

# THE Devil's River NEWS

50¢

Since 1890

Volume 117 • Issue 45

SONORA, TEXAS

Thursday, November 10, 2005

## Texas Tradition Alive and Thriving Sutton County Game Dinner celebrates 39 years

by Ruthie Bounds

What do you think of, when you think of Texas?

Most people think of the Wild West, hunting, great food, and hospitality.

For a taste of all of these things and more, don't miss the 39th Annual Sutton County Game Dinner, Saturday, November 12th. Experience one of the oldest traditions in the State of Texas, as Sonora and Sutton County welcomes our hunters and hunter hopefuls back to town.

Sutton County's Annual Game Dinner is more than a hunter's appreciation supper, it is a celebration of our wildlife, heritage and hospitality. Many communities now host similar events for their hunters, but none we know have been in operation as long as Sonora's.

Hunting has a great economic impact on Sonora and Sutton County, so this is just one way of showing our appreciation to the hunters, the community, and our neighbors. Select hunters are recognized each year as an outstanding group or individual and are nominated by the land owner of land on which they hunt.

The Sutton County Game Dinner Association, consisting of countless volunteers, prepare a traditional menu of game and local specialties, as well as gather and give away over \$40,000.00



Hopeful Game Dinner guests wait to drop their tickets the tumbler for a chance to win guns, gear or other great prizes.

worth of door prizes. The traditional menu has been served each year for the last 38 years and includes: Fried Turkey Breast, Venison, Smoked Turkey, Pork, Cabrito, Chili, Son-of-a-Gun Stew, Sutton County Sausage, a Cajun Surprise, Camp Bread, Beans, Iced Tea and Water. That is a lot of food for the price of \$7.00 a plate, and children under 10 eat free.

The door prize tickets are sold in advance, and at the door, for \$1.00 each, and with no limits on how many are purchased. The more you buy, the more chances

to win! Be sure to put your name, address and phone number on your ticket, so that if you have to leave early, you won't miss one of the fabulous prizes you may have won. You have to be present for most of the prizes, but not for the larger ones.

The grand prizes are a 2005 Polaris 500 ATV and a 2005 Kawasaki 50 ATV. There will also be over 50 high quality rifles and shotguns, fishing & hunting equipment, camping & outdoor supplies, televisions, stereos, ice chests and many other great prizes.

## District Judge Jones not running for re-election

112th District Judge Brock Jones announced today that he will not be a candidate for re-election in the 2006 Primary or General Elections. Judge Jones has served as presiding judge of the 112th Judicial District, composed of Crockett, Pecos,

Reagan, Sutton and Upton Counties, since May of 1984. Jones' current term extends through December 31, 2006, and will then be available for assignment as Senior District Judge as needed.

## Red JV Broncos wipe out Eagles Wrap up perfect season

By: Danni Price

The JV Red Broncos played their last game of the season on Thursday night entertaining the Eagles from Junction. This was the second meeting of the year for the two teams. The first meeting was during the second week of the season and the Broncos beat the Eagles 29-0. On Thursday night, the Broncos beat the Eagles 40-0. Twenty-One of the forty points came within the first few minutes of play. With this "win" the Red Broncos remained undefeated and earned themselves a "perfect" 10-0 football season.

The Eagles had the ball first, but not for long. After receiving Anthony Sanchez' kick, the Eagles went 3 and out and punted to the Broncos. The Broncos ran 4 plays and scored on the fourth play with Vaquera on the keeper. J.J. Galindo kicked the PAT and the score was 7-0.

The Eagles would pick up A. Sanchez' kick at the twenty and meet Colton Moore at the 24 yard line. The Eagles offense would consist of a false start, and incomplete pass, (broken-up by Jordan Isenhour), a no-gain run attempt, another false start and a tipped pass by Galindo. The tipped pass landed right in Hunter Lawson's hands and he strode into the end zone for the second score in less than a minute. Galindo's PAT was blocked, but the Broncos lead 13-0.

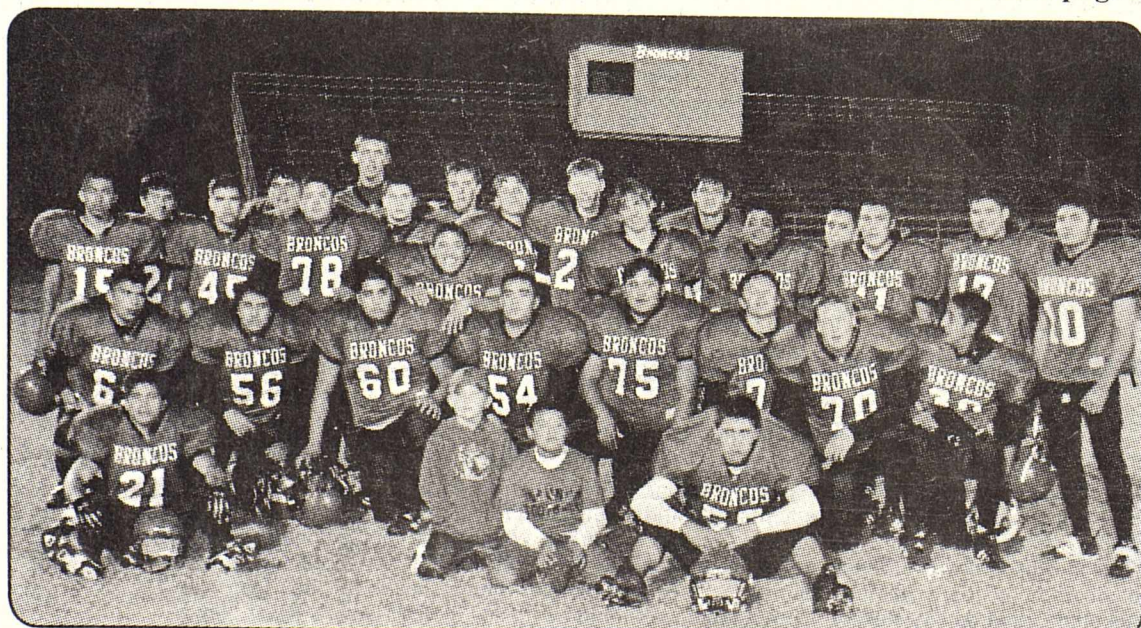
The Eagles were called for "unsportsmanlike conduct" on the PAT play so A. Sanchez and the Broncos reaped the benefit on the kick-off. Morgan Martinez, Marco Jimenez, Isenhour and the rest of the Bronco defense kept the Eagles to 3 plays and a punt. Riley Sanchez handled the punt and put the Broncos on the 37 yard line. The Bronco offense took the field with

R. Sanchez at QB handing off the ball to Vaquera who scampered to the Eagle 38 yard line for a 25 yard gain and a first down. Vaquera back at the helm handed off to Nick Peña who ran for another 18 yards and another first down. On second and 3, Vaquera handed off to Fidel Acevedo at the 14 as he quickly found the end zone and the third Bronco touchdown. Vaquera pitched-out to N. Peña who rolled in for the two point conversion. The Broncos now lead 21-0 with 1:26 remaining in the first quarter.

Sanchez' kick was a beauty, hitting the 10 yard line, but with no takers, the ball rolled into the end zone for a touch back. The Eagles offense would try to start again for their own twenty. Riley Sanchez, Edward Garcia and Isenhour were there to make sure they failed. After 3 failed plays the Eagle punter once again used his leg. The punt rolled out of bounds and the Bronco offense was ready to go at it again. Vaquera found Acevedo for a quick pass to give the Broncos a first down, then after the end of the quarter, Vaquera handed off to Isenhour at the Eagle 11 yard line. Isenhour found the end zone easily. Galindo's PAT was good, and the Broncos now lead 28-0 with 9:53 left in the half.

The Eagles just couldn't find their mojo, and the Broncos just kept coming. The Eagles ran 6 plays and gained 2 first downs, but on the sixth play, the Broncos swarmed the QB and forced a fumble, that was recovered by Alonzo Peña. Good plays on defense by Justin Perez, Acevedo, Marc Hernandez, Galindo, and Martinez. The Broncos were ready to roll once again. Vaquera handed off to N. Peña who took off for a 24 yard run, but fumbled the ball at the Eagle 36, but with "mo"

See JV Red page 5



Undefeated JV Red Broncos



## Starting hunting season with a bang

Freddie Walker of Marble Falls killed this 9 point buck on the Consuelo Ranch November 6th. He has watched and passed this deer by for 4 years, but because Consuelo Ranch has a game management program, for the past two years only 8 point and less could be taken.

For more on Hunting don't miss the 2005 Sutton County Hunting Guide inside this issue!

## Library of Congress project encourages Veterans to share



Congressman Henry Bonilla

This week our nation will celebrate Veteran's Day. The day reminds us that throughout America, and particularly in the Lone Star State, there are thousands of veterans with a wealth of unique memories and perspectives from their years of service in the U.S. Armed Forces.

To gather and preserve those memories for future generations, the Library of Congress has launched the Veterans History Project. I strongly encourage all veterans of all wars to participate in this exciting effort to capture first-person accounts of wartime experiences that helped make America great.

Created by Congress in 2000, the Veterans History Project coordinates and expands a national collection of veterans' oral histories and writings. Part of the Library of Congress' American Folklife Center, the Project honors those who served in the military and those civilians who have worked in dedicated support of our armed forces.

The Project builds on our nation's ever-evolving collective memory. The Veterans History Project has an important contribution to make because war, with more force now in light of the current war against terrorism, can radically transform not just the men and women who fought, but also the people and society they are fighting for.

Honoring our past plays a key element for understanding our shared identity, and the Library of Congress - America's library - is the principal steward of America's memory. Oral history can bring us close to the experience of the intense camaraderie with others upon whom your life literally depends; the fear that comes with being under siege; or the uncertainty of waiting on the home front for a loved one to return. So many men and women from World War I to Operation Enduring Freedom have powerful stories that must be recorded for future generations.

Oral history brings history down from a lofty distance. While many histories of war capture the perspective of the generals and

See Veteran project page 6

## Texas Main Street Cities receive national recognition

LAREDO, Texas — The Texas Historical Commission (THC) and the National Trust for Historic Preservation recently recognized Sonora, Texas as one of the 50 National Main Street Cities in Texas. Other 2006 National Main Street Cities include: Amarillo, Beaumont, Bowie, Brenham, Canton, Canyon, Carthage, Celina, Clarksville, Clifton, Comanche, Corsicana, Decatur, Denison, Denton, Eagle Lake, Electra, Elgin, Fairfield, Farmersville, Freeport, Georgetown, Goliad, Gonzales, Grand Saline, Grapevine, Greenville, Irving, Kerrville, La Grange, Levelland, Llano, Lufkin, McKinney, Mineola, Monahans, Mt. Vernon, Nacogdoches, New Braunfels,

See Main Street page 6

## Colts Undefeated District Champs



### 8th Grade Colts end winning season with one more!

by Santiago Faz

On Nov. 3 the Colts traveled to Junction to play their final game of the year. Harvey Santana kicked off to start the game and Junction started at their own 32 yd line. The Eagle fumbled on 1st down and the Colts recovered at the Eagle 33. On 1st down Dustin Neff gained 1 yd. On 2nd down Dustin Neff sprints into the end zone from 32 yds out. Kris Aguero in for 2 pts. Eagles 0 - Colts 8. On the next Eagle possession, the Colts had good defensive plays from Caleb Gonzales, Chacho Mesa, Dustin

Neff, and Tyler Creek. From the Colt 33, the Eagle quarterback attempted a pass but was intercepted by A.K. Williams at the 25 yd line. Facing 2nd and 14 Kris Aguero took the snap and raced 79 yds for a touchdown. Caleb Gonzales in for 2 pt. Eagles 0 - Colts 16. The 1st quarter ended with defensive stops by Esteban De La Rosa, Caleb Gonzales, Tyler Creek, Hugo Cardona, and Dustin Neff.

To start the 2nd quarter, the Eagles turned the ball over after failing to convert a 4th and 7 with a great defensive stop by

the defensive line. On 1st down from the Colt 49, Will Anderson scores from 51 yds out. Dustin Neff in for 2 pt. Eagles 0 - Colts 24. On the next Eagle possession, the Colts defense was led by Cash Jennings to force the Eagles to punt. The colt offense was unable to complete 3 passes and were forced to punt. The Colt defense once again forced a punt with good defense by Dustin Neff and Pedro Ramirez. The Colts took over at their own 14 yd line. On 1st down

## Lighthouse Community Church

A place for returning Pròdigals and recovering Pharisees

### Sunday Services

Bible Study 10:00 a.m.  
Worship 11:00 a.m. • 6:00 p.m.  
1705 N. Crockett

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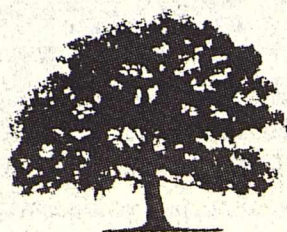


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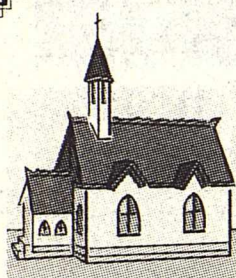
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Steve Whitson  
P.O. Box 121  
Menard, TX 76859



## SUTTON COUNTY HEALTH FOUNDATION

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



## Sonora Church Directory

**Primera Iglesia Bautista**  
504 Santa Clara  
387-2035

**Church of Christ**  
304 N. Water  
387-3190

**The Church of the Good Shepherd Presbyterian**  
319 E. Mulberry  
387-2616

**First Baptist Church**  
404 E. Oak  
387-2951

**Lighthouse Community Church**  
1705 N. Crockett  
387-3100

**St. John's Episcopal Church**  
404 E Poplar  
387-2955

**Pentecostal Calvary Temple United**  
509 Amistad  
387-5266

**First United Methodist Church**  
201 N. Water  
387-2466

**St. Ann's Catholic Church**  
229 W. Plum  
387-2278

**Templo Jerusalem Asamblea De Dios**  
306 W. 4th St.  
387-5713

**Jehovah's Witness**  
310 St. Ann's St.  
387-5658/387-5518

**Hope Lutheran Church**  
417 E. 2nd St.  
387-5366

Brought to you by:  
**Kerbow Funeral Home**  
387-2266

## Obituary

### Jennell Mayhew Russell

After a courageous battle with cancer, Jennell Mayhew Russell passed away on Sunday, November 6, 2005.

Jennell was born on December 6, 1939 in Cross Plains, Texas to Frank Mayhew and Ruby Burnes Mayhew. Jennell attended public school in Sonora, Texas, graduating from Sonora High School in 1958. She was active in basketball, tennis, cheerleading and many other student activities.

Jennell lived in Dallas working for Austin Brother Steel Company for many years before moving to Abilene where she worked in the Radiology Department for Hendrick Health Systems for 22 years, retiring in 2004 due to health reasons.

She is survived by son, Lane Russell and wife, Dottie, of Graham, Texas; son Mitchell Russell and wife, Diana, of Midland, Texas; granddaughter, Hunter Russell of Midland, and grandson, Wesley Russell of Graham; sisters, Frances Jones of Anson, Texas, Barbara Urbanski of Sonora, Texas, and Lennie Woodford of Montgomery, Texas, and brother, Mack Mayhew of Kingwood, Texas; and numerous nieces and nephews and a host of wonderful friends.

Jennell was preceded in death by her parents, Mr. & Mrs. Frank Mayhew, and one sister, Betty Graves.

Funeral services were at 2 p.m.



Thursday at Elliott-Hamil Funeral Home, Chapel of Faith, 5701 Hwy 277 South, with Paul Matta officiating. Burial was in Elliott-Hamil Garden of Memories. The family received friends 6 to 8 p.m. Wednesday at the funeral home.

The family would like to thank caregivers, Elvira Day and Pam Sheffield; the Hendrick Hospice Team led by Tommie Stone; and Covenant Place Assisted Living for the love and care given Jennell over the past several months.

The family's choice of care is Hendrick Hospice Care, PO Box 1922, Abilene, TX 79604.

## Thank You Notes

To all who made the 3rd annual women's conference such a huge success I want to say thank you!! Around 200 women gathered from all over the state of Texas on October 22, 2005 at Lighthouse Community Church. Thank you all for your servant-hood and especially to the men of the community that took their day off and served the women all day long! To the people who graciously gave wonderful gifts for the door prizes: Everett's Drug, Lisa's Flowers, Gulley & Son, Moore's Oil and Lube, Mike and Debra Hobbs, Petal Pushers, Ol' Sonora, Juanita McBride and her sister, Jerry and Jan Northcott and Team Graphics. Also, thank you to Linda Love and her staff for catering such a wonderful lunch.

Thanks again,  
Jane Rushing

We would like to thank everyone for all their efforts in the bake sale given on behalf of our daughter, Emily, before her heart surgery in September. We are grateful for all the hard work that the volunteers put into making the baked goods, as well as the efforts of those who helped sell the items and those who purchased them. We appreciate everyone and all that they did. We are happy to say that Emily has recovered from her ordeal and is thriving. Thank you to all for your thoughts and prayers.

Trini and Elsa Banda

Wow, what a great season. Thank you so much to all the people of Sonora who helped make our Youth Football Superbowl the greatest.

Thanks to all of our sponsors, including First National Bank, Creek Services, Xtreme Metal Works, and Indian Creek.

Thank you, Storie Sharp, for the great coverage in the paper - I think that's why we had a great turnout at the Superbowl!

Thank you to everyone at Sonora ISD who made use of the facilities possible. Thank you to all the SISD custodians who always make sure that the Bronco field is one of the best looking fields around. Thank you to Lynn Hinsley and Devon Energy for taking care of the YMCA personnel - they loved the barbecue.

Thank you to the cheerleaders and their families who ran the concession stand as their fundraiser - the team's families truly enjoyed the day without work or worry.

Thank you to Pizza Hut and Sonic - your generosity was greatly appreciated!

Thank you to the people who donated time (and voices) like Robert Mayer, Tryon Fields, and Paul Stephens. To all the volunteers who dutifully cleaned up after the game - your work did not go unnoticed. Thank you to all the coaches: Jerry Jimenez, Jock Dutton, Juan "JJ" Jimenez, Lynn Hinsley, Mickey Sharp, and Edward San Miguel for an incredible season. We all enjoyed it.

A special Thank you to Rickey Rinehart's family for joining us in the special tribute, and to Marvin and Wanda Shurley for providing a meal for Rickey's family - they loved it!

Also, to SCHERZ STUDIO for donating the plaques to give Rickey Rinehart's family.

Most of all, thank you to our support system - our families - who show up to cheer, yell, and have fun. We couldn't have made it without you. Thanks to all, and...GO BRONCOS!

-The YMCA PeeWee and Heavyweight Sonora Broncos

*We made some mistakes in the following thank you note last week and we would like to apologize and try again... Storie*

I would like to sincerely thank the Elementary faculty and staff, Middle School and High School faculty and staff and parents of elementary students for the many calls, visits, plants, gifts, and kind words of support you have shown me following my resignation from the Elementary school. I have been truly humbled by the tremendous show of encouragement and support. I also could never ask for better friends than those who stood behind me through thick and thin. Thank you!

To the Elementary faculty and staff: I have been blessed getting to know (and working with) each of you for the past 10 years. I have made many special friends during my years at the Elementary school and I will always treasure those friendships. I miss all of you and the children so much. Thank you for your support and May God Bless each and every one of you!

Irene Casillas

## Senior Center Activities

**Fri. Nov. 11** - Happy B-Day Dene Title - Center Closed for Veterans Day

**Mon. Nov. 14** - Bingo after lunch

**Tues. Nov. 15** - CEAP at 11 a.m. Energy asst. from San Angelo - City Council 2 p.m.

**Wed. Nov. 16** - Van to San Angelo - Medicals first, call 387-3941

**Thurs. Nov. 17** - Thanksgiving Meal at Center - noon

## Senior Center Menu

**Fri. Nov. 11** - Veteran's Day - Center Closed

**Mon. Nov. 14** - Hamburger on bun, oven fries, lettuce, onions, tomatoes, carrot salad, fruit cocktail, milk

**Tues. Nov. 15** - Meatloaf w/tomato sauce, black eyed peas, okra, cornbread, banana pudding, milk

**Wed. Nov. 16** - Catfish, w/tarter sauce, corn/tomato casserole, spinach, roll, Jell-O w/fruit, milk

**Thurs. Nov. 17** - Turkey, w/giblet gravy, cranberry sauce, cornbread dressing, broccoli, rolls, coleslaw, pumpkin pie, milk

*Participants in the senior nutrition program must be 60 or older.*

*Meals are served Monday - Friday at 12:00 p.m.*

*Donations are accepted*

*(suggested donation for Seniors is \$1.50; \$4.00 for under 60 and all other meals-to-go)*

## Just a not from the Editor...

by Storie Sharp

I borrowed a portion of the following editorial from my friend and co-newspaper editor Randy Mankin, in Eldorado. I read it right after I found that I had not changed the date on my masthead two weeks ago, causing many of our readers to think they had the wrong paper and some got quite huffy about it. I try to remind everyone that we are human here at the DRN, sometimes mistakes will happen and it isn't something we do on purpose. Those that know me know how I HATE to make mistakes, but it happens, like it or not. When I read this article I smiled and remembered the first time Randy told me this story, we were at the Texas Press Association convention in Austin. A place full of newspaper editors, publishers and reporters, that have all been in the business a lot longer than me. It was so comforting to hear everyone laugh about the same kind of mistakes I had made at one time or another, and some that will probably happen along the way. I mean really, with so many words and one busy set of hands typing them all, we're lucky we don't have a totally incomprehensible set of pages. Anyway, here's what Randy had to say that made me laugh and which I connected with so well...

Randy wrote...

"Typoglycemia...yeah, that's my excuse

I really do love the newspaper business, but there are times, like last week, when I long for the old days in the oilfield when my mistakes weren't made quite so publicly and in big bold type.

In last week's column I set out to urge people to vote in the November 8th constitutional amendment election. But the headline said September 8th and at one place in the body of the column it said Oct. 8th...oops...

Typos really bother me. Try as we might, they still make it through and onto the printed page. While bone headed mistakes like (that) week don't really qualify as typos, the errant slip of the finger is the bane of a newspaperman's (or woman's) existence.

Not too long after I got into this business, Pearson Cooper, the late publisher of the Monahans News, gave me some advice about typographical errors, and he did so by telling me a story about Persian rugs.

Yes...Persian rugs.

Pearson explained that the beautiful and expensive rugs, with all their ornate patterns and vibrant colors, always contain a flaw. The flaw, he said, was intentionally woven into the intricate pattern and was usually placed near a corner so as not to attract too much attention. He went on to say that the reason for the flaw was so the craftsman would not offend Allah by trying to attain perfection.

"That's how I view my typos," Pearson said. "I tell people we put them there on purpose so as not to offend Allah..."

Randy continued with his memories of Mr. Pearson, but I won't go on since I didn't personally know the man. But I sure do appreciate what he had to say and am glad Randy shared it with me.

The following email recently made its way around the web, and I thought I would share it so we can all experience some true "Typoglycemia" and maybe my typos won't seem sooo bad this week!

### Typoglycemia

I cdnuolt blveiee taht I cluod aualcty uesdnatnrh waht I was rdanieg.

The phaonmneal pweor of the hmuan mnid. Aocdcrnig to a rscheearch taem at Cmabrigde Uinervstiy, it deosn't mttair in waht oredr the ltters in a wrod are, the olny iprmoatnt tihng is taht the frist and lsat ltteer be in the rghit pclae. The rset can be a taotl mses and you can sitll raed it wouthit a porbelm. Tthis is buuseae the huamn mnid deos not raed ervey lteter by istlef, but the wrod as a wlohe. Such a cndition is arppoiately cllaed Typoglycemia.

Amzanig huh? Yaeh and yuo awlays thought slpeling was ipmorantt."

Thanks for reading and I hope my words are a little clearer than these!

## THE DEVIL'S RIVER NEWS

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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.



Member 2005

TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

### November 11

Early Release for SISD  
Buses run at 1:00 p.m.

### November 12

Game Dinner  
Civic Center @ 6:00 p.m.

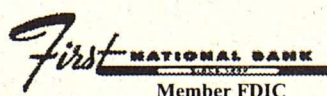
### November 17

Parent Appreciation Lunch

### November 18

"The More the Merrier"

Civic Center @ 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.



Member FDIC  
P.O. Box 798, Sonora, Texas 76950 (325) 387-3861

The Community Calendar is made possible by:



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### Letters To The Editor Policy

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## Ask the Historical Society

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

Q. Who is honored on Veteran's Day?

A. Webster's New World Dictionary, Third College Edition, defines Veteran's Day as a legal holiday in the United States honoring all veterans of the armed services.

Veteran is defined as designating a person who has served in the armed forces. An old experienced soldier, etc., especially one who served in time of war. A Veteran's Administration representative told me that there are two classes of veterans, peacetime and wartime.

• Wartime would be any person who served honorably during time of war or recognized conflict.

Veteran's Day is traditionally celebrated on what was formerly called Armistice Day. A holiday that celebrated the Armistice signed on November 11, 1918 ceasing all hostilities of World War I.

The vets of WWI used to call it the "great war, the war to end all wars." They were convinced that because of all the men who had died and the defeat of the Prussians there would never be another war. Men would know that America would pitch in to help their allies and be afraid to ever start another war. Unfortunately they were wrong; next came World War II, then the Korean Conflict (which we still haven't signed a permanent peace treaty to end) this was to be followed by Lebanon, Vietnam, Beirut, Grenada, Panama, the Persian Gulf Conflict, Desert Shield/Desert Storm, and the current conflict in Iraq.

Before WWI we had a few other little wars like the French and Indian War, the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812, the battles at Tripoli, the Civil War, the Indian Wars, Boxer Rebellion, Spanish American War, Vera Cruz, Banana Republic Wars, and conflicts with Mexican bandits and Pancho Villa and there were probably a few skirmishes with Mexico or Canada over boundaries that I have missed. Looking back over these wars the death tolls are staggering, man just can't seem to sit down and find peaceful solutions to problems in this world.

