BSERVER/ NTERPRISE

Serving Coke County



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Vol. 124, No. 16

Friday, October 28, 2011

Jessop trial to begin Monday in Robert Lee

been able to watch the FLDS Courthouse for awhile. raid and the numerous trials Frederick Merril Jessop.

of the 12 year old girl Warren Jeffs was convicted of sexually assaulting this summer. He is accused of performing the unlawful wedding ceremony between his 12 year old daughter and Warren Jeffs in the group's compound on the YFZ Ranch Sheriff's Department and the near Eldorado in Schleicher County shortly before Jeffs' arrest in August 2006.

Walther granted Jessop's request for a change of venue from the Tom Green County Courthouse in early September and ordered the proceedings to be held in Coke County. During this previous hearing, Jessop's attorney Ray Leifeste stated that his client didn't believe there would be sexual conmarriage ceremony in question to a stage play.

Although there have been several trials previously resulting in convictions, the state must make an individual case against each of the accused FLDS men charged,

By Melinda McCutchen, opportunity for a thorough Publisher defense of the charges. In Over the last several years, essence, this trial could tie people in Coke County have up Coke County's

Coke County is not footing stemming from that raid at a the bill for this trial. distance. That will change However, Commissioners Monday morning, October Court decided Monday to 31, 2011, when the Coke spend almost \$4,000 to pre-County citizens summoned to pare the courthouse prior to be prospective jurors report the start of the trial. Citizens to the Courthouse in Robert having business in the court-Lee for the jury selection house will be inconvenienced phase of the State's trial of during the trial due to the fact that the doors leading to Merril Jessop is the father the parking lot will be locked. Only the front door will be open and security checks will be in place.

According to Coke County Sheriff Wayne McCutchen, "DPS will handle security outside and in the parking lot, while Schleicher County Coke County Sheriff's Department will handle security inside the courthouse." 51st Disrict Judge Barbara A meeting is set for this Thursday between these agencies and representatives from the Texas Attorney General's office to finalize security arrangements.

Three hundred jury summons were sent out. County/District Clerk Mary Grim is expecting approximately 100 prospective jurors on Monday. If you were one tact between his daughter of those who received a jury and Jeffs following the wed- summons for this trial and ding. Leifeste compared the didn't meet exemption requirements, you will need be in the District Courtroom no later than 10 Monday morning. Prospective jurors are reminded that security clearance and sign-in is likely to take some time, so early arriand each defendant is due the val is advised. Proper attire



FLDS Trial Comes to Coke County! Frederick Merril Jessop (left) walks with his attorney Ray Leifeste. Jessop is accused of performing the illegal marriage ceremony of his 12 year old daughter to Warren Jeffs in 2006. (Photo Courtesy of The Eldorado Success)

is required for jurors.

If you are voting early or have any business at the courthouse during this trial, leave your cellphone in your vehicle or at home. They will not be allowed in the courthouse at all during the

Special elections to be held in Bronte and Robert Lee

On November 8, Bronte and Robert Lee will each hold a special election to authorize the use of 1/2 cent sales tax funds for water projects. The wording on the ballot will be as follows:

"The use of Type B sales and use tax proceeds for infrastructure relating to water supply facilities, dams, transmission lines, well field developments, other watersupply alternatives, water conservation programs, brush control programs, and programs to replace malfunctioning or leaking water lines."

There will be no increase in the sales tax rate. This will not affect either city's property tax rate.

Early voting is now taking place and will continue through November 4, 2011.

More information is available at Robert Lee City Hall and Bronte City Hall.

Desserts needed for Bronte Barbecue

The annual Hunter's Wild Game Barbecue in Bronte will be held Saturday, November 5, from 11 am until 2 pm.

Coordinator Kerry Hall would like to make an appeal will be hosting 18-hole 2to area cooks to provide a person scrambles on dessert for the benefit barbecue. If you would like to donate a dessert, please call Kerry Hall at 473-2065.

Bronte Health & Rehab to host Trick or Treaters

The Bronte Health and Rehab Center will host Halloween Trick or Treaters Hat Society) will meet at 11 Monday, October 31, from 5 to 6 pm at the facility. All the Sorosis Club Potato Bake area children are welcome to at First Baptist Church in

Potato Bake Luncheon set for November 8th

The Sorosis Study Club will hold its fourth annual potato bake luncheon Tuesday, November 8, at First Baptist Church fellowship hall. The luncheon will be from 11 am until 1 pm.

All money raised from the event will go into the club's high school scholarship fund.

Tickets may be purchased ahead from any club member or at the door. Take-out containers will be available.

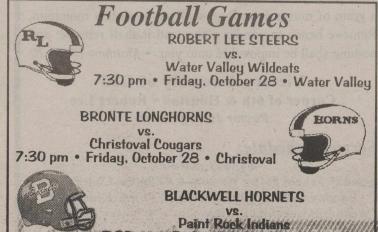
Longhorn Golf Club scrambles slated

The Longhorn Golf Club Saturday, November 5, and Saturday, December 3. Both will begin at 9 am at the golf course in Bronte.

For more information, call 473-2156.

Red Hat Society to meet November 8

The Red Hat Mamas (Red am Tuesday, November 8, for Bronte. There will be a few long tables set up for us Red Hatters. You will get a baked potato, butter, sour cream, cheese, and a selection of delicious salads and desserts, all for a reasonable cost. Money raised from the luncheon will go to the Sorosis club's high school scholarship fun.



7:30 pm • Friday, October 28 • Paint Rock

THE OBSERVER/ENTERPRISE

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email: o-e@wcc.net

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SUBSCRIPTION RATES

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Obituaries



Sanchez

Angelina Gerreo Sanchez, 84, went to be with her Lord and Saviour on Monday, October 24, 2011. Visitation was all day Wednesday, October 26, 2011, at the funeral home with the family present from 6 pm to 8 pm. Funeral service was held at 2 pm Thursday, October 27, 2011, at the First Baptist Church of Bronte with Rev. Morris Johnson and Rev. Corey Cornutt officiating. Interment followed in Cemetery. Fairview Pallbearers were Steven Casares, David Casares, Daniel Casares, Jeremy Sanchez, Ricardo Sanchez, and Luis Fuentez. Ray Barnett was an honorary pallbearer. Services were under the direction of Shaffer Funeral Home.

Angelina was born on July 13, 1927, to Miguel and Juanita Gutierrez in Ft. Chadbourne, Texas. She was a life-long resident of Coke County. In 1941, she met and married the love of her life, David Sanchez. She was very devoted to her husband and her family and she was their rock.

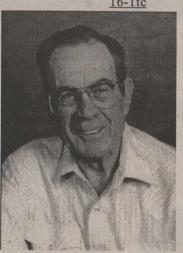
Angelina had a great love for the residents of Bronte. They were her friends and she loved each of them dearly. In her later years, she worked at the Bronte Nursing Home lovingly doing the laundry for the residents there. Her presence will be greatly missed by those whose lives she touched.

She was preceded in death by her husband in 1972; one son, Johnny Sanchez; one sister, Margie Montez; one daughter, Rosa Fuentez; and two grandsons, Nicholas

They but william but all

Casares and Michael Sanchez. Angelina is survived by her sons, Lupe Sanchez, Willie Sanchez; her daughter, Lidia Casares all of Bronte; her brother, Mike Gutierrez of Cleburne, Texas; 28 grandchildren; 62 great-grandchildren; and 12 great-greatgrandchildren.

16-1tc



Richards

Services for C. G. Richards, 82, of Brownfield was held at 10 am Wednesday, October 26, 2011, at Resthaven's Abbey Chapel with Brother Interment followed in Morton Memorial Park, Morton, Texas.

A visitation was held from 6 to 8 pm, Tuesday, October 25, 2011, at Resthaven Funeral Home.

He peacefully passed away. October 22, 2011, at his home in Brownfield.

C. G. was born to Chester Lee and Ida Izola (Brashear) Richards on April 19, 1929, in Hockley County.

He rode back to Cochran County the next day in a wagon pulled by team of horses. He remembered his childhood on the Masten Ranch and on the farm fondly and spoke of it often to family and friends. C. G. married the love of his life, Bertie Ruth West, November 27, 1948, in Morton where they raised their four children

He owned and operated a water well service and was well respected for his work. He also worked as a ginner in the fall. In 1973, C. G. fulfilled his life time dream of becoming Sheriff of Cochran County; he served three terms before retiring and moving to Robert Lee. In recent years, he moved to Brownfield to be closer to family. C. G. was loved and cherished by his children and grandchildren and every memory is as dear and beloved as he was. He was a steady beacon of strength, calm, and love for his family.

C. G. was preceded in death by his parents, wife, Bertie on October 21, 1971, sisters, Juanita Newman and Corene Self, and by a Darryl Bales officiating. brother, R. B. Richards.

Arkansas, Verna Whittington in Robert Lee, Texas. and husband, Jim of Martin of Big Spring, broth- where ers; Louie Richards of bookkeeping. Seminole, Oklahoma, Donnie grandchildren.

pall bearers.

Condolences may be offered In her spare time she home.com.

16-1tc Higginbotham

for Augusta L. Higginbotham, 1951, in Chickasha. 96, of Robert Lee, Texas, for-Oklahoma.

Augusta L. Higginbotham was born and Della Cogan; and two

Those left to honor and November 19, 1914, in Union cherish his memory are his Hill, Oklahoma, the daughter children; Clara Bales and hus- of Dan R. Allen and Vicie band, Donald of Midland, Franks Allen. She died Jackie Richards of Greenland, Saturday, October 22, 2011,

Augusta grew up in the Fayetteville, Arkansas, and Chickasha area graduating Gerald Richards and wife, from Chickasha High School Jaquita of Brownfield, sisters; in 1932. Later, she went on Exa Weber of Hereford, Billie to Hills Business College she

She was a member of the Richards of Wolfforth, grand- Rebecca Lodge and also children; Darryl Bales, Mark served in the Cradle Role Bales, Marshall Bales, Department at First Baptist Michael Bradley, Amber Church in Chickasha. Later Wilson, Jason Richards, Sarah she was employed at Sears Richards and 11 great- and Roebuck in Odessa, Texas, and was a member of C. G.'s greatest treasure, his the Robert Lee Baptist grandchildren, will serve as Church where she was in the T.E.L. class.

> www.resthavenfuneral enjoyed playing bingo, spending time with her family and cooking large meals.

She married James Graveside funeral services Higginbotham on August 17,

She was preceded in death merly of Chickasha, by both parents; husband Oklahoma, were held James; two brothers and Tuesday, October 25, 2011, at sisters-in-law, Dan and Vera 10:30 am in the Rose Hill Allen and Chester and Nelly Cemetery in Chickasha, Allen; three sisters and two brothers-in-law, Alice Allen, Allen A.O. and Edna Hill, and Bill

Area Churches Invite You to Worship

BronteBronte Church of Christ PO Box 346 • 118 S. Jefferson • Bronte (325) 473-3291 Preacher John V. Driggers Sun. 10 am & 6 pm, Wed. 7 pm Central Baptist Church 324 S. Franklin • Bronte (325) 473-4811 Dale Patterson, Pastor Sun. 10 am Sunday School 11 am & 6 pm Worship

Wed. 6 pm First Baptist Church 424 S. Washington • Bronte (325) 473-2331 Bro. Corey Cornutt, Pastor Sunday 9:45 am Sunday School, 10:55 am Worship, 5 pm Worship 6 pm Youth Wednesday 7 pm Prayer Meeting First United Methodist Church Corner of Washington & Holmes (325) 473-3281

Rev. Matt Pennington, Pastor Sun. 9:30 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship Forgiven Ministries 117 W. Main, Bronte Russ Frasier, Pastor Sun. 10 am St. James Catholic Church 215 N. Washington, Bronte (325) 365-2687 Rev. Hubert Wade, Jr., Pastor

Sun. 5 pm

Coke County Pecan Baptist
PO Box 542 •12 miles West of Robert Lee on Sterling City Hwy (325) 453-2482 www.pecanbaptist.org Sun. 10 am, Sunday School 11 am & 7 pm, Worship

Robert Lee Emmanuel Pentecostal PO Box 683 • 1019 Colorado City Hwy (325) 453-2360 Rev. Ray Aldridge, Pastor Sun. 10 am & 6 pm, Wed. 7 pm

First United Methodist Church PO Box 144 9th & Chadbourne Robert Lee • (325) 453-2417 Steve Peyton, Pastor Sun. 10 am Sunday School

11 am Worship 5:00 pm Choir Practice Iglesia Bautista Bethel 101 Houston • Robert Lee Sun. 10 am • Worship 11 am & 6 pm • Service

Wed. 7 pm
Southside Church of Christ
PO Box 698 • 8th & Houston
Robert Lee (325) 453-2176 Jordan Arnold, Preacher Sun. 10 am, Sunday School 11 am & 6 pm, Worship Wed. 6 pm, Worship

Northside Church of Christ PO Box 508 9th & Chadbourne • Robert Lee (325) 655-9784 or 453-2685 Services: Sun. 10 am & 1:30 pm; Wed. 6 pm

Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church 601 W. 10th, Robert Lee (325) 365-2687 Rev. Hubert Wade, Jr., Pastor Sat. 6 pm Robert Lee Baptist Church PO Box 493 •22 W. 11th (325) 453-2724 Danny White, Pastor Sun. 9:45 am, Sunday School

11 am & 7 pm, Worship Wed. 7 pm, Prayer Meeting Victory Assembly of God PO Box 638 6th & Houston, Robert Lee (325) 453-2208 Rev. Irving Smith, Pastor Sun. 9:45 am, Sunday School 10:45 am & 6 pm, Worship Wed. 6 pm, Bible Study

Tennyson
Tennyson Baptist Church
Hwy 277 • Tennyson
(325) 473-2040 Sun. 9:45 am, Sunday School 11:00 am & 6 pm, Worship

Wed. 6:00 pm Prayer Meeting

Come as you are...



