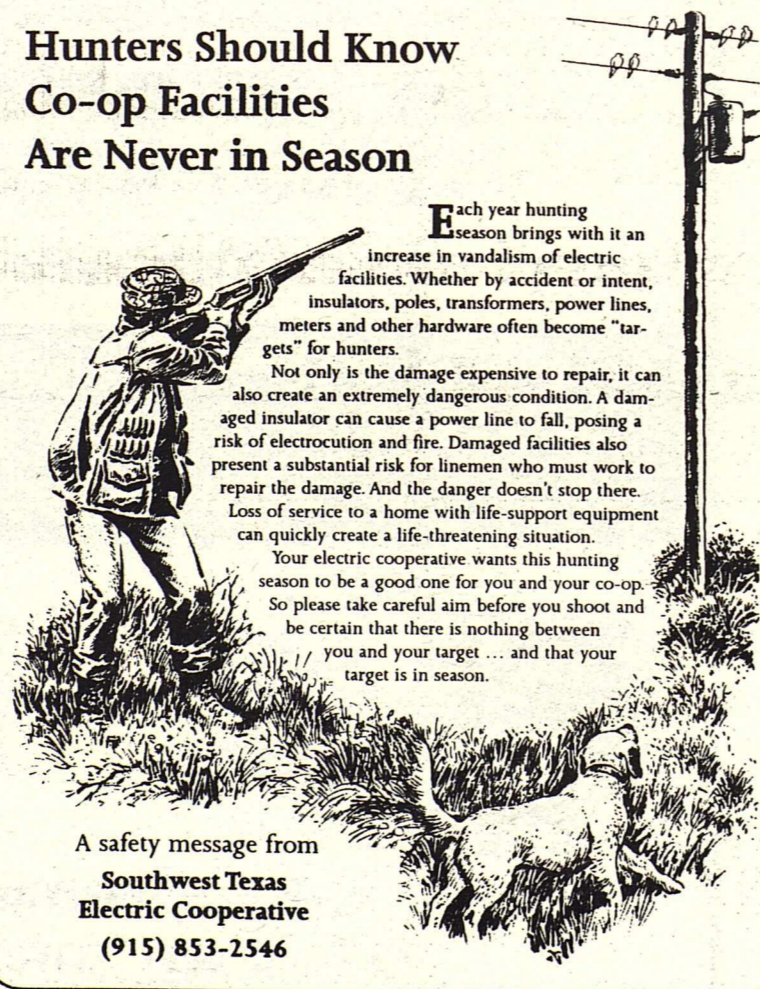
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Hunters Should Know Co-op Facilities Are Never in Season

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

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

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



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Don't Forget This When You Sign A Lease

Hunting leases have existed in Texas from more than 30 years, but in the past few years the simple lease agreement has been infused with 'legalese' of all types.

Early leases were almost exclusively for big game hunting. Most of those early hunters were first generation off-the-farm people familiar and sympathetic with the problems of farmers and ranchers. Common backgrounds of the early hunters and farmers and ranchers allowed for a satisfactory verbal agreement.

Now only a small percentage of hunters and rural landholders have similar backgrounds. The game awareness and understanding of the problems of each group is growing. A written lease provides a basis for discussing provisions affecting both hunter and landholder.

Hunters want exclusive hunting rights in return for their payment to the ranchers. Farmers and ranchers in turn, want to regulate the hunter's use of the land while supplementing their income.

Recognition of this fact is the key to a successful operation on a hunting lease. A hunting lease is an arrangement whereby the landowner transfers the right of ingress on his property to the hunter for the purpose of hunting in exchange for a fee.

A written agreement is the safest insurance against misunderstanding. It can clearly spell out conditions of the agreement and

provide an outlet for discussion on mutual points of interest before the lease is made. A copy of the lease should be provided for both the landowner and the hunter.

Things to include:
The hunting lease agreement should include at least the following points:

1. What is leased (hunting rights).
2. Name of parties (lessee and lessor).
3. Description of tract, size and bounds.

4. Terms of lease, payment rate and when paid.

5. Duration of lease.

6. Who is to hunt on tract, both lessee and lessor numbers.

7. What is to be hunted and any restrictions on the number of animals that may be killed.

Additional Provisions
The landowner should be specific in including a description of the rights he wishes to retain, as well as those he is selling.

The landholder should also specify what services or facilities are included with the lease. This provides the hunter a quick reference to the size of the recreation package he purchases.

Consider the following questions:

1. Is varmint hunting, plinking or other shooting on the land included?

2. Are blinds to be used, and who will furnish them?

3. Are food plots or bait stations to be used, and who will supply these?

4. Is a cabin or other shelter available, and who will provide utilities.

5. When is camping or fishing permitted and by whom?

6. Can the lease be assumed by another party or can a portion be sublet?

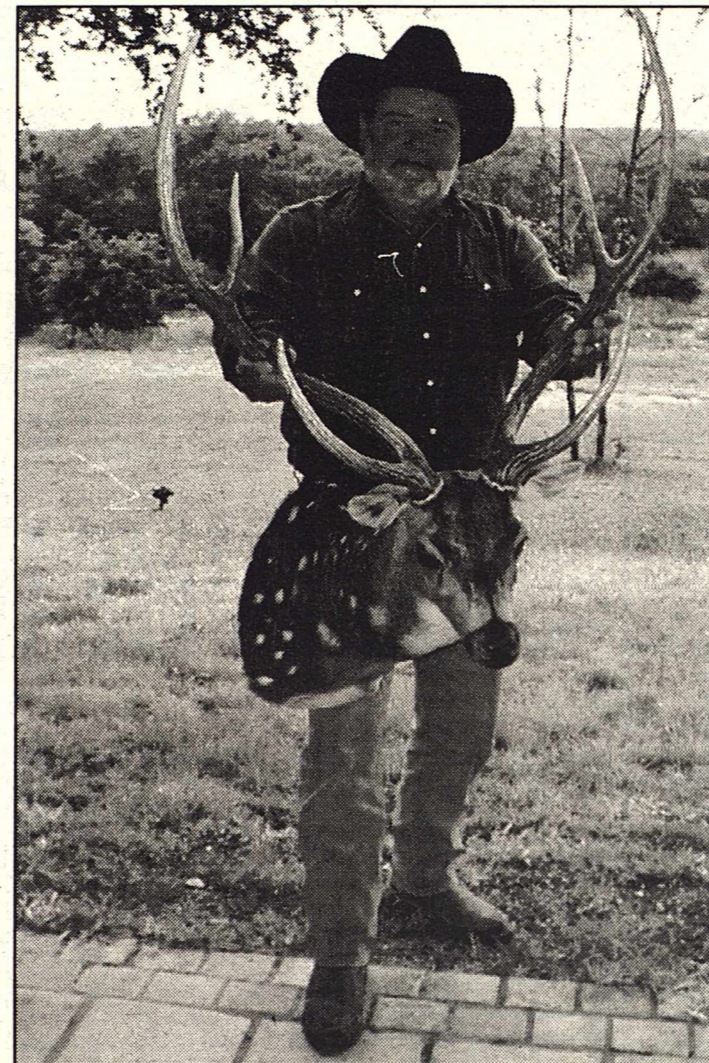
7. What type of reporting system is needed so the shooting preserve records may be accurately kept?

Types of Leases

1. The 'year-round lease' includes all hunting privileges. Usually a small group of hunters is involved. The group probably retained the lease for several years. Friendships develop and the hunters feel like proprietors on their lease. Generally good relations exist between hunter and landowner.

2. The lease of limited duration. This ranges from the entire legal season on a specific species of game to one or two weeks within the legal season. This retains some of the advantages of having small groups on the land at a time, but gives greater flexibility in scheduling hunters and harvesting different species.

The 'day hunting lease'. This requires greater contact with people and more extensive advertising.



Doug Huddleston proudly displays this Axis Buck that he shot on the Consuelo Ranch last October.