No matter if we feel a war was right or wrong, we have a patriotic duty to honor the men who have fought, and in some cases died, following the orders of their government. We must respect the men and women who serve our country and proudly wear the uniforms of their branches of service; United States Marines, United States Navy, United States Army, United States Coast Guard and the United States Air Force.

Men who fought in the Korean Conflict were put down because they didn't win; they negotiated a settle-

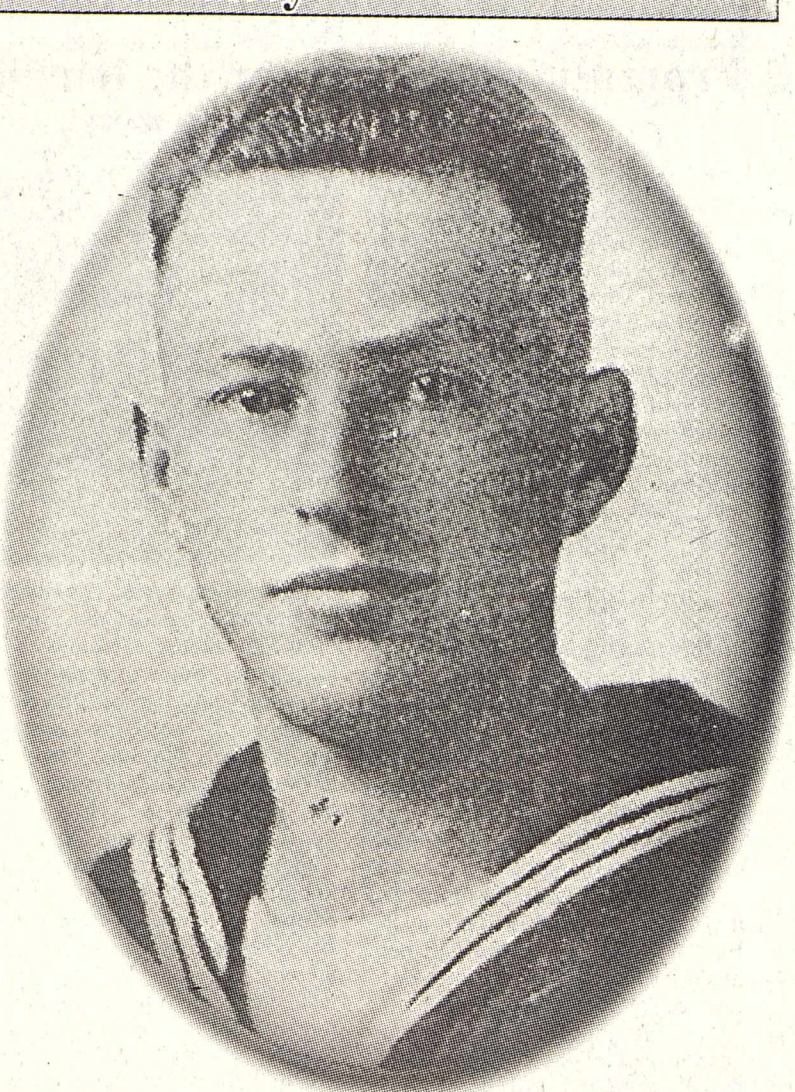
ment which has never been finalized. The men who fought in Vietnam came home to jeers instead of the cheers those of WWI and WWII and other conflicts received. They were called baby killers and hated because they didn't win their war. Seems we love our soldiers when they win wars and quietly forget about those who are in ones we don't. All but Confederate Soldiers; they seem to go down in southern history as great heroes and the general feeling seems to be they didn't lose the war and some still think that as far as state's rights are concerned it is still an active war. Now it is fought with words, in political battles and halls of justice, instead of guns.

Let's remember on Veteran's Day to honor all those who have fought for American causes in our military and all those who have honorably served our country and those who continue to do so. Say thank you on this day to those who are currently serving our nation. And remember in time of war the United States Coast Guard is under the Department of the Navy and some of their ships and personnel are serving not only in the current war but have served in most of the past wars. They deserve a big thanks for their support of the troops and for all they have done to help people during the recent hurricanes. Their total number of rescues totals up to more than all the people in their branch of the service world wide. Also for their keeping tons of drugs from reaching our shores every month and turning back thousands illegally trying to sneak into our country.

We owe special thanks to those following the orders of the Commander in Chief and fighting in Iraq, on duty in Korea and the other hot spots around the world. And to every man and woman in uniform supporting them back here in the states. Let us not forget all those in Veteran's Hospitals and United States Military Hospitals who are fighting battles of their own to stay alive and get well again. Some have years of extensive physical therapy ahead of them and will need our love and support for a long time to come.

Take your children to the Sutton County Burial Park and show them all the graves of the men who have died in wars for them and the graves of all those who have markers showing their service to their country. Every veteran who has received any discharge, except dishonorable, is entitled to one of these gravestones. No veteran should ever be buried in a Pottery Field or unmarked grave. Men and women who gave of themselves for their country deserve to be honored in life and death.

Here are just a few of the men from our area who fought for their country in early wars: Jasper Newton Maybray, Isaac Miers, John



Vernon Hamilton, US Navy WWI

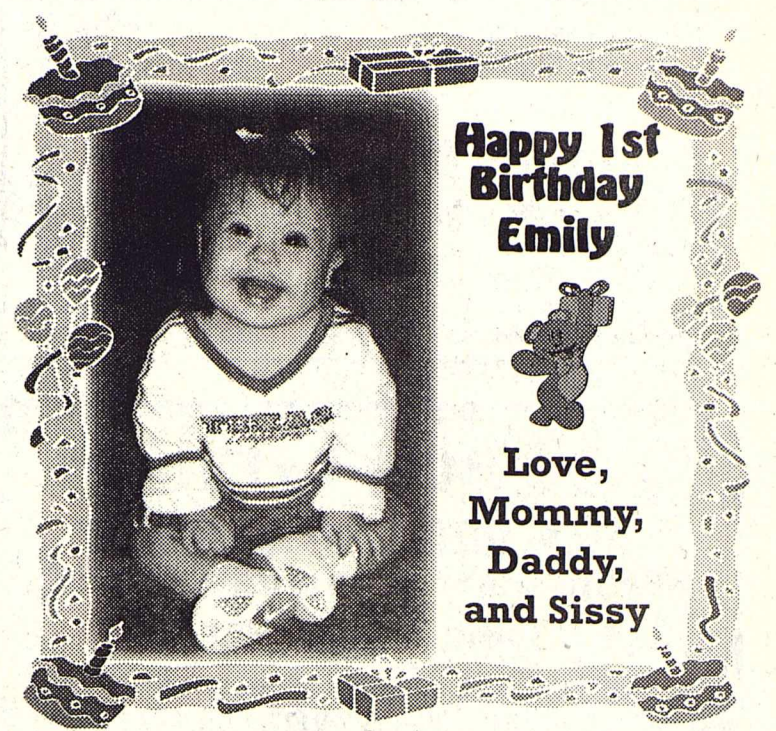
David Fields, Roy E. Aldwell, J. Arthur McDonald, Orville Word, Heber Wyatt, Millard Parker, Fred G. Smith, Murdock McDonald, Ervin Smith, Delma Smith, Dred Martin, G. Haynie Davis, Johnnie Martin, Cal Lee Johnson, Fred Grimland, Tom Davis, Banister Odom, Merton G. Shurley, Carrol Roche, Vernon Hamilton, L. Grady Lowrey, B. C. Holman, Stayton Ward, John Ward, Jr., Herman Huebner, Jack Martin, Wallace B. Keese, Ed C. Deboer, Sam L. Merck, G. W. Whitehead, Seth Wagnon, T. A. Williams, I. B. Peek, Forrest Weakley, Finis Hamby, Roy Valliant, O. E. Merriman, Clay Puckett, Jack Wardlaw, Ira Green, Charles Reddock, Bob Berry, Henry Mittel, Earl Duncan, Gus Love, Artie Joy, Earl Adams, J.C. Stephen, C. C. Smith, Joe Berger, Andrew Wall, Ben Wall, A.G. Blanton, just to name a few. Since these earliest posted veterans names the list has grown and grown and it would be impossible for us to list them all here. But it is up to all of us to see they are not forgotten on their special day.

Only through education will our children learn the true meaning of the word veteran and learn to bestow proper honor on the men and women

who served or are serving our country.

If you have any questions concerning Sutton County history you may send them to "Ask the Historical Society, P.O. Box 885, 307 Oak Street, Sonora, TX 76950-0885 or e-mail them to [schs@sonorax.net](mailto:schs@sonorax.net). You may call our office on Monday, Friday and Saturday mornings from 8-12 at 325-387-5084 with your questions regarding history or rental of our grounds and the (Old Depot) John & Mildred Cauthorn Memorial Trust Building. You are welcome to stop in when we are open to do research or give us a hand in preserving the history of our area. We have opened the books for rentals for the month of December so call soon if you want to use the Depot over the holidays. We already have two booked dates for parties and have had several more inquiries.

The new outdoor decorative lights will be finished this month, they are currently laying the wiring and we hope everyone will enjoy this new feature when they rent the building. These lights will only be used during rentals due to the increase in electrical fees.



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## Women of St. John's Annual

### Country Store Bake Sale

Monday, November 21, 2005  
10:00 a.m. until it's all gone!

St. John's Parish Hall  
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Remember the  
Thanksgiving Holiday  
is just around the corner!

## Sutton County ranchers join Willie and Walker and the boys to support Friedman for Governor



"The Kinky Friedman for Governor of Texas" golf tournament and luncheon was held and sponsored by country music legend Willie Nelson at his ranch in his western town of Luck, near Austin, on October 30, 2005. Mark and Kathy Shurley, (left) along with some of their Sonora family and friends, were Willie's guests. Mark is legal counsel for Kinky's campaign and also serves on his steering committee with Houston attorney Dick DeGuerin who was in attendance and currently represents displaced U.S. house majority leader Tom DeLay. The guests were also entertained by country music legends Billy Joe Shaver and Jerry Jeff Walker.

Kinky, who is running as an independent, urged all registered voters to "save themselves for Kinky" and not vote in the March 2006 primaries because Texas law requires that Kinky, as an independent candidate like Sam Houston was 150 years ago, get petitions signed by 45,000 registered Texas voters who did not vote in the primaries to sign his petition after the March 2006 primary election.

Kinky's most important issue is Texas education. He believes that our great state's teachers have been left behind by both political parties, and that it is time for Texans to take our great state back from those same politicians and make the Lone Star Shine again.

## Parties finally agree on judge in DeLay trial

### State Capital Highlights

Texas Press Association

By Ed Sterling

AUSTIN - Merry-go-round, carousel, roulette: newspapers recently used those words to describe the process of finding a judge who would satisfy the disparate comfort standards of indicted U.S. Rep. Tom DeLay and the state of Texas's ethics prosecutor, Ronnie Earle.

State Supreme Court Chief Justice Wallace Jefferson's naming of semi-retired Judge Pat Priest of San Antonio to preside over the Sugar Land Republican's eventual trial seemed acceptable to concerned parties, but only after DeLay's attorneys and Travis County District

Attorney Earle filed a dizzying series of trial-related motions and counter-motions.

Before Priest - who happens to be a Democrat - was named, other capable judges were bounced because of their political party affiliations and partisan campaign contributions. It's hard to find a non-partisan judge in Texas, but Priest's record of fairness earned him the nod. When a trial date is set, DeLay will face a felony charge of money-laundering and a felony charge of conspiracy to circumvent state election laws in the 2002 election. Normally, it would take half a year or more for such a case to go to trial, but DeLay's attorneys have said

they want to speed up the process.

Also indicted by Travis County grand juries and facing the same charges as DeLay are Jim Ellis, executive director of DeLay's Washington, D.C.-based Americans for a Republican Majority political action committee, and John Colyandro, former executive director of DeLay's Austin-based Texans for a Republican Majority political action committee. DeLay, Ellis and Colyandro have denied all charges against them.

When DeLay was indicted in September, he stepped down from his powerful post as U.S. House Majority Leader, in accordance with House rules prohibiting indicted members from serving in leadership positions. Governor calls for undelivered aid Gov. Rick Perry wrote a letter to Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff seeking promised but undelivered assistance in the wake of hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

Perry told Chertoff, "(that) tens of thousands of Katrina evacuees will soon be evicted with no place to go, because of poor planning for long-term housing, that we have yet to receive information from [the Federal Emergency Management Agency] identifying sex offenders and violent criminals among the Katrina evacuees, and that our victims of Rita are being treated differently from the Louisiana victims of Rita." Perry's letter also notified Chertoff about the Texas Apartment Association's announcement that

"the eviction of 15,000 people displaced by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita is imminent, because no rent has been paid for three months or serious lease violations have occurred."

And, Perry wrote, "An additional 50,000 evacuees could face eviction next month - and these figures only represent the segment of evacuees who chose apartments as their temporary home."

### Teacher pay incentives ordered

Gov. Perry issued an executive order directing state Education Commissioner Shirley Neeley to establish a new incentive-based pay system for Texas teachers who succeed in economically disadvantaged schools.

Under the directive, schools that show enough improvement in student performance will be eligible for a grant of at least \$100,000. Local school officials will have discretion to distribute the grant to the teachers they determine are having the greatest impact. However, teacher groups said Perry instead should have worked with the Legislature over the last regular and special sessions to deliver an across-the-board pay increase for teachers that would have moved Texas up to the national average.

Perry's directive was made possible by a \$10 million federal grant. Lady who kept her seat laid to rest

Gov. Perry ordered flags on state property flown at half-staff on Nov. 2 in memory of civil rights

pioneer Rosa Parks. Parks died Oct. 24 at age 92.

Her refusal to give up her seat to a white man on a Montgomery, Ala. city bus in 1955 resulted in a groundswell of support that grew into the modern civil rights movement in America.

She was the first woman ever to lay in state in the U.S. Capitol rotunda.



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## Celebrate Thanksgiving

with Us!

**November 13, 2005**

**11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.**

**SUNDAY ONLY!!**

**Serving:**

Turkey, Ham, Baked Chicken,  
Stuffing, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy,  
Green Beans, Corn, Yams and Rolls.

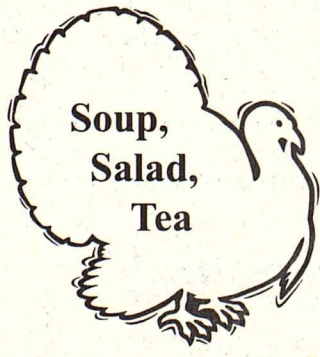
**Dessert Bar:**

Pumpkin Pie, Pecan Pie,  
Fruit Salad, Pumpkin Log

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Soup,  
Salad,  
Tea



## Chamber Chatter

Promoting tourism for the benefit of our members

**SONORA**  
Chamber of Commerce

by Ruthie Bounds,

COC Executive Director

Sonora Chamber of Commerce would like to congratulate the Best Western Sonora Inn for receiving the "Landscape of the Month" recognition for the month of November. We hope that everyone has noticed the improvements that have been taking place at the Best Western; we know the tourists and travelers have noticed. The Best Western Sonora Inn has installed new outdoor lighting, new landscaping, and seasonal decorations to welcome everyone. This improvement project is a prime example of the type of improvements that the "Landscape of the Month" recognition program was designed to recognize. It is appealing, welcoming, and has capitalized on the location to present a wonderful first impression to those visitors that take exit 400 off Interstate 10. It is our hope that improvement projects like the one that has taken place at the Best Western Sonora Inn will help to encourage all our businesses to "spruce up" their appearance.

The 39th Annual Sutton County Game Dinner will be held this Saturday, November 12, 2005 beginning at 6:00 p.m. at the Sutton County Civic Center. As many of you are already aware the Sutton County Game Dinner is one of the largest and finest game dinners in the State of Texas. Everyone in Sonora should be proud of the Sutton County Game Dinner Association and all their hard work to put on such a magnificent event. This event is an opportunity for our community to share our hospitality, so come on out to the Sutton County Civic Center and help us welcome all the hunters to Sonora, buy plenty of door prize tickets so you can win a prize, and eat some great food.

The More the Merrier Christmas Bazaar will be held at the Sutton County Civic Center from 9:00 a.m. through 7:00 p.m. on Friday November 18th. There is no booth fee for all local retailers, crafters, artists and civic organizations. This event is to promote holiday shopping in Sonora, and we have many locals already signed up to participate. We hope you will all come out and start your holiday shopping at "The More the Merrier" Christmas Bazaar. We still have a few booth spaces available, if you or your civic organization would like to have a fund raiser.

Eaton Hill Wildlife Sanctuary and the Caverns of Sonora have part-



nered with each other to do a radio promotion to help bring travelers in off the interstate and highway 277. I have had a couple of inquiries from concerned citizens that the Sonora Chamber of Commerce was paying for advertising for a commercial business enterprise. I want to take this opportunity to explain the relationship of the Sonora Chamber of Commerce to the Caverns of Sonora. Sonora Chamber of Commerce does not pay for these advertisements or any other advertisements for a commercial venture. We do however take every opportunity to promote tourism and business in general for Sonora. Eaton Hill Wildlife Sanctuary has an advertising budget and so does the Caverns of Sonora, they agreed to partner in this promotional campaign with each paying their own share of the costs incurred. Research has proven many times that the Caverns of Sonora is the main entity for which Sonora is recognized in both written press and the spoken word. It would not only be fool-hearted, but ridiculous not to capitalize on that notoriety; therefore all of our tourism brochures feature "Sonora - Home of the Caverns of Sonora". The Caverns of Sonora furnishes brochures to be mailed out in all of our tourism information packets, as do some of the motels, a guest ranch, and of course the chamber furnishes an overall brochure that covers, the Sonora Golf Course, Historic Downtown Sonora, the Sutton County Courthouse, Sutton County Civic Center, Lillian M. Hudspeth Memorial Hospital, Hunting, Special Events, all the motels in Sonora and the Caverns and Eaton Hill. They do not charge us for the brochures we use, nor do we charge them for the postage expense incurred. We have mailed out over 10,000 of these packets in the last year. Any business that belongs to Sonora Chamber of Commerce is welcomed and encouraged to send us information, including pictures, graphics and web links to be posted on our website. That is just one of the benefits to becoming a member of the Sonora Chamber of Commerce.

We will also include information about your business or event in our tourism information packets. We are limited in the amount we can put in one envelope and remain within our postal limits for bulk mailings, but can rotate some of this information seasonally to maintain our postage weight limit. A good example of that would be the inclusion of information about deer processing and the Sutton County Game Dinner in all requests for hunting information. Events such as the Cinco de Mayo Celebration & Sutton County Car Expo and Sutton County Days & Outlaw Pro Rodeo will include all the sponsors for these events and be included in tourism packets that are mailed out for about 2 months prior to those events. The scope and attention of promotion for Sonora and Sonora's businesses grows with each passing year, and it is the responsibility of the Sonora Chamber of Commerce to strive to promote each of these businesses on an equal level. If information is not forthcoming from a business, it is very difficult to promote that business. One of the other benefits to becoming a member of Sonora Chamber of Commerce is that we do have and offer to our members the use of our bulk mailing rate for any mail out of 200 or more like items. This could even apply to your monthly statements, not to mention direct mail advertising, promotional fliers and periodicals. If you have any questions about these policies or any other operations of the Sonora Chamber of Commerce, please do not hesitate to call or come by the Sonora Chamber of Commerce Office & Welcome Center, 205 Hwy 277 North or phone 325/387-2880 or email soncoc@sonorax.net. We will be more than glad to listen to your suggestions, complaints, concerns, comments and questions, after all, how can we continue to grow and improve our services if we don't listen to our members?

We are your Sonora Chamber of Commerce.

## Texas books and authors featured at local book fair

SONORA - Books about Texas and books by Texas authors will be featured during the Texas Star Book Fair, scheduled for 1:30 - 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 16, at the Sutton County Library.

A wide variety of books for adults and children will be available for sale during the event, with a portion of the proceeds to benefit the local library.

Shoppers can find all types of books, including novels, non-fiction, history, Texana, sports and cookbooks. An assortment of children's books for all ages will also be available.

Abilene author Glenn Dromgoole, whose latest books include Aggie Savvy: Practical Wisdom from Texas A & M, 101 Great things About Texas, and Learning from Longhorns, will be available to sign books during the afternoon. He is also the author of A Small Town in Texas, What Dogs Teach Us, What Cats Teach Us, What Horses Teach Us and What Happy Dogs Know.

The book fair will also feature a limited number of books signed by other authors, including Elmer Kelton, Kinky Friedman and former Texas Tech football coach Spike Dykes.

The book sale will be conducted by Texas Star Trading Co. of Abilene - a store featuring Texas books, music and gifts. For more information, contact the Sutton County Library at 325-387-2111.

Sutton County Librarian, Florie Gonzales is enthusiastic about the fair and commented, "The Book Fair is a great opportunity to support our local library and do some early Christmas shopping."

## Fleet Hometown News Badillo deployed to Iraq

Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Rick G. Badillo, a 1988 graduate of Sonora High School, Sonora, Texas, and more than 470 Navy reservists were mobilized from Naval Expeditionary Logistics Support Force (NAVELSF) Charlie home based in Williamsburg, VA, and deployed to Iraq and Kuwait in support of the Global War on Terrorism.

During the deployment, Badillo's unit will work directly for the Army to provide a critical combat service support mission. Sailors are relieving Army personnel as part of a scheduled force rotation. NAVELSF Charlie's primary mission is cargo handling, which includes vessel on-loading and off-loading as well as conducting marshalling yard operations.

Badillo joined the Navy in November 1987.

For more information on the deployment and high resolution photographs, visit the Navy website at <http://www.navy.mil>

## Ward graduates from basic training

Army Pvt. Daniel G. Ward has graduated from basic infantry training at Fort Benning, Columbus, GA.

During the eight weeks of training, the soldier received training in drill and ceremonies, weapons, map reading, tactics, military courtesy, military justice, physical fitness, first aid, and Army history, core values and traditions. Additional training included development of basic combat skills and battlefield operations and tactics, and experiencing use of various weapons and weapons defenses available to the infantry crewman.

He is the son of Gus Ward - Sonora, Texas, and Susan Radke of New Port Richey, FL.

Ward is a 2001 graduate of Sonora High School.

## Texas Pecos Trail Region Officially Designated

submitted by Ruthie Bounds

The Texas Historical Commission recently welcomed a new region to the Texas Heritage Trail Program. The Texas Pecos Trail Region was officially designated as the newest Texas Heritage Trail Region at a meeting in Monahans, Texas on September 22, 2005. Debbie Vickers from the Odessa Chamber of Commerce, who served for over two years as the chairperson of the application committee, accepted the beautiful plaque designating grant approval presented by Janie Headrick on behalf of the Texas Heritage Tourism Program of the Texas Historical Commission. The very first steps for organizing the region as an operating heritage tourism region were approved and deadlines for submitting applications to serve as a board member, as well as applications for office site location and heritage tourism resource inventories to be submitted by each county were reviewed. Plans to initiate the business of becoming a viable and operating entity were made with the help and leadership of both Janie Headrick and Teresa Caldwell from the Heritage Tourism Program of the Texas Historical Commission.

A proposal to divide this large region into four zones was proposed by Ruth W. Bounds from Sonora Chamber of Commerce and Shanon Biggerstaff from the Ozona Chamber of Commerce. These ladies pointed out the advantages of dividing this large 22 county region into 4 zones. This 4 zone approach would make it easier to elect representatives to serve on the board of directors, would distribute this representation through out the region, and would assist in the distribution of information in the region. The over 40 people attending this meeting agreed that this proposal would be a very efficient tool for managing this large region.

It was proposed and accepted by the attendants to use this zone map to put a 9 member board in place, with two representatives from each zone and one at large representative. A task force was appointed to review applications and submit nominations for the board at the next Texas Pecos Trail Meeting to be held in Crane, Texas on December 1, 2005. This task force is made up of 5 interested parties, one from each zone and an at large representative. They are Betty Cash of Iraan, Debbie Vickers of Odessa, Tom Rivera of Pecos, Ann Schneeman of Big Lake and Ann Kay of Sonora. All applications for board membership and executive board membership are to be submitted to the Sonora Chamber of Commerce, TPTR, PO Box 1172, Sonora, Texas 76950, by NOVEMBER 10, 2005. Anyone interested in serving on the board for the Texas Pecos Trail Region can send in an application.

The office site selection applications are due to Teresa Caldwell at the Texas Historical Commission office by 4:00 p.m. on January 12, 2006. No faxed applications will be accepted; send by mail to PO Box 12276, Austin, Texas 78711-2276 or by delivery to 1304 Colorado, Austin, Texas 78701-1626. The office site selection applications require some advance preparations and contain questions that require specifications for office sites, office equipment, benefits available, and funding for the benefit package. For those communities that are interested in submitting an application to be the site for the home office of the Texas Pecos Trail Region, it is highly recommended that you begin preparing your application right away. Any of the communities located within the 22 county Texas Pecos Trail Region are eligible to apply for the office site.

The Texas Pecos Trail Region is made up of the following 22 counties: Andrews, Crane, Crockett, Edwards, Ector, Glasscock, Loving, Kimble, Kinney, Martin, Maverick, Midland, Pecos, Reagan, Reeves, Sterling, Sutton, Terrell, Upton, Val Verde, Ward, and Winkler. All heritage tourism sites within these counties need to turn in a physical inventory of historic, cultural and natural sites and activities to the Texas Historical Commission by March 3, 2006. Each and every one of these counties should be able to benefit from being a part of the Texas Pecos Trail Region. The Texas Heritage Trails Program was put in place by the Texas Historical Commission as a regional heritage tourism initiative to help promote visitation to cultural and historic sites through a grant program for designated regions. If you would like more information on this program or a copy of any of the applications, you may contact Teresa Caldwell of the Texas Historical Commission - at [teresa.caldwell@the.state.tx.us](mailto:teresa.caldwell@the.state.tx.us) or 512/463-5755. If you would like just a copy of the applications, you may contact the Sonora Chamber of Commerce at [soncoc@sonorax.net](mailto:soncoc@sonorax.net) or 325/387-2880.