Sunday Mornings • 10 am Bible Study • Tuesday 7 pm Romans • Pot Luck Dinner at 6 pm



FORGIVEN MINISTRIES

Downtown Bronte • Across from Grocery Store Russ Frasier, Preacher

DOUBT AND UNBELIEF

And he could there do no mighty work, save that he laid his hands upon a few sick fold, and healed them. And he marveled because of their unbelief. And he went round about the villages, teaching. • Mark 6:5-6

He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief: but was strong in faith, giving glory to God. • Romans

Well; because of unbelief they were broken off, and thou standest by faith. Be not high-minded, but fear. • Romans 11:20

Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God. Hebrews 3:12

And he did not mighty work there because of their unbelief. • Matthew 13:58

And Jesus rebuked the Devil: And he departed out of him; and the child was cured from that very hour. Then came the disciples to Jesus apart, and said, Why could not we cast him out? And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief; for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you. • Matthew 17:18-20

> Victory Assembly of God Corner of 6th & Houston · Robert Lee Pastor Irving Smith

Service Schedule:

Sunday morning

Sunday School 9:45 • Worship & Childrens Church 10:45 Sunday evening: Bible Study & Power Kids 6 pm Wednesday evening: Bible Study & Power Kids 6 pm

Johnetta and Don Lawrence gloves of Robert Lee; granddaughter Dana Rose of Midland, Texas; three grandsons and spouses, Lonnie and Janet pavement when I'm tired Lawrence of Odessa, Texas, Lynn and Tammy Lawrence also of Odessa, Texas and Jonny and Myrna Miles of Midland, Texas; seven greatgrandchildren; six greatgreat grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

The family would like to thank the staff at Robert Lee Care Center and Vista Care for their support throughout the years.

Services were under the sausages at a go direction of Ferguson Funeral Home, Chickasha, for a week Oklahoma.

16-1tc

Emergency Alert test slated for Nov. 9

The first nationwide test of the Emergency Alert System, or EAS, will be held at 1 pm local time Wednesday, November 9, 2011. The purpose of this test is to assess the reliability and effectiveness of the system in alerting the public.

The test will involve the following communications service providers: broadcast radio and television, cable television, satellite radio and television and wireline video services.

www.fcc.gov/encyclopedia/e mergency-alert-system-eas.

4-H Fundraiser underway

The Coke County 4-H clubs are participating in their annual fundraiser. 4-H members from Bronte and Robert Lee are now selling Radde Knives and Gifts. Anyone who would like to place an order should contact any 4-H member in Robert Lee or Bronte. Deadline for orders is Monday, November 21, which will ensure that orders will be delivered in time to use as Christmas gifts. So make sure and get those orders in.

If you need more information, please contact the AgriLife Extension office at 453-2461.

... Red Hat

(Continued from page 1)

You are welcome to join this group where there is fun after fifty (and before) for women of all walks of life.

Don't forget to VOTE!

the poem below.

Warning

When I am an old woman I shall wear purple

With a red hat which does-

And I shall spend my pen-Survivors include daughter sion on brandy and summer

> And satin sandals, and say we've no money for butter.

I shall sit down on the

And gobble up samples in shops and press alarm bells

And run my stick along the

And make up for the sobriety of my youth.

I shall go out in my slippers in the rain

And pick flowers in other people's gardens

And learn to spit.

public railings

You can wear terrible shirts and grow more fat

And eat three pounds of

Or only bread and pickle

And hoard pens and pencils and beermats and things in boxes.

But now we must have clothes that keep us dry

And pay our rent and not swear in the street

And set a good example for the children.

We must have friends to dinner and read the papers.

But maybe I ought to practice a little now?

So people who know me are not too shocked and surprised When suddenly I am old, and start to wear purple.

Euterpean Club of Blackwell update

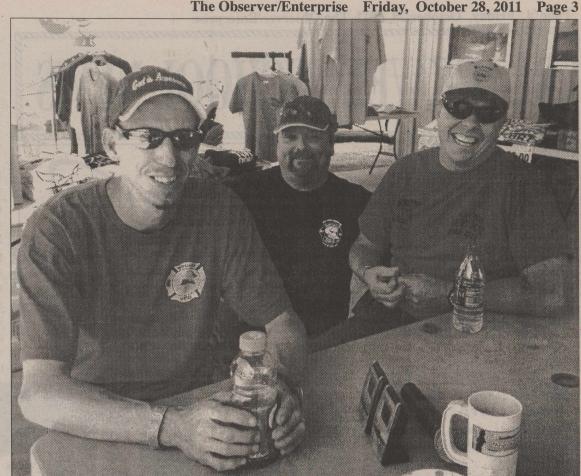
For more information, visit Backwell met Oct. 18th in residents total in the Care the Methodist Fellowship Hall with Rosie Ten Eyck gifts as she was the birthday girl of the month.

> The program was decorating pumpkins for Halloween. The pumpkins were donated by Heather changes to the website Sanderson as a wealth of Halloween decorations to choose from. The pumpkins were taken home by the members.

In keeping with the theme, the hostess served delightful array of assorted dishes which were enjoyed by Jan Hall, Sue Hunt, Shirley Lemley, Janet Lisso, Shirley Passmore, Connie Tomlinson, Gwen Ware and Rebecca Whipple.

West Coke County Hospital Board Meeting

By Pat Stephens The Board of Directors of the West Coke County Red Hat is one of the things Hospital District met in that we really look forward regular session October 24, to -- no dues, no rules, no 2011. President Mary business, no nothing really, Bessent called the meeting but lots of good fun and fel- to order at 9:35 AM, and lowship. Hope to see you declared a quorum was present. Board members present were Mary If you ever wondered Bessent, Dessie Kendall, where the idea for the Red Sarah Green, Pat Stephens, Hat Society came from, read and Farrell Jean Washam. Also present were Roger Alexander, Administrator, and Janie Munoz, Business Office Mgr. There were no visitors. Pat Stephens gave



Bronte Volunteer Firemen! Several members of the Bronte Volunteer Fire Department were on hand in case of an emergency at the races held on the Texana Ranch the first weekend in October. Shown are Terry Queen (from left), David McWright, and Bryan Swecker.

the invocation. The minutes from the previous meetings were approved, and there were no members absent from the August meeting.

In the staffing update, Roger informed the Board all positions in the staff are currently filled. Roger also reported there are currently 11 residents in the The Euterpean Club of Alzheimer's Unit, and 47 Center as of the meeting date.

The Board then discussed as hostess. Jan Hall was capital projects. The work presented a sack of small on the replacement of the water pipes and the ceilings in the halls is progressing. Work has begun in the hall by the dining room.

> In Public Relations, were discussed, and Roger

will continue to have contact with Cisco regarding the completed website. The Board is excited about the work in progress.

(Continued on page 11)

4-H/FFA Stock Show meeting slated

Any 4-H and FFA members wanting to show at major stock shows MUST

sign up. Both parents and children need to attend the meeting and complete entry forms and submit payments for entry fees. Antonio, San Angelo, Houston, Austin and Ft. Worth stock shows will be done November 8 at 6 pm at the RLISD Ag Shop, located behind RLISD on 15th Street.

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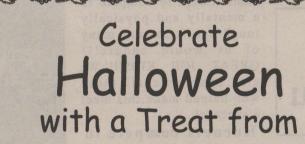
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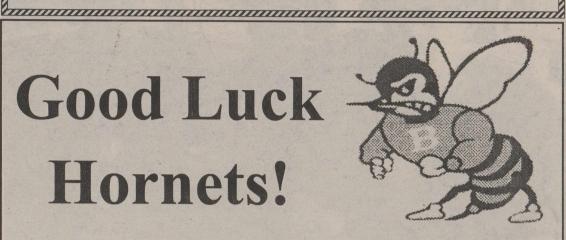
monday, October 31st 11 am to 8 pm

Wear your costume to get a free treat!



At the Stoplight in Downtown Bronte • (325) 473-4000

Good Luck Hornets!



ASU Discover Day set for Nov. 12

Angelo State University is hosting a free Discover ASU day on Saturday, November 12th from 10:00 AM until 2:00 PM.

Students will learn about the educational opportunities and co-curricular activities available at ASU as well as, get an inside look at academic and campus life. Students will also get the opportunity to meet with ASU students, staff, and faculty during the visit and tour the campus. Lunch will be provided free of charge for the students and they will

receive free admission to the ASU vs. Tarleton football game and/or may visit the Planetarium. The next Discover ASU day will be in March 2012.

Junior and senior high school students are encouraged to go online to www.angelo.edu and click Prospective Students and then click Visit ASU to register for this event. For more information, please call the ASU Office of Admissions at 942-2041.

To advertise, call 453-2433!

Fall Festival slated for Saturday

There will be a Fall Festival Saturday evening, October 29, in the Blackwell CISD cafetorium.

The festivities start at 6 pm and will include a meal great potential!!! and bingo.

Mini Cheer Camp set for Monday

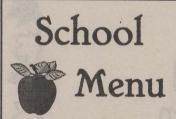
A Mini Cheer Camp will be held in the Blackwell CISD cafetorium from 3:40 to 4:45 pm Monday, October 31.

Financial Aid Workshop slated

A Financial Aid Workshop will be held Tuesday evening, November 8, 2011, at 6 pm in the cafetorium. The meeting is for parents of junior and senior students at Blackwell High School.

District Cross Country a success

By Coach Kenney and Coach Cumby The Blackwell Junior High 7th grade girls got 2nd place as a TEAM at the District Cross Country



Breakfast No menu available Lunch Monday, October 31

Toasted ham & cheese sandwich, veggie dippers, orange smiles, baked chips, chocolate chip cookie, milk

Tuesday, November 1 Crispy tacos, lettuce & tomatoes, Spanish rice, pinto

beans, fancy gelatin, milk Wednesday, November 2 Chicken nuggets, mashed

potatoes, glazed carrots, strawberries & bananas, hot roll, milk

Thursday, November 3

Spaghetti w/meat sauce, garden salad, savory green beans, French bread stick, apple crisp, milk

Friday, November 4

Submarine sandwiches. lettuce, tomatoes, pickles, fater fols, sliced peaches, well brownie, milk

Meet. Abby Gott received a medal for 2nd place, Abbigail Sorrells medaling in 7th, Audrey Mink placing 12th, Halee Sanderson in 16th, Krista Clowers in 21st and Karstin Hoyle 25th. These girls have

The Blackwell Junior High 8th grade girls also did well with Hailey Bennett medaling in 10th place. Shianne Solis and Taylor Swofford competed in this division also and represented Blackwell well.

Tristen Hayes was the lone boy to compete in Cross Country this year. He medaled in the 7th grade division with 3rd place!

The High School Lady Hornets ran with the Varsity division and finished as follows: April Cole 26th, Bailey McGlothlin 39th, Tagen Cox 49th, Mireya Sanchez 50th and Haleigh Davison began but did not finish the race due to injury.

We are very proud of these kids. They make a commitment to compete in a mentally and physically tough sport that not many of us would endure!!! GREAT JOB KIDS!!!! We also appreciate all those who helped make this meet a success!

Hornets compete in Roscoe Cross Country Meet

By Coach Christy Kenney Abbigail Sorrells, Krista Clower, Abby Gott, Taylor Swofford, and Hailey Bennett competed October 18 at the Roscoe Cross Country meet. Blackwell Junior High girls did AWESOME at this

In the 7th grade girl division: Abby Gott - 2nd place; Abbigail Sorrells -7th place (both received medals); and Krista Clower - no place but ran a better

In the 8th grade girl division: Hailey Bennett improved her time by 3 1/2 minutes, Taylor Swofford first meet and finished

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BLACKWELL HORNETS FOOTBALL

	The Observer/I	Enterprise Friday,	October 28, 2	011	Page	5
					BHS	
	August 27	Water Valley	McCamey	3:00	6	78
	September 2	Lohn	There	7:30	20	66
**	September 10	Lueders-Avoca	Home	7:30	20	44
	September 16	Robert Lee	There	7:30	8	54
	September 23	Roscoe Highland	Here	7:30	12	62
	September 30	Trent	Here	7:30	16	65
	October 8	OPEN				110 5
	October 14	Hermleigh	There	7:30	60	81
*	October 21	Novice	Here	7:30		
*	October 28	Paint Rock	There	7:30		
*	November 4	Panther Creek	Here	7:30		

* District Games • ** Homecoming

Friday
October 28
7:30 pm
Paint Rock

Grady Coulter

Justice of the Peace, Precinct 2

Wayne McCutchen

Coke County Sheriff

Pitcock Properties

Jerrod Pitcock • 325/650-4079

Husky Feed

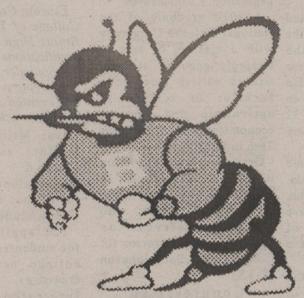
Ray & Karen Walls

Armstrong, Backus

& Co.,LLP

The Rozzlle Family

Randy & Laura Pieper



McGlothlin
Medical Supply
Chas, Misty, Shaylon & Stanton
Glenn-Bivins
Insurance Co.
Marilyn, Mary, Lucretia, & Lanette
Shaffer Monument
Company
Lemley Auctions
Joel & Shirley Lemley