TPWD Deer Population Surveys For Sutton County

by Mary Humphrey, Game Biologist

Wildlife personnel with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department recently completed annual deer population surveys here in Sutton County. The survey lines, located throughout the county, yielded an estimate of 94.3 deer to every 1,000 acres of deer habitat or about 86,462 deer county-wide. Composition of the overall deer herd in Sutton County is at 3.73 does per buck with a relatively high fawn segment of 75 fawns per 100 does. In relation to percentages that gives Sutton County a composition of 13% bucks, 50% does, and 37% fawns. Overall buck antler quality is expected to be relatively decent this year, with better antler characteristics being expressed in those areas that experienced better rainfall patterns through the late spring and summer months earlier this year. Much needed widespread rains have recently added some green-up to the pastures and should bring on some winter weeds to augment the spotty acorn crop currently falling. Hunting may be difficult early on in the season.

This year in Sutton County the standard gun deer season opens on Saturday, November 2, and runs through Sunday, January 5, 2003. Sutton County will also participate in the special, late, 2-week antlerless and spike season (no fork-antlered bucks allowed during the special late season) that will open Monday, January 6, and run through Sunday, January 19, 2003. This late rifle season replaces the previously listed muzzleloader season; however, muzzleloaders may be used during any of the other regular firearm seasons.

The bag limit for Sutton County regarding white-tailed deer will be 5 deer again this year, no more than 2 antlered bucks in the bag, all seasons combined. Doe permits or special doe tags will not be issued nor required to harvest antlerless deer here in the Edwards Plateau during regular seasons. Hunters will need only the appropriate tag off of their hunting license, or a Bonus Tag where applicable, and landowner permission to bag doe or antlerless deer in Sutton and the other 'either-sex' counties this year.

After reviewing the results of the recent white-tailed deer population surveys, local wildlife personnel are recommending that Sutton County landowners harvest deer according to the following recommendations:
For those properties located in Sutton County - the recommended harvest rate on bucks is 1 buck per 400 acres and the recommended harvest rate on does is 1 doe per 75 acres.

[These recommended rates may not be suitable for all properties located in Sutton County. Some areas may need to vary their harvest rates from this recommendation according to those localized deer populations and how they have survived and proliferated (or not) according to the range conditions experienced due to the drought over the past several years.]

These recommended rates result from the need to better balance the sex ratio observed in the

herd and from a desire to produce a healthier deer population that is properly matched to the existing supply of deer foods in the county. These harvest rates are based on deer management compartment averages derived from survey lines located in this and several other surrounding counties. Therefore, the recommended rates may not be completely suitable for each individual ranch in the county. In general, if your acreage shows signs of overpopulation (a lack of brush and weeds available at and just above ground level, less than optimal deer weights and poor quality buck antler development within each age class, low fawn survival, etc.), then you probably need to harvest your deer population at a higher rate and/or reduce livestock grazing pressure by reducing numbers or rotating your stock among your pastures. On the other hand, if you have good deer habitat and an adequate supply of quality deer foods available, but seem to be short of deer numbers, then possibly you should harvest at a lighter rate than that recommended for the county.

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

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TPWD Observations 2002-03

This year has proven to be somewhat of a rollercoaster ride in terms of range conditions, animal performance, and what to expect for the upcoming seasons. At the core of the surges remain the facts that this entire western portion of the Edwards Plateau did not receive widespread general rains throughout the area until early in the fall period. Rains during the year were spotty at best and resulted in mid-summer gloomy, droughty prospects for some areas this upcoming season. However, those areas that are moderately stocked with deer and livestock, and that did receive some rains throughout the year, will most likely serve up a relatively decent hunting season.

Conditions during the winter months earlier this year were generally good and included a heavy snow that fell in a large portion of the area. Good prospects for the remainder of the year seemed inevitable. Consistent high winds and only scattered showers however, contributed to only mildly favorable spring and early summer range conditions. Some of the first annual production indicators, turkey poults and fawns, seemed to be recruited in only minimal numbers early on in their respective seasons. Range conditions had dried and deteriorated to the point where many turkey nests were lost or abandoned and loss of early fawns was experienced in some areas. However, as the

summer months wore on a few more scattered showers were seen across the area that undoubtedly assisted with production and survival numbers of late nesting efforts and kicked off the peak fawning period that has brought another ample fawn crop into a large percentage of this area. Antler quality this season will be fair to good and very dependent on where the rains fell. On properties with good brush diversity and older male age structures, the bucks should pull out some decent antler characteristics. Hunting may be difficult early on in the season as the acorn crop, although somewhat spotty, has currently moved deer away from feeders and back out into the brush. And now, to complicate matters even more, the recent rains throughout October that have covered a more widespread area, are bringing out some winter weeds that will probably prove more enticing to the deer than braving a feeding station. But, if the deer aren't making it to your feeder don't push your luck in trying to drive to it either as it probably won't be worth getting stuck in the mud trying to get to and from your favorite hunting blind.

Sutton County deer numbers are slightly better compared to last year as far as density estimates are concerned. Recent white-tailed deer surveys in the County show a county-wide density of 10.6 acres per deer with a buck:doe ratio of

1:3.73 and a relatively high fawn crop of 0.75 fawns per doe. The main shift in composition structure of the general population this year is between the buck and fawn segments. According to the surveys this year, bucks generally make up only 13% of the population, does are maintaining 50% of the population, and the large fawn crop this year accounts for up to 37% of the population. There are 916,497 acres of available deer range in the County and with an estimated 10.6 acres of range per deer gives a total of 86,462 deer in the county. At the above percentages, the composition of the deer herd then is an estimated 11,240 bucks, 43,231 does, and 31,991 fawns. Good range conditions throughout last winter and the peaks in that rollercoaster ride this summer with shifts toward adequate range conditions at critical times have led to a healthy breeding cycle that has resulted in this large recruitment of young.

In those areas of the County that have not received adequate moisture and might be experiencing diminishing herds, care should always be taken to not over-harvest the deer herd, but to maintain the over-all numbers of grazing and browsing animals within the carrying capacity of the habitat. Due to persistent droughty conditions, geographic location, encroachment of undesirable plant species, and historical use of the available vegetation by native species and livestock,

animal numbers in some areas of the County cannot persist at high levels for long periods of time. Further habitat destruction will occur and range recovery may be difficult if not impossible to attain. Those properties that are now under new, smaller management schemes should be aware that this area is just east of the transitional zone between the Edwards Plateau and the Trans-Pecos areas of the Sonoran Desert. Animal numbers must be maintained within the carrying capacity of the habitat, yet care must be exercised to not over-harvest any one of the resident deer segments within the population. For any given reason listed above, the deer populations in the areas of the County that have seen harsher climatic conditions over the past many years experience more difficulties at re-establishment than in other parts of the state. Low fawn recruitment into the adult stages is suspicioned as a major culprit in declining populations. Heavy hunting pressure may also be a likely suspect in marginal habitat with marginal populations.

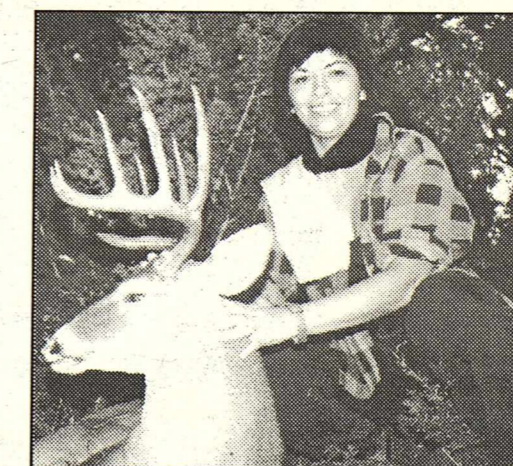
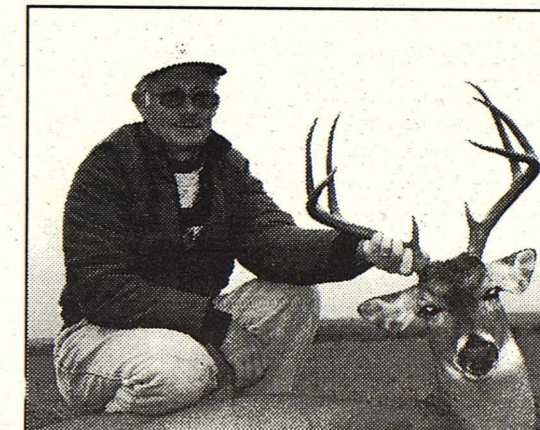
Now as with most any other outdoor article these days, the subject of Chronic Wasting Disease should be discussed. The disease is known as a transmissible spongiform encephalopathy that is a neurologic disorder affecting brain tissue to the point that the infected animal 'wastes away'. Clinical signs include on the animals part: emaci-

ation, depression, tremors, staggering, and behavioral changes. (All signs that confusingly enough mimic plague, rabies, and starvation to name a few.) Advanced stages include excessive salivation and urination. The disease is thought to have originated in Colorado back in the 1960's in penned white-tailed deer. During the 1980's the disease turned up in mule deer and elk, in free-ranging animals, and also in Wyoming. Since then the disease has been diagnosed in wild and captive animals in an additional 8 states. The most recent case was in an elk in Minnesota. As to date it has not been diagnosed in any deer or elk in Texas nor has it been diagnosed in any exotic species that are frequently found in Texas. There is no evidence that CWD poses a risk to humans or domestic animals. Actions on the part of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department are to act reasonably, rationally, and responsibly. Although the CWD situation has the potential to seriously impact our deer populations and the hunting industry, if caution and common sense is exercised on the part of the hunter there is no reason to not expect a safe, enjoyable harvest should the hunter be so lucky to bag a deer. If the deer in the sights looks emaciated, does not act like a normal wild animal, stands listlessly and unresponsive