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An Old Fashioned Christmas Bazaar in Sonora

Local Merchants \* Crafters \* Bakers

Gift Wrap Booth

**Friday, November 18th**

Sutton County Civic Center

9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

# Broncos Playoff Bound

by Ray Glasscock

Last Friday night, we witnessed an outstanding high school football game between two teams fighting for a spot in the playoffs. The game reminded me of watching two starving wolves fighting over the last piece of their kill. Or a boxing match where the wannabe is trying to upset the perennial champion.

Junction won the toss and deferred. Junction kicked to the Broncos and their defense forced a three and out. Cullen Parker got off a great punt which was downed at the Eagle twelve yard line by Embre Smith. On first down, the Eagles ran the sweep to the right only to have Steven (Mr.) Duhon force and recover an Eagle fumble at their twenty yard line. Justin Northcott ripped off a fifteen yard run to the ten yard line with Smith and Dustin Duhon opening the hole for Northcott. The Broncos lined up in the "Cub right" formation. The Cub formation, first used in the 2000 Olney game, employs four of the biggest, meanest linemen to the right of the center. They blast forward and Smith pulled from the left. Northcott followed his blockers with a sprint into the end zone for the first score of the game. Cullen "Pele" Parker split the uprights for a seven point lead with 9:19 left in the first quarter.

Evan Gulley took two steps and boomed the kickoff. Chris Perez flew down and tackled the Junction kick returner at the twenty-two yard line. Brandon Munn and Zadrion McGee made the first tackle. Junction's Weston Neiman got his first carry, and Aaron (Mr.) Gaytan stopped him after a six yard gain. Smith and several other Broncos stopped the third down run and forced Junction to punt.

Northcott ripped another thirteen yard run to the right for a first down. After two plays lost yardage, Caleb Ramos handed the ball to Northcott on a counter draw on third and 13. Northcott gained twelve bringing up fourth and one. Ramos followed his blockers on the keeper for a first down. Uriel Santana sped behind the offensive line for an eight yard gain. On second and two, Ramos faked to Santana and kept the ball up the middle for eight more and another first down. Santana sprinted up the middle for twenty yards set-

ting up a first and goal. Ramos made it look easy as he faked to Northcott and sprinted untouched into the left side of the end zone. The Eagles blocked the PAT and the score was 13 to 0 with 2:33 left in the first quarter.

Junction managed two first downs as the first quarter ended. Four plays into the second quarter, Junction had a first and goal from the ten. Two dropped balls helped the Bronco cause. On fourth down, Roland Solis sacked Neiman. Then it was the Eagle defense's turn to stand their ground and to force a three and out by the Broncos. Parker's punt took an Eagle bounce and they started on the Bronco 41 yard line. Eagle quarterback Patrick Turner started to his left, cut back against the grain, and caused the Broncos to over pursue. He raced the 41 yards for the touchdown. When Smith broke through the line and blocked the PAT, the score was 13 to 6, and the battle for the playoff spot got downright serious.

After two running plays were stopped for no gain, Ramos hit Northcott on the throwback screen. Northcott caught the ball near the line of scrimmage and wormed his way through the tacklers for a first down at the Eagle 40 yard line. Two runs by Northcott and Ramos moved the ball to the Junction 28 yard and a first down. After a blitz trapped Ramos for a big loss, Northcott got all of it back and then some. A pitch to Anthony Longoria on fourth and three came up inches short.

On Junction's third down play in their offensive series, Neiman broke into Sonora's defensive back field and out raced the Broncos for a 75 yard touchdown. The PAT tied the score at 13 to 13 with 2:34 left in the second half.

With Steven Duhon on the trainer's table, the Broncos were facing fourth and four. Big Mo definitely was wearing Eagle Black and Gold. From punt formation, Northcott took the direct snap and bulled his way for a first down. Then, Ramos rolled to his right and passed to Northcott for a twenty yard gain at the Eagle 26 yard line. Ramos threw to Northcott on the screen pass. Northcott turned a sure loss into another eight yard gain. With less than ten seconds left in the half, Ramos scrambled un-

til he found Pedro Gloria open for an apparent touchdown. A holding penalty nullified the touchdown, but the Broncos had stopped the Eagles' momentum. The first half ended tied at 13.

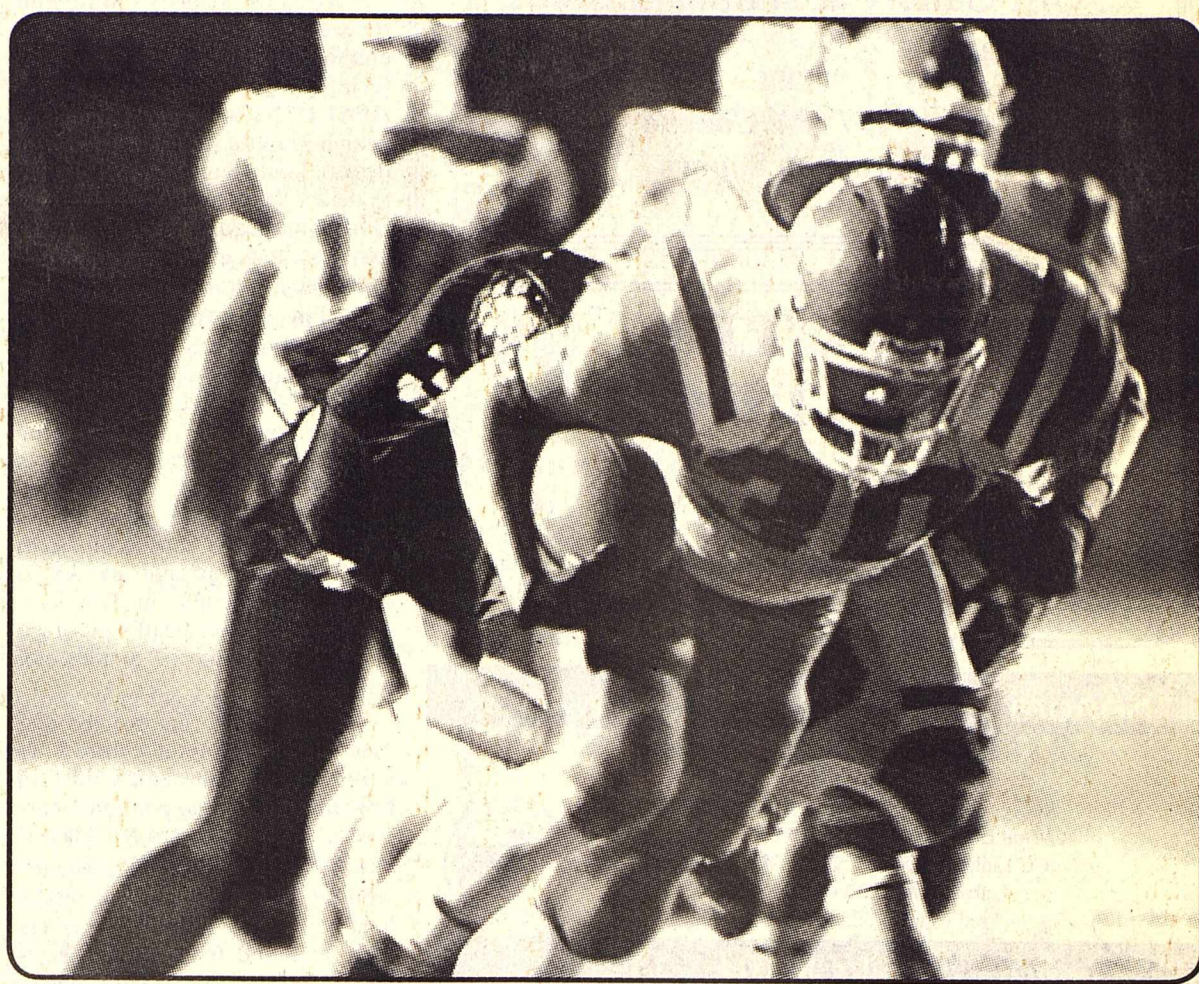
As the Bronco tunnel was being inflated, the Bronco fans saw that Mr. Duhon was running sprints in the end zone. Hope returned. The Broncos kicked off to start the second half. Craig Leonard made an open field tackle which kept Neiman from breaking a big gain. On third down, the right side of the Bronco defensive line stopped the Eagles at the line of scrimmage and forced a punt.

On first down at the Bronco 24 yard line, Northcott rewarded his offensive linemen by breaking through their huge hole and eluded Eagle tacklers to their 42 yard line. After two runs gained nothing, Longoria took the flanker reverse for six yards setting up a fourth and four. Ramos almost fumbled the snap. Once he had it under control, he sprinted to his left where down field blocks by Gaytan and Gloria cleared the way for a 35 yard touchdown run. Once again, Parker kicked it true and the Broncos jumped back into the lead at 20 to 13 with 7:49 left in the third quarter.

The Eagles responded with a touchdown drive of their own. On the eighth play, an Eagle blocker went low for Northcott's knees and ended his season. They got the touchdown on a perfectly executed slant pass from Neiman to Turner. Their kick tied the score at 20 with 5:03 left in the third.

The Eagles kicked off deep and were forced to re-kick because of an offside. Coach Herring quickly reshuffled his kick return team and put Longoria as the deep man and told him to "take it to the barn." Longoria caught the ball at the ten and returned it deep into Eagle territory giving the Bronco offense a short field. Junction quickly learned that Santana also knew how to carry the "rock." Santana broke a nice run that set up a first and goal at the Eagle five yard line. A holding penalty negated Santana's next run for a touchdown. The third quarter ended with score tied at 20.

The fourth quarter started with



Before being injured in the game against Junction, Justin Northcott finished his season with a great game. He rushed for 115 yards on 14 carries and caught four passes for 38 yards. Photo by Patti Strauch

the Broncos facing fourth and goal at the eight. Ramos dropped to pass and patiently searched for an open receiver. He spotted Gloria and fired a bullet for a touchdown. Once again, Parker split the uprights for a 27 to 20 lead with 11:51 left in the game.

Despite getting good field position on a face mask penalty on the kickoff return, the Eagles killed their own drive with consecutive penalties that backed them into a second and twenty five. On third and twenty five, they broke the huddle with 12 men and were pushed back five more yards. Cameron Cox broke up a long pass that would have been enough for the first down.

Cox fair caught Neiman's punt, and the Broncos started at their own 25 yard line. Santana gained ten yards and Ramos followed up with a fifteen yard run to the fifty. Longoria sprinted for eleven yards and

another first down. Santana gained eight and Ramos logged the next first down on second and short. The Eagle defense stiffened, so Ramos threw to Gloria on fourth down for a first down at Junction's 18 yard line. Santana drove the stake into the Eagle's playoff hopes with an 18 yard run for the insurance touchdown. Parker finished the Bronco scoring with his PAT and Sonora led by 34 to 20. Junction managed another

touchdown late in the fourth quarter to narrow the final score to 34 to 27.

The Broncos finished the regular season at nine wins and one loss. There have only been seven Bronco teams finish the regular season with perfect ten and 0 records. This Friday, the Broncos start the playoffs with a re-match with Alpine in Odesa Ratliff Stadium at 7:00.

## JV White Tames Wolves

by Nancy Glasscock

The 5 - 2 - 1 freshmen JV White team played their final game at home last Thursday against the Colorado City JV Wolves. The quarterbacking duo of Derek Van Winkle and Pecos Roberts continued to complement each other with both running and passing the ball as they had done during the entire season. The Broncos kicked off to start the game. With the Wolves deep in their own territory, they tried to pass for the first down. Roberts intercepted and the Broncos took over. Van Winkle immediately gained 25 yards on the keeper. Jordan "Truck" McGuffin picked up seven more yards. Van Winkle circled right end for his first of four touchdowns. The Broncos missed the PAT and had the early lead at 6 to 0.

The Bronco defense held and the Broncos started their second offensive series. This drive featured a nice pass from Roberts to Isaac Quiroz for a first down. The drive stalled and the Wolves took over on downs at their own five yard line. Again the Bronco defense held and forced a Wolf punt. The punt only traveled nine yards and the Broncos took over on offense with less than 15 yards to travel for a touchdown.

On the first play of second quarter, Van Winkle circled the right end for a touchdown. The option play was stopped and the Broncos had a 12 to 0 lead. The Wolves then managed two first downs before fumbling the ball to

the Broncos. On first down, Van Winkle pitched the ball to Roberts who threw deep to Ricardo Rodriguez for a forty yard gain. David Lane protected the ball when Rodriguez was hit hard after the reception. This drive ended at the two when the Broncos fumbled the ball to Wolves.

The Bronco defense kept the Wolves pinned inside their ten yard line. They managed to get a punt off and the Broncos took over at the Wolf twenty five yard line. Roberts immediately scored as he raced straight up the middle of the Wolves defense for the touchdown. The kick failed and the Broncos led 18 to 0. Sonora quickly stopped the Wolves again. The Broncos promptly marched down the field and Van Winkle scored again on the keeper. The PAT was missed and the score was 24 to 0 with four seconds left in the first half.

The Broncos opening second half drive saw Van Winkle, Mario Lira, and McGuffin move the ball down the field. However, it ended with a Bronco fumble. The Wolves went three and out and had another very short punt. Rodriguez quickly got the Broncos in scoring territory with a forty yard gain on the flanker reverse. From there, Van Winkle scored standing up to complete the Bronco scoring at 30 to 0.

The Wolves managed a touchdown late in the game. The final score was Sonora 30 and Colorado City 8. Thanks for a great season, guys.



The 8th grade Colts and cheerleaders are proud of their winning season.

## 8th grade Colts from page 1

Kris Agüero took the snap and with 49 seconds left in 2nd quarter.

A.K. Williams received the 2nd half kickoff and outran everyone to the end zone from 70 yds out. Harvey Santana in for 2 pt. Eagles 0 - Colts 40. For the remainder of the 3rd quarter the Colt defense had some defensive stops by Cash Jennings, Manuel Flores, Tyler Creek and Hayden Chandler.

In the 4th quarter, the Colts went to the power offense led by Tyler Creek and Cash Jenning to try and run out the clock. Tyler Creek even threw a 5 yd pass to Paul Faz and Paul broke 2 tackles and ran 20 yds to the Eagle 2, but the play was called back on a penalty. The Colts turned the ball over on downs, but the Eagles were unable to move the ball on the Colt defense, as time expired to end the game. Final score: Eagles 0 - Colts 40. Colts finish the year 9 - 0 and district champs. Job well done and the Bronco future

looks bright.

Thank you to Coach Herring, Coach Favila, Coach Boxell, Coach Duncan and Coach Dempsey.

A special thank you to the Colt cheerleaders for always having Great Spirit: Alyssa Favila, Kasey Gutierrez, Amber West, Alicia Lowe, Sarah Hernandez, Anali Garcia, Amy Hernandez, Vanessa Lopez, Sterling Love, Keeli Taylor, Brittani Dover, Bethany Berry, Meredith Earwood, Julie Coronado, Bianca Trevina, Hillary Borrego, Cassi Krieg, Mariaya Dunn, Kati Chavez, Regina Morales, Alex Reynosa, Sara Gillit, Naomi Sanders. Thank you to the water girls: Joel McGuffin and Brittany Hernandez. Thank you to Lisa Karnes for the food. Thank you to all the parents for always being there. Last but not least Thank You Colts for a great season and giving us memories to last our lifetime.

## JV Red from page 1

on our side, J.T. Downing was there to recover the ball. The Broncos gained 3 more first downs on their way to the Eagle 1 yard line, with runs by Vaquera, N. Peña, Marcus Perez, and short pass to R. Sanchez, but on 4 & goal from the Eagle 3, Vaquera just came up short, by inches. The Eagles would get the ball...at their own 1 yard line. The Bronco defense kept them from doing any damage as R. Sanchez, N. Peña, Garcia and Mark Holman held them to 4 plays before ending the half.

Junction tried the inside kick to begin the second half, but Austin Castaneda was there at mid-field to secure the ball for the Broncos. The Broncos started at the 48 and ran 3 plays on three consecutive first downs. N. Peña on a 21 yard run, Vaquera on a 22 yard run and the touchdown run by Vaquera for 5 yards and the score. There was a bad snap on the PAT; the Broncos now lead 34-0 with 9:00 minutes in the third quarter remaining.

The Broncos special teams unit was back on

the field behind Anthony Sanchez who booted the ball to the Eagle 17 yard line. The Eagle return man, mishandled the ball and finally fumbled where a waiting Perez and Lawson were ready to pounce. Lawson jumped on the ball and put the Bronco offense on the field at the Eagle 12 yard line. The Broncos scored on 2 & 8 with a fake to Isenhour, N. Peña squeezed in the end zone to make the score 40-0. The PAT by Galindo was no good. This would be all the scoring for the night for either side.

The Bronco defense held on to the "shut-out" with plays by Liano Luna, David Buitron, Perez, Lawson, Cody Perez, Holman, Justin Zuniga, Tanner James and Moore. Moore and J. Perez each had an interception during the second half. The Bronco offense held their own with R. Sanchez in at QB and good plays by Jose Casillas, Acevedo and Isenhour.

This was the last sub- varsity game for most of

these Red JV Broncos. They have been an awesome team to watch this year on their quest for a perfect 10-0 season, most of these boys have played together since the 7th grade, (some of them even started during PeeWee/YMCA football), the core of this team has only lost 4 games since their UIL 7th grade football careers started.

This JV Red team outscored their opponents this season by a "whopping" 246 points.

It has been both a privilege and a pleasure to write the stories for these boys these past few seasons and I will miss the fun, but I look forward to sharing them as they play underneath the Friday night lights as Varsity Broncos. Some of these JV Red Broncos may even catch some action during the Bronco playoffs...watch for them!

GO BRONCOS...TEN AND O.....WE'RE PROUD OF YOU!!!

### Sonora High School Early Out Schedule Friday November 11, 2005

1st period	8:00-8:45
2nd period	8:50-9:35
5th period	9:40-10:25
7th period	10:30-11:15
4th period	11:20-12:05
Tutorial	12:10-12:50
Early Out	1:00

There will be no Pep Rally but there will be a sendoff from the high school at 1:00.

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### School Lunch Menu • November 14-18

#### Breakfast

Mon.- Oatmeal, asst. juice  
Tues.- Cinnamon roll, asst. juice  
Wed.- Pancakes, asst. juice  
Thurs.- Toast & jelly, asst. juice  
Fri.- Cheese toast, asst. juice



Milk and cereal offered with all breakfasts.

#### Lunch

Mon.- Grilled cheese sandwich, vegetable soup, apple  
Tues.- Steak fingers, gravy/mashed potatoes, asst. fresh fruit, hot roll  
Wed.- Beef & bean burrito, tossed salad, fruit (canned or fresh), pudding  
Thurs.- Turkey & dressing, gravy, green bean casserole, rolls, fruit salad, cranberry sauce  
Fri.- Cheeseburgers, burger salad, pickles, fries, peach cup

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## Wildlife Experts Advise Hunters About Avian Flu

AUSTIN, Texas — State and federal wildlife experts say the chance of people in Texas encountering wild migratory birds with HPAI H5N1 avian influenza this year is remote. However, authorities are launching proactive efforts to detect the disease if it comes to North America and they're advising hunters about game bird handling to reduce general disease risks.

At present, Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza H5N1 has not been found anywhere in North America—there are no records of positive tests in wild or domestic birds, and no known human cases of illness. However, the "bird flu" has been publicized in news reports which note it has caused illness in more than 100 people and killed close to 60 people in Southeast Asia. All of those deaths involved contact with domestic poultry, not wild birds.

Some people believe the disease could eventually travel to North America through wild bird migration, including possible transmission from Asia through Alaska.

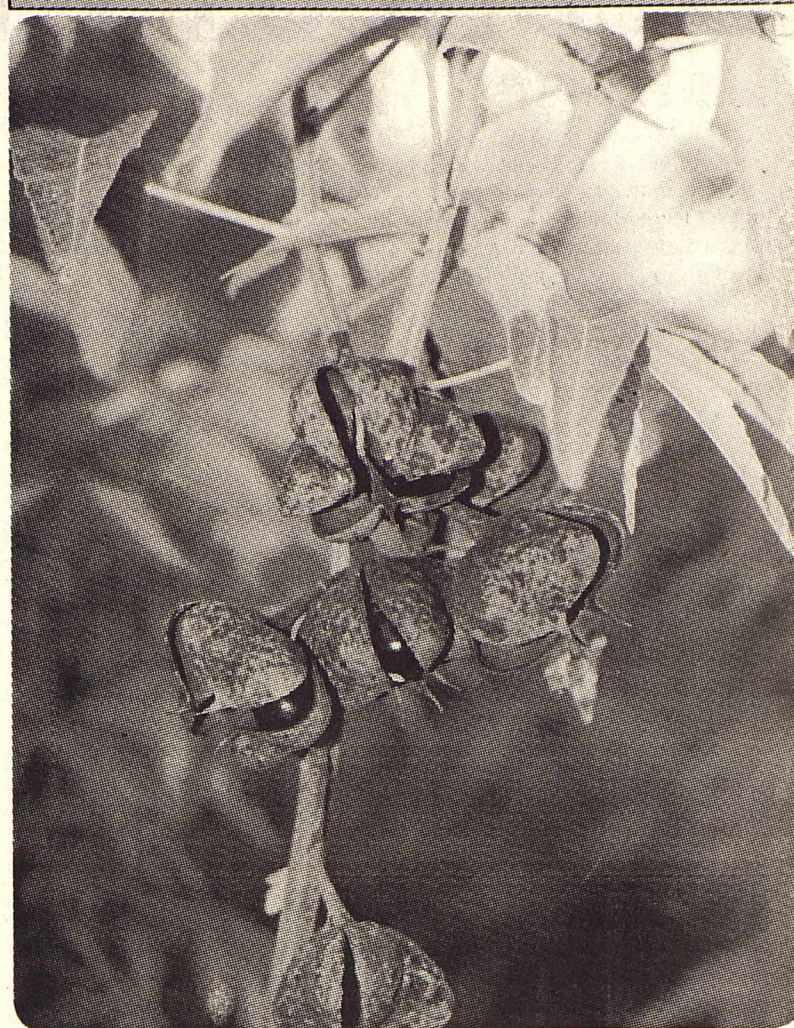
A collaborative interagency working group of scientists, public health officials, and policy makers with state and federal agencies is developing a plan for early detection of HPAI H5N1 in North American birds. For more than a year,

working group member agencies in Alaska have tested samples from thousands of wild birds and have found no evidence of the disease.

A Sept. 2 statement from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service said "Ongoing migratory bird surveillance, coupled with what we now know about the scope of the disease in Asia and the projected movement of birds from affected areas, gives us reason to think that, while possible, there is no evidence to indicate that H5N1 will reach Alaska, or any other part of North America, in 2005."

Practical hygiene for hunters includes: (1) Do not handle or butcher game animals that are obviously sick or are found dead; (2) Do not eat, drink, or smoke while cleaning game; (3) Wear rubber gloves and washable clothing when cleaning game; (4) Wash your hands with soap and water or alcohol wipes immediately after handling game; (5) Wash tools and working surfaces with soap and water, then disinfect with a 10% solution of chlorine bleach; and (6) Cook game meat thoroughly—poultry should reach an internal temperature of 155-165 degrees F.

## Up On Eaton Hill



Not a bonafide buckeye, but a year-round blue ribbon beauty

## Buckeye Bonanza

by Delese Jaeger

The Mexican Buckeye is a woody shrub or small tree that packs a year round pleasing punch for those with an appreciative eye towards color, texture, design and the delightfully quirky. Not your average daisy in the flower department, the Mexican buckeye blooms early in the spring as the tree is just beginning to leaf out. The delicate four-petaled pink flowers clustered about the branches are reminiscent of the showy redbud, and lend this Texas native an oriental flair. Literally, in a class all it's own, the Mexican Buckeye is the only species in the genus Ugnadia, so named for the Baron Ferdinand von Ugnad, who introduced the plant into western Europe in the year 1576. Way to go Ugnad!

Also known as Horsechestnut, the Mexican buckeye is not a true buckeye, but produces the well known large, tri-chambered seed pod and shiny black seeds associated with its namesake. The reddish to dark brown pods, drooping beneath the buckeyes' canopy of foliage create another

artistic visual for nature lover to behold. The pods are fun to explore, the smooth dark seeds, pleasing to the touch, but no part of the plant is considered safe for consumption, save the aromatic honey that only the incredible wiles of a bee can create. Children have been known to play marbles with the seeds and the whimsical of all ages carry them for good luck charms. But the fun doesn't stop here, because the Mexican buckeye puts on a true fall wardrobe of rich golden yellow and vivid orange.

Native Mexican buckeyes are favored in landscapes for their beauty and heartiness; perhaps best of all, deer aren't fond of them, so go native, and plant a buckeye in your yard!

That brings us to today, up on Eaton Hill where the Buckeye Trailhead hosts an established mott of Mexican buckeyes yearning to be appreciated for their extraordinary contribution to scenic beauty and natural wonder. Hit the trails!

## Main Street from page 1

Odessa, Paris, Pharr, Pilot Point, Pittsburg, Plainview, Rio Grande City, San Marcos, Seguin, and Winnsboro.

"Our National Main Street Cities have worked exceptionally hard to achieve this distinctive honor. Establishing and maintaining an active and successful Main Street Program is a great accomplishment and we are proud of the cities that achieved this national recognition," said Kay Harvey-Mosley, Community Heritage Development division director for the THC.