BLACKWELL HORNETS

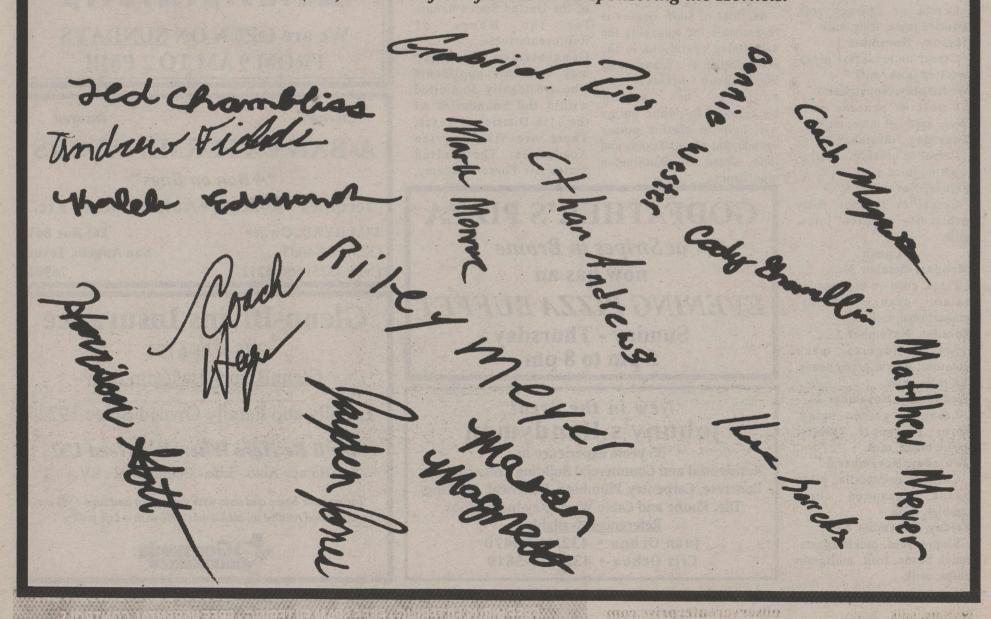
VS.

Paint Rock Indians

Paul & Kay Gothard
First National Bank
in Bronte
Member FDIC
Paul's Body Shop
123 N. State, Bronte • 473-2425
Bob Gill Construction
Bob & Annie Gill • 325/282-4062
The Sanderson Family

Sponsors are still needed for this page.

Please call (325) 453-2433 for information on sponsoring the Hornets.



Longhorns defeat Miles Bulldogs

By Coach Kevin Burns The Bronte Longhorns ran their record to 7-1 on the season and 3-0 in district play as they defeated the visiting Miles Bulldogs this past Friday by a score of 51-

The Horns got on the scoreboard early and often in the first quarter and took control of the game. The Bulldogs were held in check and scoreless as the Horns dominated both the defensive and offensive sides of the ball.

The Horns defense came up with some big stops, got three turnovers from the Bulldog offense by recovering a fumble and intercepting two passes.

Creed Coalson intercepted a pass on the Bulldogs second possession of the game, and Beau Grigg intercepted a screen pass. The fumble was recovered by Ethan Sedden.

The defense also limited the Bulldog offense to 162 yards for the game and forced 6 punts.

Bronte offense The grounded out 20 first downs, 416 rushing yards and for the first time this season, did not

School

have a turnover.

he had 232 yards on 23 carries and 3 touchdowns.

yards on 11 carries and also who works hard and cares as had 3 touchdowns.

District 6A.

Nathan McGinnis added one more touchdown in the National Defense University fourth quarter and the with a masters of arts in remainder of the scores came strategic security studies, off the foot of kicker Adrian Graves earlier received a Padilla. Adrian was 6 of 7 on bachelor of science in PAT kicks and also made a 32 agriculture and applied yard field goal as time economics (2005) from Texas expired in the 2nd quarter.

Overall it was a great game with great effort by the kids. Bronte, Texas, and is The kids in the offensive line, engaged to Ms. Haley Creel our backs and receivers, gave of Lubbock, Texas, who our ball carriers plenty of currently serves as space to run in and were communications director for consistent all night long.

Stat wise defensively, the (R-TX). Bulldogs rushed the ball 25 times for 52 yards and completed 8 of 25 passes for 110 yards and those two interceptions. The defensive line, LB, and secondary kids played extremely well to limit the Bulldogs to that little Conaway invites area high amount of offensive yards.

to Christoval. Game time is United States' military

Conaway hires new chief of staff

Scott Graves has been hired as chief of staff for Rep. Mike Conaway (R-TX), effective October 17, 2011.

Previously, Graves served as Conaway s deputy chief of staff and most recently as chief of staff for Rep. Blake Farenthold (R-TX).

As chief of staff, Graves is responsible for managing the day-to-day operations in the congressman's Texas and Washington offices. In addition, his strong background in public policy will help to craft a policy agenda that places Texans and jobs ahead of Washington regulations.

"I am excited to be back on Creed Coalson was the team Conaway. It is always leading rusher for the game as an honor to serve your friends and neighbors, but even more so when they are Jordan Baumann had 85 represented by a Member deeply as Conaway does It was a great win and keeps about the legacy we are the Horns in first place in leaving for the next generation," said Graves.

A 2010 graduate of the Tech in Lubbock, Texas.

Graves is originally from Congressman Sam Johnson

Congressman Conaway accepting applications for service academies for class of 2016

Congressman K. Michael school seniors interested This week the Horns travel in attending one of the service academies to apply for nominations through his San Angelo Regional Office. The Nomination Process to be considered for an appointment to a service academy, an applicant must meet the eligibility requirements established by law and be nominated from an authorized person including a Member of the United States Senate for the House Representatives.

Congressman Conaway may nominate applicants who are legally domiciled within the boundaries of the 11th District of Texas. There are five Service Academies: The United States Air Force Academy,



Lincoln College of Technology! Max Spangler from Lincoln College of Technology spoke to the juniors and seniors at Bronte High School about the various technical degrees and certifications offered on their campus in Grand Prairie, Texas. Mr. Spangler also spoke to the students about having a job versus having a career and discussed real world living expenses and created a budget with the students so the students could see how much it costs to live on their own.

Guard Guard Academy.

The application period for students who will enter SAT and ACT test scores, college next year ends class rank, grade point October 24, 2011. Interested applicants should contact Congressman Conaway as soon as possible.

Applications are availthrough able the Congressman's San Angelo Regional Office, 33 East Twohig, Suite 307, San Angelo, Texas, 76903. The telephone number is (325) 659-4010.

To be considered, applicants must be United States citizens, be residents of the 11th

Naval, Military, Merchant Congressional District of Marine, and the Coast Texas and be between the Academies. ages of 17 but not yet 23 Nominations are required years of age, on July 1, for all but the U.S. Coast 2012 of the year of admission.

Selection is based on averages, extrcurricular activites, leadership potential and motivation.

For more information, contact JoAnne Powell (325) 659-4010.



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assorted juice, fruit, milk Tuesday, November 1

Cereal or breakfast pizza, assorted juice, milk Wednesday, November 2

Cereal or pancake on a stick, assorted juice, milk Thursday, November 3 Cereal or breakfast burrito,

assorted juice, milk Friday, November 4 Cereal or sausage patty w/biscuit, assorted juice,

milk Lunch Monday, October 31

Pizza, corn on cob, garden salad, orange smiles, gingerbread, milk Tuesday, November 1

Steak fingers, mash potatoes, gravy, green beans, hot rolls, milk

Wednesday, November 2 Lasagna, garden salad, corn, pineapple tidbits, garlic bread, milk

Thursday, November 3 Chicken quesadilla, pinto beans, seasoned corn,

cobbler, milk Friday, November 4

Sloppy Joes, pickle spears, ranch beans, fruit, muligrain chips, milk

GODFATHER'S PIZZA

at Stripes in Bronte now has an

EVENING PIZZA BUFFET

Sunday - Thursday 5 pm to 8 pm

New in the Area! Johnny's Handyman

35 years experience in Residential and Commercial Building Construction, Concrete, Carpentry, Plumbing, Electrical, Painting, Tile, Phone and Cable Wire. Key-locked Jobs. References Available.

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BRONTE LONGHORNS FOOTBALL

	The Observer/Enterprise		Friday, October 28, 2011		Page 7	
					BHS	
	August 26	Junction	Here	7:30	49	19
	September 2	Roby	Here	7:30	34	0
	September 9	OPEN	ELE ES	BARRES		
	September 16	Eldorado	Here	7:30	10	7
	September 23	Winters	There	7:30	31	34
*	* September 30	Cross Plains	Here	7:30	41	0
*	October 7	Menard	There	7:30	29	12
*	October 14	TLC	There	7:30	49	13
*	October 21	Miles	Here	7:30	51	6
*	October 28	Christoval	There	7:30		
*	November 4	Irion County	y Here	7:30		

* District Games • ** Homecoming

Friday
October 28
7:30 pm
Christoval

Pitcock Properties
Jerrod Pitcock • 325/650-4079
Shaffer Monument

Company
Texas Best
De-Flooding
& Carpet Cleaning

Bob & Patti Frazee
Glenn-Bivins

Insurance Co.

Marilyn, Mary, Lucretia, & Lanette

First National Bank in Bronte Member FDIC

Grady Coulter
Justice of the Peace, Precinct 2

Hall's Super Save Foods
Bronte Health
& Rehab Center
Stripes

"Backing The Horns All The Way"

Tom's Tire, Lube & Detail 473-2400 • Cell 473-8534

Ivey Motor Company, Inc.

Larry's Automotive Repair Coke County Hardware

> 453-2911 Cruzin' 277

Marty Boyd
Coke County Constable, Precinct 2

BRONTE LONGHORNS

VS.

Christoval Cougars

Paul's Body Shop 123 N. State, Bronte • 473-2425

Bronte Hometown Hardware, LLC

Front of the Line Feed Rock Solid

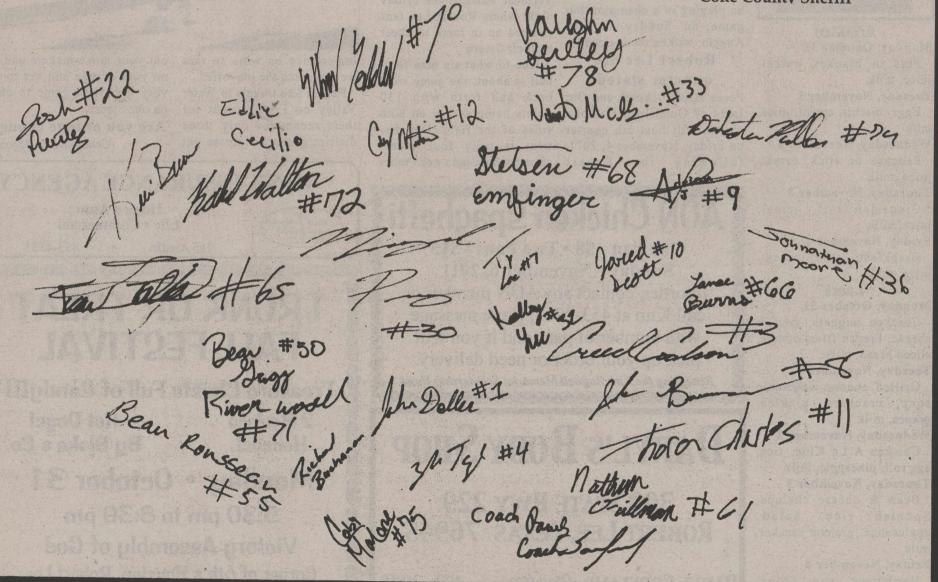
Communications
Roy & Judy Blair

Concho Realty

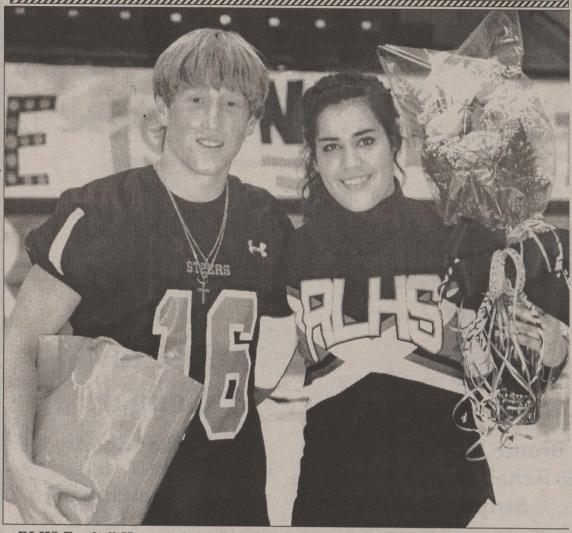
B&K Deer Processing

& Taxidermy Hal Spain

Coke County Treasurer
Wayne McCutchen
Coke County Sheriff



DEEKT LEE SCHOOL N



RLHS Football Honorees! Announced at the Pep Rally last week were this year's RLHS Football Sweetheart Jordan Gartman (above) and the Cheerleader Hero Bailey Smith. Jerry Wofford (top right) received the "hammer" award for the best tackle in the Zephyr game.

On His Way To Regionals! Zachary Sanchez (bottom right) competed at the district cross country meet in Blackwell on Tuesday. Zachary placed second in district earning him a trip to the regional cross country meet in Arlington on November 5th.