See TPWD Observations pg. 5

Rafter W Ranches Guided Hunts

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The Rut in Texas White-tailed Deer

The following was based on three years of data collected by Wildlife Technicians and Biologists throughout Texas. Our goal is to get the information out to the hunters and landowners who assisted and helped fund the project. You may have seen parts of the article in outdoor magazines.

This project was funded by Texas Parks and Wildlife Department through Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Project 95, W-127-R.

The phenomenon known as

"the rut" is the period when deer breed. People often ask biologists when the rut is going to occur. It's a question biologists commonly hear in the fall. Many hunters want to make sure that they plan hunting vacations to include that magical time when bucks lose all caution and deer are moving.

Can hunting the rut help? You bet. Anything that encourages bucks to move enhances the chance of seeing one. Buck deer, like most male mammals, seem to lose a lot of their natural caution when the

scent of a receptive female is in the air. One of the tips gained from this study is that rutting bucks can be found during most of the hunting season in many regions of the state. Consistently successful hunters spend a lot of time in the field throughout the hunting season, not just during the peak of the rut.

Hunters and ranchers often encourage Texas Parks and Wildlife to move the season later to give deer a chance to breed. The study showed that no matter when the rut occurred, the vast majority of does

were bred. Individual ranch and deer herd management are much more important than timing of the hunting season. The data will assist TPWD in determining whether the number of bucks in an area has an effect on breeding season length and success. There are many interacting factors which affect breeding.

The breeding study involved the examination of 2,436 does, the largest number of deer ever utilized in a Texas breeding study. The date of conception can be determined by looking at fetus length. An average of 200 days from conception was used to determine fawning dates. Biologists got as much information as they could from the does collect-

ed. They looked at the timing of the rut and at breeding success on 16 study areas throughout Texas for three years.

All years were combined to produce graphs that show the rut timing. In most areas the rut varied very little from year to year.

Acknowledgments: Written in 1996 by Max Traweek, Susan Wardroup, Jay Williams and E.L. Young. Maps and graphs by Max Traweek. Field activities coordinated by Jay Williams and conducted by biologists and technicians of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Wildlife Division, Bob Cook, Director.

TPWD Observations from pg. 4

until something gets close to it and then startles into responsiveness, salivates or urinates excessively - then don't kill it as part of your bag. For those wanting to be a little more cautious, it might be wise also to adopt the practice of wearing gloves while field-dressing and skinning the animal. That's not to say that our animals are already infected, but is just a good practice to adopt to reduce risk of exposure to any of the diseases that deer or hogs or exotics might carry, say, even through external parasites. Do not cut through the spinal column with the same knife that you are using on the meat. Bone out all meat so as to leave as much of the skeletal/spinal/neural material behind, avoid contact with the eyes, spleen, and lymph nodes, and clean all utensils with full-strength Clorox. Frequently asked questions about CWD are on the TPWD Website at

www.tpwd.state.tx.us/hunt/ or the USDA Website at www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/naahps/cwd/index.html.

As with the rollercoaster ride in the deer community, the game birds in the area have also experienced their highs and lows and curves in production and performance and again, according to rainfall patterns and range conditions. After last year's bumper crop of young turkey, this year's paltry, spotty additions amounted to 0.86 poult per hen - not as bad as the 2000 production levels of 0.19 poult per hen, but not

as good as 2001 levels of 3.13 poult per hen. The figures this year average out to 16% of the hens observed in the population with the current crop of poult.

Luckily there was relatively good insect production to help fortify the young that did hatch. Blue quail just west over into Crockett County have fortified their numbers with a decent hatch while area bobwhite quail are again only marginal in their forces. Many complaints were lodged as to the low number of dove flying on season opener as if most of the dove had already moved through the area. For once there were not scattered showers right before the opener to spread birds out, which might have actually been beneficial this year as spotty, better range con-

ditions around better stock tanks seemed to hold the birds in more localized areas and not available to hunters on a wide-spread basis.

And as always: The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department is still hosting the Texas Big Game Awards Program for youth entries, first big game harvest entries and scored entries on white-tailed deer, mule deer and pronghorn antelope. For official scoring, more information about our game species in Sutton County, or concerns about CWD, please contact TPWD Game Biologist Mary Humphrey in Sonora at 915-387-5539.

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The Early and Late Ruts

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

In areas where there are few bucks, a doe may not encounter a buck when she is first receptive and may not be bred until one of her later cycles. A hunter, landowner or biologist who sees the late breeding activity may be convinced that there was a late rut. On the other hand, those who see does attended by bucks in the early part of the season believe there was an early rut. This helps explain the wide variety of opinions on the timing of the rut during a particular year.

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

Bucks, like hunters, have a tendency to move around during cool weather. Bucks with hardened antlers are ready to breed and are looking for a willing doe. More movement means more opportunity to encounter a receptive doe. This increased movement helps give rise to the idea that cold weather causes the rut. However, this theory is disproved by white-tailed deer breeding in tropical climates.

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

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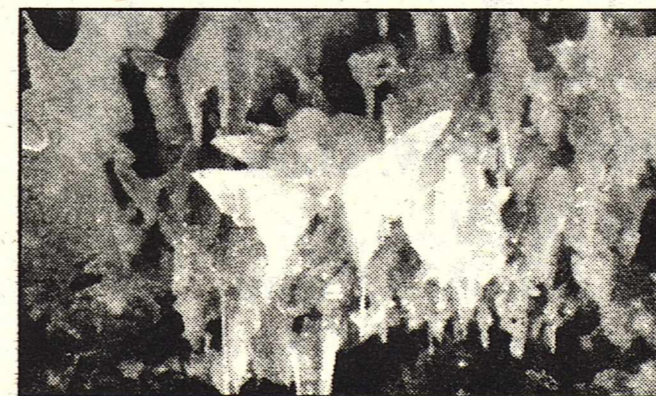
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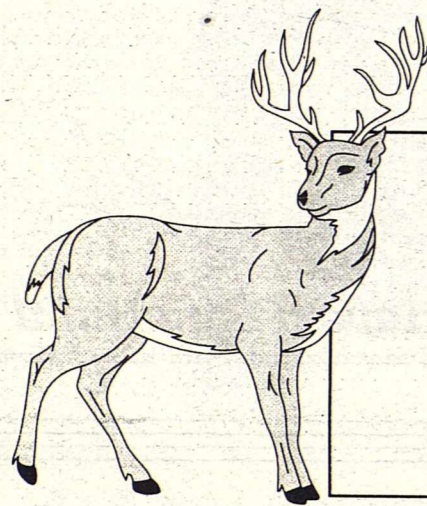
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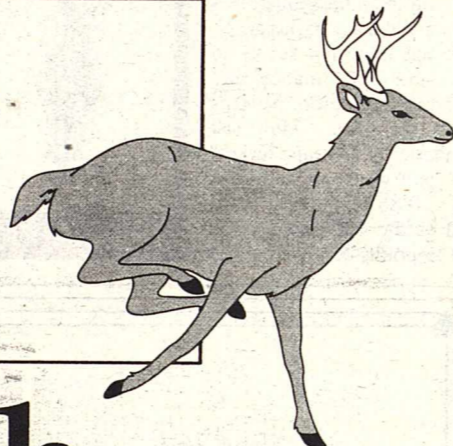
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2002 Weather Impact Mixed Bag For Texas Hunters

by: Kathleen Phillips

COLLEGE STATION -- As the weather goes in Texas, so go wildlife populations, says Texas Cooperative Extension wildlife specialist Dr. Neal Wilkins.