The cities were honored at the recent Texas Downtown Association/Texas Main Street Conference in Laredo. The National Trust for Historic Preservation's National Main Street Center will honor these cities at the 2006 National Main Streets Conference to be held in New Orleans in June.

Cities chosen as National Main Street Cities must show above average performance in 10 categories. The selection criteria focus on planning, staff and volunteers, preservation ethic, training and program assessment. For additional information, visit the National Main Street web site at [www.mainstreet.org](http://www.mainstreet.org) and the National Trust for Historic Preservation web site at [www.nationaltrust.org](http://www.nationaltrust.org).

For more information on the Texas Historical Commission's Main Street program visit [www.thc.state.tx.us](http://www.thc.state.tx.us).

The THC's Texas Main Street Program is a revitalization program for historic downtown and neighborhood commercial districts. It is based on a four-point approach — organization, design, promotion and economic restructuring, all within the context of historic preservation. Implemented in 1981, the program has assisted more than 140 communities throughout the state. For more information, contact Kay Harvey-Mosley at 512/936-2315.

## Veteran Project from page 1

admirals, much can also be learned from the letters of a young man in combat and his young bride and mother of his children.

The Veterans History Project recruits Americans of all ages, veterans and non-veterans, to be part of this process. The project also serves as a tremendous outlet for veterans' sons and daughters, many of whom have long been curious about their father or mother's wartime stories but never heard them. By sitting down with audio or video recorders and guiding veterans through their military and civilian exploits, these volunteers add rich details to our nation's great history.

Almost 19 million war veterans

live in America now, according to the Project. Tragically, more than 1,500 die every day. The time to record these oral histories is now!

It is up to those who served to share with America exactly why freedom isn't free.

## TPWD Unveils Possible Hunting and Fishing Rule Changes

AUSTIN, Texas — The success of resource management efforts on a variety of fronts has led Texas Parks and Wildlife Department biologists to recommend several possible changes to next year's hunting and fishing regulations. Among the topics being considered include: an expansion of special regulations affecting the harvest of whitetail bucks based on antler characteristics, creation of an upland game bird management permit program and elimination of the trophy red drum and tarpon tagging requirements.

TPWD staff briefed the Regulations Committee of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission Wednesday, Nov. 2, on a slate of possible changes designed to increase recreational opportunity and further enhance the state's fish and wildlife resources.

The annual regulatory review process begins each fall after resource assessments by biologists and game wardens, as well as independent recommendations received from various groups. During this scoping portion of the process, TPWD gathers public input and weighs the biological implications of each issue before presenting the commission with a set of proposed regulation changes in January. Additional discourse is sought during special public meetings in the spring, and the commission at its April 2006 meeting determines the final regulation changes.

### Potential Wildlife Regulation Proposals

#### White-tailed Deer

Expansion of antler restriction harvest rules in all or portions of 40 additional counties in East and Central Texas. The rules are currently in place in 21 southeastern counties. The purpose of this potential proposal is to ensure a balanced age class structure for a healthy deer herd by shifting harvest pressure away from young bucks, which typically comprise upwards of 60 percent of the annual harvest. Under this regulation, a legal buck is one which has (1) at least 1 unbranched antler, or (2) an inside spread measurement of 13 inches or greater. Under the suggested provisions, the candidate counties would see an increase in the buck bag limit from one to two; however, no more than one buck may have an inside spread measurement of 13 plus inches. The candidate counties are: Bell, Bosque, Bowie, Burleson, Camp, Cass, Cherokee, Comal (east of Interstate 35), Comanche, Coryell, Delta, Eastland, Erath, Fannin, Franklin, Gregg, Hamilton, Harrison, Hays (east of Interstate 35), Hopkins, Houston, Lamar, Lampasas, Leon, Marion, Morris, Nacogdoches, Panola, Rains, Red River, Rusk, Sabine, San Augustine, Shelby, Somervell, Titus, Travis (east of Interstate 35), Upshur, Williamson, and Wood.

TPWD is also looking into standardizing harvest regulations in Upton County, which currently has split regulations, to four deer, no more than two bucks, and no antlerless permit required

For more proposed regulation changes, visit the TPWD website.

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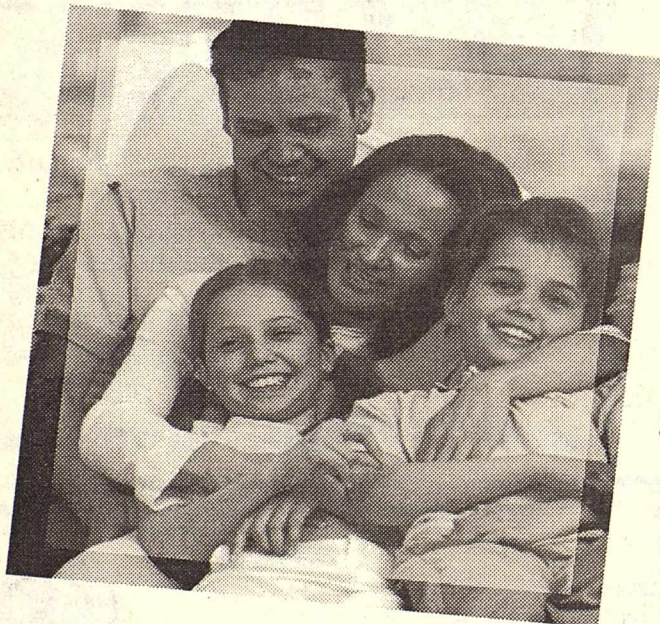
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## Oil & Agribusiness

# Lamb/Meat Goat Clinic slated for Monday

A Lamb & Meat Goat Clinic is scheduled for Monday, November 14th at 5:15 PM in the Langford Barn. Russell Kott, Edwards County ag agent, will present a program geared toward maintaining your projects during the critical times prior to stock show, travel to stock show, and care at the stock show. It is not necessary to bring your animals to this clinic.

## Sutton County 4-H Forecast

**Enrollment Forms-Pssssst!** Please come out to fill out your enrollment forms for the 2005-2006 4-H year if you have not done so already. Enrollment is also required to enter county and major stock show.

**4-H Club Meeting**-The 4-H club meeting this month will be on November 15th at 6 p.m. This meeting will have another interesting guest speaker. **BRING A FRIEND!!!!**

**4-H Age Divisions** - Effective September 1, 2005, the following age divisions and division description names will be used statewide. This change was made so that mobile youth who move from District to District will have consistency in the 4-H program where their age participation is concerned. Another reason for this change is the ease in use of the 4-H Connect online registration system.

**Junior** - 8 and in 3rd grade, 9 and 10 years old as of August 31, 2005.

**Intermediate** - 11-13 years old as of August 31, 2005.

**Senior** - 14 - 19 years old as of August 31, 2005.

## FSA County Election

The Schleicher/Sutton/Val Verde County Farm Service Agency is currently holding the (Local Administrative Area) LAA #3 County Committee election. Sutton County is the area for LAA #3. A map of the LAA area is available at the Schleicher/Sutton/Val Verde County FSA Office. The slate of nominees has been developed and candidates included are Diana Condra and Quade Sutton.

The FSA election is conducted by mail through December 5, 2005. Eligible voters should have received an official ballot in the mail with instructions on how to vote for the candidate of their choice and return the ballot. All ballots must be signed, postmarked and/or returned to the Schleicher/Sutton/Val Verde County office by December 5th. The current FSA committee will tabulate ballots on December 12, 2005 at 9:30 in the conference room located in the Schleicher/Sutton/Val Verde County USDA Service Center.

As you know this committee is responsible for Farm Service Agency local administrative decisions on commodity price support loans and payments; yields, marketing quotas, eligibility for conservation programs; incentive, indemnity and disaster assistance, and other programs directed and managed through the local office. Please be reminded County Committee representative is elected by direct vote. The Schleicher/Sutton/Val Verde County Committee encourages all persons including all female, minorities, and members of under-represented groups to participate in the election process. Please be reminded most husbands and wives are eligible voters. If you feel that you are an eligible voter, have an interest in a farm or ranch, and did not receive a ballot, you may come to the office at 510 South Divide, Eldorado, before December 5th to request one.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of Discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD).

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

## Private Applicator Recertification

### EXTENSION

submitted by Pascual Hernandez, Sutton County Extension Agent-Ag  
As we began the last quarter of the year, some pesticide applicators started to think about meeting continuing education and recertification license requirements. Remember, all Private Applicators must obtain 15 hours of continuing education units (CEUs) every five years in order to renew their certificate or license. These CEUs must include two hours of Laws & Regs and two of Integrated Pest Management (IPM). The remaining hours can be in any other categories. Keep in mind that BOTH certificate and license holders must meet these requirements. The Texas Department of Agriculture will usually mail out renewal notices by the middle of

January. It is up to the license holder to keep a record of the courses attended and hours awarded.

To assist applicators whose license expires at the end of the year, Sutton, Schleicher and surrounding counties will offer a pesticide recertification course at the Schleicher County Civic Center on November 30th. It will offer 7 C.E.U.s for those with a pesticide applicator license. Topics will include: Range Brush Control, Wildlife Control Methods, Pesticide Laws & Regulations, Plant Response To Treatments, Brush Buster Programs, and Essentials of Prescribed Burning. Registration cost is \$15 and will cover the cost of the meal and materials. Registration is at 8:30, with the program starting at 9 a.m.

For registration information, visit the Sutton County Extension website at <http://sutton-co.tamu.edu> or call 387-3101.

## NRCS announces Web Soil Survey Internet-based System Allows Users Access to Soil Survey Information

November 1, 2005—USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Texas State Conservationist Larry Butler today announced the launch of the USDA Web Soil Survey website that provides secure public access to the national soils information system. This is a simple yet powerful way to access and analyze soils data that contributes to every aspect of public and private land use and development. To view the website go to <http://soils.usda.gov/survey>

The website has been designed with three easy-to-use features—Define, View, and Explore. It operates much like Internet sites that provide locator and directional information. When viewers visit the web Soil survey, they are asked to "Define" a geographic area of interest by selection a state and county or just by highlighting an area or areas. Once a location has been defined and projected on the screen, the viewer has the choice to print the map and related information, save it to their hard drive, or download the data for use in a geographic information system (GIS).

The viewer also can "Explore" the designated location for specific soils data giving the viewer important information on soil suitability in relationship to usage. This flexibility provides the viewer an opportunity to build a customized report that addresses the viewer's individual needs. Information can be delivered in a variety of formats to include print, CD, DVD, or other media.

Currently, NRCS has soils maps and data available online for more than 95 percent of the nation's counties and anticipates having 100 percent in the near future. The site will be updated and maintained online as the single authoritative source of soil survey information.

In Texas, there are 232 survey areas available from the web soil survey that contain maps and reports of soil properties and soil usage. Soil survey books for approximately 20 survey areas are also available and more will be added as they are converted to electronic format. Approximately 11 counties in Texas are in the initial mapping stages and do not have a published soil survey or maps available, however, some soil reports may be available for these survey areas. In the near future, ecological sites descriptions will be available for the survey areas. Soil survey books are still available in paper format and CD from your local NRCS field office or the Texas state office located in Temple.

"Soil surveys are the foundation for land conservation activities as well as private and commercial land development," says Butler. "Soil survey maps help to enable agricultural producers, conservationists, engineering firms, county and city planners, and others to make informed decisions concerning land use."

Soil surveys began in 1899 as part of the nation's earliest efforts on behalf of cooperative conservation. Known as the National Cooperative Soil Survey, it has evolved into a partnership of state and federal agencies working together to collect, classify, interpret, and provide soils information. Today, this site provides critical soils information for land developers, farmers, home buyers, and city planners. The ability to deliver internet access to the public enhances cooperative conservation efforts.

For years, the familiar soil survey books were free to the public in most NRCS field offices, but these are being replaced through the use of the Internet. The launch of Web Soil Survey will bring information on soil properties and soil usage to everyone with access to a computer. People without computer access will be able to acquire soil survey information from any NRCS field office or by going to the local library.

NRCS, through the invitation of the local Soil and Water Conservation Districts, is the federal government's principal agency for conserving natural resources on private lands. NRCS offers its services free to charge. For more information, call the USDA-NRCS office in your county, listed under USDA in the Yellow Pages, or access the information on the Texas NRCS web site at [www.tx.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.tx.nrcs.usda.gov)

Helping People Help the Land  
An Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer

## Congress Approves Bonilla's Private Property Legislation

WASHINGTON, D.C. - U.S. Representative Henry Bonilla (R-TX-23) has issued a strong response to the U.S. Supreme Court's split decision on eminent domain. Bonilla has introduced bipartisan legislation that will penalize eminent domain abuses. The U.S. House of Representatives today overwhelmingly approved Bonilla's legislation.

Bonilla's legislation is in response to a June 2005 U.S. Supreme Court ruling that allows governments to use eminent domain to take away private property. Governments can then transfer the private property to someone else for their private gain. Bonilla believes this decision turns the concepts of eminent domain and private property rights "on their head."

"Congressman Bonilla was the original author of this important property rights bill. We could not have succeeded without his leadership," Bob Stallman, president of the American Farm Bureau.

"The Supreme Court's eminent domain ruling places the American Dream in jeopardy. Governments should not be able to bulldoze a person's home or business to benefit other individuals," said Bonilla. "My legislation will go straight to the money and hit them where it hurts. This bill will force governments to think twice before abusing eminent domain."

The Private Property Rights Protection Act of 2005, H.R. 4128, will prevent governments from taking property from one private party and giving it to another private party. When abuses occur, the Act will prevent localities and states from receiving federal economic assistance on ALL economic development projects, not just those upon which abuses occur. Today's legislation is a mirror of Bonilla's original bill, the Strengthening the Ownership of Private Property (STOPP) Act, HR 3405.


"The most important difference between my legislation and others offered is that we are penalizing ALL economic development projects, not just those upon which abuses occur. By subjecting all projects to penalties, we are removing a loophole that localities can exploit by playing a funding 'shell game' with projects," said Bonilla.

Bonilla's legislation is co-sponsored by more than 50 Members of Congress, including Reps. Bob Goodlatte (R-VA), Chairman of the Agriculture Committee, James Sensenbrenner (R-WI), Chairman of the Judicial Committee, Richard Pombo (R-CA), Chairman of the Resources Committee and Maxine Waters (D-CA), senior member of the Judiciary Committee.

"The Kelo decision effectively erases any protection of private property as understood by the Founders of our Nation," said Bonilla. "I'm proud to have so many Members of Congress from both sides of the political aisle standing by my side as we overturn this flawed decision."

**Attention all ATV owners!**  
You can now get your ATV parts locally!

**Sonora Air Cooled Engines and Equipment Rental** **Yes! That's right. Locally!**  
now has a variety of ATV parts in stock for **Yamaha, Suzuki, Polaris, Honda** and **Kawasaki**. We can order internal parts and accessories for these makes and models.



Stop by and check out our N2 line of parts at Sonora Air Cooled Engines and Equipment Rental

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paul\_stephens@multi-chemgroup.com

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**Rig Locations as of November 3, 2005**

**Sutton**  
Dominion; 9050' Rande Hill-Fawcett Trust - C - #3, Patterson Drilling.  
Dominion; 8950' LR Valliant #18, Patterson Drilling.  
Dominion; 8250' Shurley RR - 2A - 1, Patterson Drilling.  
Dominion; 6950' Canyon Ranch #2074S, Patterson Drilling.  
New Dominion; 9050' Rande Hill-Fawcett Trust - C - #4, Patterson Drilling.  
New Dominion; 9850' LR Valliant #22, Patterson Drilling.  
New Dominion; 8700' Duke Wilson #161 - 6, Patterson Drilling.  
New Dominion; 8700' Duke Wilson #178 - 2, Patterson Drilling.  
New Dominion; 8500' Mayfield - 46 - #21, Patterson Drilling.  
New Dominion; 8370' Mayer Ranch - D - #5, Patterson Drilling.  
New Dominion; 8360' Mayer Ranch - L - #11-3, Patterson Drilling.  
New Dominion; 8350' Shurley RR - 10 - #2, Patterson Drilling.  
New Dominion; 8350' Shurley RR - 2A - #6, Patterson Drilling.  
New Dominion; 8350' Edwin S Hill - Mayer Jr - O - #5, Patterson Drilling.  
New Dominion; 8300' Edwin S Hill - Mayer Jr - I - #5, Patterson Drilling.  
New Dominion; 6250' Fields - 15 - #18, Patterson Drilling.

**Crockett**  
Clayton Williams Ene; 10000' University - 19 - #1, Lariat Services.  
Harrison Interests; 9500' Joe Tom Davidson, Jr, F #40, Patterson Drilling.  
Dominion; 9240' Joe Friend Estate #8028, Patterson Drilling.  
Approach Operating; 9000' Bailey #117x, Nabors Drilling.  
Bluegrass Energy; 6600' Simpson Canyon - 2027 - Unit #1, Adobe Drilling.  
New Approach Operating; 9000' Clayton #914, Nabors Drilling.  
New Approach Operating; 9000' Childress #1603, Patterson Drilling.  
New Ozark Exploration; 8300' Bean - B - #3031, Nabors Drilling.  
New Anadarko; 8000' S Millsbaugh - 14 - #15, Patterson Drilling.  
New FIML Natural Res; 5500' Maggie Moore, #1D, Patterson Drilling.

**Schleicher**  
Approach Operating; 9000' Rousselot #4604, Nabors Drilling.  
New TXP, Inc.; 7800' Cody Bell - 11 - #3, Heart Land Drilling.

**Terrell**  
ConocoPhillips; 12000' Creek Ranch - 15 - #3, Patterson UTI.  
BP America Prod; 16000' Banner Estate #28 H, Helmerich & Payne.  
Encana O&G; 11300' ACU - 48 - #8, Nabors Drilling.  
New Dominion; 6250' Fields - 15 - #18, Patterson Drilling.

For more rig locations call 1-800-627-9785 or go online to [www.rigdata.com](http://www.rigdata.com).

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 Craig Hudson (325) 206-0713/Joan Hudson (325) 206-0168

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2-yr-old male  
 Blue Heeler mix



white male  
 Boxer mix



cream male  
 Chihuahua mix

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**PSD Parts Lead**  
 We need a proactive decision-maker who achieves optimum productivity and results through effective communication and leadership skills. As Parts Lead for the Power Systems Department in Sonora, you'll oversee daily sales and warehouse activities, including customer order processing, inventory procurement, assembling/disassembling parts, and follow-up with the Service Department. The selected candidate must be willing and able to respond to emergency parts needs 24/7 as needed. Experience in a supervisory position and/or with a computerized parts management system preferred. Good analytical and problem-solving skills a must.  
 At Holt, we offer career growth, competitive pay, medical and dental coverage, 401(k) plan, CAT technical training, vacation and much more.  
 Interested applicants should fax resume to: Attn: Sherolyn Ruggs, 210-648-8885, or apply in person at 707 Glasscock, Sonora, TX 76950. EOE  
[www.holtcat.com](http://www.holtcat.com) **HOLT CAT**



## Utility/Plant Operator Relief Mechanic

Duke Energy Field Services will be taking applications for the following positions. Must live or relocate to within 40 miles of work location:

**Utility/Plt Op Relief:** Operates equipment/systems (engines/ compressors, pumps, pressure relief systems, instrument air, dehydrators, boilers, cryogenic processing, fuel system, process controls and measurement, emergency shutdown systems, etc.). Must be able to pass PSM certification in plant operations. When not operating, may perform various utility duties. Must be willing to work shift work and rotating schedule, respond to off-hour call-outs and work overtime as needed. Starting rate \$13.08-\$19.52, depending on experience/ qualifications with potential progression to higher upgrade pay, once PSM-certified and utilized to operate plant.

**Mechanic:** At least 2 years of applicable experience, preferably in a gas or petroleum-related industry working with industrial engines (e.g., Caterpillar, White, Waukesha). Must take and pass applicable knowledge and performance tests. Pay Range = \$19.52 - \$23.52/hr. depending on experience / qualifications.

Applications will be taken and pre-employment testing conducted at the location listed below (please allow 2 hours for pre-employment tests + additional 2-3 hours for mechanic test):

10:00 a.m. • Thurs., Nov. 17  
 Duke Energy Field Services Office • 1.5 Mi S Hwy 163 • Ozona

--DEFS is an Equal Opportunity Employer--

## RELIANT TRANSPORTATION

Will be conducting interviews on  
 Saturday November 12, 2005  
 in the Texas Conference Room  
 at the Devil's River Day's Inn  
 on I-10 and Hwy 277 from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.  
**Transport Drivers Needed - Day and Night Shifts**  
 We want you to haul CO2 for US!!!  
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If you are 25 years of age or older and have a clean driving record, current CLASS A CDL with HAZ-MAT and TANKER endorsement, 2 years of driving experience we would like to hear from you. All applications must be able to pass a drug and alcohol test. Background checks will be performed.

## News from the Neighbors

# Off-road Vehicle trails on hold in Crockett County

AUSTIN, Texas — The Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission on Nov. 3 delayed a proposal for a \$1,359,500 grant to the Texas Motorized Trails Coalition, a not for profit organization, to acquire 3,329 acres in Crockett County for the purpose of developing a managed off-highway vehicle recreation area.

After hearing public testimony for and against the grant proposal, the commission voted to postpone land acquisition for the project. Commissioners directed TPWD staff to work with parties involved to try to bring to the Jan. 26 commission meeting recommendations to accommodate concerns of some neighboring landowners.

Two recently enacted state laws are driving the creation of new off-highway vehicle recreation areas in Texas.

The 78th Texas Legislature enacted Senate Bill 155 several years ago, which closed all navigable stream beds in Texas, except for some parts of the Canadian and Red Rivers, to motorized recreational vehicles. That law also directed the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department to "facilitate development of sites for motor vehicle recreation other than protected freshwater areas."

The more recent 79th Texas Legislature last year enacted Senate Bill 1311, which created an off-highway vehicle trail and recreation area program under the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. One of the stated purposes of this program is to establish and maintain a public system of trails and other recreational areas for use by owners and riders of off-highway vehicles.

Funding sources for motorized trails and off-highway vehicle recreation areas in Texas include an older federal gasoline tax and a newer state off-highway vehicle decal that was created by SB 1311 but has not yet been put in place.

The National Recreational Trails Fund (NRTF) is providing the sole source of funding for the Crockett County grant. This is an 80-20 matching grant that requires the trails coalition to come up with an additional amount equal to 20 percent of the federal grant. These grant funds come from a portion of the federal gas tax generated by gasoline purchases to utilize off-road recreational vehicles, such as off-road motorcycles and all-terrain vehicles. The purpose is to create new and maintain existing motorized and non-motorized recreational trails. A federal requirement is that 30 percent of the funds be spent on motorized recreational trail projects, 30 percent on non-motorized trail projects, with the remaining 40 percent discretionary.

The department is now working with vehicle dealers and others to implement the SB 1311 requirement that a person buying a vehicle sold for off road use on public land in Texas must purchase an annual decal. Revenue from decal sales will provide funding for land acquisition and improvements at existing OHV venues. For the first year of the program, the OHV decal will cost \$8 and will be current from Jan. 1-Aug. 31, 2006. After the first year, OHV decals will be good from Sep. 1 through the following Aug. 31, matching the TPWD fiscal year. Department staff and other parties involved are still developing a system

to sell, distribute and enforce decals, modeled on the TPWD boat registration program. OHV decals should be available for sale beginning in December, and enforcement of the program will begin Jan. 1. A person caught riding on public land without a decal after Jan. 1 could be issued a citation and fined.

The Texas Motorized Trails Coalition has a track record of developing and managing off-highway vehicle recreation areas in Texas. The organization has operated the 1,800-acre Barnwell Mountain Recreational Area in Upshur County in Northeast Texas since 2000. Facilities include showers, restrooms, an air station, pavilion, office and campsites with R/V hookups and electricity.

In 2003, the trails coalition submitted a grant proposal to acquire 2,200 acres in Uvalde County to develop it into an off-road vehicle recreation area. The project was brought to the TPW Commission in August 2003 but was ultimately discontinued after issues were raised concerning access to the property. Since then, the TMTC has been searching for a more suitable site.

The Crockett County site was chosen because of its remoteness, good paved access and low likelihood to impact natural or cultural resources. Access to the site is via state highways, a paved two lane county road and a deeded easement offered by an adjacent landowner who supports the project.

The department held two public meetings in nearby Ozona this fall to get community input and has also done an initial survey of natural and cultural resources. Several people expressed concerns at a Sep. 13 meeting in Ozona, and a more formal public hearing was conducted and recorded on Oct. 6 to identify specific issues. Concerns voiced at the hearing and in written correspondence involve the possibility of increased traffic, noise pollution, grass fires and erosion. The TPWD staff believes these concerns can be addressed by controlling site development to make sure there are adequate visual and noise buffer zones along the perimeter, plus good fences to control traffic and prevent trespass between the site and neighboring land. The trails coalition has said there are two water wells on the property with 20,000 gallon storage, and the group intends to create a fire substation on site.

Regarding erosion concerns, the site contains no running streams or springs. The project calls for silt retention structures to minimize off-site erosion runoff during storm events, which would be constructed before the site is opened to the public. Few, if any structures on adjacent properties are visible from the acquisition site.

After the site is acquired, all necessary natural and cultural resource clearances and permits would be obtained prior to construction. TPWD would oversee development of a site management plan to guide development, and the department would continue to have oversight and control after the OHV park is operating.

## Bird eggs and butterflies

Tales by Tumbleweed Smith



Franklin County has an active historical association. J. Q. Baumgardner says his community of Mount Vernon puts a sign in front of all the historical homes.

"I and another member of our board of directors have maintained these signs for the last several years. The signs have a white four-by-four yardarm with a hanging plaque that gives the names of the original owners of the house, the year it was built and the current owners' names. We have somewhere between fifty and sixty of those in front of homes that have been beautifully restored."