RLHS Blackout pep rally set for Thursday

There will be a blackout pep rally Thursday, October 27, at 8 pm in the new gym



Breakfast Monday, October 31

Pigs in blanket, cereal, juice, milk

Tuesday, November 1

Wednesday, November 2 Pancake on stick, cereal,

Thursday, November 3

Cinnamon roll cerea

juice, milk Friday, November 4

Breakfast pizza, cereal, juice, milk

Lunch Monday, October 31

Chicken nuggets, mac & cheese, French fries, orange, sliced bread, milk

Tuesday, November 1

Grilled cheese, vegetable soup, crackers, pickles, grapes, milk

Wednesday, November 2

Chicken A La King, rice, egg roll, pineapple, milk Thursday, November 3

Bean & cheese chalupa, Spanish rice, salad, applesauce, graham cracker,

Friday, November 4

Hamburger, sun chips, pickles, salad, pears, milk

Glow sticks and glow necklaces will be for sale at the before the blackout pep rally.

There will also be a pep rally at 3:05 Friday, October 28, on the football field. At this time, the Robert Lee Heavy Weights - Robert Lee's YMCA team who will be playing in a championship game on Sunday in San Angelo, will be recognized.

Robert Lee 5th quarter slated

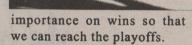
Pecan Baptist church and Our Eggs, biscuit, cereal, juice, Lady of Guadalupe Catholic church will host 5th quarter sides of the field. Our dison Friday, November 4, 2011, trict is only four teams following the Robert strong which puts even more

Steers outdistance Falcons

By Tom Sawyer The Steers kicked off district at home against the Veribest Falcons on Friday night where Robert Lee fans showed up in force to cheer on their Steers.

True to what six man football is about, the game went back and forth with 130 points being scored on both

at Robert Lee High School. Lee/Eden football game. Junior high and high school students are welcome to junior high game and also come enjoy pizza and lots of goodies at the Catholic hall.



Robert Lee travels to Water Valley on Friday night for their second of only three district games so please get

importance on wins so that out your noise makers and put on your orange and get to this very important game to cheer on our Steers.

Are you orange enough? (Continued on Page 12)



AON Chicken Spaghetti One Pan - \$8 • Two Pans - \$15 Sunday • November 6, 2011 To order, contact any AON member or call Kim at 453-2213, leave message with number of pans and if you will

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Treasure Chests Full of Candy!!!

2 Bounce Houses

Hot Dogs! By Blake & Co.

Monday • October 31 5:30 pm to 8:30 pm

Victory Assembly of God

Corner of 6th & Houston, Robert Lee

ROBERTLEE STEERS **FOOTBALL**

RLHS August 27 **Fort Davis** McCamey 5:30 54 56 September 2 **Paint Rock** 7:30 There 46 12 September 9 Loraine Here 7:30 54 36 ** September 16 Blackwell Here 7:30 54 September 23 **Sterling City** There 7:30 16 62 September 30 Santa Anna Here 7:30 72 26 October 7 7:30 Zephyr There 48 68 October 14 **OPEN** Veribest October 21 Here 7:30 70 60 October 28 Water Valley There 7:30 November 4 Here Eden 7:30 * District • ** Homecoming

The Observer/Enterprise Friday, October 28, 2011 Page 9

Friday, October 28 7:30 pm **Water Valley**

Daryl's Body Shop **Shaffer Monument** Company Robert Lee-Silver Lions Club West Coke County Glenn-Bivins Insurance Marilyn, Mary, Lucretia, & Lanette **Coke County Hardware**

Robert Lee State Bank Member FDIC

John & Jeanette Jacobs Super H Grocery

Community Development Ivey Motor Company, Inc. 453-2911

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Cindy's Front of the Line Feed B's Blossoms N Blooms ROBERT LEE STEERS VS.

Water Valley Wildcats

Robert Lee **Baptist Church** "Let God be your Head Coach!" W.E.B. Construction

Edwin, Wyndell & Family

Robert Lee Care Center **Rock Solid Communications**

Roy & Judy Blair Hal Spain **Coke County Treasurer** Wayne McCutchen **Coke County Sheriff Pitcock Properties** Jerrod Pitcock • 325/650-4079

501 Commerce • 453-4639 Zainne #33



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Legal Notices: 25¢ Per Word

A service charge will be added to all ads which must be billed. **ADVERTISING**

DEADLINE Tuesday at 2 pm

PUBLISHER'S NOTICE:

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 tollfree at 1-800-669-9777. The toll-free telephone number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.



FOR SALE

11-tnc Call 325-450-7666. Twisters Restaurant FOR SALE

FOR SALE

1990 King of the Road Goose Neck Travel Trailer. Ray Aldridge. Home-453-2360, cell 473-0549, 473-0290. \$5,000 OBO. See at 1018 Hillcrest, Robert Lee.

Fish Fridays! Catfish or Shrimp All the Fixin's \$7.99 per plate

409 W. 10th Robert Lee 453-9200

HOUSE FOR SALE

Nice older 14x16 mobile 2338. Lots of extras. \$10,000 fully furnished on space 88 at Wildcat Marina. is seeking Owner-Operators 4840.

16-4tp

FOR RENT

13-tnc

home. 450-7666. 2 BR, 1 1/2 bath mobile FOR RENT

BRONTE MINI STORAGE

has new storage buildings furniture & miscellaneous. for rent. 473-2221, 473-0409.

45-tnc TAKING APPLICATIONS

for one, two and three bedroom apartments. Washer, dryer, RO water for prayers, words of Lee, 710 N. Bishop, 453- memory Opportunity.

<u>04-tnc</u>

FOR RENT 8 x 10 storage units in Bronte. Call 325-473-3257. 14-tnc

MISCELLANEOUS

TREES TRIMMED

Topped or removed. 453-9902 or 473-8712.

43-tnc GENERAL CONTRACTING HANDYMAN

for comp. & metal roofing, plumbing, drain cleaning, water heater installment, house painting. Haul off scrap iron, junk batteries, vehicles with titles. 453-2339.

23-tnc THE BARBER SHOP NEW LOCATION! 211 N. Lombard. Mon., Tues., Wed., 9-5. Avon Independent Sales Rep.

650-1970.

03-tnc

PICKLED OKRA

Nate's has spicy pickled okra again. 901 W. 11th, Robert Lee. 234-0654. 14-3tp

HELP WANTED

\$5,000 SIGN-ON BONUS! Tons of South Texas work! Frac Sand hauling. Must have tractor, pneumatic trailer, blower. 800-397-

13-4tp

COASTAL TRANSPORT 575-396-3539 or 575-631- and Company Drivers at least 23 years of age, CDL-A w/X Endorsement and 1 year driving experience. Call 888-527-7221.

15-2tp

GARAGE SALES

YARD SALE

Oct 28 and 29, 8 am. 114 S. Randall, Bronte. Antiques, buttons, crafts, jewelry,

16-1twp

CARD OF THANKS

THANKS TO OUR **FRIENDS**

systems in unit. Contact comfort, food and memorial Housing Authority of Robert gifts that were given in of JoAnn Equal Housing McCutchen. The love and care shown JoAnn by Hospice of San Angelo and Bronte Health & Rehab Center will always be remembered appreciation. Thank you to the First Methodist Church of Bronte for the grace and hospitality extended to our family. Every act of kindness has been a source of comfort for us.

> Sincerely, Marlon McCutchen Tommy McCutchen Shane McCutchen 16-1tc





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Jerrod Pitcock, Broker www.pitcockproperties.com • (325) 650-4079

Warehouse Building on Highway 208 in Robert Lee, \$59,000. Just under 80 ac. on Hwy 208 near Robert Lee two houses, three barns, water wells, working pens, bank foreclosure, \$265,000 - bring offer. **152 Ac. in Coke County** with New Water Well! \$1250/acre. 2734 Ac. in Reagan County with Water Wells, 4/2 Home, large shop, barns & pens, Game Management program for last 7 years! \$700/acre 1600 Ac. in Reagan County \$425/ac. with over 20 Water Wells, Hunting Cabin, Game Management for last 6 years, 160 B&C deer taken!

3568 Ac. in Ozona with rugged terrain, Water Wells, Cabin \$695/acre 4 BR Home in Robert Lee on corner lot, carport, garage, storage, recently

3 BR 2 BA Home on Eucl Street in Robert Lee, Completely Remodeled! Everything New! \$65,000.

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Coke County Properties

Rural Ranch • Recreation & Hunting Land 316.5 acres • 16 soldes • 43 acres • 215 acres • 201.5 acres • 908 acres New Listing - 320 acres, heavy cover, good hunting

1718 Bishop Street, 4 Bedroom Frame New Listing - 3 BR/2BA Mobile Home in Good Repair

Property with Acreage

Brick House on 3 acres • Lake Property, Brick House on 2.6 acres

FOR MORE DETAILS, CONTACT JOE ASH.

NOTICES

NOTICE OF **PUBLIC SALE**

To the public and, See Listing Below, Pursant to Section 59.044 of the Texas Property Code, notice is hereby given of the sale of the contents of Units, See Listing Below, of the storage facilities located at the southeast corner Commerce St. (TX 158) and East 6th St., the northeast corner of Bishop St. and West 10th St., (TX 208), the Southeast and northwest corners of Chadbourne St. and West 8th St. and the yard & shop in Silver, TX. The contents of the units will be sold to satisfy a contractural landlord's lien. The sales will be conducted no sooner then 4 Nov. 11.

Shirley Coppedge #143 Brett Ashley # 8

Allen Clendennen 15-2tc

PUBLIC NOTICE

Bronte ISD is accepting competitive proposals on the following items at the old football stadium: bleachers, small press box, guard rails and top soil. For more information contact Alan Richey, Superintendent, at 325-473-2511. Proposals are due Wednesday, November 9, 2011 at 10:00a.m. In the Superintendent s Office, PO Box 670, Bronte, Tx 76933. Physical address, 210 S. Jefferson, Bronte, Tx 76933. BISD reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals.

16-2tc

ECOM Computers, Etc!

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Halloween Safety

Halloween Safety Halloween is a cherished tradition but the excitement of the night can cause children to forget to be careful.

There is no real "trick" to making Halloween a real treat for the entire family. The major dangers are not from witches or spirits but rather from falls and pedestrian/car crashes.

Many communities officially designate a "Beggars' Night" and assign specific hours for trick-or-treat activities.

Both children and adults need to think about safety on this annual day of makebelieve.

Motorists

The National Safety Council urges motorists to be especially alert on Halloween.

- · Watch for children darting out from between parked
- · Watch for children walking on roadways, medians and curbs.
- · Enter and exit driveways and alleys carefully.
- · At twilight and later in the evening, watch for children in dark clothing.

Parents

Before children start out on their "trick or treat" rounds, parents should:

- · Make sure that an adult or an older responsible youth will be supervising the outing for children under age 12
- Plan and discuss the route trick-or-treaters intend to follow. Know the names of older children's companions.
- · Instruct your children to travel only in familiar areas and along an established route.
- · Teach your children to stop only at houses or apartment buildings that are welllit and never to enter a stranger's home.
 - · Establish a return time.
- · Tell your youngsters not to eat any treat until they return home.
- · Review all appropriate trick-or-treat safety precautions, including pedestrian/traffic safety rules.
- · Pin a slip of paper with the child's name, address and phone number inside a pocket in case the youngster gets separated from the group.

Costume

- · Design Only fire-retardant materials should be used for costumes.
- · Costumes should be loose so warm clothes can be worn underneath.
- · Costumes should not be so long that they are a tripping hazard. (Falls are the leading cause of unintentional injuries on

Halloween.)

- obstruct a child's vision. Use facial make-up instead.

packages containing ingredients that are labeled "Made application.

· If masks are worn, they should have nose and mouth openings and large eye holes.

- · Bags or sacks carried by youngsters should be lightcolored or trimmed with retro-reflective tape if children are allowed out after
- · Carrying flashlights will help children see better and be seen more clearly.

On the way

- · Do not enter homes or apartments without adult
- · Walk, do not run, from house to house. Do not cross yards and lawns where unseen objects or the uneven terrain can present tripping hazards.o Walk on sidewalks,
- · Walk on the left side of the road, facing traffic if there are no sidewalks.

Treats To ensure a safe trick-or-treat outing, parents are urged to:

- meal before going out.o Insist that treats be brought home for inspection before any-
- · Wash fruit and slice into small pieces.
- · When in doubt, throw it

· If children are allowed out after dark, outfits should be made with light colored materials. Strips of retroreflective tape should be used to make children visible.

· Face Design Masks can

·When buying special Halloween makeup, check for with U.S. Approved Color Additives," "Laboratory Tested," Meets Federal Standards for Cosmetics," or "Non-Toxic." Follow manufacturer's instruction for

Accessorieso Knives, swords and other accessories should be made from cardboard or flexible materials. Do not allow children to carry sharp objects.

- dark.

Children should understand and follow these rules:

- supervision.
- not in the street.
- · Give children an early thing is eaten.