That being the case, a look at the current drought severity map of Texas may provide the biggest tip for hunters: in some places the bag may still come up dry; in others there may be bountiful harvest.

"It's a mixed blessing as far as wildlife goes," said Wilkins of this year's expected weather impact on hunting. "Most species are a product of the health of their environment."

That environment currently runs the gamut in Texas. A swath through the north-south middle of the state is currently dubbed an "incipient wet spell" at the Red River border and very wet at the Rio Grande border, according to the Texas Water Development Board. Shouldering the Louisiana border and the New Mexico line, however, is mild to moderate drought. The three southernmost counties are considered to be in severe drought.

Much of the state now considered wet is the due to extreme floods earlier in the summer. And those heavy rains came on the heels of an extended drought. Both extremes had their own impacts on wildlife in those areas.

"The drought exacerbated the effect of the flood," Wilkins said. "In some places, ranchers had gone three years with little or no effective rainfall, and then they got 30-40 inches in a week."

For some species wildlife the initial toll may be heavy, he said.

"Those floods caused destruction of wildlife habitat all along the banks of the waterways," Wilkins noted. "And for those ground-nesting birds, such as quail and turkeys that already had nested when the rains came, many were likely flooded out."

Now those areas look lush and green, he said, but that doesn't necessarily mean a big quail or turkey crop is waiting.

The season begins as early as Sept. 28 for archery hunting of Rio Grande turkey while quail hunting begins Oct. 26 statewide, according to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

Wilkins said it was the timing of the rains that made the difference. If the rains had come earlier in the season, habitat for the birds would have been better and existing nests would not have been washed away. With earlier rains, many birds would have come into the breeding season in better condition.

"However, those birds that do hatch (from re-nesting attempts, or nests surviving the floods) have excellent habitat conditions, so survival through the fall is good," he said. "That contrasts to some years in which there is good hatch but not good conditions for brood survival."

For deer, the droughty-wet conditions in various parts of the state likewise has caused mixed results, he said.

"Some of the flooding happened at the peak of fawning sea-

son. Many fawns were on ground or not very old, so there was additional stress on the animals," Wilkins said. "But, the compensating factor is we generally have an overabundance of does and most them get bred, so we can recover populations where there is lots of forage for them to eat."

The wildlife specialist cautioned against returning pre-drought livestock numbers to land that is recovering from drought. Also, it is important to consistently bring deer numbers in line with long-term forage availability.

"There are several areas of the state that now appear green after several years of drought, but much of this new growth is from short-lived annual plants. It could take only a few weeks of extreme heat with no rain to go back to return to the same drought-like conditions," he said.

"Time is needed for the re-establishment of perennial grasses, and preferred browse plants," he stressed. "And wildlife needs time to recover just like the habitat does. Land managers should continue with annual population surveys and harvest, working with local biologists."

If populations of deer are allowed to increase too much on land without adequate carrying capacity, previous efforts to maintain a deer herd will be for naught, he said, adding, "in those areas still suffering drought, landowners and hunters should continue their efforts to hold deer numbers in check."



Jeff Crites got these two big ones in November of 2001 while hunting on the Finklea Brothers Black Ranch.

Hunting Safer Than Ping Pong

According to a report from the National Safety Council, hunting, often regarded as dangerous by those unfamiliar with the activity, is actually safer than such mild activities as badminton and ping pong. The council's studies reveal that hunting has fewer accidents per 100,000 participants than football, baseball, cycling, volleyball, swimming, golf, tennis, fishing, bowling and billiards.

Of the activities researched, hunting endures about seven injuries per 100,000 participants while the next safest, ping pong, has more than 15 injuries per 100,000. As would be expected, football has the most, with about 3,313 injuries per 100,000.

Ironically, hunting accidents may get more media attention than injuries in other sports because of their rarity.

Mandatory hunter education courses throughout the United States are credited with dramatically reducing the number of hunting accidents in the last 30 years, making hunting eight times safer than bowling.

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Calling A Bobcat

by Will Craig

Bobcats are a trophy in any predator caller's book, luring this great animal to your stand takes tons of patience. Knowing how to identify prime bobcat habitat is vital to success. Any caller who is serious in calling bobcats should learn as much as he or she can about this magnificent animal.

Hopefully, the information contained here will get you started in the right direction.

Bobcats prefer areas of dense cover; the thick cover one finds along streams and riverbeds is prime cat country. Find an area strewn with large rock outcroppings and boulders and you've come across what I call bobcat magnets. Such places almost always hold a cat or two; so anyone wishing to call a bobcat should concentrate their calling efforts on the fringes of rocky areas.

Don't be surprised to drag a grey fox or two out of such areas; as this species of fox considers the same habitat bobcats prefer as a good place to call home. So it's best to be ready for anything. Bobcats will respond to most prey distress sounds, but a caller wishing to focus on calling bobcats increases the chance of success by using distress sounds from birds and small rodents.

My favorite distress sound for calling bobcats is the Yellowhammer Woodpecker. This sound has called in more bobcats

for me than all my other sounds combined. But be fore warned; this sound is well known for its ability to call in all kinds of predators. So don't be surprised if something other than a bobcat is the first to show up at your stand.

Bobcats have earned a reputation for taking longer to respond to a call than other predators. So expect to stay 30 minutes on your bobcat stands. Bobcats like to work their way to your call by stalking the sound in start and stop spurts of movement. They'll take advantage of all available cover during the stalk, and often appear seemingly out of nowhere right before your eyes. So a good cat caller inspects every single detail of the area while calling.



Babe Sladek got this bobcat while hunting at the Consuelo Ranch.

Mating activity for bobcats peaks in February but the mating season can last from January to June. The home range for bobcats can be anywhere from 5 to 50 square miles. Territories for female bobcats are generally smaller than that of male bobcats. Territories are distributed according to a complex social system. Adult males seem to tolerate sharing areas with other bobcats of the same sex. Adults of both sexes usually tolerate the presence of bobcats that are too young to breed. Transients within the local bobcat population, quickly fill territories vacant by the death of an adult.



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What Is Chronic Wasting Disease?

What is Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD)?

CWD is an untreatable, fatal neurological (brain and nervous system) disease found in deer and elk in certain geographical locations in North America. The disease belongs to a family of diseases known as transmissible spongiform encephalopathies (TSE) or prion diseases. The disease attacks the brain and neural tissue of infected deer and elk. While CWD is similar to mad-cow disease in cattle and scrapie in sheep, there is no known relationship between CWD and any other TSE of animals or people.

How is it spread?

It is not known exactly how CWD is spread. It is believed that the agent responsible for the disease may be spread both directly (animal to animal contact) and indirectly (soil or other surface to animal). It is thought that the most common mode of transmission from an infected animal is via saliva, feces, and urine.

Where has it been found?

CWD is known to infect free-ranging deer and elk in northeastern Colorado and free-ranging deer in western Colorado, southern Wyoming, western Nebraska, South Dakota, Wisconsin, New Mexico and Saskatchewan. It has been diagnosed in elk in game ranches in Colorado, Nebraska, South Dakota, Montana, Oklahoma, Kansas, Alberta and Saskatchewan.

Is it dangerous to humans? Epidemiologists with the

Federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta and epidemiologists at the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment have studied chronic wasting disease and found no evidence that CWD poses a risk to humans or domestic animals. (Over 16 years of monitoring in the infected area in Colorado has found no disease in people or cattle living there.) The World Health Organization (WHO) has likewise said there is no scientific evidence CWD can infect humans. However, as a precaution the WHO also says no part of a deer or elk with evidence of CWD should be consumed by people or other animals.

What Precautions should hunters take?

Health officials advise hunters not to consume meat from animals known to be infected with the disease. Boning out meat is recommended. In addition, they suggest hunters take simple precautions such as wearing latex gloves when field dressing carcasses, minimize handling of brain and spinal tissues, wash hands and instruments thoroughly after field dressing is completed, avoid consuming brain, spinal cord, eyes, spleen, tonsils, and lymph nodes of harvested animals, and finally request that your animal is processed individually, without meat from other animals being added to meat from your animal.