One home that has been restored is that of Henry Clay Thurston, the tallest soldier in the Confederate Army. He stood seven feet, seven and a half inches tall. After the war he joined a carnival and was billed as the tallest man in the world.

The house was built in 1868. Thurston lived in it until he died in 1911. When Mr. Baumgardner's group learned of the house, it was literally on the ground.

"We restored it at a cost of nearly a quarter of a million dollars.

There's a lot of history here. We've tried to keep everything as original as we could."

When the house was dedicated a couple of years ago, J. D. staged a spectacular event, with civil war reenactors in complete uniforms manning five confederate camps.

The population of Mount Vernon is 2,300. The county has 10,000 residents. The Franklin County Historical Association converted an old fire station and city administration building in Mount Vernon into a museum. It has one of the best butterfly collections in the country. "I'd say within the top two or three. The exhibits show the bottom side, the top side and all sides of the butterflies."

The museum will soon have an important bird egg collection. "We're building quarters for a million dollar exhibit. We have three of the extinct bird eggs: the Carolina parakeet, the passenger pigeon and the Heath hen. We're one of the very few museums that have this type of exhibit."

The bird eggs are over a hundred years old. The collection was started by a family named Nations who passed it down to succeeding generations. "Luckily it ended up in our historical association. A firm in California that specializes in bird eggs found out about our collection and wanted to see them. They wanted them very badly. The eggs were priceless to them. The directors of our group, including myself, thought that if it's worth that much to them it's worth more to us.

These have been stored in garages and old houses for more than a century and we thought it was time to really fix them to the point that they'll be preserved another century in the proper method."

The unique collection will be on display sometime next year.

## Happy Birthday

### November 10

- Michael Luttrell, Michelle Phillips, Sylvia Martinez, Carlos Gamez, Sr., Erma Pincince, Joan Hudson, Brent Gagneaux, Josejuan Garza, Don Campbell

### November 11

- Jennifer Ivy, Kylie Johnson, Jessica Hines, Sara De la Garza, Jesse Perez, Crystal Guerra, Lorena Reyes

### November 12

- J.C. Surber, Braden Casal, Bee Castaneda, Clay Friess, Callaway Hall, Charles Howard

### November 13

- Alex Galindo, Brant Myers, James Edmondson, Steve Thorp, Jessica Chavarria, Myra Trevino, Lynn Wipff, Janice Sadler, Larry Don Luckie, Erica Kerbow, Morris, E.K. Hernandez, Ashley Doran

### November 14

- Trevlin Strong, Karina Trevino, Cameron Cox

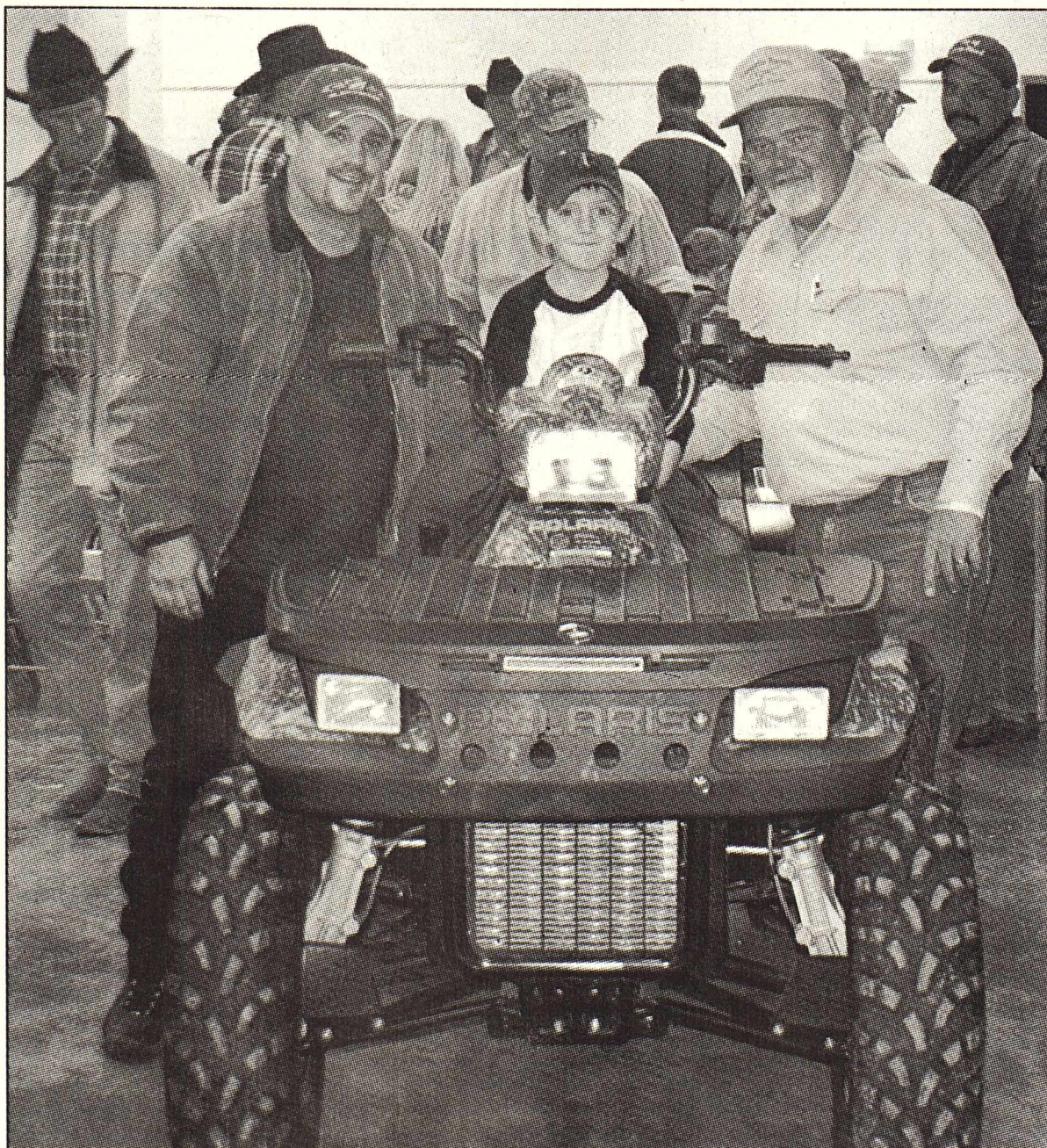
### November 15

- Tryon Fields, Kim Marshall, Miguel Vaquera, Tammy Gentry, Jim Kay, Pauline Thompson, Jimmie O'Brien, Jenna Jackson

### November 16

- Victor Garcia, Josh Payton, Susan Starks, Lynn Barber, Lisa Heap, Trey Preston

# Don't miss your chance to ride home a winner from the 39th Annual Sutton County Game Dinner



**\$1 buys you a chance at one of these Polaris ATV's or one of many great prizes at Sutton County's Annual Game Dinner, November 12 at 6:00 p.m.**



West Texas Classified Ad Network



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  - Ozona
  - Big Lake
  - Iraan
- 387-2507**

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

**Public Notices**

**Employment Notice**

Notice is hereby given that Sutton County is now accepting applications for a **full-time maintenance position** at the Library/Ambulance buildings. Sutton County provides full-time employees with health/dental insurance, retirement benefits and paid vacation/sick leave. Applications may be obtained at the Auditor's office at 224 East Main, Sonora, TX, Monday thru Friday, 8:00 a.m. thru 5:00 p.m. Deadline to remit applications will be Monday, November 14, 2005. Sutton County is an equal opportunity employer.

**NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS OF PROPOSED TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (TxDOT) CONTRACTS**

Sealed proposals for contracts listed below will be received by TxDOT until the date(s) shown below, and then publicly read.

**CONSTRUCTION/MAINTENANCE/BUILDING FACILITIES CONTRACT(S)**

Dist/Div: San Angelo  
Contract 0907-00-068 for CURB RAMPS AND SIDEWALK IN TOM GREEN County, etc will be opened on December 01, 2005 at 1:00 pm at the State Office.

Plans and specifications are available for inspection, along with bidding proposals, and applications for the TxDOT Prequalified Contractor's list, at the applicable State and/or Dist/Div Offices listed below. If applicable, bidders must submit prequalification information to TxDOT at least 10 days prior to the bid date to be eligible to bid on a project. Prequalification materials may be requested from the State Office listed below. Plans for the above contract(s) are available from TxDOT's website at [www.dot.state.tx.us](http://www.dot.state.tx.us) and from reproduction companies at the expense of the contractor. NPO: 18258

**State Office**

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

**Dist/Div Office(s)**

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

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

**Garage Sale**

Sat. Nov. 12, 9:00 a.m. 221 Castle Hill Rd. Furniture and more.

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Paid Training, Health & Life Insurance, Dental, Paid Vacations, Paid Weekly, Prescription Card, Advancement Opportunities, Bonus Opportunities, Stock Ownership Plan and 401K.

Apply at:  
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**Employment**

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

**EXPERIENCED DRIVERS NEEDED!**

Must have current Class A CDL and a good driving record. Experience driving transports, vacuum trucks, operation 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.

**Comfort Inn** is now hiring **house-keeping and front desk clerks.** Apply in person @ 311 N. Hwy 277.

**Operators needed:** Maintainer, dozer, and loader operators. CDL required. Call **Mittel Dozing** 277-6883.

**Help Wanted:** Full time and part time. Weekends & Holidays. Apply in person or call **The Caverns of Sonora** at 325-387-3105 FMI.

**Lariat Services, Inc.** is seeking an experienced **Air Driller.** Wage ranges between \$20.00 to \$24.00 an hour depending on experience. Will pay \$30.00 per diem and mileage reimbursement. Benefits include 401K Plan and Dental Plan and company paid Medical Insurance. Fax resume to 432-336-9339 or contact the Fort Stockton Office at 432-336-7821.

**Help Wanted:** Full time and part time. Apply at **Mr. D's**, 216 Hwy 277 N. from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday - Friday.

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

**Help Wanted:** Stagecoach BBQ, Catering and Deer Processing is hiring **(1) full-time counter help** and **(1) deer processor** position. Flexible hours. Apply in person at 801 Tayloe (next to Rafter W).

**Outreach Health Services** have openings for an **FFF physical therapist and a physical therapist assistant** to cover the Sonora and Eldorado areas. Please contact 325-944-3063 or 800-508-6574.

**PHARMACY TECHNICIAN NEEDED.** Will train qualified applicant for Certification. For interview, pick up application at **Everett's Pharmacy**, 417 Hwy 277 North, Sonora.

**Make up to \$2,500.00 in 13 days.** Looking for enthusiastic **adult to manage a fireworks stand** outside Sonora December 20 thru January 1. No investment required. Phone 10 am thru 5 pm for more information. 830-429-3808 or 1-800-364-0136.

**PRN CNA's NEEDED**  
PRN CNA's are needed at Crockett County Care Center. Although you may already have a schedule and work elsewhere, give us a call anyway. 392-2671 - ask for Vicki. Mileage included outside of Ozona. We need caring people! CCCC is an EOE. Top dollar for top quality.

**Loans**

**I'M MAD . . . AT BANKS WHO DON'T GIVE HOUSE LOANS BECAUSE OF BAD CREDIT, PROBLEMS OR NEW EMPLOYMENT. I DO, CALL L.D. KIRK, HOMETLAND MORTGAGES, (254) 947-4475.**

Schleicher Country Medical Center  
EOE  
Eldorado, Texas

**Maintenance/Plant Operations Tech:** Full time position with benefits. Seeking the right person to be trained for this position. Experience is a plus in general building skills, grounds maintenance, basic plumbing, etc.  
Contact: Sch. Co. Med. Ctr.  
325.853.2507 Ext 102

Schleicher County Medical Center  
EOE  
Eldorado, Texas

**Part Time Hospital/ER - R.N.**  
Flexible Schedule, 24 Hour On-Site Child Care, Educational Opportunities. Current Texas RN license and limited computer skills required.  
Contact: Vicki Farmer, RN, DON  
325.85312507 Ext 129  
Or e-mail resume to: [hr@scn2.net](mailto:hr@scn2.net)

Schleicher County Family Clinic  
EOE  
Eldorado, Texas

**Full-Time Clinic LVN**  
Prefer bilingual and previous clinic experience. Full Time benefit package available: Health, Retirement and Paid Time Off  
Contact: Stacy  
325.853.2507 Ext 102  
Or e-mail resume to: [hr@scn2.net](mailto:hr@scn2.net)

**Hiring Commercial Drivers:** Current Class A CDL w/Haz Mat/Tanker. Want great pay and cash incentives? No 24-hour call. Established Company looking to hire drivers. All applicants must pass drug/alcohol test. Please call Justin (432) 339-0540 or 800-523-5566 ext. 140.

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Dance students from *The Studio* will be selling roses for \$20 a dozen to help defer costs for their competition in February. To order call 387-3736.

The holiday season is full of sights, sounds and smells that surround us with emotion. But what if there has been a death in your family or you have lost a dear friend. How do you cope with your grief while everyone else is celebrating the season? Hospice of San Angelo is sponsoring a special seminar for any adult that is coping with a loss and fears the holidays will be unbearable. Ervilene Kuhlmann, licensed bereavement counselor will facilitate the free seminar and provide material to all the participants.

The seminar will be Saturday, Nov. 19 from 8:30 to 11:30 at the Shannon Women's and Children's Center. The Center is located at the corner of Harris and Magdalen. The seminar is free but please call Jeanne Miller at 658-6524 to ensure your reservation. Remember that there is help for your holidays.

*Do Well, Be Well with Diabetes* classes for people with type 2 diabetes Mondays at the Civic Center. To register call Kelly Thorp 387-3604. Classes are sponsored by the Texas Cooperative Extension Service.

November 12th - 39th Annual Sutton County Game Dinner - Sutton County Civic Center, Sonora, Texas - 6:00 p.m. - FMI - Sonora Chamber of Commerce 325/387-2880

Girling Health Care Inc., will hold a flu Clinic November 16, from 9:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. at Dr. Johnson's, 301 Hudspeth. you must be at least 18 years of age. The cost is free to Medicaid and Medicare Part B recipient. There is a \$12 fee for all others. Please contact Stacy Kuhlman, Director, at 325-949-1108 for all questions.

"The More the Merrier" Christmas Bazaar will be held at the Sutton County Civic Center from 9:00 am until 7:00 pm on Friday November 18, 2005. If you would like to have a booth at "The More the Merrier" Christmas Bazaar, please contact the Sonora Chamber of Commerce Office & Welcome Center at 205 Hwy 277 North, 325/387-2880. We have the forms you will need to enter and there is no booth fee for local businesses, crafters, artists, or civic organizations. It has been suggested that a local civic group needs to be selling Christmas trees. We think this could be a great fund raiser as we have had numerous calls the past couple of years regarding fresh cut Christmas trees.

Women's Bible Study @ Light-house Community Church; Studying "The Patriarch" by Beth Moore; starting Wednesday, Sept. 7, 2005 from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Please call the church at 387-9100 to enroll.

# The YMCA Youth Division



## HEAVYWEIGHT BRONCOS

Edward Garza, Jorge Villanueva, Clayton Parks, Alfred Rodriguez, Jason alaman, Cadesman Pope, Zackery Leonard, Sam Patterson, Phillip Stevens, Emilio Santellano, Jansen McBride, Zack Badeaux, Sam Powers, Bryce Smith, Toby Garza, Phillip Onofre, Garrett Smith, Ricky Samaniego, Davis Jimenez, Christian Kenney, Trey Virgen, Daniel Lankford, Ryan San Miguel, Braxton Snyder, Aaron Hinsley, Milton Black, Word Hudson, Jared Hinsely, Sterling Hall, Nathaniel Villa, Dakota Daniels, Nolan Kinder, Stephen Dominguez, Michael Sanchez, Kyle Patlan, Chris Rendon, and Blake Esparza. (Not pictured in order)

and



## PEEWEE BRONCOS

Tyler Smith, Alec Samaniego, Chance Campbell, Jonathan Martinez, Andy Samaniego, Kylie Love, Scott Gonzales, Hunter Hughes, Cody Barber, Louie Castro, Daniel Nicar, Kaden Kinder, Austin Rodriguez, Doug Ottwell, Nelson Black, Sidney Anderson, Garrett Sharp, Shea Holmes, Erasmo Esquivel, Jonathan Paredes, Keanu Gamez, Chris Molina, Isaac Fraire, Ethan Patlan, Will Dutton, Justin Garmon, Tanner Esparza, Guillermo Rodriguez, and Jose Longoria. (Not pictured in order)

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STEREO SURROUND SOUND IN ALL AUDITORIUMS

◆ ZATHURA (PG) 1:10 4:00 8:50 9:20	◆ THE LEGEND OF ZORRO (PG) 1:05 4:05 7:05 10:05
◆ ZATHURA (PG) 1:40 4:40 7:20 9:50	◆ SAW 2 (R) 2:40 5:10 7:40 10:10
◆ GET RICH OR DIE TRYIN' (R) 2:00 5:00 7:50 10:35	◆ THE WEATHER MAN (R) 2:05 4:45 7:15 9:40
◆ DERAILED (R) 1:30 4:50 7:35 10:20	◆ PRIME (PG-13) 2:50 5:20 7:55 10:30
◆ JARHEAD (R) 1:00 4:10 7:10 10:00	◆ DREAMER (PG) 1:25 4:20 6:55 9:30
◆ CHICKEN LITTLE (G) 1:50 4:15 6:45 9:00	◆ ELIZABETHTOWN (PG-13) 9:35
◆ CHICKEN LITTLE (G) 2:20 4:30 7:00 9:15	◆ THE FOG (PG-13) 2:30 5:05 7:45 10:15
◆ CHICKEN LITTLE (G) 2:45 5:15 7:30	

Showtimes Valid 11/11 - 11/17/2005 ( ) = Early showtimes valid Saturday and Sunday only.

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# The Devil's River News 2005

## Sutton County Hunting Guide



# TPWD HUNTING SEASON 2005

by Mary Humphry, Texas Parks & Wildlife, Sutton County Game Biologist

Sometimes change is good, sometimes change is not very good. When you live, work, or play in the out-of-doors – change is inevitable, pre-determined, and usually for the better if you'll allow yourself to find the good results caused by the change. There have been lots of devastatingly sad, natural events taking place lately – and parts of the western Plateau have also had their fair share this year. I'm sure lots of us are tired of hearing the "anthrax blues", but there may still be some questions floating around out there that this could help answer. An anthrax outbreak was experienced in an area covering approximately 125,000 acres of southwestern Sutton and southeastern Crockett counties. (Not the entire western Plateau was affected with anthrax and none of the counties were "closed" to visitation or hunters as was reported on some news channels back east in the state.) Losses were discovered in cattle, horses, some sheep, some exotics, and deer. The people will recover from their losses, the habitat will recover and flourish, and the animal populations will recover and rebound – but all those affected will have to change something of their methods of operation.

As for hunters and the current hunting season – theoretically with the cooler weather of fall, anthrax spores become dormant and do not pose a threat. There could however, be a possibility of re-activation of the spores under the correct weather conditions if a wet, cooling period is followed by a dry, hotter period. The meat of healthy-looking game animals can be eaten – and the common-sense rules of harvest and preparation become apparent – harvest a healthy looking animal, wear gloves when field-dressing, bone-out the meat when processing, and cook the meat well when preparing.

**How is it that the outbreak occurred?** According to the Texas Animal Health Commission – anthrax is everywhere – it just takes the correct climatic and range conditions for an outbreak to occur. Change. All the wonderful, never-imagined, never-before-experienced 30-40" of rain that our area was blessed with in 2004 (not our normal, droughty conditions) put in motion the process by which the vegetative form of anthrax grows in the soil, produces spores, and then moves up into the topsoil. A wet, cool spring must follow this pattern so that forage/vegetation that grows through the affected soil carries the spores out into the open for ingestion by grazing/browsing animals that eat grasses and weeds. An average of around 5 inches of rain per month fell in October and November of 2004 and sealed the likelihood of relatively good forage production of cool season species in early 2005. By March 2005

another 3-4 or so inches of rain had fallen – coupled with mild late winter conditions – further ensured relatively good range conditions of healthy grass and weed growth. April and early May were actually pretty dry, but towards the end of May we were showered with 4-6 inches of rain. Then, the clincher – all these relatively wet, cool conditions were blasted by an immediate hot, dry period in June to bring on the shocking outbreak around the July 4 weekend. By mid July another 1-3 inches of rain had fallen which effectively squelched the first outbreak. Conditions cooled off for a while and then it turned hot and dry again and resulted in another, smaller outbreak around the later part of August.

Those in the affected area vaccinated livestock and proceeded with their clean-up. Typical protocol in dealing with animal carcasses during an anthrax outbreak to rid the area of spores is to burn the carcass with enough natural-type fuel and heat to disintegrate even the bones. If burning cannot be accomplished and the soil becomes contaminated from the infected blood leaching out of the carcass, then effective protocol becomes more questionable. If the need arises to "do something", then carcasses and all dirt from under and around the animal can be put in a deep hole; the entire carcass must then be covered with lime and buried, but not in areas prone to erosion or flooding. If heavy machinery cannot be used, then the suggestion has been made to at least cover the carcass and surrounding area with brush to the point that no animals can graze in the affected area in the future should the anthrax spores once again become active. In the areas where anthrax was confirmed, no parts of any deer should be picked up as the carcass is contaminated if the animal died from anthrax and all parts can harbor bacteria for an indefinite amount of time. Bacteria at this time of year are not normally active, but if antlers are taken from an anthrax carcass and moved, then the spores go with the antlers and could become active under the correct weather conditions. In the anthrax endemic area, antlers, especially those with velvet, should definitely not be taken from the carcass. **Many thanks to our local veterinarians, our Area Veterinarian with the Texas Animal Health Commission Dr. Thurman Fancher, and our local feed stores for all their support, assistance, and guidance during this unfortunate situation.**

If deer losses are observed throughout the remainder of 2005, don't be surprised – but the losses most likely won't be because of anthrax. Up to this point, Sutton County has had approximately 15 inches of rain – more like our normal rainfall patterns but relatively droughty. Rainfall has

been relatively intermittent between months with periods of high heat and wind. Some areas have not had much rain at all. With the high grass production this year and low to moderate forb production – some animals may succumb to starvation or just the opposite – Clostridium enterotoxemia – when the balance in stomach bacteria changes suddenly from a quick switch to a high carbohydrate diet as when eating lots of acorns or corn, resulting in death due to toxins which are produced by the clostridium bacteria. With the nice rains received in October alone, a new batch of biting gnats or midges hatched and they carry certain diseases that ultimately are meant to reduce overpopulations of animals. Hemorrhagic disease, caused by either epizootic hemorrhagic disease virus or bluetongue virus, is by far the most important endemic infectious disease of white-tailed deer in the Southeastern US. It is transmitted by these biting midges that are usually found in large numbers by late summer and early fall. Clinical signs vary, but if animals act depressed and look emaciated, lethargic, have excessive amounts of mucous around the nose or mouth, or exhibit respiratory distress then the loss of the animal can most likely be attributed to bluetongue virus. There are many other viruses, bacterium, and internal/external parasites that deer succumb to but these two are the cause of most losses in this area at this time of year. The loss of deer to disease can most often be attributed to overpopulations of animals, high populations living with poor forage availability, or high concentrations of animals coming in close contact with each other. Reduction in numbers of grazing or browsing animals and range enhancement practices can reduce the likelihood of future unnecessary losses of animals.

Those healthy deer that do survive into hunting season should be in relatively good shape this year. Late winter range conditions were such that decent weed or forb growth was adequate to jump-start antler production. Reduced amounts of precipitation were experienced throughout the year compared to 2004, but forage and browse production should have been stronger this year resulting in more palatable plants with slightly higher protein content. This, coupled with relatively good acorn crops – although spotty in some areas – should result in moderate to good antler production on mature bucks. **Deer surveys conducted in the area show relatively high numbers of young males and inferior-antlered bucks in that segment of the population.** Annual ground surveys conducted by department personnel have undergone some changes

*continued next page*

# Why Hunt? continued

long hike out of the wild.

For hunting requires a level of participation unknown in any other human venture – hunting requires a communion with the very primal forces of Nature, taking life so that life may be. Hunting requires a contact that the non-hunter can never know, a contact with life itself. The hunter eschews supporting his or her life through a middleman; knowing the cost of one's diet, engenders respect for the lives that must be taken to sustain one's own life.

Early hunters knew this very well, as they revered their primary prey. For example, Plains Indians referred to the bison as "uncle" and "brother." Paleolithic cave drawings of game animals and hunt scenes are rendered with a loving reverence that is still evident today, thousands of years later. Modern hunters are much the same. Enter a hunter's home, and you'll likely find framed prints of deer and elk, waterfowl sculptures, photography of upland birds.

To some it seems contradictory; to express respect, reverence, even love for an animal that you pursue, hunt, kill, and eat. It's true that this seeming contradiction is as hard for hunters to explain as it is for non-hunters to understand.

Perhaps the answer lies in the very understanding of our role in Nature. Nature has but one law; Life feeds on Life, and Life gives Life to Life. People who obtain their steaks, chicken, and burgers from supermarkets and butcher's shops can lose sight of this fundamental truth, and perhaps they would prefer to have that process sanitized in just such a manner. In our modern, urbanized society, many like to imagine their own existence is bloodless, clean, and sanitary. But such an outlook is self-deluding.

The hunter knows very well the cost for the steaks that grace his plate. A year has been spent in preparation for the hunt, planning, caring for equipment, and practicing marksmanship. Without complaint or reservation, the hunter has arisen before dawn, as described above, and walked the many miles to where the game awaits. In the

bright sun of a meadow, in the twilight of dusk, or in the shadows of the forest he has made the stalk, taken the shot with painstaking care, and dressed the animal. He has packed out quarters of elk, perhaps a two or three-day process, often through rough, grueling country. The hunter has cared for hides and antler and meat, and the price for the meal of elk steak is ever with the one for whose life the elk's life has given way.