Photo bu Tracu Allen

Mountain Creek Golf Course Adult/Student Scramble! The Adult/Student Scramble was held on Saturday, October 22, 2011, at the Mountain Creek Golf Course. A scramble is a style of tournament which begins with each team member hitting a shot from the same position. The players then determine who recorded the best shot and play proceeds from that position. This tabulates a collective score based on the most accurate shot of each lie of the ball. This format helps the student who might feel nervous about not playing well because it only takes one good shot to contribute. This year's scramble consisted of 10 teams. The teams were Ricky Ross and Meagan Ros's, Tom Sawyer and Will Howard, Darin Clawson and Brady Clawson, Jimmy Skinner and Zack Skinner, Scotty Jackson and Josh Jackson, JD McClelland and Kelby Clawson, Randy Flanagan and Wade Allen, Robert Wink and James Roberts, Frank Jackson and Jake Jackson, and Shawn Cason and Bethany Coppedge. Trophies were given to the top 3 places in the First and Second Flight. First Flight winners were Ricky Ross and Meagan Ross-1st Place, Tom Sawyer and Will Howard- 2nd Place and Darin Clawson and Brady Clawson- 3rd Place. Second Flight winners were Scotty Jackson and Josh Jackson-1st Place, JD McClelland and Kelby Clawson-2nd Place, and Randy Flanagan and Wade Allen-3rd Place.

... WCCHD minutes

(Continued from page 3)

The Board voted to update and implement changes to some of the policies in the employee handbook. Roger was authorized to purchase a new Wanderguard system to enhance the safety of the residents at the facility.

Accounts Receivable were discussed and Janie Munoz was commended for the excellent work she does in overseeing accounts. Janie, representing the City Council, also gave a report on the progress of the applications which have been made for funds to begin the pipeline between Bronte and Robert Lee. Thank you, Janie, for keeping us updated.

The Board discussed plans for the employee Christmas party, which will be held

13, at 2:00 pm, in the dining room. There will be more updates at next month's

meeting.

The financial statement was discussed and accepted, and the Board discussed future agenda items.

The calendar for November looks like another busy one. The facility will exchange Halloween decorations for Thanksgiving and harvest decor, and get ready to begin the holiday season. A huge THANK YOU goes to Mary Rodriquez and her harvest elves for doing an excellent job of decorating the facility for all the current happenings.

Some of the residents will be attending the program honoring our veterans, which will be held in the cafetorium at RLHS, at 10:30 am. The public is also invited to attend.

Those celebrating birthdays this month are Alice Beaty, Ginger Preston, and Coleman Nichols. The party in their honor will be held Nov. 15, at 3:30 PM in the facility dining room. Come by and wish each of them a wonderful day!

(Photo by Tracy Allen)

The monthly Sing-A-Long will be November 18 at 3:30. The residents love this time, and invite everyone to come by and share the joy! They also love the music Bro. Steve Peyton provides at 3:30 every Monday afternoon. Many thanks, Bro. Steve! The annual Thanksgiving Luncheon for the residents and their families will be held Nov. 20, at 12 noon. There will be turkey and dressing, and all the trimmings, plus a time of good fun and fellowship. Everyone at the facility would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a safe and blessed Thanksgiving.

The next Board meeting will be November 28, and the public is invited and encouraged to attend.

Email your news! o-e@wcc.net

2008 Toyota Tundra Limited \$31,995 #5166 Crew Max • 5.7 Liter V-8 • Off Road • Lucchese Edition!

Pearl White w/ Tan Leather • 4x4 • Nav. Grill Guard! 2009 Toyota Tacoma Pre-Runner SR5#k158M\$24,995

Brown Metallic Long Bed Double Cab . Only 19K Miles! 2010 Ford Edge Limited \$23,995

Dark Shadow Gray w/Graphite Leather Seats! 2008 Ford Explorer Sport Trac

#7113B \$20,995 Burgandy w/Tan Cloth . Limited . 38K Miles! 2010 Ford Explorer XLT \$19,995 Bright Red w/Tan Cloth • Only 26K Miles!

2010 Mercury Milan Premier Silver w/Gray Leather • V-6 • 26K Miles!

Red Candy w/Tan Cloth Captains Chairs • 5.4 V-8

2007 Ford F-150 Super Crew Lariat#6319A \$15,995 Dark Stone w/Tan Leather Capt. Chairs • Bed Cover • One Owner! 2007 Ford F-150 Super Crew XLT #K080B \$13,995

2002 Ford F-250 Super Cab XLT #6033A \$ 9.995 Bright Silver w/Gray Cloth • 7.3 liter Powerstroke

2005 Lincoln LS #5165A \$ 6.995

White Suede w/Tan Leather • V-6 • Great Mileage! 2001 Mercury Grand Marquis LS #6279C \$ 5.995

Light Ice Blue w/Blue Leather • Nice Car! 1996 Dodge Ram 2500 Club Cab #6357B \$ 2,500 Red w/Tan Cloth • V-10

453-4561

Ask For:

#K099B \$19,995

Randy Flanagan • Billy Wayne Roe



Amazing Golfer! Randy Flanagan of Robert Lee got a "hole in one" Sunday, October 16, 2011, at Mountain Creek Golfl Course in Robert Lee. The event was witnessed by several people including Darin Clawson, Ricky Ross, Tommy Antilley, Rusty Corley, Julio and Jesse Carrion, Dick Sims and Pete Puentez. What makes this even more amazing is that this shot was his third hole in one in less than two years! His first was on November 4, 2009, and the second was on May 15, 2011.

Trunk or Treat Fall Festival slated

A Trunk or Treat/Fall Festival will be held Monday, October 31, from 5:30 to 8:30 pm at Victory Assembly of God, on the corner of 6th and Houston in Robert Lee.

In addition to treasure chests full of candy, there will be two bounce houses and hot dogs by Blake & Co.

Robert Lee YMCA football teams to play in championship

The Robert Lee YMCA football teams will be playing in the Superbowl this Sunday, October 30. The games will be held at the old Bobcat Stadium on Pulliam in San Angelo.

At 2 pm, the Robert Lee pee wee team will face the Veribest pee wee team. At 6:30 pm, the Championship game between the Robert Lee Heavy Weights and the Sterling City Heavy Weights will begin.

Dogies cage falcons

The Robert Lee Dogies defeated the Veribest Junior High Falcons 46-24 last Thursday evening.

Jesus Landeros scored first on a 90 yard run. Wade Allen caught a Jake Jackson pass for the extra point.

Landeros scored again on a 21 yard run. He then caught a Jake Jackson pass for the extra point.

Landeros made the next three touchdowns - from 5 yards out, 30 yards out, and 12 yards out.

Jake Jackson put the next points on the board with a 14 yard run. Mauricio Ureno ran the ball in for the extra

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point.

Jake Jackson struck again to good add to the Dogies' score with a 53 yard kickoff return. He threw the ball to Blaine Yanez STEER STATS for the extra point.

... RLHS Steers (Continued from page 8) **SCORING SUMMARY**

1st Quarter

Falcons 13 yard pass with 8:34 left, PAT failed

with 5:39 left, PAT kick reception for 21 yards, and 8

Falcons 12 yard pass with 4:30 left, PAT kick good

Steers Gartman with 3:48 left, PAT tackle kick Howard

STEERS - 16 **FALCONS - 14**

2nd Quarter

Steers 1 yard run by Wofford with 9:51 left, PAT for 37 yards and 1 TD, and 7 kick by Howard

Falcons 15 yard pass with Jim Bob Smith 5 tackles

8:31 left, PAT kick good

Falcons 12 yard pass with 7:41 left, PAT kick failed

Falcons 13 yard run with 5:35 left, PAT kick good

Steers 3 yard run by Gartman with 3:49 left, PAT kick by Howard

STEERS 32 FALCONS - 36

3rd Quarter

4th Quarter

22 yard run by Steers Gartman with 8:08 left, PAT kick by Howard

Falcons 10 yard pass with 5:36 left, PAT kick good

Steers 2 yard run by Gartman with 3:19 left, PAT kick failed

STEERS - 46 **BULLDOGS 44**

37 yard run by Steers Howard with 9:40 left, PAT kick by Howard

Steers 1 yard run by Howard with 5:45 left, PAT kick by Howard

Falcons 31 yard run with 4:35 left, PAT kick good

Steers 4 yard pass from Gartman to Skinner with :27 left, PAT kick by Howard

Falcons 79 yard kickoff return with:13 left, PAT kick

STEERS 70 FALCONS - 60

Kevin Saucedo 2 tackles Justin Gartman 17 carries for 172 yards and 4 TD s, 6 of 14 passing for 120 yards and 1 TD, and 13 tackles

Will Howard 12 carries for 145 yards and 2 TD s, 1 Steers 3 yard run by Smith of 1 passing for 24 yards, 1

> Bailey Smith 6 carries for 20 yards and 1 tackle, 2 1 yard run by receptions for 62 yards, and 1

> > Jerry Wofford - 3 carries for 26 yard and 1 TD, and 5

Blake Smith 4 tackles Zach Skinner 3 receptions tackles

RLISD posts board minutes

Robert Independent School Board of Trustees met Thursday, October 19, for a regular meeting. The meeting was called to order by President Washam at 6 pm.

Members present included Wes Washam, Jeffie Roberts, Beverly Sinclair, Allen, Tom Sawyer, Torres and Brandi Brosh.

The Invocation and pledge. were led by Wes Washam.

Tom Sawyer made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 20, 2011, meeting. The motion was seconded by Irma Torres. All voted for.

Jeffie Roberts made a motion to accept the financial report presented by Robin Allen and to pay the bills, seconded by Beverly Sinclair. All voted for.

Matters relating to the 2008 Construction Project were discussed.

Elementary enrollment for September was 130 students with 97% ADA. School Crawley, High Principal, gave his report; enrollment for grades 7-12 was 93 and ADA was 98% for the month of September.

Supt. Hood gave the report on the status of Highly Qualified Staff and reported that 100% of the staff at RLISD meet the requirements.

Jeffie Roberts made a motion to amend the 2011-2012 school calendar as presented. It was seconded by Brandi Brosh. All voted for.

Tom Sawyer made a motion to approve Supt. Hood s recommendation to sign the

contract for use of the DRE voting system through Coke County. The motion was seconded by Tracy Allen. All voted for.

Tom Sawyer made a motion, seconded by Jeffie Roberts, to approve the District and Campus Improvement Plans for 2011-2012 as presented. All voted for.

Supt. Hood gave his respective report on budget update, intervention, district audit, and staff Christmas party.

The next meeting for the RLISD School Board will be held Thursday, November 17, 2011, at 6 pm.

The meeting was adjourned 6:55 pm.

Trunk and Treat set for Robert Lee

Robert Lee churchs are joining together for "TRUNK AND TREAT". Southside Church of Christ and First United Methodist will host Trunk and Treat.

The event will be held in the parking lot of First United Methodist located at 9th Street and Chadbourne in Robert Lee from 5:30 to 7 pm on Monday, October 31. You can wear your costume or come as you are. Members of the churches will hand out candy to the children from the trunks of their cars. This is a safe place for children to enjoy wholesome fun.

New Medicare open enrollment dates

Medicare open enrollment will be held Saturday, October 15, through Wednesday, December 7.

Assistance is available from benefits counselors. Call (325) 223-5704 for an appointment.

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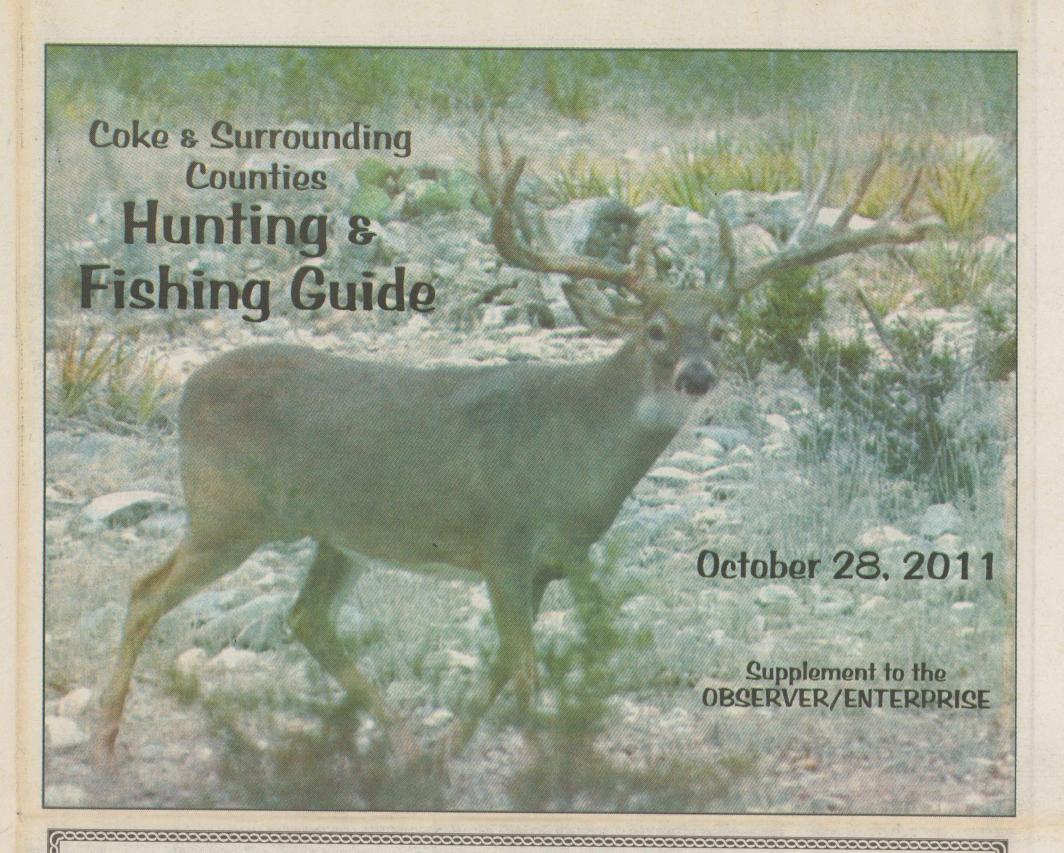
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Observer/Enterprise welcomes sportsmen

and surrounding counties. We know you have a choice about where to spend your hunting and fishing dollars, and we appreciate your decision to patronize our local merchants and landowners in

We would also like to welcome you to our hunter barbecues, one each on opening day in Bronte and Ballinger; and on November 19 in Sterling City (see related ads and stories in this publication for more information). These festivities are provided for our area hunters as a way of expressing our appreciation for your continued support.