How can you tell if a deer has CWD?

Because the brain is the organ affected by the disease, infected animals begin to lose bodily functions and display abnormal behavior such as staggering or standing with very poor posture. Animals may have an exaggerated wide posture, or may carry the head and ears lowered. Infected animals become very emaciated (thus "wasting" disease) and will appear in very poor body condition. Infected animals will also often stand near water and will consume large amounts of water. Drooling or excessive salivation may be apparent.

What should I do if I see a deer that shows CWD symptoms?

Accurately document the location of the animal and immediately contact the nearest Wildlife Division or Law Enforcement Division office of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department or call TPWD headquarters in Austin toll-free at (800) 792-1112 and enter 5 for wildlife and 1 for general wildlife information. Or contact the Texas Animal Health Commission toll-free at (800) 550-8242. Do not attempt to touch, disturb, kill, or remove the animal.

Can I have deer venison tested?

Deer "venison" cannot be tested—only brain and neural and lymph node tissue can be tested to detect the presence of CWD. The Texas Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Lab in College Station has been certified by the U.S. Department of Agriculture to test

CWD samples. Eventually, the public may be instructed to contact the Texas Animal Health Commission for information on testing.

Is the meat safe to eat?

While the agent that produces chronic wasting disease in deer and elk has not been positively identified, there is strong evidence to suggest that abnormally shaped proteins called prions are involved. Research completed to date indicates that the prions accumulate only in certain parts of infected animals—the brain, eyes, spinal cord, lymph nodes, tonsils, and spleen. Based on these findings, hunters are recommended to bone out their meat and consume only muscle tissue from harvested animals.

What is being done to combat CWD?

Texas officials have restricted importation of live deer and elk into the state. The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and the Texas Animal Health Commission are also working with deer and elk breeders to set up a voluntary CWD monitoring program. This fall, TPWD will begin testing hunter-killed deer and other suspect animals from the state's various ecological regions.

Nationwide efforts to address CWD are accelerating rapidly. In other states with captive animals known to have or have been exposed to CWD, management is concentrating on quarantining or depopulating captive or free-ranging animals in the affected area. In

some cases around captive populations, double fencing is recommended to prevent direct contact between captive and wild animals.

In wild populations, the management option recommended is to reduce the density of animals in the infected area to slow the transmission of the disease. This is being done by selective culling of animals suspected to have been directly exposed to the disease. In Colorado and Wisconsin, large numbers of animals are being killed to reduce density of animals and thus slow the transmission of the disease. There is still a large need for research on the disease as many questions go unanswered. There is also a need for increased funding to support additional laboratories for testing animals for the disease.

Almost every state wildlife agency is now planning an increased effort at surveillance to detect if CWD is present. Many state agencies have banned the importation of cervids into the state. Some states have also halted intra-state movement of deer and elk and banned supplemental feeding programs.

What can hunters do?

Hunters should be vigilant when in the field for deer or elk that display abnormal behavior such as staggering or standing with very poor posture. Animals may have an exaggerated wide posture, or may carry the head and ears lowered.

See *Chronic Wasting Disease* pg. 8

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Chronic Wasting Disease from pg. 7

Infected animals become very emaciated (thus "wasting" disease) and will appear in very poor body condition. Infected animals will also often stand near water and will consume large amounts of water. Drooling or excessive salivation may be apparent. Report any suspected cases of CWD to the proper authorities immediately.

Hunters should also support Texas efforts to restrict deer or elk importation and report any elk or deer violations.

Finally, hunters should arm themselves with information, especially practical tips for hunting and field dressing game.

Texas Game Wardens Top 10 Check List for Hunters

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

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

Don't forget to:

1. Review the Outdoor

Tracking A Wounded Deer

Every responsible hunter does his or her best to track a wounded deer. First of all, the hunter wants the game. Second, the suffering of the animal is a consideration.

When you shoot a deer and it doesn't immediately fall down, observe how it runs away. The way the animal moves is a good clue to where your bullet struck.

If the deer hunches up, you probably hit it in the stomach. When the front half falls toward the ground the animal likely was hit in the front, almost in the heart.

When the wounded animal jumps and rushes forward, the shot was probably straight to the heart.

If you aren't that fortunate and have to track your deer, keep your eye on it as long as possible. Pick a landmark where you lose sight of

the deer and prepare to search from there. When you reach the spot where you last saw your deer, look for hair or blood to help you decide where the deer was hit.

Brown hair and thick, dark blood is a sign the shot struck the liver. Brown hair and lighter colored blood indicate a heart or lung shot. White hair, watery blood and green-colored stomach contents are signs of a stomach shot.

If you lose the blood trail or don't see blood at your landmark, work from the spot where the deer was last seen. Walk in slow, spiraling circles while watching for trampled vegetation, small amounts of blood and hair.

Wounded animals look for cover and usually take the easiest route in their dash for safety.

Annual and check for open season dates and bag limits for the county you are hunting.

2. Check for legal means and methods in the county you are hunting.

3. Carry your current hunting license.

4. Clearly identify your target before pulling the trigger.

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

6. Carry a ball-point pen; fill

out ranch and county name on back of deer and turkey tags.

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

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

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

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

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Use Caution When Feeding Corn To Wildlife

by: Blair Fannin

COLLEGE STATION - Deer hunters and wildlife enthusiasts are urged to use caution this fall when feeding corn to wildlife, paying special attention to product labeling. Failing to do so could pose a potential health threat to Texas wildlife.

Fumonisin, a mycotoxin that is produced almost exclusively in corn and can be harmful or fatal to some wildlife species, has been found in samples from the 2002 corn crop harvested in certain portions of Texas. Samples of new crop corn analyzed by the Office of the Texas State Chemist and the Texas Feed and Fertilizer Control Service have been found to contain high concentrations of fumonisin in excess of 5 parts per million (ppm).

Grain containing fumonisin above these levels can cause health problems in horses and rabbits, and it is likely that they can also affect wildlife, says Dr. Neal Wilkins, Texas Cooperative Extension wildlife specialist.

"Because of their complex ruminant digestive system, deer may not be as susceptible to the effects of fumonisin as other animals. In particular, quail, turkeys and other birds that tend to consume wildlife corn may be at higher risk," Wilkins said. "In addition, this toxin may impact squirrels, rabbits and feral hogs that consume corn at wildlife feeders. Corn having concentrations greater than 5 parts per million of fumonisin should not be fed to wildlife."

Fumonisin is produced in corn by the mold *Fusarium* [verticillioideus (formerly *F. moniliforme*)].

"The fungus can infect kernels that are damaged by insects or drought stress," said Dr. Tom Isakeit, Extension plant pathologist. "The fungus can also grow into the ear via the silks and this is favored by rain. Infection of corn does not automatically result in toxin production, and visual examination cannot detect corn containing fumonisin. In most cases corn containing unacceptable levels of the toxin may not exhibit any external mold damage. The corn will look good. Factors affecting the production of toxin in corn are not well understood."

Fumonisin should not be confused with aflatoxin, which is another toxin produced by several molds of the genera of *Aspergillus* and *Penicillium* that can occur in corn and also in whole cottonseed, peanuts, grain screenings and the meals made from the oil extracted seed. Aflatoxin contamination is favored by drought conditions and occurs primarily in corn kernels damaged by insects and drought.

"Based on what appears to be high rates of deer corn on the market contaminated with fumonisin, and considering the potential biological risks, our best advice is to avoid feeding corn to wildlife until certain of the corn's source," Wilkins said.

When buying deer corn for feeding to wildlife, buyers should find out if corn has been tested for fumonisin and aflatoxin.

"Deer corn should test below 50 parts per billion aflatoxin and 5 parts per million fumonisin," Wilkins said.

"If it's not possible to confirm that the corn has been tested, or it is not labeled, then the best advice is to not feed it. Some of the deer corn on the market is advertised 'cleaned' or 're-cleaned,' but cleaning does not ensure removal of the kernel contaminated with these mycotoxins."

The Office of the Texas State Chemist is continuing to survey new crop corn. For updates and further information, contact the Office of the Texas State Chemist/Feed and Fertilizer Control Service at (979) 845-1121 or at <http://otsc.tamu.edu>. For specific questions about wildlife, contact Wilkins at 845-7726 or by e-mail atnwilkins@tamu.edu.