Most of all, the hunter has seen the sudden transition from a living animal to an inanimate food source, from animate life to meat for the table. The non-hunting urbanite likely has never seen this take place, and would not care to do so; but the hunter knows, with bittersweet regularity, the price that must be paid for continued existence.

It is for this very reason that the hunter reveres his prey. The intimate, timeless knowledge that Life springs from Life can only lead to reverence for the source of that Life. The bull elk in the dark timber, ghosting through the trees silently as smoke, will live on in the blood, bone and sinew of the hunter waiting on the ridge above; and the hunter, in his turn, will return to the Earth, to nourish the soil, to give rise to the grasses that will feed the elk. And how can the hunter not revere the greathearted bull, reverse the magnificence of the great deer that will go to feed the hunter's family in the winter to come? Reverence for the game, reverence for the wellspring of life, reverence for the great, largely unknowable cycles of the Earth, all come from the intimacy with Nature found in the hunt.

Hunting is indeed what makes us human; hunting is what led humans to cooperate, to plan, to anticipate, to form society. The first great turning point in Mankind's development was when two unrelated families found they could hunt large animals by working together, and so be more efficient at obtaining high-quality food; thus was the first tribe born. Hunting has made us what we are.

It's unfortunate that the non-hunter often cannot see past the fact that the hunt results in the death of an ani-

mal. The death of an animal, it's true, is the goal of the hunt; but a greater goal is to be found in the overall experience, of which the actual kill is only the climactic moment. The hunter's soul often thrills as much, if not more, to the blown stalk, the bull that senses something amiss and vanishes into the mountains like a puff of smoke on the breeze, leaving no trace in his wake. Fond memories include the grouse that explodes from underfoot at the worst possible moment, the squirrel that set up a warning chatter in the penultimate seconds of a carefully planned approach. The vista of a great gulch viewed from the rim, with a herd of elk grazing peacefully, undisturbed, and totally unapproachable on the far side. And, indeed, in the final moment of success, when the hunter approaches, cautiously, the downed bull, lying still now against the bed of needles; the heart-pounding thrill of success, weighted against the bittersweet regret of the necessity of taking the life, facing the final truth that for life to be, another life must give way.

Life feeds on Life, and Life gives Life to Life. The hunter in success understands this great truth as no other human possibly can.

**Why hunt?**

We hunt to pay homage to Nature, to Life, to the Earth. To make our annual pilgrimage to our beginnings, to lay hands on our heritage as members of the biotic community. To affirm once more that Life feeds on Life, and Life gives Life to Life. We hunt for the gift of an elk to a family, the gift of life from the Earth. In the hunt lies an affirmation, a recognition that we too will one day return to the Earth that has fed and nurtured us, and the elk will then feed on the minerals and nutrients returned to the soil from our bodies. That affirmation alone is enough for many of us who hunt, to send us once more out of our tents, trailers, and ranch houses, out into the freezing darkness under the glittering stars, to climb an unseen mountain for the chance at an elk.

Hunting has a fundamental truth that few non-hunters understand.

It's not about death. It's about life. That's why.

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## Why Hunt?

Why hunt? Modern hunters seem to find they are answering that question frequently. Sometimes the question is put by the genuinely curious; sometimes it is a hostile demand for justification. In the first case, the answer is complex and thought provoking. In the second, the answer is simple — "because it suits me to do so." Hunting in and of itself requires no justification. The hunt is not only natural and healthful; it's an inextricable part of our heritage as human beings.

Man is and has long been a terminal predator, as marvelously equipped for hunting by our intellect as a lion is by his claws and fangs, as a wolf by his swift legs and pack instinct. No matter whether humans today hunt directly, or employ middlemen to prepare their prey for them on farms and meat packing plants, the fact of our status as predator is in our very DNA. We owe the very fact of our world-conquering intellect on the hunt, on the stimulus that drove us to overcome the handicap of our clawless, blunt-toothed bodies, to develop weapons to match the feats of the greatest of animal predators; we owe our great brains to the access to high-quality diets of meat, marrow, and fat that predatory behavior allowed.

But, the question remains nonetheless. Why, now, do we hunt?

Some hunt for the meat. A good reason in itself; game meat is lean, healthy, and free from additives; the process of obtaining it provides exercise and time in the outdoors, away from work pressures and the temptations of couches and televisions. The fruits of the hunt, properly cared for, are welcomed on the most discriminating of tables.

Some hunt for the camaraderie, another fine reason; for many of these, the actual hunt is secondary to the outing with friends, sharing the campfire with others of like mind and feeling. Another good reason; it is in the enjoyment of fine companions that we grow as social animals. The annual ritual of the mountain elk camp is a vital part of the year for many.

But, there is frequently another reason. A reason that's more compelling, and at the same time harder to explain.

Henry David Thoreau, in the great classic *Walden*, wrote "Go fish and hunt far and wide day by day -- farther and wider -- and rest thee by many brooks and hearth-sides without misgiving. Remember thy Creator in the days of thy youth. Rise free from care before the dawn, and seek adventures. Let the noon find thee by other lakes, and the night overtake thee everywhere at home. There are no larger fields than these, no worthier games than may here be played." Thoreau spoke for many hunters in those words, hunters who hunt not solely for the meat, or for the company, but for the ageless, timeless experience of the hunt itself.

For it's true that for some of us the hunt is an answer in itself. It's enough to awake hours before the dawn, and to know the utter silence of a late autumn morning. To hear the crunch of snow under your boots as you begin the hike into the distant, silent mountains. To smell the pines along the trail, and see the silent sentinel spruces on the ridges, barely glimpsed in the pre-dawn dark. It's enough to sit, shivering, at that best spot on the top rim of a remote basin, watching the east grow bright, waiting for the first rays of warm sunshine to break through the trees and drive away the bitter cold of night.

But those moments, treasured as they are, pale before the ultimate goal of the hunt. It's a part of the hunter's soul, to carry the knowledge that somewhere, out among the pines, in the dark timber or the frost-covered meadows, a bull awaits, and the chance of the day may bring him within your awareness. The snap of a branch, the ghosting shape of antlers through the aspens, the sudden ringing bugle of a bull elk, as he appears, suddenly, where no bull was a moment before. His breath plumes out in the cold as he screams his challenge, and your hands and will



freeze momentarily in awe of his magnificence.

It's enough to know that the day may bring the chance of a stalk, through the darkness under the trees, along the edges of the golden grasses of a meadow, creeping, creeping, under the streamside willows, silently, slowly, ever closer, testing the wind, watching underfoot for twigs, whispering a silent prayer to the forests and fields to allow you to close the gap, to make the shot.

With luck, you'll raise your rifle or draw your bow, and make your shot. More often than not, though, the bull escapes, to play the game of predator and prey another day, in another valley.

You can't buy moments like that; you can't find them on the Internet, or at the movie theatre. When the alarm rings in the icy cold of a pre-dawn tent at 9,000 feet, this type of hunter doesn't groan at the prospect of climbing out of the warm sleeping bag; instead, the prospects of the day are enough incentive to brave the cold, to pull on wool and leather, to step into the pitch-black outdoors, under ice-chip stars. It is with pleasure and anticipation that this hunter begins a day that will likely end back at the same tent, in the freezing dark, hours after sunset, at the end of

## TPWD HUNTING SEASON 2005 continued

this year. Slight alterations have been made to our deer management compartments — or reporting/surveyed units within which are included areas of similar soils types, vegetation composition, and deer densities. Most all of Sutton County falls into a deer management compartment that covers a large portion of the central Edwards Plateau. **The density estimate for this compartment is on average 8.7 acres per deer.** The density is variable throughout the compartment and ranges from a high of 6.6 acres per deer (97 deer per section) to a low of 11.6 acres per deer (55 deer per section). The composition of the deer herd in this compartment is around 1.89 does per buck with an observed fawn component of 0.48 fawns per doe. Deer populations in this area should be reduced or maintained at about a deer to 10-12 or more acres. Harvest populations at a rate of 50 – 75 acres per doe and 350 – 500 acres per buck. Buck harvest should be dependent on the number of culls needed to be taken out of the population with a good proportion of better-quality bucks maintained as brood stock. Only a small portion of the northwestern corner of Sutton County is included with another compartment that flows northward through western Schleicher County, the Northeastern corner of Crockett County, and up into the western Concho Valley. The density estimate for this compartment is on average 13.8 acres per deer. The density is much more variable throughout this compartment and ranges from a high of 7.6 acres per deer (84 deer per section) to a low of 25.0 acres per deer (26 deer per section). The composition of the deer herd in this compartment is around 2.93 does per buck with an observed fawn component of 0.82 fawns per doe. Higher densities of deer in these compartments most likely are associated with major draw topography and more diverse vegetation communities whereas higher topographical areas with less diverse vegetation are characterized by lower densities of animals.

Deer populations in this area should be reduced or maintained at about a deer to 15-20 or more acres. Harvest populations at a rate of 100 – 200 acres per doe and 450 – 650 acres per buck again depending on the number of culls and trophies available for harvest.

**Change.** I guess we better become acquainted with and get used to the changes going on around us in the natural world. The final one that I would like to share with you is the changing natural world underfoot. Once again, with the abundance of grass growth and good range conditions providing lots of cover for all species, there is increased production of rodent species.

With this high prey base available now, **the production and survival of snake species is on the rise.** There have been more observations, reports, and complaints about the number of snakes (most especially of the poisonous varieties) that people are encountering that it would only suffice to end with a major cautionary note: *Snakes in this area are not true hibernators.* They will come out of their den, hole, cover, etc. to sun and warm up in the winter — even during warmer days that we have in this part of Texas during the season we call winter.

So, **change your habits while out in the brush this hunting season and be cautious of and on the look-out for snakes at all times.**

Above all, **have a great hunting season.** Should you need more information about our game species in Sutton County or have concerns about your wildlife populations, please contact TPWD Game Biologist Mary Humphrey in Sonora at 325-387-5539.



Look forward to healthy hunting in Sutton Co.



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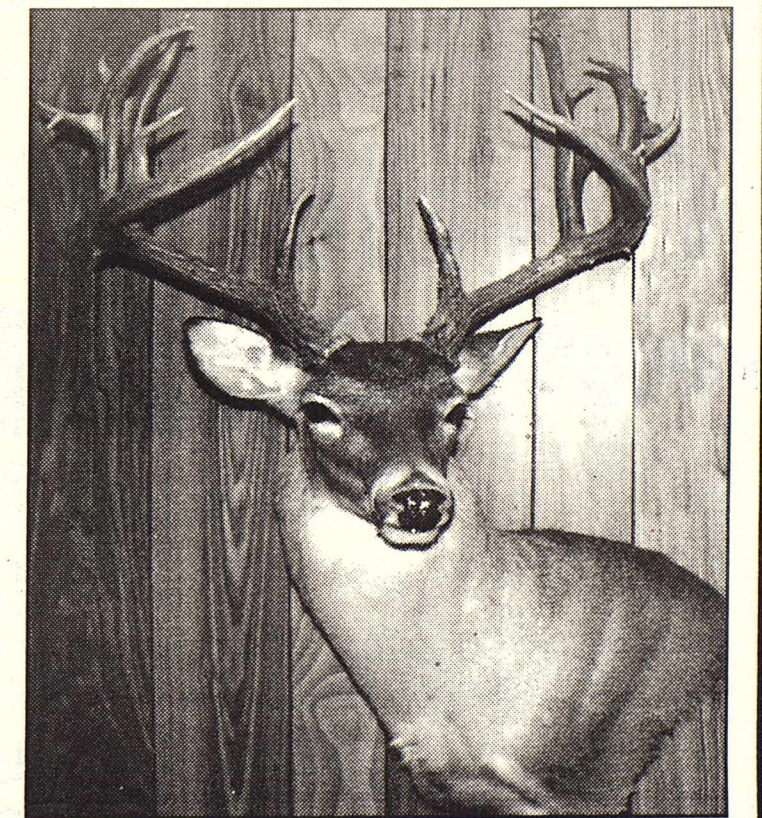


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# Game Bird Species good in Sutton County

by Mary Humphry, Texas Parks & Wildlife, Sutton County Game Biologist

Sutton County game bird species are looking good: Rio Grande turkeys seemed to have gotten off to a good, early start this year with strutting and gobbling activity again peaking out in mid March. It seemed as though their breeding season came in a hurry and blew away with the drying winds of April. Early hatches of poults were expected but according to observations during ground surveys in June, there was only moderate nesting success in April and May. Most likely those early-nesting hens were left with dried-out nests and only the relief of the late May showers were conducive to hens re-nesting and rearing normal broods in June and July. Therefore, poult production for this year is average. For 2005, survey results in this area showed about 5.13 poults per broody hen with 13% of this year's hens in the population having poults. Poults per hen was 0.66 – meaning that fewer hens were raising larger broods. Turkeys may have been exhibiting safety in numbers as with the tremendous grass production again this year the densities of varmints, rodents, and snakes have also increased. Research on the eastern Edwards Plateau can attest to the large numbers of nests lost to predators in a nesting season. Of 30 nesting, radio-tagged hens this year, only 2 were successful at raising broods. A large percentage of the other nests were lost to predation or disruption. Gobbler numbers are still maintaining great densities with 0.66 gobblers per hen over last year's observations of 0.65 gobbs per hen. All in all, Sutton County ranks among the top turkey producing counties in the Plateau and maintains populations at densities of approximately 40 turkeys per 1,000 acres.

Quail numbers seem to be holding their own for now. With the high rainfall and grass production in 2004, large productions of bobwhite coveys were able to survive into

2005. Whether old rank grass from '04 or new grasses produced in early 2005 – one of the key elements to quail survival was available in good enough quantities to afford them another relatively good production year – cover. Cover for ground-nesting birds is essential to hiding nests and adults while on the nest, providing escape, loafing, and roosting areas for coveys, and to aid in the production of forage seeds and insects vital to their existence. The only other factor equally important to successful quail production is water. Rains in 2005 have been intermittent, but the drying periods in between rain-falls may have damaged some of the coveys started in 2004 – but there are lots of folks around who are still hearing and seeing lots of bobs. Scaled or blue quail are not necessarily found in Sutton County in large quantities, but their populations are rebounding to an all-time high. According to results of ground surveys conducted in the western third of the state in 2005, the mean number of blues seen per survey route has increased to 24 birds per route. In comparison, historical trend data showed an average of 8 birds per route in 2004 and 13 birds per route in 2003. Since 1978, the only other production year that came close to current populations was in 1985 with an average of 20 birds per route.

Sad to say once again, but dove hunting season turned off rather disappointing this year in local areas. For the most part, because of less rain and warmer conditions this year than last, young dove production and feed production has been relatively adequate for a viable crop of huntable birds. (Too much rain and colder conditions aren't conducive to raising nestlings in those flimsy little nests that dove are prone to "throw together".) Cooler weather conditions and widespread rainfall (resulting in lots of residual rain puddles) was not necessarily a contributing factor this year to poor numbers of birds frequenting ranching areas for the opening of season. The tremendous grass

growth this year however, may have contributed in part to poor growth of weeds such as croton that draw dove into more natural settings. It was observed that dove numbers diminished about mid-way through the season so those hunting the 'good ole boy' way around stock tanks were sorely disappointed in their harvest success rates. Those hunters utilizing agricultural grain fields north towards the San Angelo area, however, had somewhat better results in bringing down doves. Nationwide status surveys on mourning doves indicate that dove populations are decreasing in their numbers. White-winged doves have certainly encroached upon their more prime urban habitat in numerous small communities in this region. This coupled with the fact that the Eurasian collared dove is also now moving into these same urban areas will most likely be somewhat of a contributing factor to their decline due to competition for available prime habitat.



Some great Gobblers from McKavett Ranch.  
TerryOwen@earthlink.net

# The importance of blending into your environment

Cris Draper  
Bang.....

You blast off a shot at the buck as he dart over the edge of the hill top. You never stood a chance. Had you taken a few simple step in preparation, the outcome of this encounter may have turned out much different.

Now is the time of year to break out the hunting equipment and start honing your skills, if you have not already done so. Make sure your gear has a fresh cleaning done to all moving parts, and part that require lubrication get the necessary care. Pay special attention to area that may be prone to wear and tear. It will vary from weapon to weapon, but you need to take the time now, before you get into the field, to insure your gear is in top notch condition.

Condition..... This would be a good time to stop and take a look at your current physical and mental conditioning. Have you been down to the range lately or out hunting since the last big game tag you bought? Time to take a few rounds and make sure you are familiar and ready to the kick and noise. Flinching even one inch out the barrel, can throw your projectile off by several feet in the distance of 200-300 yard shot. Make sure you also are using the same ammunition that you will be hunting with. Ammunition

changes in the middle of a hunt can also lead to a missed trophy.

Physical and mental conditioning and just as important as the expensive set of camouflage gear you wear into the woods. Being familiar and comfortable in your surroundings is important. You need to know where animals are likely to enter into your shooting lanes and know the distances you are capable of shooting successfully. Get out now, before the season opens, if possible, and get into the areas you are planning on hunting in. Take notes!!! Write down times you spot game, locations, and sign that animals have recently been in the area. Find the places you will feel give you the best vantage points along traveled game routes. If you know now where you are hunting and can get in and out comfortable, and quietly, come opening morning, no time is wasted, and your chances are maximized with minimal pre-season preparations.

Mentally prepare yourself. Spend time sitting in your vantage points. Take a good pair of binoculars or spotting scope and a camera and get a feel for what the animals are doing now. Animals habits will rapidly change after the first shot of the season, but if you are prepared on opening morning, and have done your pre-season scouting, you should have a good idea of where these

animals are going to head to when the heat is on. Time spent with good optics can be very fruitful in locating these hidden locations!

The more time you can dedicate now, the higher your chances will be that the trophy will be hanging on your wall this year.

By now, you may have thought to yourself, this article is supposed to be about blending in with your environment and not more than a mild mention of camo gear has been made. Camouflage can greatly increase your success rate, but is not, (In my opinion) as important as knowing the surroundings, or having someone guiding you that does. I know many hunters that hunt in traditional blue jeans and the minimum requirements for hunters orange on rifle and muzzle load hunts, and bag big animals every year, but they have camouflaged themselves in their surroundings and become a part of the animals home. Bow hunting can also be accomplished without camo, but with much less success, unless you are a very skilled hunter.

So maybe this year, instead of budgeting some much for new gear, invest it in a few tanks of gas, some good hard earned sweat, and get "into" the environment you'll be hunting in soon!

The pay off may just be much more than you expect.



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## T.R.'s Tips: Turkey Calling, The 1, 2, 3 Rule

By T. R. Michels

1. If a tom gobbles 0 times per 1 minute, and it is at a strut, there is probably a hen present. You can: 1. sneak up on the bird, 2. figure out where the bird will go after it leaves and get there before it does, 3. wait until the hen leaves, hope the tom stays, and then try call it in.

2. If a tom gobbles 1 time per 1 minute, and it's before sunrise, it is probably on the roost. You should set up: 1. at a nearby strut the tom uses, 2. between the tom and any nearby hens, 3. between the tom and the nearest strut.

3. If a tom gobbles 1 time per 2-3 minutes, and it is before sunrise, the tom is probably on the ground and moving. There are several things you can do: 1. if the tom is moving toward you call just enough to keep it coming, 2. if the tom is moving away from you try to get it to change it's mind, but it is probably headed toward a hen, group of hens or a strut; 3. figure out where the tom is going and get there before it does.

4. If a tom gobbles 2-3 times per 1 minute, and it is at a strut, there is probably no hen present. You can: 1. try to get it to leave the strut, which it is probably reluctant to do, 2. try to sneak up on it, 3. figure out where it will go after it leaves and get there before it does, 4. wait until another day and get to the same area before the tom.

I cannot say that this formula is applicable in all areas, or with all subspecies of turkeys. But, if you watch and listen to the birds in your area you should see some pattern that will help you determine where and what the toms are doing.

*If you are interested in more turkey hunting tips, or more turkey biology and behavior, click on Trinity Mountain Outdoor News and T.R.'s Hunting Tips at [www.TRMichels.com](http://www.TRMichels.com). If you have questions about turkeys log on to the T.R.'s Tips message board. This article is an excerpt from the Turkey Addict's Manual (\$14.95 + \$5.00 S&H), by T.R. Michels.*



Double D Ranch Turkey Hunts.

### Barbecued Wild Turkey

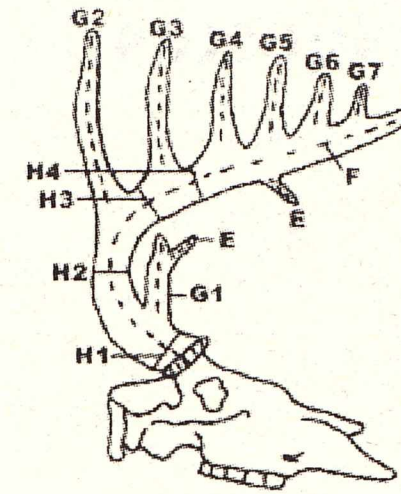
One stick (1/2 cup) margarine  
1/2 cup chopped green onions or chives  
1/4 cup lemon juice  
1 Tbsp. thyme and savory, mixed  
1 cup broth  
3 Tbsp. parsley

Cut turkey into pieces across the grain. Cook onions until tender in butter, add other ingredients. Bring to a full boil. Cover each piece of turkey with this mixture. Baste often on grill. Cook 45 to 55 minutes or until done.

## Scoring your Trophy

### Typical Whitetail Deer

All measurements must be made with a 1/4-inch wide flexible steel tape to the nearest one-eighth of an inch. (Note: A flexible steel cable can be used to measure points and main beams only.) Note fractional figures in eighths, without reduction. For example, if a point measures 7 and 2/8 inches, you would note 7 2/8.



**A: NUMBER OF POINTS ON EACH ANTLER** - To be counted a point, the projection must be at least one inch long, with the length exceeding width at one inch or more of length. All points measured from tip of point to nearest edge of beam as illustrated in Figure A. Beam tip is counted as a point, but not measured as a point.

Number of Points on Right Antler: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Points on Left Antler: \_\_\_\_\_

**B: TIP TO TIP SPREAD** - The tip to tip spread is measured between the tips of the main beams.

Tip to Tip Spread: \_\_\_\_\_

**C: GREATEST SPREAD** - The greatest spread is measured between perpendiculars at a right angle to the center line of the skull at the widest part, whether across main beams or points.

Greatest Spread: \_\_\_\_\_

**D: INSIDE SPREAD OF MAIN BEAMS** - The inside spread of main beams is measured at a right angle to the center line of the skull at the widest point between main beams.

Inside Spread of Main Beams: \_\_\_\_\_

**E: TOTAL LENGTHS OF ALL ABNORMAL POINTS** - Abnormal points are those non-typical in location (such as points originating from a point or from the bottom or sides of the main beam) or extra points beyond the normal pattern of points. Measure in the usual manner.

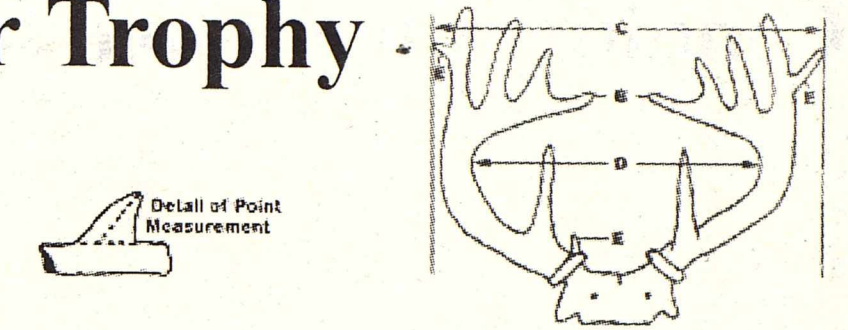
Right Antler \_\_\_\_\_

Left Antler \_\_\_\_\_

**F: LENGTH OF MAIN BEAM** - The length of the main beam is measured from the center of the lowest outside edge of the burr over the outer side to the most distant point of the main beam. The beginning point is on the burr where the center line along the outer side of the beam intersects the burr, then generally following Line F as shown in Figure C.

Right Antler: \_\_\_\_\_

Left Antler: \_\_\_\_\_



**G: LENGTH OF NORMAL POINTS** - Normal points project from the top of the main beam. They are measured from the nearest edge of the main beam over the outer curve to the tip. Lay the tape along the outer curve of the beam so that the top edge of the tape coincides with the top edge of the beam on both sides of the point to determine the baseline for point measurement. If there are more than five abnormal points to a side, add them together and input in the last field.

### RIGHT ANTLER

- G-1. Length - First Point \_\_\_\_\_
- G-2. Length - Second Point \_\_\_\_\_
- G-3. Length - Third Point \_\_\_\_\_
- G-4. Length - Fourth Point, if present \_\_\_\_\_
- G-5. Length - Fifth Point, if present \_\_\_\_\_
- G-6. Length - Sixth Point, if present \_\_\_\_\_
- G-7. Length - Seventh Point, if present \_\_\_\_\_

### LEFT ANTLER

- G-1. Length - First Point \_\_\_\_\_
- G-2. Length - Second Point \_\_\_\_\_
- G-3. Length - Third Point \_\_\_\_\_
- G-4. Length - Fourth Point, if present \_\_\_\_\_
- G-5. Length - Fifth Point, if present \_\_\_\_\_
- G-6. Length - Sixth Point, if present \_\_\_\_\_
- G-7. Length - Seventh Point, if present \_\_\_\_\_

### H: CIRCUMFERENCES

Circumferences are taken at the narrowest place as detailed in Figure C for each measurement. If the burr point is missing, take H-1 and H-2 at the smallest place between the burr and the G-2 point.

If the G-4 point is missing, take H-4 halfway between the G-3 point and the tip of the main beam.