Once again, let me welcome you to our area of the state. Our landowners and merchants have made a strong commitment to ensure your stay will be a memorable one. We would also like to wish you much success with your sporting efforts in our area during your stay.

Counties offer hunter appreciation barbecues

Coke, Sterling, and Runnels Counties will offer three barbecues to show our appreciation to you, as hunters, who choose to spend your recreational time in our counties. Each of the barbecues is discussed below, in chronological order.

Wild Game Barbecue Lunch at Bronte

The annual Hunters' Wild Game Barbecue Lunch is once again slated for Bronte, this year on Saturday, November 5, opening day of the deer season. As in years past, the barbecue lunch will be at no charge to attending hunters, and is sponsored by Hall's Super Save Grocery and B&K Processing.

The menu will consist of deer and elk sandwiches, smoked sausage, beans, soft drinks, and dessert. Serving will begin at 11:00 am and go until 2:00 pm. The location is B&K Processing (behind Hall's Grocery) in Bronte.

If you haven't eaten the variety of wild game sand-

by Hal Spain wiches and sausages prepared It is my great pleasure to at Bronte, don't miss this welcome you, the hunter opportunity to sample some and/or fisherman, to Coke of these excellent meats. In previous years, the menu has also included rattlesnake and other exotic wild game cooked on the grill for your us; we will kick this party off sampling pleasure.

> forget to tour their state of the art processing facility.

2011 Annual Hunter's Texas". **Appreciation Dinner** Hosted by the Ballinger Chamber of Commerce

November 5, 2011, at the Ballinger Community Center located on Crosson Ave., the

Ballinger Chamber of Commerce will have the Annual Hunter's Appreciation Dinner. This event is put on every year to show the hunters that come in from all around, our appreciation for them spending their time and money in our community.

This year's event begins with a Mini Gun Show at 4:00 pm, followed by the barbecue dinner at 6:00 pm. The meal will consist of brisket, smoked ham, and sausage, with homemade beans, and homemade desserts, and of course all of the trimmings (potato salad, pickles, jalapenos, onions, etc.). There will be vendors, around 25 raffle items, silent auction, and door prizes inside the Community Center. The tickets for this event will be \$10 per person. Buy your tickets in advance and get two raffle tickets to put on the raffle item of your choice. Come out and join at 4:00 p.m. and go until While you're there, don't 10:00 p.m. Let Ballinger show you why we are the "Greatest Little Town in

Sterling County Hunters'

Appreciation Dinner

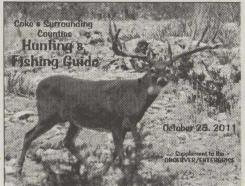
The annual Sterling County Hunters' Appreciation Barbecue will be held on Saturday, November 19, 2011

all the trimmings will be served. The cost is \$5.00 per plate, \$3.00 for kids under 10, and the public is encouraged to attend.

> will be sold for the chance to win a minimum of 25 plus guns. Guns will be raffled that evening, but you do not

will also have booths available.

On the Cover



The photo on the cover is courtesy of

700 Springs Ranch, Telegraph, Texas.

be held at the Sterling County Community Center. A brisket fajita supper with

One dollar raffle tickets have to be present to win.

Local and area businesses

at 6:00 pm. The event will For more information contact the Sterling County Extension Office at (325) 378-3181.

Blackwell Volunteer Fire Department to host Fish Fry

The Blackwell Volunteer Fire Department is holding a fish fry at the fire station on FM 1170 in Blackwell Saturday evening, November 5, 2011.

They will begin serving at 5:30 pm. The "All You Can Eat" affair will be \$10 for adults and \$5 for children 10 and under.

Ballinger Chamber of Commerce

Bar-B-Que Plate Dinner November 5th 6 pm to 10 pm **Ballinger Community Center** \$10/Plate

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Attend Hunter Appreciation BBQ

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Enjoy a Brisket Fajita Supper with all the trimmings for only \$5 per plate, \$3 for kids under 10.

A minimum of 25 Guns will be Raffled!

Raffle tickets • \$1 each For raffle ticket or other information, call (325) 378-3181.

Fall hunting season is here

by Hal Spain the new year.

This is one of those colseason next year.

drought, which has affected six point bucks. the whole state. A few received any appreciable prerain about six weeks ago, and be lost for this season. another one up to 3 inches any pastures before frost.

gone through a summer of weather conditions. record high temperatures, tures about a month ago.

umns that I have been dread- upcoming hunting season? ing for months. For the first Very negatively, I think. I time in 28 years of writing have been feeding deer this pre-season hunting fore- around the house for the past cast, I can't think of much to fifteen years. Some of the be optimistic about, except does had fawns with them this that we have nearly all sur- year and some didn't. I don't vived a horrible 2011 and are remember seeing a doe with looking forward to a better twins this year. I have seen several little bucks, but most mal. I have seen quail pair-We'll start with the have been spikes up to little ing up since April, and most

The good news is that I covey. weeks ago, we had not have talked to two or three observed a total of three pairs ranchers who have seen some that hatched little 'uns, and cipitation since last October. bucks with some really nice the size of the broods were We did get a nice 2 to 3 inch horns (antlers); so all may not no more than eight each.

during the first week of from the "so-called" experts population alone. You may October. That has brightened this year, this may be the sea- want to consider buying some our spirits, but with the son that you do not want to flight ready birds and hunt cooler weather, we won't shoot that spike deer to keep them if you have some dogs have enough time to improve him out of the breeding herd. you need to work. Biologists are saying that due Did I mention cooler to the drought, that spike may runs from Sept. 1 through weather? That is a good develop a nice rack in years October 23, 2011. The winthing, because we have also to come with the proper ter short season runs from

along with the rest of the that this is the year to reduce bag limit of 15 in the central state. I think we hit 100 your doe herd. Most years zone, which includes Coke days of 100 degree tempera- this goes in a hunter's ear and County. out the other one. And most Add to that the fact that years we can get by with a turkey will close on we've lost over 200,000 few extra does. This, my fel- November 4, 2011, with no acres of rangeland just in low hunters, ain't one of antlerless permit required Coke County this year to those years. We need to cull except on MLD properties. wildfires. So you can readily a large number of does this The general deer season will tell that we are ready to put year on most of our area run from November 5, 2011 2011 behind us and hope for ranches. Talk to the rest of through January 1, 2012.

you can come up with a plan How does this impact the to reduce your doe herd this year. It won't guarantee you good hunting for next year, but it will help.

Being a quail hunter, I can tell you that the call counts and other surveying techniques I have been reading about from throughout the Rolling Plains have been disgave it up and rejoined the To date I have This is going to be a good From what I have heard year to leave the natural bird

As to seasons, dove season December 23, 2011 through The other caveat I hear is January 8, 2012, with a daily

Archery season for deer and some better conditions for your hunting group and see if The special late general sea-

Nice Old Feller! Morgan (McCutchen) Webb brought down this older buck in Fisher County Sunday, December 5, 2010. The 8 point buck had an inside spread of approximately 17 inches.

son will run from Jan. 2 - 15, combined). 2012, for antlerless and spike Quail season will run state-

Turkey season will run con- limit of 45. currently with deer season, Legal shooting hours for all 2012, gobblers only, with a hour after sunset. bag limit of 4 (all seasons

bucks only. The bag limit for wide Oct. 29, 2011 through deer is 5, with no more than 2 Feb. 26, 2012, with a daily bucks, all seasons combined. limit of 15 and a possession

Nov. 5 through Jan. 1. game animals and nonmigratory Spring turkey season will be game birds are from one-half March 31 through May 13, hour before sunrise to one-half

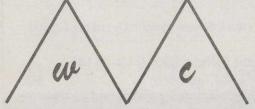
(Continued on page 4)

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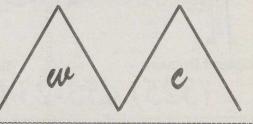


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... Fall Hunting Season

(Continued from page 3)

Hunting stamp endorsements which are required are an archery stamp - \$7; migratory game birds - \$7; upland game birds - \$7; and a federal migratory game bird (duck stamp) - \$17.

Hunting Lease License (Types 132, 133, and 134)

Required of a landowner or landowner's agent who leases hunting rights to another person on property they own or control for pay or other consideration. The license must be displayed on the property.

License fee: \$79 for 1 through 499 acres; \$147 for 500 through 999 acres; or \$252 for 1,000 acres or more: Note: Recordbook no longer required.

Have a wonderful time during your stay in our area. Please remember that you are ambassadors for all of us involved in the hunting and outdoor industry. Don't forget to think SAFETY every time you handle a firearm, and make proper gun handling and safe shooting a part of your everyday life at home or in the field. Have a safe and successful season.

TPWD taking action on Bobwhite Quail decline

Agency urges hunters, landowners to consider ways to help this season

The drought has taken a toll on all Texas wildlife resources, but among the hardest hit is the bobwhite quail. This iconic grassland game bird already faces mounting obstacles to recovery and state wildlife officials say the drought is exacerbating the problem.

"We've been on point monitoring quail declines

well before this current drought," said Clayton Wolf, Wildlife Director for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. "We've been taking steps to address the problem, but the drought is raising the sense of urgency."

The Breeding Bird Survey (BBS), an annual field census survey used to track quail productivity, shows a decline in Texas bobwhite quail breeding numbers at a rate of 3.9 percent per year from 1970 to 2009. Texas bobwhite harvest has declined by 80 percent during the past three decades. Although this decline is not as steep as seen in southeastern states, it is still cause for concern.

Many reasons are cited for these declines, but evidence points to changes in the quantity and quality of habitat as the leading cause. The topic has broad relevance, because grassland habitat used by quail is important for dozens of other wildlife species, and it also can affect water quantity and quality for people.

"For all of us who care about the future of this prized game bird and the habitats it occupies around the state, complacency is not an option," said Carter Smith, TPWD Executive Director. "We need hunters, landowners, government agencies and non-profit groups all making this a priority in order to advance the recovery of this species. Rest assured, the department will do its part."

While TPWD wildlife biologists are focusing their efforts on assisting landowners develop habitat-based management strategies that can benefit quail and other grassland wildlife, the department is also taking action in other areas, including possible changes in hunting regulations.

Potential changes in season length and bag limit framework for the 2012-13 hunting season will be discussed during the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission's Nov. 2 Regulatory Committee meeting in Austin. Over the next few months, the TPWD Wildlife Division's upland game bird staff and technical committee will review season length, bag limits and the possibility of regional differences for quail season to determine if modifications to the 2012-13 seasons are warranted.

Wolf said regulation changes alone won't solve the problem. "But, we can look at a variety of approaches to address quail management, including regulations," he said.



Robert Lee angler Alicia Williams caught this "one for the record book" large mouth bass at Oak Creek Lake on August 1, 2011. The huge bass weighed in at 13.14 pounds.

actually risen due to proac- year's production. tive habitat management and

Rolling Plains hit an all-time

Good news is that in one low, according to this year's area of the state, the Gulf BBS, and biologists say every Prairies and Marshes region, bobwhite that survives the winquail numbers this year have ter will be critical to next

"Burned areas will likely adequate weather conditions. provide good habitat after Even in areas of the state future rainfall events but for where quail numbers have now they offer very little cover dropped considerably this for quail and other wildlife," year, particularly the Rolling said Robert Perez, TPWD's Plains region in North Texas, upland game bird program there are still pockets with leader. "We're advising landhuntable numbers of bob- owners if you are seeing low whites. But, dry conditions quail numbers on your ranch, this year contributed to major you should consider reducing wildfires that consumed mil- quail harvest. It's okay to hunt, lions of acres of vegetation. work your dogs, but take a Quail production in the conservative approach. Flush a

(Continued on page 15)

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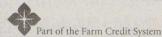
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in the wild, have been close of a big buck. enough to deer to bag them of knowledge about how to find and take deer from inthe-field experience. Let's a big buck.

Know You Have a Big Buck to Hunt:

hunter in the nation, you won't be able to take a big buck, if you don't know property where you hunt. To determine if a trophy buck is on that land, go into the woods after the deer have shed their antlers, and look for trophy racks. If you find a big set of antlers that have been shed, you can assume that a trophy buck is on that property. Also, enter your hunting area before deer season, and start to scout then. Try to see a big buck before to cover.

woods throughout the year to search for and study deer. Then you can collect information before the season begins and after it ends about what deer are on the property your hunting lands is to talk

By J. Wayne Fears while driving back and forth A successful deer hunter to work and school, often will must know how deer behave see and know the whereabouts

Taking a trophy buck and have amassed a wealth involves more than luck. Careful Preparation and flawless execution equals luck.

If shining deer at night is look at some tips for bagging legal in your state, go into the woods and fields at night with a light before and after the season to see deer. But make Even if you're the best sure you're not violating the law in the state where you hunt. An important safety practice is to notify the local there's a trophy buck on the conservation officer as to where you'll be on the night you plan to look for deer, and let him know what you're doing. To take a trophy deer, you must have a big deer to hunt.