Venison Sloppy Joes
1 - 4 lb. venison roast
2 large white onions cut in large cubes
1 cup of celery, chopped
4 garlic cloves
salt and pepper (to taste)
2 - 12 oz. Coca-Colas
1/2 cup raisins
Hamburger Buns
BBQ Sauce

Place roast in crock pot with salt, pepper, onion, celery, garlic and Coca-Cola. Slow cook all day (start this one in the morning, before work). Once you get home check the roast, it should fall apart. Chop meat up into small pieces, drain juice and pour into a mixing bowl, add the veggie from the crock pot, adding the raisins and BBQ sauce (enough to your liking). Mix well and serve over buns with chips.

Hunting Tip:

You can make your own effective, but inexpensive cover scent. Gather green leaves and plants from the area you intend to hunt. Boil them for 20 minutes. Pour the cooled juice into a spray bottle.

Prevention and Awareness Are The Keys To A Safe Hunting Season

Last year, 43 total hunting accidents were reported in Texas, three of which were fatal. Of the total number of accidents, seven occurred in the West Texas and Concho Valley areas. Most were caused by careless or improper use of a firearm.

Rod Gardner, director of Shannon Medical Center's AirMed 1 air ambulance service, says while his crew is equipped to handle such emergencies, he hopes AirMed 1 will not have to respond to a hunting-related accident this season.

"Each year, AirMed 1 usually picks up at least one or two serious hunting injuries," said Gardner. "The concerning factor is that usually the incident could have been prevented if the individuals had taken precautions more seriously."

Gardner lists the following guidelines as the top three hunter safety precautions:

1. Always point the muzzle in a safe direction, and treat every firearm as if it is loaded and dangerous.

"I've seen individuals killed by guns others thought were toys or unloaded guns," said Gardner.

2. Be sure of your target and what is in front of and beyond it,

and be aware of your safe zone of fire.

"We see individuals with shotgun pellets in them almost every season" said Gardner. "Smaller caliber bullet injuries, such as those from a .22, are also common. People do not realize these types of ammunition can travel up to a mile unobstructed."

3. Don't drink alcohol or take drugs before or while handling firearms or bow and arrows.

"Alcohol is a factor in many hunting accidents," said Gardner. "One example I've seen is a first time hunter on the last day of hunting season. He was drunk and dropped his gun while climbing down from a tree. The bullet almost completely shot the man's leg off, but he luckily survived."

Additional safety tips include handle firearms, arrows, and ammunition carefully, unload firearms and unstring conventional bows when not in use, control your emotions, wear hearing and eye protection and be aware of additional circumstances that require more vigilant safety precautions.

"We encourage everyone to have an enjoyable, but safe, hunting season," said Gardner.

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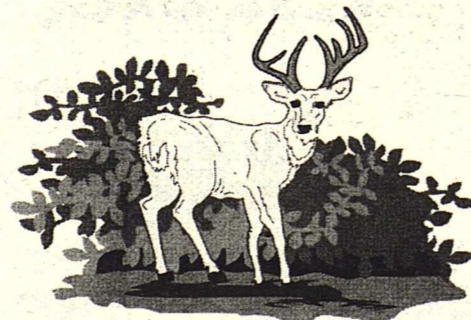
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Quail Hunting Takes Flight In West Texas

by: Steve Byrns

Tough times in agriculture brought about by prolonged drought, high overhead, and fluctuating markets have forced those left in the ranching business to scrutinize their remaining economic options. One avenue that's fast overshadowing the livestock enterprise in some areas is the hunting resource.

For years most Texans have considered "hunting" to mean white-tailed deer. That perception is fading fast as quail hunting becomes more popular. In the past, Texas quail were commonly thrown in with the deer, turkey, and other species on many leases. No more. Today quail, both the bobwhite and blue (i.e., scaled) varieties, are big business in Texas in their own right.

One rancher whose quail hunting enterprise is typical of a growing number of operations across Texas is Joe Pat Hemphill, a fourth-generation cow/calf operator from northern Coleman County.

"I think anyone who has had their eyes open, particularly over the last 10 years, knows that hunting of all types, especially quail hunting, has become a very, very significant factor in our economy," Hemphill said. "There are a lot of guided quail hunting operations in Coleman County. We're seeing an awful lot of dollars coming into this county that otherwise wouldn't be here. I think hunting in itself along with other recreational activities may well be the salvation of a lot of operations in this area."

A recent survey conducted by

the Texas Agricultural Extension Service summarized quail hunting related expenditures by members of Quail Unlimited (QU), a national organization of quail hunters and conservationists. The survey found that the average QU member spent more than \$10,000 annually on his or her quail hunting habit.

And besides just helping landowners, such cash flow helps to prop up struggling rural economies, as 65 percent of the expenditures were made in the destination county. For many ranchers, the trespass rights for quail hunting are more than the property's value for livestock grazing.

Hemphill underscores that serious quail hunters are indeed the heavy hitters of the Texas hunting world.

"I may get in trouble for saying this," he said. "But, I see deer vs. quail hunters as being similar to a bull rider vs. a calf roper. Like the calf roper, a quail hunter has a lot of time and money invested in his sport. His expenses include dogs, dog trailers, trainers, and kennels. He's feeding and caring for those dogs throughout the year. On top of that, he generally has a lot of traveling expense. A calf roper generally goes through the same type of thing. He must maintain good horses, have a good means of hauling them, and take care of them."

"On the other hand, a deer hunter can go down to one of the outlet stores, buy a rifle and he's suddenly a deer hunter. A bull rider can go buy a bull rope and he's a bull rider.

"Quail hunting has definitely been more important to us in the last two or three years. I like to think that I could exist without it," the rancher said. "However, if I can do the quail hunting and manage it properly, it will give me some options in my operation I would normally not have."

"It's not all just about the dollars either. One of the most important aspects of a quality quail hunting program is land management. If you're serious about a good quail operation, you're probably cutting your stocking rate back on cattle a little bit and taking better care of your land. You're actually going to improve your cattle operation. I see hunting and especially quail hunting opportunities becoming more and more valuable to the land owner who can maintain decent quality levels of hunting through proper range management practices."

There is a growing dark side to the quail population equation. Experts say time may be running out for quail entrepreneurs like Hemphill, because quail, especially bobwhites, are rapidly declining across their range. Over the past 20 years the bobwhites' plight has become so critical that in some southeastern states scientists fear wild quail may be extinct within the next five years.

Texas is one of only three states (Oklahoma and Kansas are the other two) which still has appreciable wild quail numbers. Even here, experts say, populations have dropped almost 5 percent annually since 1981. Hemphill is among those

directly feeling the quail loss.

"Over my experience as both a rancher and a hunter, I've realized and seen an obvious decline in quail numbers here," Hemphill said. "I think it's extremely important for people in our industry to push for quail preservation any way we can. If we're going to maintain a significant income source from quail hunting, then obviously we need to support spending to find out why we're losing these birds. We have got to learn what we can do to stop this progressive disaster."

Hemphill and other Texas quail aficionados are eyeing the outcome of a \$3.7 million initiative now before the Texas legislature. The "Quail Decline Initiative" is

aimed at saving native Texas quail.

The initiative includes plans for a focused educational program for landowners on decline of quail and associated songbirds and general education for youth and adults; research aimed at identifying factors contributing to quail decline and mitigating management practices; restoration of quail habitat in 12 targeted counties through use of cost-share funds; economic impacts of quail and related enterprises; and research on management strategies for fragmented landscapes.

"I love to hunt quail and watch my dogs work," Hemphill said. "I want to do whatever it takes to always have enough wild, native birds to work them on."

Good Hunting



These three bucks were killed by Taylor, Johnny and Robert on the Finklea Brothers Black Ranch in November of 2001.

Mature Bucks Lay Low During Hunting Season

by Robert Burns

OVERTON - Heads up deer hunters. Experts say there are most likely quality, mature bucks on your land or leased property that you've never seen during legal hunting hours.

"The older, more mature bucks are less likely to be seen during the times when hunters are out there," said Dr. Billy Higginbotham, who has collected thousands of pictures at deer feeders throughout East Texas during the last seven years using automatically triggered cameras.

"It's a constantly recurring theme. Evidently, the bigger, better bucks learn to lay low between dawn and dusk in the hunting season," he said.