### RIGHT ANTLER

- H-1. Between Burr and First Point \_\_\_\_\_
- H-2. Between First and Second Points \_\_\_\_\_
- H-3. Between Second and Third Points \_\_\_\_\_
- H-4. Between Third and Fourth Points \_\_\_\_\_

### LEFT ANTLER

- H-1. Between Burr and First Point \_\_\_\_\_
- H-2. Between First and Second Points \_\_\_\_\_
- H-3. Between Second and Third Points \_\_\_\_\_
- H-4. Between Third and Fourth Points \_\_\_\_\_

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## Conditions bode well for Deer Hunting Success

AUSTIN, Texas — Dry range conditions across much of Texas heading into the general deer season should bode well for hunters looking to fill their tags, according to Texas Parks and Wildlife Department biologists.

The general deer season opens Nov. 5 statewide, except for a few counties in the Panhandle. The North Zone closes Jan. 1, while the South Zone continues for two additional weeks, ending Jan. 15. Special Youth-Only seasons are set for Oct. 29-30 and Jan. 21-22 statewide.

For the last couple of years, many of Texas' 500,000 or so deer hunters had a tough time observing deer, which kept a low profile because lush range conditions provided ample cover and abundant browse. Hunters likely won't face that problem this fall, according to TPWD white-tailed deer program leader Mitch Lockwood. "We're dried up real bad. This will be the first year in the last four that I'm not telling hunters to get away from the corn feeders to find deer. I think people will have some success hunting over feeders."

TPWD is encouraging hunters to take more does this fall in areas with deer overpopulation issues. "Take an extra doe - where regulations allow for

such," Lockwood stressed. "It's true every year but especially this year that deer will have a harder time making it through the winter. It used to just be in the Hill Country, but now we're dealing with population issues across much of the state. When a hunter only takes one deer, you're probably not going to meet management goals."

**Hunters also need to be aware of several key changes to deer hunting regulations this year** as state wildlife biologists work to simplify and restructure regulations. In particular, a number of counties saw changes in harvest restrictions and season dates this fall. Following is an overview of those changes. For additional information, hunters are urged to review regulations in TPWD's Outdoor Annual available wherever licenses are sold.

**Elimination of Aggregate Bag Limits** — The department in 1989 implemented what is popularly referred to as the 'aggregate bag limit' rule, which designated a number of one-buck counties, primarily in the eastern third of the state, from which, in the aggregate a hunter could take no more than one buck. For example, if a hunter took a buck in Nacogdoches County (one-buck bag limit), that hunter could not

take another buck in any other county affected by the aggregate bag limit rule.

The department has eliminated the aggregate bag limit, meaning that a hunter could take the statewide personal bag limit of three bucks by taking one buck in each of three one-buck counties. A similar provision applies to counties with a two-buck bag limit. In other words, a hunter can now take two bucks in a two-buck county, and a third buck in a different two-buck county.

**Alteration of Doe Days** — Biologists are encouraging hunters to take does this fall due to population concerns in some areas and poor habitat conditions in others. Numerous counties saw shifts in the numbers of doe days offered this year and hunters are urged to check the Outdoor Annual.

**Buck Harvest Restrictions** — The new regulations create special buck deer harvest guidelines in Austin, Bastrop, Brazoria, Caldwell, Colorado, De Witt, Fayette, Fort Bend, Goliad, Gonzales, Guadalupe, Jackson, Kames, Lavaca, Lee, Matagorda, Victoria, Waller, Washington, Wilson, and Wharton counties. The new regulation implements a two-buck bag limit, one of which must have at least one un-

branched antler, and redefines a legal buck as a buck having an inside spread of 13 inches or greater or at least one unbranched antler. The six-points-or-better criterion in effect prior to this rulemaking is eliminated, as department data clearly indicate that the 13-inch-or-better standard is sufficient by itself to protect younger bucks.

While hunting prospects can vary from property to property, here's a brief overview of what to expect this season across the state:

**Panhandle:** "I think Panhandle hunters can anticipate a good to excellent season for both whitetails and mule deer," according to TPWD biologist Danny Swepston. "Even though we had some dry months during the middle of the summer the early spring rains got the animals off to a good start. Antler quality should be good and the majority of deer we have seen during surveys are in excellent body shape."

**North Texas:** "Overall range conditions are good but an unusually hot and dry September may help bring deer to feeders more consistently this fall," said Kevin Mote, TPWD biologist for the Possum Kingdom district. He went on to report that while most areas of the district are reporting average to above

## Visit the Eaton Hill Wildlife Sanctuary

Sonora is located in an area of the state where the Texas Hill Country meets the Chihuahuan desert, creating a diverse array of plant life and attracting a wide variety of birds, butterflies and wildlife. Eaton Hill Wildlife Sanctuary is a thirty five acre park offering 1.6 miles of hiking trails. Visitors can picnic at the top of the hill under the Magnificent American flag. The wildlife is a varied as the plant life and visitors may encounter anything from a white-tailed deer to a Texas horned lizard. A unique feature of Eaton Hill Wildlife Sanctuary is the rock art placed along the trails, identifying plants and marking wildlife sightings. Birders can enjoy the covered observation deck, several feeding stations and secluded areas for viewing a wide range of bird species. Check-off lists for birds and vegetables are also available.

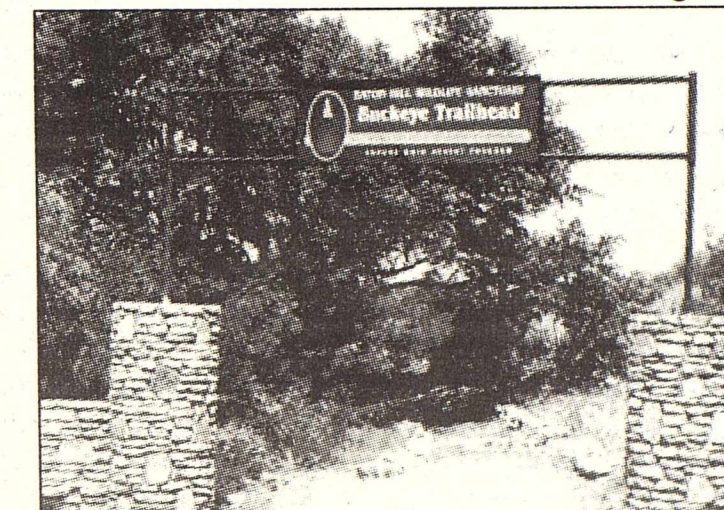
Eaton Hill Wildlife Sanctuary

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Eaton Hill Wildlife Sanctuary is a project of the Sonora Industrial Development Corporation and is free of charge. Local residents and clubs including the Boy Scouts of America and the Sutton County 4-H have volunteered in helping to create a unique and educational nature experience for visitors to Eaton Hill.

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The Buckeye Trailhead is one starting point to enjoy Eaton Hill and the wildlife sanctuary trails available in Sonora.

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# Processing Deer

Figure 1



Figure 2

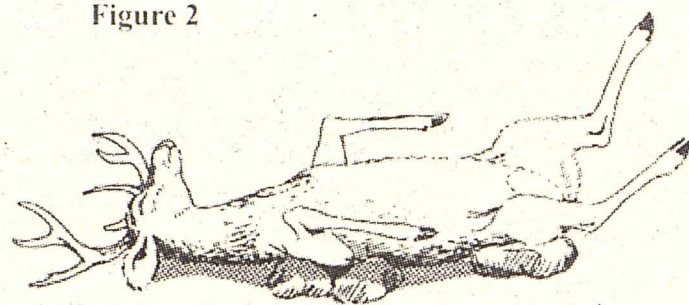


Figure 3



Figure 4

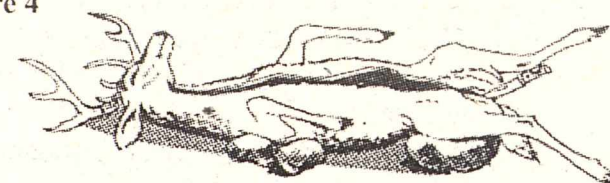
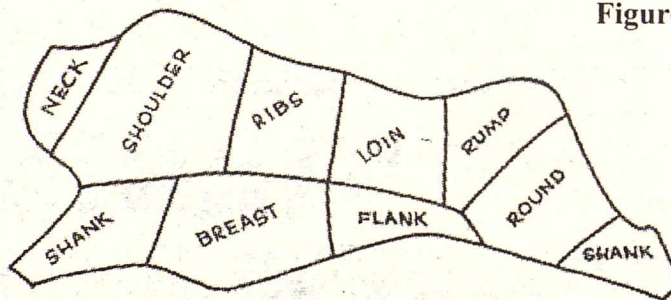


Figure 5



Figure 6



**Equipment:**

To assure easy handling of your deer, proper equipment should be knife; (2) a small hatchet; (3) 12 to 15 feet of light rope or nylon cord; wrap the carcass if the animal is killed in hot weather, thereby requiring bleeding.

After the animal is shot, approach with caution. Avoid standing near a deer with warmth in the carcass should be bled. Insert the hunting knife between the first two fingers with the blade pointed toward the tail. Cut sideways to sever veins. Thoroughly drain blood by elevating the rear portion of the deer.

**Dressing:**

The deer should be dressed promptly and carefully. Viscera is easier to remove if the deer is hanging by the head or lying on the back with rump downhill. If a tree is nearby, the animal may be hung, using a rope (Figure 1).

Remove sex organs first (Figure 2). Cut along the midline of the body from the breast to the rectum (Figure 3). Avoid puncturing paunch or intestines by holding them back with back of the hand and guiding the knife between the first two fingers with the cutting edge up. The pelvis should be split where the hind legs are joined by making a cut with the white membrane that separates the two rounds. At the pelvis fusion point it may be necessary to use the hatchet, particularly if the deer is older (Figure 4).

Cut around the rectum and remove all viscera (Figure 5). Save the liver, heart and tongue. Place these in plastic bags and cool.

Wipe out the body cavity with a clean cloth. It is best to use no water, since it may speed spoilage.

If a particular part is mutilated or bloody from the shot, it should be removed immediately and soaked in a weak salt solution (one-fourth pound salt to one gallon of water) for 24 to 48 hours. This will make the meat suitable for boiling or grinding. Badly mutilated parts may be used for dog food.

**Skinning:**

If the weather is warm, it is better to skin the deer in the field because the insulating affect of the skin hinders proper cooling. In this case skin the deer. It is usually easier to skin by hanging the deer from a tree. After skinning, sprinkle black pepper on the carcass and wrap in cheesecloth. Provide plenty of air circulation around the carcass to allow for cooling.

During cool weather it is preferable to leave the skin on the carcass. The skin will protect the carcass, keep the meat clean and prevent excessive shrinkage during aging. Some people prefer to have a locker skin, hang, cut, wrap and freeze the deer.

**Transporting:**

The carcass should not be placed over the hood of the car where it may be exposed to exhaust fumes or excessive heat. If the car has a luggage rack, this may be the preferable place for hauling the carcass. A clean trunk or truck bed is also acceptable.

**Hanging Cooling and Aging:**

It is important to remove the body heat from the animal as soon as possible. Aging carcasses at refrigerated temperatures for 10 to 14 days tenderizes the meat. Animals killed when temperatures are over 65 degrees Fahrenheit should be handled differently than those slaughtered at cold temperatures. At 65 degrees Fahrenheit, the carcass tenderizes much more quickly and requires less aging. Perhaps no further aging would be needed at this temperature. Care should be taken in warm temperatures to avoid spoilage of the meat and prevent loss of flavor. It is best to cool the meat as rapidly as possible.

Carcasses from animals shot in cold weather should be aged at 34 degrees Fahrenheit for about 14 days.

**Cutting-Up:**

Figure 6 shows the cuts to be made if you decide to cut the carcass yourself. Locker plants can do this professionally, usually at a moderate cost. They can also blend inferior cuts with pork to make a desirable sausage.

**Packaging and Freezing:**

Deer should be well-wrapped to avoid development of off-flavor in storage. Heavy duty aluminum foil is a good packaging material. Use a packaging material that is a good moisture and air barrier. Air and loss of moisture causes more rapid flavor deterioration.

Place meat in center of wrap. The drug store wrap is the preferred method of wrapping meat (Figures 7, 8 and 9). This method uses less wrapping material than the butcher wrap and provides a tighter, neater wrap.

**Fold wrap tightly against meat.**

Place the meat cut in the center of the wrapping material. It is convenient to place freezer paper, plastic wrap or foil between steaks to prevent them from sticking to each other. Two sheets between the steaks make them easier to separate. Put the opposite edges of the paper together and fold down against the meat to provide an air-tight seal. Fold the ends and press firmly against the package. Seal ends and seams with freezer tape.

The butcher wrap is faster, but not as air free as the drug store wrap. The meat is placed in the center of a square piece of freezer paper. Fold one corner over the meat. Then fold the two side corners over the meat. Roll over toward the remaining corner to provide a complete wrap around the meat.

**Tape ends to avoid air leaks and dehydration.**

Packages should be labeled to identify the contents as venison, the date, name and hunting permit number of the owner. Venison given to another person should have a statement attached indicating the person who harvested the deer, his hunting permit number, and the name of the person receiving the venison. Deer meat may be legally stored until June 1 following the hunting season. A cold storage permit tag should be attached to each package stored in a commercial locker. Storage permit tags are available at no cost from the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission. Venison will keep in satisfactory condition for this period at zero degrees Fahrenheit or lower. Ground deer meat should not be kept longer than 4 months in frozen storage.

# Hunting Success from previous page

average body weights and antler development, below average summer rain should be a signal for managers to take a few more mouths (deer and/or livestock) off early. Expectations remain high for a banner year due to good carry-over of older age class bucks from the last two seasons. Much of the district observed a light to moderate acorn crop, most of which has already hit the ground.

**East Texas:** In the aftermath of Hurricane Rita, several counties in the Pineywoods saw extensive tree damage, particularly mast-producing hardwoods. Although deer have been enjoying easy and early access to acorns, the impacts to available food sources in the future could be costly, according to reports from TPWD field biologist Bobby Eichler. "The range is in moderate condition after a drought for much of the year," he noted. "The southern end of the Pineywoods was hit hard and we lost a lot of oaks, which could pose a problem next year. It should be a pretty good hunting season because deer will come to feeders; antler quality should be good because prior to the drought deer had good food early on in the year."

Landowners with LAMPS antlerless deer permits are asked to be patient as

the office that coordinates this program was shut down due to the storm and relocated to the Old Sabine Bottom WMA near Tyler. They are currently working about two weeks behind schedule in preparing permits and cannot guarantee permits in time for hunting season for new applicants.

**South Texas:** Much of the southern portion of the state has suffered through an extended dry period, although recent rainfall may provide some relief going into the season. Jimmy Rutledge, TPWD biologist out of Carrizo Springs states South Texas has been blessed for the last 3 years of having abundant, timely rains and abnormally mild temperatures during this period; however South Texas was due for some below average rainfall and hot temperatures that characterize the region.

TPWD biologist Ty Bartoskewitz of Jim Hogg County states most deer hunters this fall should find average numbers of mature deer, although overall production this year was down. Antler development has been average with some exceptional animals being seen on most managed ranches, but biologists are not anticipating the numbers of Boone & Crockett record book qualifying deer they've seen in recent years. Body condition on most deer

looks to be good to excellent.

**Hill Country:** The central and eastern areas of the Hill Country saw extremely hot and dry conditions interspersed with short periods of good rainfall this past summer. Except for the western edge of the Hill Country, where rainfall has been more consistent and range conditions are noticeably better than average going into the fall, deer should be readily available during the upcoming hunting season, according to Max Traweek, TPWD biologist in Kerrville. "The very spotty, below average acorn crop that most areas are experiencing should also translate to good deer movement and availability this year," he notes. "Body condition will most likely be no better than average, again except for the far western sections that have remained green most of the summer. Since most of the Hill Country had good range conditions this past late winter and early spring, I would anticipate that antler quality will be at least average and maybe better than average on those ranges not obviously overpopulated with deer and other browsers. As is the case every year, we highly recommend that landowners and hunters harvest an adequate number of both bucks and does and not wait too late in the season to work seriously

on population control."

**Coastal Prairies:** Hunters may be somewhat disappointed with this year's hunting season due to the poor range conditions necessary for good antler production, according to TPWD biologist David Forrester. "Hunters should take this opportunity to improve the genetics of the herd through selective harvest," he urged. "Antlerless harvest will be very important this year for several reasons including improving the buck per doe ratio and keeping the deer population within the carrying capacity of the habitat. Because there were fewer bucks harvested last year, that should bode well for increased opportunity this year, as well as increased quality."

**Trans Pecos:** TPWD biologist Tim Bone reports Far West Texas is in good shape. "We've had above average rains over most of the district this year," he stated. "I am expecting an above average antler development year for both white-tailed deer and mule deer. Deer numbers should be up from last year in most areas. We had a good fawn crop last year, and I expect another good one this year."

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## Remember Hunter Ethics

Recreational hunting is under attack as never before. A principle target is the image of the "unethical hunter," a person without respect for wildlife, land, or other wildlife users. In response, a major Club intent under the "Fair Chase Code" is to advocate an ethic of respect in all hunters for wildlife, land, and other users of wildlife.

### FAIR CHASE STATEMENT

FAIR CHASE, as defined by the Boone and Crockett Club, is the ethical, sportsmanlike, and lawful pursuit and taking of any free-ranging wild, native North American big game animal in a manner that does not give the hunter an improper advantage over such animals.

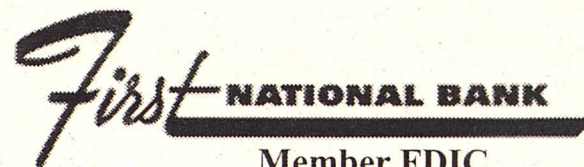
### HUNTER ETHICS

Fundamental to all hunting is the concept of conservation of natural resources. Hunting in today's world involves the regulated harvest of individual animals in a manner that conserves, protects, and perpetuates the hunted population. The hunter engages in a one-to-one relationship with the quarry and his or her hunting should be guided by a hierarchy of ethics related to hunting, which includes the following tenets:

1. Obey all applicable laws and regulations.
2. Respect the customs of the locale where the hunting occurs.
3. Exercise a personal code of behavior that reflects favorably on your abilities and sensibilities as a hunter.
4. Attain and maintain the skills necessary to make the kill as certain and quick as possible.
5. Behave in a way that will bring no dishonor to either the hunter, the hunted, or the environment.
6. Recognize that these tenets are intended to enhance the hunter's experience of the relationship between predator and prey, which is one of the most fundamental relationships of humans and their environment.

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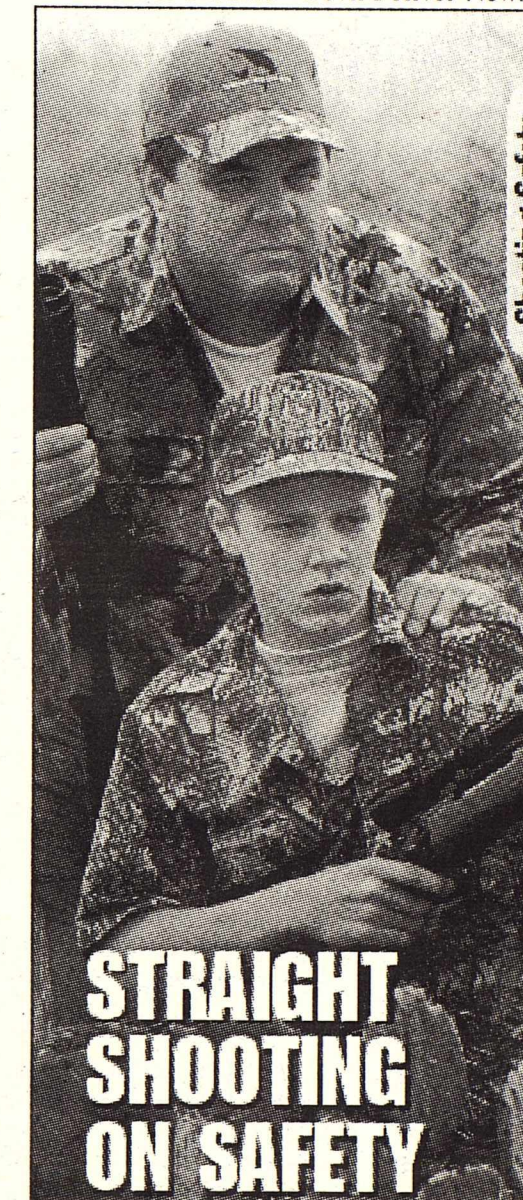
## Deer Picture Advice

For the ideal deer hunting pictures there are several things to keep in mind. First it is a recording of an event you are proud of and you may never get a chance to re-take the photo. Commit a few extra moments to make it a great deer hunting picture.

**Lighting** - Make sure there is plenty of light. Too many deer pictures are taken at the end of a hunting day with only the camera's flash as a light source. Get plenty of light on the subject. Most mule deer and whitetail deer blend in with their surroundings, so make sure the background doesn't blend in with your trophy.

Feature the deer first, then the hunter. Position the deer so your hands and arms of the hunter don't block the view of the deer. If you include the rifle or bow make sure they don't block the view of the deer. The best deer photos feature the deer!

You can add an interest to the deer hunting picture if you add related items to the picture. Include the deer hunting rifle or bow. Make sure there are elements in the picture of known sizes so one can see just how big your trophy deer is. When possible include a view of the hunt area in the background. These elements add interest and perspective to your deer picture.



Shooting Safety

Texas loves to hunt. Nature beckons. There's suspense and excitement and escape from the daily routine.

Here are the "ten commandments" of shooting safety.

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

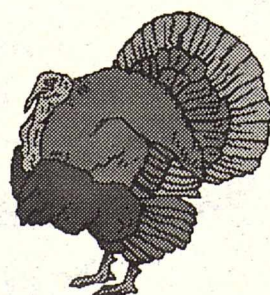
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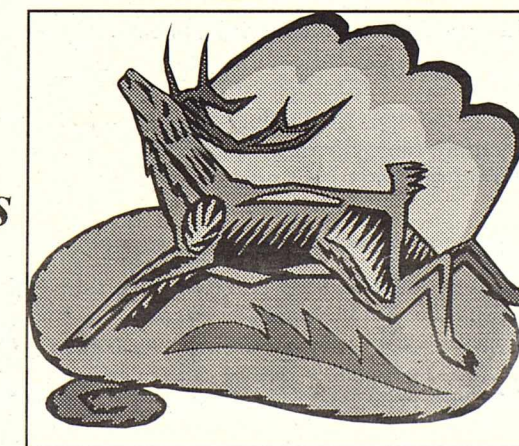
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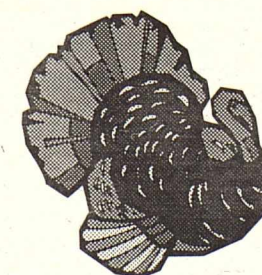
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## Boone and Crockett Club Whitetails - A Geographic Analysis

By Joel Helmer

### TOP TEN WHITETAIL STATES

STATE	# OF ENTRIES
1. IOWA	615
2. MINNESOTA	608
3. WISCONSIN	589
4. ILLINOIS	552
5. TEXAS	316
6. MISSOURI	285
7. KENTUCKY	279
8. KANSAS	255
9. OHIO	235
10. MICHIGAN	155

As a deer hunter, I read a lot about where to hunt big whitetail bucks. Over the years I've noticed that most articles on that topic are vague. Statements like, "Iowa is a great state for huge bucks" are common. I wanted to know which counties are breaking records, and why some counties produce more big deer than others. I also needed maps, since they are more useful and informative than lists. Dissatisfied with what I read, I decided to see if I could do better.

The first step was record book data from the Boone and Crockett Club. Jack Reneau, Director of Big Game Records, provided the information I needed and explained how it was organized. I assembled 5,568 whitetail entries spanning the years 1830-2001 (only two entries were included from 2001, and only 120 from 2000). I successfully entered 5,439 entries into a Geographic Information System (GIS) that allowed me to produce a variety of maps and analyze the data. I did not include 129 entries lacking county-specific information on where the deer was taken. The information and maps shown here are based on the 5,439 deer entered into the GIS.

I had initially planned to produce one map showing the distribution of all the entries, but I noticed that the distribution of entries had changed over time. I decided to divide the records book into two time spans, 1830-1979 and 1980-2001. The former provides a historical account of deer herds in the United States, while the latter gives hunters an up-to-date map on which areas are currently producing numerous B&C entries.

**1830-1979** - The 1,489 entries mapped from this early period comprise 27 percent of 5,439 total entries. Thirty-nine states and 663 counties appear, the top three states — Minnesota (315), Wisconsin (194), and Texas (157) — accounting for 45 percent of all entries during the period. Montana, Arkansas, and South Dakota popped up in the top 10, while states currently hailed as big buck meccas, such as Ohio, Illinois, and Kansas, recorded relatively few entries.

The most productive county during this period was northern Minnesota's St. Louis (39), followed by south Texas' Webb (27), and Minnesota's Itasca (20). The top 10 counties during this period are in Wisconsin, Minnesota and Texas.

The distribution of entries from 1830-1979 reflects the history of whitetail deer in the United States. During the late 1800s and early 1900s, whitetails were extremely rare in many states and had become extinct in some. Conversion of land for agriculture, deforestation, and unrestricted market hunting are some of the reasons for this decline. During this period, whitetails in agricultural states were especially vulnerable, as much of the land was cleared. Some deer herds did not return until recently. Ohio did not have a modern firearms season until 1943; and in Iowa's first modern deer season, in 1953, hunters took only 4,000 deer! Other states have similar histories, helping to explain the lack of entries during this time period. In contrast, whitetail deer survived in greater numbers in states with remote, forested areas. Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Maine are good examples — so too areas like south Texas, the Rocky Mountain Range, and the Mississippi Delta region.