Have a Thorough Knowledge of the **Property You Hunt:**

You must understand the lay of the land you hunt, including the land's contours, where the creeks and the streams hunting pressure drives him run, and where the roads go through the property. You also Hunters need to go into the need to know the traditional movement patterns of the deer on that property, because deer on any woodlot will establish routes of travel. Once you understand what those historical routes are, you can go to for you to hunt, as well as that same land year after year what routes the deer travel, and find deer. If you spend and the food sources they your time learning one piece use. Another way to find out of property thoroughly, you'll if you have a trophy buck on bag more big deer more consistently than those who hunt to the people who drive up three- or four-different locaand down the roads through tions during a season. The the woodlot where you plan only exception to this rule is to hunt. Loggers, mailmen, the trophy deer hunter who school bus drivers and peo- can travel to Texas, Mexico, ple normally traveling Alberta or some of the other through your hunting region, areas where trophy bucks are



It's not every day that someone from our area is fortunate enough to travel north for a bear hunt. Paul Williams, a rancher north of Bronte, brought down this grizzly in June 2011 in northern British Columbia. He was hunting with Ron Fleming of Love Brothers and Lee. Paul stated "I would highly recommend hunting with them for moose, caribou, mountain goat, Stone sheep, black and grizzly bear, wolves. You can contact them at lovebroslee.com." He added, "The hunt was a gift from my nephew, it was truly a gift of time and beauty. Everyone should take the time to visit northern British Columbia!"

much more abundant than they are in most regions of the United States. Most of us are looking for better places to hunt, rather than learning the best spots to hunt on the properties we have to hunt.

Understand How to Hunt the Rut:

To take a trophy buck, you need to have as much time as possible to hunt that buck during the peak of the rut, which is when the trophy buck is the most vulnerable and is most likely to be bagged. However, the time of the peak of the rut is different in each state and may vary even inside the state. Therefore, the best way to

learned that there's less dan- for the hunter to take.

know when the peak of the ger then and that he can move rut occurs in the state and the more freely and safely at particular place you plan to night than in the daytime. hunt is to contact the state When hunting season begins, wildlife biologist in your this trophy buck becomes area. Ask for copies of stud- more sensitized to human ies or information that may activity and more secretive have been compiled by wild- and harder to locate. But life scientists that will show when the rut occurs, the urge you when the peak of the rut to reproduce supersedes his is in the region you want to natural caution for a short hunt. Too, remember that time. He'll either be searchonce an animal becomes a ing for or pursuing an estrous trophy buck, he'll primarily doe during daylight hours, move at night, because he's which make this buck easier

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Gifts - Past and Present

Four basic rules of firearms handling

To ensure hunting remains combined. safe and becomes ever safer, Education basic rules of firearms

firearms safety, known by the acronym TABK, are as

T - Treat every firearm as if it were loaded

Never assume a firearm is unloaded.

A - Always point the firearm in a safe direction.

Even if an unwanted discharge occurs no one will be hurt if you always point the gun in a safe direction.

B - Be sure of your target and what is beyond your

Make absolutely certain you can positively identify your target and what is beyond it. Make sure there are no other hunters, houses, vehicles, or other animals beyond your target in case your bullet, or shot if you are using a shotgun, misses your target or travels through your target. Never shoot an animal that is on the horizon as you cannot be sure of what is behind that animal.

K - Keep your finger out of the trigger guard and off the trigger until ready to shoot.

Also, make sure that branches or other objects do not contact the trigger guard or trigger.

Currently, it is estimated more people are injured from

Hunting is one of the safest elevated stand-related injuries ways to enjoy the outdoors. than all other incidents

"If you are hunting from an the International Hunter elevated stand, make sure you Association are properly using a full body (IHEA) recommends hunters safety harness, also known as a and shooters follow four Fall Arrest System (FAS)," said Wayne East, executive director for IHEA. "Also, The four basic rules of make sure you read and follow the manufacturer's directions on proper use of your safety harness."

> With some common sense and the proper use of safety equipment, you will ensure that you and others will safely enjoy your hunt.

> For more information, visit IHEA.com.

To help spread the word about hunting safety, view and use the following public service announcements for web, print and video OutdoorRoadmap.com.

About International Hunter Education Association (IHEA)

The International Hunter Education Association (IHEA) is the professional association for the 69 member agencies and the 70,000 volunteer instructors who teach hunter education in the U.S., Canada, Mexico, Peru, El Salvador, South Africa and New Zealand. For more information, visit IHEA at www.ihea.com.

Buzzing With Success

[Editor's Note: Ever wonder what the pro anglers consider their "go-to" lures or approaches? You're not alone. Today, Rick Clunn and Stacey King share their ideas for the most important or effective baits you can have in your



Dan Hayes didn't have to travel far from his Blackwell home to pull this large mouth bass out of Oak Creek Lake on June 5, 2011. The big bass mashed the scales at 8.84 pounds.

tackle box and repertory.] Buzzbaits

Buzzbaits are anything but silly lures. They are one of the most productive lures of all. It's the only lure in the family of topwaters that is constantly on the move, creating a commotion that sugscurrying for survival.

Bass attack it out of anger, hunger, curiosity, or survival. There is something magical about a buzzbait. It will provoke strikes when other lures

You can cover a lot of water gests it is some form of life quickly with it; attract fish that cannot see your lure; and fish it over, around, and through many forms of cover. Buzzbaits also have a tremendous reputation for attracting big bass.

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How old is that gobbler?

By Joel D. Glover hunter proudly stated tack," was all he said.

accepted that spur length is a "They're all good ones." fairly reliable characteristic true until a turkey reaches and Freshwater Fisheries about 3 years of age. Truthfully, aging a mature gobbler is a difficult task. While a juvenile gobbler -or "jake" -- is fairly easy to identify based on his uneven tail fan, short beard and less than one-half-inch spurs, it becomes more difficult as a bird matures. Two-year-old gobblers are probably harvested at a higher rate than any other. This is often due to the fact that while they have mastered the ability to gobble and enjoy hearing themselves do it, they have not yet learned that every yelp doesn't come from a turkey hen. The 2-year-old is often lured by the sweet tone of a well-chalked box or the quick cuts of a mouth call. The majority of these young gobblers will sport somewhat blunt spurs less than an inch long and beards around 9 inches.

Three-year-old birds typically have a beard around 10 inches long and pointed spurs of an inch or more. I hope you noticed the word "typically." The truth is I've witnessed a mature adult turkey with a 4-inch beard and one with no beard whatsoever. I witnessed a 4-year-old known age bird with 5/8-inch spurs. I've harvested numerous mature gobblers that had no spurs or only one spur, and I've witnessed turkeys with multiple spurs on each leg.

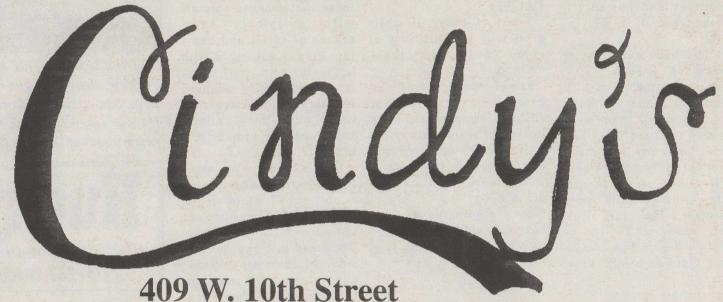
Whenever dealing with wildlife be very careful about using the words "never" or "always." It was my good fortune to assist on a long-term turkey research project conducted on the Tallahala Wildlife Management Area in south Mississippi. In addition to the volumes of data recorded during the study, we also made several interesting observations while trapping turkeys. I found it interesting that turkeys trapped as mature adults and tagged were later recaptured and found to have shorter spurs. In addition, one bird captured and tagged as a juvenile was harvested by a hunter the next year. Although the bird was less than 2 years old, it sported a set of sharp spurs that were 1 1/2 inches long!

Therefore, while body "I got a good 7-year-old size, beard and spur length bird," the camo-clad are normally fairly reliable for identifying birds as when I asked if he'd had juveniles, adults and mature any luck. When I asked adults, after a turkey reaches how he knew the age of 3 years old, its exact age is the bird, I received a look pretty much a mystery. The of disdain and then he next time you have the privipicked up the gobbler and lege to take a wise old limb thrust its legs toward me hanger, realize that it doesso I could examine a nice n't really make any differset of spurs. "Sharp as a ence how old he was. Remember the words an old While it is generally turkey hunter once told me:

Glover is a Certified for determining the age of a Wildlife Biologist with the gobbler, that only holds Alabama Division of Wildlife



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How to lost proof your child

Outdoorsmen and women are passionate about instilling their love for hunting, fishing and other outdoor pursuits in their children. But, with adventure in the outdoors comes risk, and one of the most terrifying is losing a child.

Now available to you is a printed text designed to educate and help prevent one of the most alarming situations anyone may find themselves. How To Lost Proof Your Child by J. Wayne Fears provides resources aimed at preventing a lost-child situation as well as steps to be taken to save time, resources and human life in the case of a missing child.

It has been said that an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. If you or someone you know has ever been involved in trying to locate a lost child, you know this statement certainly holds true.

"It is far easier to prepare yourself and your child for a lost-child situation than it is to go through the trauma of having a child missing," Fears

In the guidebook, Fears adapts his great knowledge of wilderness survival to the goal of lost-proofing the child. He divides the book into lost-proofing in suburbia and lost-proofing in the woods. In the section on suburbia, Fears covers possible scenarios such as malls, public events, schools and sporting and church events. He discusses the reasons children wander off as well as providing strategies that teach safe behavior to children. He then provides a clear and perhaps lifesaving procedure to follow

By J Wayne Fears discussing lost-proofing in the back country, Fears draws upon his wilderness expertise to provide the most thorough approach including strategies, rules practice and follow, proper visible clothing, and the building of a child's survival kit. Fears' discusses what to do if your child is missing and how lost children move. The book also provides a thorough discussion on hypothermia.

Pick up your copy today. Lost-Proofing Your Child is a must-have book for anyone who enjoys the great outdoors and wants to share it with a child.

childhood

parents or guardians of lost-child situation

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Who's been digging in my yard?

By Myron Wiley Have you ever walked out into your well-kept yard and found the sod dimpled by a multitude of cone-shaped craters several inches deep and wide? How about mulch around shrubbery plowed up and scattered or small plants in your garden destroyed and the entire area looking as if rooted up by hogs? If so, you likely have been visited by a nine-banded armadillo (Dasypus novemcinctus). This species is one of about 20 existing species of armadillo originally from South America. The nine-banded

of these species found in the United States.

Armadillos are about the size of a house cat or opossum, but pound for pound, these animals can do nearly as much damage as a feral hog when it each child must learn, comes to digging up the yard. By scientific classification, the nine-banded armadillo belongs to the order Cingulata, which is a group of animals that also includes the anteaters and sloths of South America. The majority of their diet consists of beetles, grubs, earthworms, and other soil insects and invertebrates. These food items are what attract armadillos to lawns, flower beds, and gardens. Armadillos locate these subterranean animals 7 out of every 10 chil- with extremely keen dren will become lost at senses of smell and hearsome point in their ing. Prey is unearthed with large claws on short, stout Fewer than 9% of the legs specifically adapted for digging, and are capchildren are prepared for a tured with thick, sticky saliva on the armadillo's

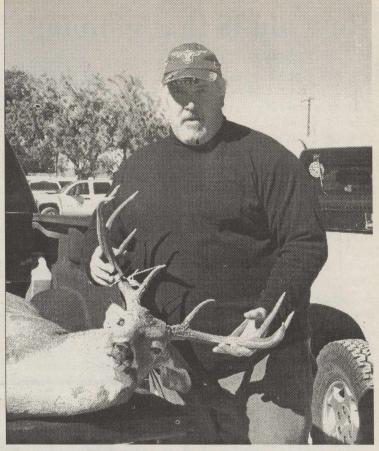
The armadillo's voracious appetite for insects is not all bad. Many of the creatures they consume are known to be lawn and garden pests that can do considerable damage to yards and gardens. For example, it is common to see a crater in the top of a fire ant mound where it has been dug open by an armadillo searching for ant eggs, developing larvae and adult ants.

Armadillos are known locally by many other common names. The bony

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What a Buck! This nice 10 point buck was taken on opening day of the gun season, November 6, 2010. The large bodied deer had an inside horn spread of 22 inches. He was taken by Mark Nichols of Longview, Texas on a ranch south of Sterling City.

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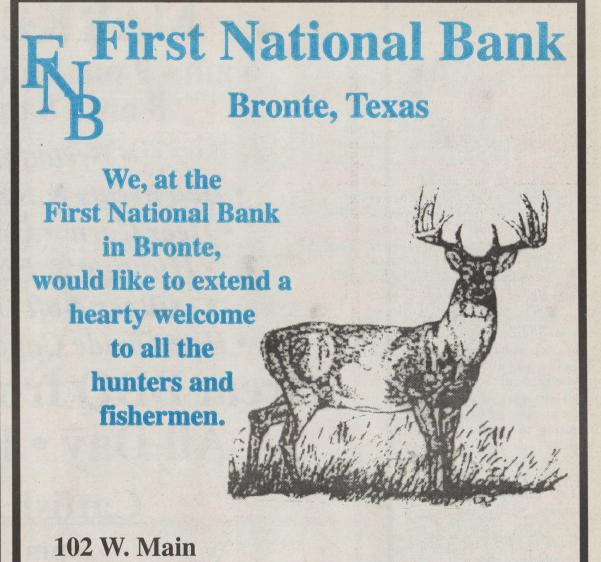
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This huge catfish shows there are still fish in Coke County! Tim Easley of Odessa reeled in this big 14 pound yellow cat September 3, 2011, while fishing on Oak Creek Lake.

plates that cover and protect their bodies has led to descriptions such as "armorplated opossum" and "opossum crossed with a turtle." Although not closely related to any of these animals, these common references to their appearance are fairly close to the technical description. Their family name Dasypodidae roughly translates to "Turtle-Rabbit."