Since 1995, Higginbotham has been setting up the remote-sensing cameras in deer habitats on East Texas ranches varying in size from a few hundred to a few thousand acres. The pictures have provided census data on white-tailed deer feeding habits at a level of accuracy not normally obtainable by traditional means, such as spotlighting or surveying by helicopter or fixed wing aircraft. Moreover, these traditional means are blinded in most East Texas deer habitats because of heavy tree canopies and thick brush.

The cameras favored by Higginbotham are triggered by either motion sensors or infrared detection of the animal's body heat. Higginbotham's primary interest is

to determine deer demographics, such as estimates of population density, buck/doe ratios and fawn counts. These data can then be used to tailor management strategies. Landowners can adjust their deer harvest strategies to maintain correct buck/doe ratios for a better crop of deer.

Incidental to the demographic data come revelations such as the lay-low behavior of older bucks during hunting season.

Usually placed near deer corn-feeding stations, the automatic cameras provide other revelations about local wildlife behavior.

"A number of surprising results occur when cameras are out there collecting information for you 24 hours a day over a 14-day period," Higginbotham said.

One of these surprises is the amount of feed consumed by non-target species. Based on seven years of observations, Higginbotham estimates that as much as 75 percent of feed at the stations are consumed not by deer but by other wildlife such as raccoons and feral hogs. Other varmints show up on film at the feeding stations: squirrels, rats, opossums and even the occasional human trespasser. Coyotes and bobcats make regular spot checks at feeding stations to see what's on the four-legged menu.

Hunters can, of course, take advantage of the fact that mature bucks lay low during hunting season. Higginbotham sets his camera stations up at about one per 150

acres. If the mature bucks are showing up at only one or two camera stations on a 1,500 acre ranch, the hunter can concentrate his or her efforts on the area where the bucks were spotted.

"There's an ethical question here. It's about relying more on technology than on woodcraft skills," Higginbotham said.

On the other hand, he noted, for those who progressively manage their deer herds, sighting large bucks builds confidence in their methods. It tells the landowner that tuning the harvest to known factors about the deer population is working, because the strategy produces a fair number of trophy bucks and a sustainable doe/fawn ratio over the long haul. For most landowners/hunters, trophy bucks are the ultimate goal of deer population management.

Since no remote camera is going to capture images of all deer on a site, behind the demographic estimates lie some fairly sophisticated science and statistics.

A study by wildlife researchers on a Mississippi farm supplied the background. Researchers from Mississippi State University and Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches used infrared cameras on a 10,000-acre site during two-week periods in 1992 and 1993. Bait sites were monitored using a density of one camera per 160 acres. Since the deer were tagged and the area fenced, the researchers were able to deduce the relationship between the

"photo captures" and the actual deer population.

Using the data and techniques from the Mississippi study, Higginbotham can infer from the counts of bucks that appear in the camera's eye the total count and the proportions of bucks, does and fawns with considerable accuracy. The estimate is based on the number of bucks photographed. Because of their antlers, it's easier to distinguish between individual bucks

when there may be multiple pictures of each animal. Individual does are much harder to distinguish. Based on the data collected in the Mississippi study, the doe and fawn population is calculated from the buck count.

During one study where the cameras were set up before and after hunting season, the difference between the counts matched the number of deer taken, Higginbotham noted.



Michael Terry bagged this buck hunting in Northern Sutton County.

Hunting Tip:

When you spot large bucks in certain areas, always note the weather conditions and hunt these same spots during those same conditions. Bucks like to use certain areas during different conditions, keeping them in favorable site areas.

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Facts every whitetail hunter should know

by Chuck Robbins

Whitetail deer are pursued each fall by more hunters than all the other big game animals combined.

2. In the U.S. a hundred years ago whitetails were scarce throughout. Because of wise management, increased protection and better habitat they now number about 25 million.

3. Whitetails are our most numerous deer and found in all of the lower 48 states as well as eight Canadian provinces, Mexico, all of Central America and northern South America. They've been successfully transplanted to New Zealand, the Caribbean, Finland, Cuba and Bosnia.

4. Population densities vary from location to location depending on habitat quality, land use, variance in deer management philosophy and hunting.

5. Deer do best in diverse cover where there is a mix of open fields, brush and young forests. As forests mature and fields are stripped of cover deer densities drop. Change in the opposite direction usually results in increased deer populations. Populations in marginal habitat may be as low as a few per square mile while in intensively managed areas, such as some large Texas ranches, the population might soar into the hundreds per square mile. In most areas densities fall between these two extremes. However deer densities are never fixed, always changing as the habitat changes. Much of the grousing, "gone are the good old days," so often heard in deer camps merely reflects a maturing habitat. In fact,

there are more deer today than ever.

Age and nutrition are primarily responsible for the size of a whitetail buck's rack.

6. Whitetails are quite prolific and can quickly overpopulate an area if left unchecked. On good range, whitetail populations can double every two years despite predation, highway deaths and buck hunting. To date the only feasible way to control deer numbers is to harvest does and often even that doesn't work.

In the early 1900s, 50 whitetails were introduced to predator-free New Zealand and in just a few short years so over-populated the range bag limits were abandoned.

7. Mature, healthy does almost always give birth to twin fawns. While the number of triplets tend to balance singles raising the overall birth rate to a number very close to two per healthy mature doe.

8. Whitetails are receptive to a long list of diseases including blue tongue, encephalitis and anthrax in addition to parasitic worms, nematodes, mites and ticks. They are infamous as hosts for the Lyme disease causing deer tick. Some diseases occasionally reach epidemic proportions. In 1976 epizootic hemorrhagic disease wiped out thousands in the Midwest. In the early 1900's nearly all the whitetails in southwest Montana were wiped out by disease thought to be blue tongue.

9. Predators other than man: coyote, mountain lion, bobcat and domestic dogs also impact whitetail populations from time to time. But deer are wonderfully equipped to deal with predators. They can sprint

35-40 miles per hour and sustain speeds in excess of 20 miles per hour. Adults can easily leap 25 feet horizontally and an 8' fence is only a hindrance if a deer is unaware of its existence. They also have evolved keen senses of hearing, smell and sight that can detect the minutest unnatural-motion, as well as lightning-quick reflexes.

10. Whitetails willingly take to water. I have often seen them swimming wide rivers and lakes and once watched a group in the Adirondacks that apparently swam a pretty wide river as part of their daily routine.

11. In the U.S. most breeding takes place during a two-week period in November or December. Does bred during the first two weeks of November give birth about 200 days later in early June. This gives fawns in climates where winter is a lean season enough time to grow and be able to fend for themselves. However breeding tends to be spread out over longer periods in warmer climates where winter food availability tends not to be a factor. In south Texas, for example, a fawn might be born as late as September and have no problem surviving the mild winter.

12. Researchers have found that whitetail fawns are almost always born in low light, dawn or dusk; many fawns are born on rainy days during periods of low barometric pressure. Penned does with known breeding dates commonly hold off giving birth as long as a week during periods of high pressure.

13. Fawns are born nearly scent free and often the first born gets to its feet and walks away while the

other is being born—though for the first week they can't travel far or fast. Except for feeding the doe hides the fawns and stays away to minimize odor. After two weeks fawns are strong and fast enough to elude predators.

14. In a healthy population equal numbers of buck and doe fawns are born but doe fawns tend toward a higher survival rate.

15. The fawn's spots are a camouflage mechanism and the pattern is random and quite different individually. One researcher found the individual number, even in twins, to vary from 100 to more than 300. White or albino fawns are also spotted but the pattern is far less obvious—white on white.

Bucks begin growing new racks antlers just shortly after the old ones are shed.

16. Whitetails have a great economic impact. They are of enormous value both from a hunting standpoint and for wildlife viewing. While on the other hand deer destroy millions of dollars worth of agricultural crops and trees, residential lawns and cause many more millions of dollars damage in collisions with automobiles.

17. Whitetails thrive in such widely varied habitat as valleys, river bottoms and swamps with more water than land to near tree line in some high mountain ranges as well as temperate forests, rain forests, agricultural lands and weed-filled meadows—and, likely as not, even in your backyard.

18. Whitetails prosper in climates where temperatures commonly reach 115-degrees

Fahrenheit in the shade and where rainfall may total less than 5 inches annually. They also succeed where snowfall is measured in feet and temperatures bottom out at -40-degrees Fahrenheit or colder.