One interesting place is the Driftless Area of west-central Wisconsin and southeastern Minnesota. This region was not glaciated during the last ice age. Its landscape of forested hills provided food and cover, where deer survived and where they still grow big. Buffalo Wisconsin is in this region, and stands as the all-time most-productive county with 62 entries.

**1980-2001** - During the last two decades, the range and total population of the whitetail has expanded immensely, with managers now working to either stabilize deer populations or reduce them. With increasing numbers of deer came more interest in trophy-class deer. The 3,950 entries (74 percent of the record book total) come from 41 states and 1,254 counties. Incredibly, the years 1990-2001 account for 2,811 or 52 percent of the record book entries during this period.

Distribution has shifted to include the mid-western states, where deer herds are growing, aided by excellent habitat. The top 10 states are IL (509), IA (507), WI (395), MN (293), MO (244), KY (242), KS (235), OH (199), TX (159), and IN (138). The map shows the dominance of Midwestern states during the last 20 years, especially the last decade. States and counties that yielded many entries during the previous period have, by and large, continued to produce; but they account for a smaller percentage of entries.

The top 50 counties are distributed in the following states: IA (17), IL (11), WI (6), KY (4), MN (4), TX (4), ME (2), MI (1), and MT (1). Twenty-eight of the top 50 counties come from Iowa and Illinois, which is why these states attract hunters. For some

states, the last 20 years account for nearly all of their entries. For example, Kansas recorded 235 Awards Book entries during this period, and 255 All-time entries, while Kentucky had 242 and 279, respectively.

**1830-2001** - Mapping all 5,439 entries gave me a print similar to the 1980-2001 map, since the vast majority of trophies come from that period. Forty-two states and 1,443 counties produced entries, with most coming from the top 10 states: IA (615), MN (608), WI (589), IL (552), TX (316), MO (285), KY (279), KS (255), OH (235), and MI (155). These 10 states accounted for 3,880 entries, or 72 percent of the record book. The all-time best counties are Buffalo, WI, and St. Louis, MN with both recording 62 entries. The top 50 counties are distributed in the following states: IA (13), MN (12), WI (10), IL (8), TX (5), ME (1), and MT (1).

#### Why do some counties produce so many entries?

Answering this question is difficult since so many natural and man-made factors come to bear. Still, the relationship between record book entries and river systems is plainly evident throughout the country, especially in heavily farmed states. For example, in Iowa the best deer counties are not the most heavily farmed, but tend to have a mixture of farmland and forest cover associated with river bottoms. Counties bordering the Missouri, Mississippi and Des Moines Rivers account for the majority of entries from Iowa. This pattern is evident in nearly all states, especially along the Mississippi, Ohio, and Missouri River systems.

The relationship between deer densities and number of entries is also interesting. States with high deer densities and long firearms seasons with liberal bag limits produce, on balance, fewer entries. States with lower deer densities, shorter gun seasons, and more restrictive buck harvests tend to produce more entries. A good comparison is between Ohio, which averages around 10 deer per square mile, and Mississippi, which averages more than 30.

Perhaps the most interesting pattern is the impact state management practices can have on entries. In Kansas, modern rifle season takes place after the rut, while in Oklahoma it generally falls during the peak of the rut. Also, the black powder season in Kansas is in mid-September, when the trees still wear leaves and temperatures are high. In contrast, Oklahoma's black powder season occurs in late October and early November, when temperatures are cool, bucks are starting to rut, and the leaves are falling. Since the majority of bucks killed are taken during gun seasons, timing those seasons so bucks are less vulnerable gives the animals time to mature. Similar differences are apparent between seasons and the number of big-buck entries from Iowa and Missouri, Ohio and West Virginia, and Nebraska and Kansas.

## Rise and Set for the Sun for 2005 • Sutton County

		SONORA, TEXAS		Astronomical Applications Dept.		Location: W100 38, N30 34		Central Standard Time				
Day	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set
	h m	h m	h m	h m	h m	h m	h m	h m	h m	h m	h m	h m
01	0740	1753	0734	1819	0709	1841	0631	1902	0559	1921	0541	1941
02	0740	1754	0733	1820	0707	1842	0630	1902	0558	1922	0540	1941
03	0740	1754	0732	1821	0706	1843	0629	1903	0557	1922	0540	1942
04	0740	1755	0732	1822	0705	1844	0628	1904	0556	1923	0540	1942
05	0741	1756	0731	1823	0704	1844	0627	1904	0555	1924	0540	1943
06	0741	1757	0730	1823	0703	1845	0625	1905	0554	1924	0540	1943
07	0741	1758	0730	1824	0702	1846	0624	1905	0554	1925	0540	1943
08	0741	1758	0729	1825	0701	1846	0623	1906	0553	1926	0540	1944
09	0741	1759	0728	1826	0659	1847	0622	1907	0552	1926	0540	1944
10	0741	1800	0727	1827	0658	1848	0621	1907	0551	1927	0539	1945
11	0741	1801	0726	1828	0657	1848	0619	1908	0551	1928	0539	1945
12	0741	1802	0725	1828	0656	1849	0618	1909	0550	1928	0540	1946
13	0741	1802	0725	1829	0655	1850	0617	1909	0549	1929	0540	1946
14	0741	1803	0724	1830	0653	1850	0616	1910	0549	1930	0540	1946
15	0740	1804	0723	1831	0652	1851	0615	1911	0548	1930	0540	1947
16	0740	1805	0722	1832	0651	1852	0614	1911	0547	1931	0540	1947
17	0740	1806	0721	1832	0650	1852	0613	1912	0547	1932	0540	1947
18	0740	1807	0720	1833	0649	1853	0612	1912	0546	1932	0540	1947
19	0739	1808	0719	1834	0647	1854	0611	1913	0546	1933	0540	1948
20	0739	1809	0718	1835	0646	1854	0609	1914	0545	1933	0540	1948
21	0739	1809	0717	1836	0645	1855	0608	1914	0545	1934	0541	1948
22	0739	1810	0716	1836	0644	1855	0607	1915	0544	1935	0541	1948
23	0738	1811	0715	1837	0642	1856	0606	1916	0544	1935	0541	1949
24	0738	1812	0714	1838	0641	1857	0605	1916	0543	1936	0541	1949
25	0737	1813	0713	1839	0640	1857	0604	1917	0543	1937	0542	1949
26	0737	1814	0712	1839	0639	1858	0603	1918	0542	1937	0542	1949
27	0736	1815	0711	1840	0638	1859	0602	1918	0542	1938	0542	1949
28	0736	1816	0710	1841	0636	1859	0601	1919	0542	1938	0543	1949
29	0735	1817			0635	1900	0600	1920	0541	1939	0543	1949
30	0735	1817			0634	1900	0600	1920	0541	1939	0543	1949
31	0734	1818			0633	1901			0541	1940	0600	1937

Add one hour for daylight time, if and when in use.

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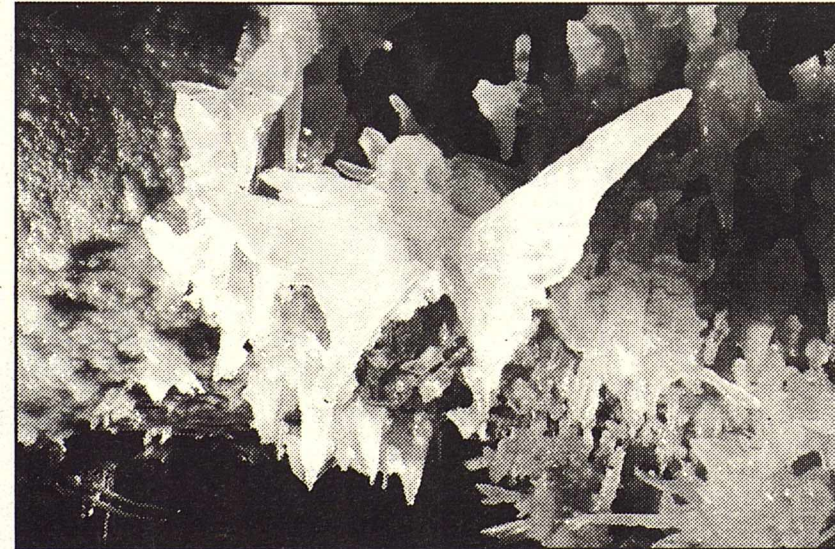
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# What is The Rut?

By T.R. Michels, Trinity Mountain Outdoors

Scientifically speaking the term The Rut refers to the time-frame when a male deer (of any species) is capable of breeding, which is generally accepted as from the time when a male sheds the velvet on its antlers in late summer or early fall, to the time it drops its antlers in winter or early spring; or as the time from when the first female comes into estrous, to the time when most of the females no longer come into estrous. In tropical areas some deer species may have males in hard antler, and be capable of breeding, throughout the entire year, because the females are capable of breeding throughout the year. In North America the white-tailed deer rut does not usually begin before August, nor does it last longer than late February or early March. The rut is generally divided into several different phases, which coincide with particular activities of the breeding season. In white-tailed deer these activities include rubbing, scraping and breeding, each of which has one or more peaks throughout the breeding season.

Unfortunately, the terms The Rut, Peak Rut and Peak of the Rut are often used interchangeably by both outdoor writers/speakers/authors and hunters. The truth of the matter is the term The Rut applies to the entire length of the breeding season, and the terms Peak Rut and Peak of the Rut apply only to the one-week time-frame when peak breeding actually oc-

curs. Several different studies show that rarely are more than 30 percent of the does in any area bred during any one week. So, the majority of the does (over 50 percent) are probably bred over a three to four week time frame; this is a much longer rut than many hunters realize.

Generally speaking the farther south the deer are, the earlier they can begin to breed and the later they can continue to breed, because the warmer climate allows the fawns to be born and survive throughout most of the year. Therefore, southern deer often have medium to long breeding season lengths, but the deer may not have noticeable peaks in breeding activity, because very few does are in estrous during the same weeks; and the bucks are not extremely active as they search for, chase, tend and breed the few does that are in estrous. Since there may not be a lot of does in estrous at the same time, the bucks can breed at their leisure, which results in much of the searching, chasing, tending and actual breeding occurring during the night. Consequently this may lead to very few actual fights for breeding rights. The result is there is often not a noticeable rut.

In contrast the farther north the deer are, the later they begin to breed, and they can't continue to breed for very long, because fawns born too late the next year would not survive the fall and winter. Therefore, northern deer generally begin breeding later than southern deer, and

they have shorter breeding seasons, but often with very noticeable peak breeding activity, because a large of number does are in estrous within the same few weeks, and the bucks are actively searching, chasing, tending and breeding does, even during daylight hours. This may lead to frequent fights for breeding rights. This often leads to a very noticeable rut.

The rut phases also do not coincide with particular months, because in many cases the different phases or activities of the rut, such as rubbing, scraping and breeding, overlap each other, and the different rut phases may begin during one month, and continue into the next month. But, generally speaking (which is all that these differences in the breeding seasons of white-tailed deer will allow me), we can say that particular breeding-related activities occur during particular months of the year. This is particularly true for deer above the 40th parallel. For instance, in the northern states and Canada, rubbing and scraping generally begins from the end of August to the first part of September. And peak breeding in most of these same areas occurs in November, often in mid-November.

This article is an excerpt from the book *Hunting The Whitetail Rut Phases*, by T.R. Michels available in the Trinity Mountain Outdoor Products catalog.

# Wild Turkeys from page 14

habitat, Merriam's turkeys often roost in the same trees on a regular basis.

### Vision

Vision scientist, Dr. Jay Neitz believes that birds see in trichromatic color like humans, and that many birds actually see four colors. He also believes that some birds see ultraviolet light as a different color than any of the three primary colors of red, yellow and blue seen by humans. Birds detect ultraviolet light in low light conditions that humans can't, especially birds that are night predators.

Because turkeys are a prey species their eyes are located on the sides of their heads, giving them a wide field of vision. But, because of their wide spaced eyes, turkeys sacrifice depth perception; they see very little in front of them with both eyes at the same time. As turkeys walk, their heads move back and forth, giving them two different angles of an object, which helps them determine the distance of the object. Because of their poor depth perception, turkeys have difficulty determining the relative size of objects.

### Hearing

Birds ears are also located on the sides of their heads, and because they have no outer ear with a cup to enhance

sounds all the way around them. Sound received by one ear but not by the other ear helps the birds determine which direction the sounds come from, but not the distance of the sound. Loud sounds generally come from closer range than quieter sounds, and cause turkeys to become alert.

This makes it clear why prey species with widely spaced eyes and ears give an alarm signal first, often try to verify the danger with both their eyes and ears, and then flee. If they don't know which direction the danger came from they need to verify the danger, and direction, before fleeing; or they may actually flee into, rather than away from danger.

### Smell

Mammalian prey species (deer, elk, sheep, etc.) that have a highly developed sense of smell can determine the direction of danger by scent and wind direction. They generally flee down or crosswind, knowing they are fleeing away from danger, not toward it. Because birds have a poor sense of smell they need to rely heavily on both their eyes and ears to determine the direction of danger before they flee from it.

### Sign

Turkeys leave a variety of signs

their tracks are usually the most evident sign. Adult turkey tracks range from 2-3 inches in length, hens up to 2 1/8 inches and toms 2 1/4 inches and longer. Mature toms leave a wider and deeper middle toe imprint, often with the scales of the toes showing. Turkey droppings can be found under roosts, in feeding areas and along travel routes. Hen droppings are pencil size or larger, and bulbous or spiral in shape; tom droppings are straight or "J" shaped. Piles of droppings under large trees

indicate roost sites. Dropped feathers, wing scrapes in strutting areas and the shallow depressions of dusting bowls are all evidence of turkeys use. V shaped scrapes in dirt or leaf-litter is evidence of feeding turkeys.

If you are interested in more turkey hunting tips, or more turkey biology and behavior, click on Trinity Mountain Outdoor News and T.R.'s Hunting Tips at [www.TRMichels.com](http://www.TRMichels.com). If you have questions about turkey log on to the T.R.'s Tips message board.



Dennis Walker (Lake Charles, LA), Roger Tucker (Phenix, VA)

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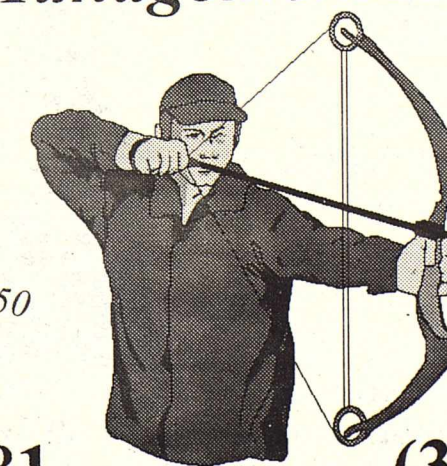
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# Introduction to Wild Turkeys

By T.R. Michels, Trinity Mountain Outdoors

Family: Phasianidae  
Genus: Meleagris  
Species: gallopavo

There were originally six subspecies of the Wild Turkey (Meleagris gallopavo) in North America and one related species, the Ocellated Turkey (Meleagris ocellata) in Central America. The originally discovered subspecies (M. gallopavo gallopavo) is now extinct due to hunting. Of the other five subspecies only the Gould's Turkey is in danger. It occurs in extreme southwest New Mexico, southeast Arizona and adjacent regions of Mexico. This subspecies is listed on the endangered species list and hunting is limited/prohibited in the United States.

### Subspecies Distribution

The Eastern Turkey (M. g. silvestris) is the most widely distributed subspecies and occurs east of the Missouri river to the eastern shore of the United States, in parts of Minnesota, the eastern third of Kansas and Oklahoma, eastern Texas and northern Florida. The Florida subspecies (M. g. osceola) occurs in the southern portion of Florida. The Rio Grande (M. g. intermedia) occurs mainly in the western

portions of Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas, with transplants in small portions of Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Utah and South Dakota. The Merriam's (M. g. merriami) occurs in South Dakota, and portions of most of the mountain states from Canada to Mexico. Hybrid or intergrade turkeys are found in areas where two or more subspecies occur; these birds may exhibit characteristics of one or the other subspecies, both subspecies or in between.

### Habitat

Generally speaking, the Eastern turkey is found in open, mixed hardwood and pine forests, the Osceola is found in the subtropical regions of Florida, the Rio Grande in scattered brush land of the southwest, and the Merriam's and Gould's in pine forests of the southwest. Turkeys prefer to roost in trees larger than the surrounding vegetation and will often choose roost sites on east facing slopes out of the prevailing winds. Because sight is a main means of defense against predators for turkeys, they use open fields and meadows as feeding and strutting sites, and wooded areas roosting sites. Strutting sites are often traditional, used year after year by successive birds.

### Forage

Turkeys eat a wide range of foods including succulent grasses and forbes, insects, leftover grains, fruits of the grape, cherry and black gum, seeds including mast crops of acorns, pine nuts and juniper (cedar) berries, and new growth agricultural crops. In the winter turkeys rely heavily on acorns and seeds; branch tips of brush and trees; leftover grain crops; and will feed heavily in fields where manure has been spread; at corn cribs and feedlots; and at silage piles. In the early spring turkeys often rely on leftover grain in agricultural fields. Once the weather warms and new green growth appears they will begin feeding in pastures, river and creek bottoms, and hayfields, where they eat green forage and search for insects. Hens often seek out sources of calcium (such as land snails) for egg production in the spring.

### Roosts

The availability and location of roosting sites is a determining factor in turkey use of the habitat. If few or no roosting sites are available turkeys may leave the area or not use it. They prefer to roost in heavy timber in ravines if possible; where they can be out of strong prevailing winds in winter, but they will roost in trees open to the

wind. Roost sites are often located over or near water in the south.

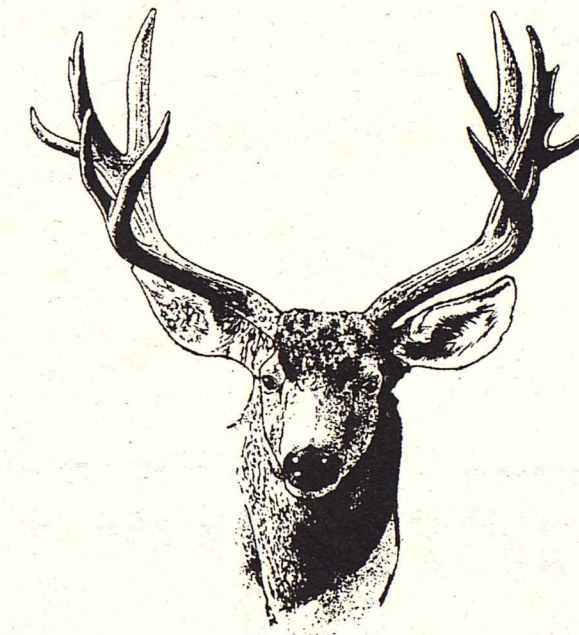
Scientific studies have shown that turkeys often roost on an east or south facing slope, about a third of the way down the slope where the winds are calm. East and south facing slopes also receive the earliest sunlight, allowing the birds to warm-up and be able to see early in the morning. In one study roost sites were often within one half mile of water, and five hundred yards of a meadow. This could be attributed to the fact that turkeys often feed before going to roost in the evening, and they don't travel far at dusk. The preferred roosts in the study were mature trees with open crowns giving the turkeys room to fly into the trees and move around. They also preferred trees with large horizontal limbs to roost on.

In western areas turkeys use fir, pine, spruce, cottonwood and large aspen trees as roosts. Eastern birds often choose pines, elm, maple, box elder, large oak, and cottonwood. Mature toms often choose pines because the pines can reduce wind speeds by 50-70 percent. Eastern turkeys generally have several roost sites in their home range, and they may use different sites on successive nights. In limited and poor

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## The Rut by Geographic Areas

Biologists have designed a study and have picked 16 "Rut" study areas which are typical of the different ecological regions. The areas represent north-south or east-west distinctions.

### Gulf Prairies and Marshes

The earliest whitetail breeding in the state occurred in this ecological region. Breeding occurred in the period August 24 to November 25. There were two study areas: the northern study area had a peak date of September 30, while the southern area was a month later with an October 31 peak breeding date. Does showed a 92 percent breeding success and 1.6 fetuses were found on the average for each doe sampled. The majority (90%) of the fawns would have been born by May 10 in the northern area and by June 6 in the southern area.

### Post Oak Savannah

The conception dates for does in this region ranged from September 30 to January 16 during the study period. Two study areas were used. The peak breeding dates for the central and southern portions were almost identical. The peak dates were November 10 and 11, respectively. Does showed a 92 percent breeding success and 1.7 fetuses were found on the average for each doe sampled. The study shows the majority (90%) of the fawns are born by June 17 in the central area and by June 26 in the southern area.

### Pineywoods

Most breeding activity happened from October 21 to January 5. Peak breeding dates were November 22 in the northern portion and November 12 in the southern part of the Pineywoods. Does showed a 96 percent pregnancy rate and averaged 1.7 fawns each. The majority (90%) of the fawns are born by June 29 in the northern area and by June 19 in the southern area.

### Rolling Plains

Most does were bred from October 8 to December 30 in the three years studied. Study areas showed a peak date of December 3 in the north and November 20 in the south.

The Rolling Plains had the highest incidence of pregnancy, with 97 percent. Biologists found an average of 1.7 fawns for each doe examined. The majority (90%) of the fawns are born by July 2 in the northern area and by June 26 in the southern area.

### Edwards Plateau

Conception dates for this region ranged from as early as October 9 to a late date of January 30. The Edwards Plateau, Texas' highest deer production region, was divided into three areas for the study. The eastern part had a peak breeding date of November 7. Peak breeding for the central portion was November 24, and the western area had a peak date of December 5. An average of 90 percent of the does were bred and the average number of fetuses found was 1.3 per doe. The majority (90%) of the fawns are born by June 14 in the eastern area, June 26 in the central area, and by July 13 in the western area.

### Cross Timbers

Representing the north-central part of the state, conception dates in the Cross Timbers and Prairies were as early as October 13 and extended to December 17. In the northern portion of the region the average breeding date was November 15. The average breeding date in the southern part was November 17. Biologists recorded an average of 1.7 fetuses per doe and 95 percent of the females had been successfully bred. The majority (90%) of the fawns are born by June 15 in the northern area and by June 20 in the southern area.

### Trans-Pecos

Conception dates in the Trans-Pecos ranged from as early as November 4 to as late as January 4 during the 3-year study. The peak date of the breeding season was December 8. This ecological region experienced drought conditions during the last two years of the study. The resulting poor



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nutrition was reflected in the observed reproductive rates. Only 81 percent of the does were pregnant and the average number of fetuses was a low 1.0 fetuses per doe. The majority (90%) of the fawns are born by July 16.

### South Texas Plains

South Texas had the latest rut in the state. Breeding dates ranged from November 9 to February 1 during the three years. In the eastern part of the area the peak breeding date was December 16, while in the west it was December 24. The pregnancy rate was 95 percent and there were 1.5 fetuses for each sampled doe. The majority (90%) of the fawns are born by July 19 in the eastern area and by July 25 in the western area.

## Sighting In Your Rifle

1. Check your gun to make sure it's in good, safe working order.
2. Make sure the ammunition you have is the correct cartridge for your gun. Use only the ammo your gun is marked for!
3. Find a safe place to shoot, such as a public shooting range or other location with a sufficient backstop and a guarantee that no one will cross your line of fire.
4. If you plan to do your shooting on private land, get permission. If on public land, check the laws governing it. Trespass with a firearm is a felony!
5. Start out at close range; around 25 yards for a rifle, 15 yards with a handgun.
6. Use a solid rest, and take your time. Before each shot, take a deep breath, let half of it out, then hold it.
7. Fire two or three shots and note their location on the target. If they are fairly close together, you're ready to adjust your sights. If they're not, then you're probably not resting steadily or are flinching.
8. Once you've shot a reasonably tight group (one or two inches with a rifle, two or three inches with a handgun), adjust your sights.
9. Move the rear sight in the direction you want the bullet to go. For example, if you're shooting low, raise the rear sight. If you're shooting left, move the rear sight to the right.
10. If you're using a scope, adjust the cross-hairs in the direction indicated on the scope. If you're shooting low and left, turn the screws "up" and "right" the respective number of clicks (see tip 2 below).
11. Shoot another group of two or three.
12. Re-adjust your sights depending on where you shot the group in step 11.
13. Repeat steps 11 & 12 until you're on target. For rifle shooting, you'll want to fine-tune the sights, usually at a distance of 100 yards. The point of impact will sometimes be noticeably different between 25 and 100 yards.

### Tips:

*ALWAYS keep guns pointed in a safe direction.*

*With a scope, the per-click graduation will usually be marked, i.e. 1/4" per click at 100 yards. Remember this will make it 1/8" at 50 yards, etc. Estimate the distance you're off and adjust accordingly.*

*Some "fixed" sights can be adjusted. If the rear sight is in a dovetail notch, you can drift it to correct for windage error. Do not hit it with a hammer! Use a brass drift and hammer or an adjusting tool, or if in doubt, have it done for you by a gunsmith.*



Big Bucks are found in Sutton County. Photo courtesy of Double D Ranch Dean Dermody • 325-387-3209/ Frank Davis • 325-396-2988

## Venison & Onions

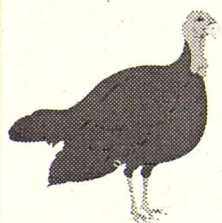
Ingredients	Cooking Instructions
1 cup of Italian dressing	Marinate the meat for about 24 hours then place it on the grill and add the slices of onion and garlic. Cook on each side adding the proper materials as needed. Cook till medium or how you like it and then enjoy.
1/2 cup soy sauce	
1 onion	
1 piece of garlic your favorite spices	
1/3 cup of A1 steak sauce	

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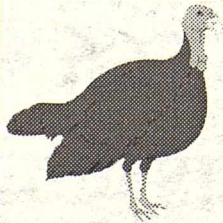
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