19. Whitetails are highly adaptable. For instance, in corn country deer might live all summer and early fall in cornfields until harvest time. Stripped of cover the deer move off to nearby brushy swales, woodlots and weed fields hardly skipping a beat.

20. Whitetails are the "fruit flies" of wildlife management. Many thousands of books and articles have been written on our "favorite" deer, as have scores of videos and films. Our collective fascination with whitetail deer is apparently universal and unsurpassed.

21. Whitetails are exquisitely shaped, with long agile legs, innocent dark eyes with long lashes, set in an appealing face, often accented in white, capable of graceful movement that belies raw power, quickness and speed. Any researcher who has ever grabbed a deer by its hind feet knows how incredibly strong even a 70 pound fawn is—it takes a man of strength to hang on to the flailing hooves of an adult deer—a mature buck, forget it. I once witnessed a mature doe, from a near standing start, leap 10 feet straight-up landing on a shed roof and escape a deer research facility.

22. Man's activities alter whitetail behavior but don't dictate their whereabouts. Deer have the uncanny ability to live in close proximity to man and remain rela-

Whitetail Facts continued

tively undetected. Many are the tales of giant bucks living and dying in areas where the local residents had no knowledge of their existence. For several seasons I hunted a buck that was highly visible during the off-season but apparently turned ghost-like with the first hint of hunting—I know of no hunter who even shot at him, despite that he lived just outside a small city, in a heavily populated and hunted area.

23. Whitetails are herbivores, or plant eaters; belong to the family Cervidae which includes elk, moose and caribou; are ungulates, having partitioned stomachs and digest their food through a method known as cud chewing: a digestive process whereby the food is regurgitated and chewed over and over again to break it down.

24. Mature whitetails need to eat on average about 7 pounds of woody browse or its equivalent in other forage plants each day to remain healthy and active.

25. Whitetails in good physical shape have been known to go as long as 28 days in dead of winter with no food whatsoever, apparently suffering little physical side effects. In other words does recovered body weight when food was again available, produced healthy twins as 28 days in dead of winter was not being disturbed during the enforced fast—the more times the starving deer were disturbed the more lethal the lack of food.

26. Even when food is readily available, whitetails voluntarily restrict their winter food intake. A mature whitetail buck might lose 40% of body weight from his peak in pre-rut to spring regardless of food availability.

27. By age 8 or 9, a whitetail's teeth are worn almost to the gumline and eating becomes difficult. A 10-year-old whitetail is rare. The oldest I can find record of was a tame doe that lived to age 22, an unheard of age when surviving the rigors of the wild.

28. In hard-hunted areas most deer are killed before their third birthday, especially bucks.

29. Whitetails evolved some 4 million years ago. They've remained relatively unchanged over the millennia, surviving the Ice Age and other natural disasters that doomed such giants as the Irish elk, mammoth and mastodon. By contrast man first appeared in North America less than 30,000 years ago.

30. Whitetail hooves are actually comparable to our middle toes, which over time have evolved into a highly specialized foot, especially suited to their lifestyle.

32. Researchers have found that deer winter coats are so efficient they lose body heat only through the long leg bones and breathing apparatus. Thus a bedded, curled-up deer loses almost zero body heat and can withstand long periods of intense cold with little discomfort.

35. Adult whitetail bucks in the northeast average about 40 inches at the shoulder and weigh around 160 pounds. The largest live in the north and the smallest in the south—Bergman's Rule. A whopper Minnesota buck weighed in at 511 pounds, a New York buck 388 and a Pennsylvania buck 311.

A mature Key deer buck—a whitetail subspecies that stands about 24 inches at the shoulder—might weigh 80 pounds and a doe

60.

36. Whitetails, like all Cervids, grow antlers as opposed to horns. Unlike horn that is basically keratin, or finger-nail-like, antlers are solid bone—semi-permanent extensions of the buck's skeleton.

37. Antlers grow from a pedicel on the deer's skull. Only males grow antlers with the exception of the extremely rare doe with screwed up hormones.

38. Usually bucks grow their first antlers at 1 1/2 years of age (late born or poorly started buck fawns might not until the next year). Antlers begin growing in spring and during the mid-summer peak of growth a big buck can put out an inch of antler per day.

39. The antler growth process is quite fascinating and not a little mysterious. A cell from a growing antler viewed under a microscope looks identical to a growing cancer cell in humans. However some mechanism in the deer stops the growth while human cancers continue to spread unchecked lacking medical intervention.

40. Antlers are an individual characteristic giving a buck, year to year, his own unique look. As the buck matures toward prime at 5 or 6 years of age the rack gets bigger and more massive but retains much the same shape and character as when he was a 1 1/2 year old. Of course there are many exceptions such as the buck that got off to a poor start and as a yearling grew only spikes, or one that has had a serious injury, or period(s) of poor health.

41. Antler size is largely a matter of nutrition and age. While genetics play into it, generally speaking a mature whitetail-buck from age 3 1/2 on is going to be a

pretty good buck, provided he's been able to fill his belly with ample amounts of good nutritious food.

42. Just because a yearling buck grows only spike antlers doesn't mean he won't grow into a trophy later in life. One buck raised at the Penn State Deer Research Facility was a spike until age 4 1/2 when suddenly he metamorphosed into a magnificent and massive 12 point—it just took that long to recover from an extremely poor start.

43. The key is that to grow good antlers the buck must first satisfy, nutrition-wise, his skeletal growth needs. So until a buck matures, quits adding bone to his skeleton at about age 5, he can't achieve maximum antler size and mass. Of course, just like the giant freshman football player, there are whopper 3 1/2 year old bucks.

44. The biggest of the big bucks are usually 4 1/2 to 8 1/2 years old, although massive weight loss can be expected anytime beyond age 6 1/2, while antlers might still remain huge.

45. Why antlers remains a great mystery, but most researchers believe they are first an ornament that helps or hinders, as the case may be, their acceptance by does as breeders—the bigger the antler, the better, as far as does are concerned. Obviously fighting and defense are secondary reasons—but the real why remains largely a matter of conjecture.

46. Whitetail antlers differ from mule and blacktail deer in that single tines sprout from a horizontal main beam. Mule deer and blacktails have branched points that

sprout from a main beam that curves upward. Of course there are endless variations, such as drop points, palmation, minor branched pointing, etc., etc. that can muddle the picture. But generally speaking whitetail buck racks are uniquely recognizable once you know what to look for.

47. Whitetail antlers grow during the warm months. While they are growing they are soft, warm, even hot to the touch, covered with a velvety skin-like material and easily damaged. If damaged during the velvet stage they bleed quite readily and all manner of malformation can and does take place: split beams and points, grotesquely shaped antlers, missing antlers, etc.

48. When the antlers harden in early fall, they become solid bone, the velvet splits and the buck quickly rubs it off and polishes the rack on a convenient bush or sapling. The color of the hardened polished antler often takes on the color of the sap of the bark the antler is most rubbed on—light bark, light antler, etc.

49. Bucks retain their antlers until late winter or early spring. Nutrition again comes in to play and often the biggest, healthiest bucks retain antlers longest.

50. Like most everything else concerning antlers the dropping process has its own brand of mystery: Up until the very moment the antlers fall off there is no indication it's about to occur and no amount of pulling or prying will break an antler loose much before its time. When the antler drops the pedicel resembles a torn scab that quickly heals over. If conditions are right, i.e. spring has sprung, new growth

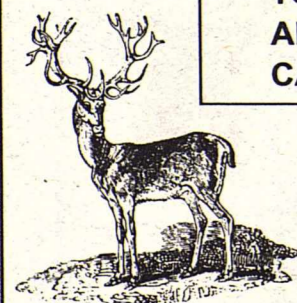
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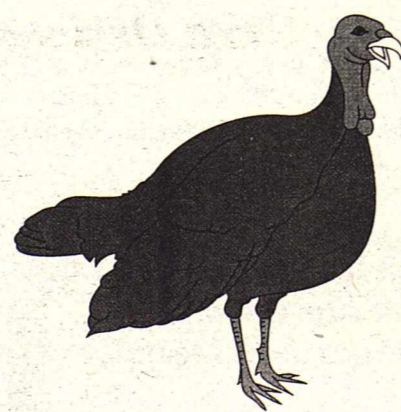
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