The natural fright response of the armadillo when startled is a vertical leap before fleeing, a dangerous reflex when approached by a vehicle that might otherwise pass over without harm. This fatal trait spawned the nickname "hillbilly speed bump," and made them a frequent highway casualty.

Prior to 1850, armadillos were not found north of the Rio Grande River except for fossilized evidence of extinct species. Due to a combination of factors, such as human colonization with its accompanying habitat alteration, extirpation of large predators, and intentional release or escape of captive animals, the armadillo has rapidly expanded its range at a rate 10 times that considered normal for mammals. Now abundant throughout most of Texas and other southern and southeastern states, armadillos have been observed as far north as Illinois and Nebraska, and westward to Colorado. Due to its abundance and wide distribution, armadillos have become a nuisance animal to many homeowners in suburban and residential developments, especially where wooded areas with favorable burrowing and nest sites are included or nearby.

Controlling armadillos on your property is not an easy task. In many cases it might be better to tolerate the occasional visitor than to take on the expense and possible collateral damage of control attempts. If frequent and serious damage is occurring, some action may be necessary. Removing individual

soil insects and invertebrates ticality, environmental pollu-

animals by trapping and relo- with pesticides to minimize cation/elimination, use of food sources are some of the repellents, fencing of specific methods most commonly recareas (fencing must extend ommended. Any method used below ground), and control of has its limitations, with prac-

The Observer/Enterprise Friday, October 28, 2011 Page 9

birds and fish.

with leprosy, which may be Fisheries

tion, and long-term effective- communicable to humans by ness being major concerns. contact or by eating under-Whatever method is used, cooked meat. Handle the aniwhether mechanical or mals or meat with sanitary and chemical, be careful to do so culinary methods as you would in a manner that minimizes any wild game to prevent condanger to people, pets, or tracting communicable diseases other desirable wildlife, that may be present. Photos and detailed descriptions of control If handling of the animal is techniques and equipment can involved, either for reloca- be viewed on numerous web tion, consumption (yes, sites by using search engines.

armadillo meat is edible), or Myron Wiley is a Biologist disposal, be aware they can Aide, Alabama Division of on rare occasion be infected Wildlife and Freshwater

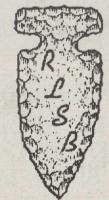
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Texas hunting accidents drop to record low

ing accidents in 2010 declined to the lowest since statistical records began in 1966, according to a new report by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. The number of people injured in hunting accidents in Texas record for hunting accidents fell from 29 in 2009 to 25 in 2010, although fatalities increased from three to four during the same period.

More important than the annual dips and peaks, however, is the long-term trend continues to track downward.

"The statistics show hunting is safe and getting safer in Texas," said Terry Erwin, TPWD hunter education coordinator. "And we do believe that is directly related to hunter education."

The steady decline in the number of accidents tracks the growing number of people who take hunter educa-

The number of Texas hunt- tion in Texas. In 1972, 2,119 people were certified in hunter education. In 2010, more than 3,000 volunteer hunter education instructors trained nearly 42,000 hunters across the state.

The state's worst year on was 1968, when 105 accidents were reported, including 37 fatalities. In 1988, hunter education became mandatory in Texas for anyone born on or after Sept. 2, 1971.

According to Erwin, most accidents are preventable if hunters follow basic safety principles like those taught in hunter education courses.

"You know you're not going to stop accidents altogether," he said. "But you're going to help people build knowledge and skills to avoid accidents. It's things like the '10 Commandments of Shooting Safety,' the very

basic safety principles that are promoted a whole lot more now than 30 or even 20 years ago."

Erwin said the significant factors behind most hunting accidents have not changed much in recent years. "Swinging on game outside a safe fire zone remains the number one cause of hunting accidents in Texas," he noted.

This happens when a person points a firearm at another hunter while following a moving target, such as a flying game bird. Hunter education teaches people to set up safe zones of fire where a gun can be safely pointed whether the target is moving or stationary.

Careless firearm handling remains another primary factor in many accidents.

"Careless handling incidents almost always involve three factors: pointing a loaded firearm muzzle at yourself or someone else with the safety off and with your finger inside the trigger guard," Erwin explained.

Tom Dean of Robert Lee caught this nice stringer of Speckled Trout at Port O'Connor, Texas, in August 2011.

Hunter education courses teach ways to safely handle firearms, including how to carry them in the field and pass them from one person to another.

Although hunter education in Texas is not mandatory for those born before Sept. 1, 1971, it is encouraged for even the most seasoned shooters and hunters and is a requirement of anyone hunting in some states.

Texans have several options available for fulfilling hunter education requirements, including the traditional twoday, 10-hour classroom environment, two free online courses or two optional feeassociated online courses. For more information and to find a hunter education course near you, visit http://www.tpwd.

(Continued on page 15)

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Drought Increases Texas Black Bear Concerns

Wildlife biologists are advising hunters, ranchers and rural residents that black bears appear to be roaming longer distances and may approach people or houses in search of food and water because of the drought.

If conditions remain dry, people could see more bears, said Mike Krueger, district leader of the Edwards Plateau Wildlife District for Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

"We're getting a few reports of people seeing bears during daylight hours, and that's unusual," Krueger said. "It's the associated water around homes and the food. The pet food, the smell of cooking; all those things could attract bears."

Recent bear sightings could reflect young bears who have been turned out by their mothers and are setting out to establish their own home ranges.

Because of the drought, the bears appear to be traveling longer distances, sometimes even hundreds of miles, to find better habitat conditions. Known breeding bear populations in Texas are in far West Texas, so it's possible bears seen in Central Texas traveled from there, or from Mexico. Bears are still considered rare in Texas.

A black bear was killed in early August in Kerr County north of San Antonio. Texas Parks and Wildlife Department investigated the

incident, since bears are protected and may not be hunted. The man who killed the bear said he felt he and his dogs were in danger. The bear was a 2 year old male, weighing 103 pounds.

"We need to encourage everyone to be more tolerant of bears," Krueger said. "We recommend people try to scare bears away, or go to a safe place and call us. But killing a bear should be a last resort unless a person is truly threatened."

Krueger said when the first waves of hunters head to the field in September, some might see broken windows or other signs of bears attempting to enter buildings where food was kept, or wildlife feeders overturned.

These Trexas.

Bears are omnivores, meaning they eat almost anything. Research shows free-roaming black bears are mainly vegetarians, and up to 90 percent of their diet is vegetable material, including nuts, fruits, berries and plants. Most of the protein in a bear's diet comes from insects like beetles, wasps, termites and ants.

According to the TPWD brochure Bear Safety in Mind, bears are normally shy and not aggressive to humans. But if a bear regularly visits a ranch or deer stand, people should try to scare it with rocks, a slingshot or air horn.

If people encounter a bear at close range, they should talk calmly while backing away slowly. Don't make direct eye contact, and don't run away.

If a bear approaches you,



These twin two year old bucks were raised on the 700 Springs Ranch in Telegraph,

stand your ground and raise your arms, backpack or jacket to appear larger, and yell at the bear to scare it off.

Hunters should keep camps clean to prevent odors that will attract bears, and discard gut piles far from campsites. Placing deer corn in piles or in open feeders will attract more bears, while using an automated feeder hung out of reach of bears will decrease bear visits. Also, switching bait from corn to soybeans will reduce bear activity. And, planting food plots is the best way to attract deer

and avoid bear visits.

It is against the law to kill a black bear in Texas, with penalties of up to \$10,000, added civil restitution fines, jail time and loss of all hunting privileges. The black bear, Ursus americanus, is listed as threatened by the State of Texas and the Louisiana black bear, Ursus americanus luteolus, sometimes seen in eastern Texas, has additional protection and is federally listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act.

To report a black bear

sighting in Texas, call a TPWD Wildlife Division regional office: West Texas (Alpine), (432) 837-2051; Central Texas (Kerryille), (830) 896-2500; East Texas (Tyler), (903) 566-1626; Panhandle/Rolling Plains (Canyon), (806) 655-3782; Cross Timbers (Brownwood), (325) 643-5977; South Texas (Pleasanton). (830) 569-8700. If it's an emergency, call the local sheriff's office or 911.



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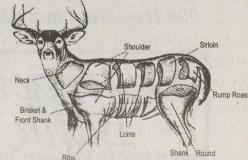
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Ashley Sawyer of Robert Lee got a nice cull buck at Hollis Farris' Wildcat Mountain Ranch not long after the 2010 gun season began. She was guided by her dad, Tom Sawyer.

It's going to happen eventually:

The Nightmare Guide

By Jim Shepherd We all know how much a professional guide contributes to a fishing trip. The knowledge of the fishery, ability to run efficiently between hot spots and to put anglers on fish make guides net- to land his catch. He well worth the money.

So what happens when your guide turns out to be a professional jerk? It's a lesson that you will eventually learn through bitter experience if you don't do some serious checking before showing up

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at the docks fired up and ready to fish.

When you're fishing with a lodge, the guides will all be qualified and about equally equipped. There will still be quiet guides, talkative guides, helpful guides and guys who simply drive the boat and put you on fish. If you have a preference, tell the lodge beforehand.

They're going to work to get you with the right personality type -before you hit

Recently, I re-learned that lesson - the hard way.

Here are some hints that should have told my group to either reconsider our assigned guide or cut our trip

When we introduced ourselves, he grunted, but didn't tell us his name;

Guide or client? If you can't tell, you have the wrong guide.

At the first fishing spot, he took the front seat and used the trolling motor to turn everyone in the fishing party (except himself) downwind and away from the hot bite;

He yelled at us to get the

tomers) handled the net the catch to be "real fishing". rest of the trip;

ing, his response was "it was asked "happy now?" the cheapest they had at the complained we were "waisting bait" with the size of the pieces we were putting on your hook.

locations, the only warning we got was his pushing by on the way to the controls.

brought water - about an hour into the trip-as he reached a bottle -for himself. Fortunately, everyone did bring a bottle of water, but only as a backup position.

asked if I wanted to keep it.

never touched the net again I had time to answer. Turned until stowing the gear to head out he doesn't consider the fish back. The anglers (his cus- you'd told him you wanted to

Back at the dock - finally- he When one angler tangled a tossed the group's catch into a line, our guide watched - basket and started doing somedisgustedly-for twenty min- thing else. When asked when utes without offering to help. he'd be done filleting them Instead, he does offer the (part of the deal), he didn't observation that "everyone answer. Instead, he grabbed a knows you don't make that fish, slammed it onto the kind of cast in a stiff breeze". cleaning table and started cut-When asked about his ting. When he finished, he choice of bait for the morn- pointed the pile of fillets and

Every one of these things dock this morning". He then happened -on a single half-day fishing trip.

And it wasn't with a group of tourists with limited experience. It was a group of writers, When he decided to move primarily fishing specialists, visiting an area the local tourism officials were hoping to get written up in the various He asked if everyone publications represented on the

Fortunately, our guide was under his seat and pulled out the exception and not the rule. Everyone else was horrified at the treatment we received.

Other writers were skeptical about our laughingly recount-When I landed a fish, he ing our misadventure - until one remembered he'd heard a Then he tossed it back before guide in the marina coffee

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shop complaining about the "idiots" he was taking fishing. You guessed it- he was our guide.

At that point, we began exploring all the things we should have done to keep the nightmare trip from ever happening.

A few of the suggestions should make your next guided trip more enjoyable:

Before you leave the dock, talk with the guide about the nature of the group. If you're relatively inexperienced; tell him.

If your guide doesn't offer some opening remarks that include a basic safety brief, and short tour of the boat including dry storage areas where you can store your gear and where the water and/or snacks are locatedyou can bet he's not going to be much more helpful once you're underway.

Talk about your expectations for the charter -and ask questions.

Ask if he normally fishes when he takes a group out. If he does, make it clear that his primary job - on this trip - is to guide, instruct and help your group catch fish, not demonstrate his fishing skills. If he objects, remind, ment. Suggestions and of the passenger-side winhim you are paying him to guide, not to fish.

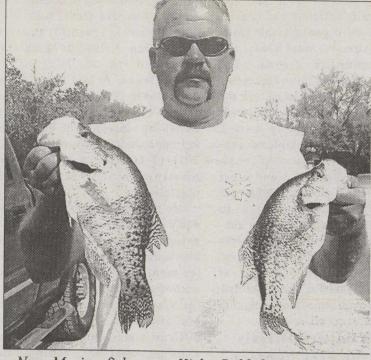
If he has a problem with that, let him go fishing alone. Get another guide.

Ask about the most popular game fish in the area. If you want to fish for something other than the local preference, make certain you communicate that clearly.

If you're after redfish and the local preference is spotted trout, make it clear to the guide that redfish are the primary target- but the other fish would cool as well.

Why? Because the bites might be entirely different. Redfish hit baits hard; spotted trout are a much more subtle bite.

If you're looking for an easy hookup and brisk fight, you're looking for redfish. Redfish might be the choice that turns a frustrating trip into an enjoyable one. If you



New Mexico fisherman Kirby Babb loves to come to Oak Creek Lake. He caught this beautiful 20 pound catfish on August 13, 2011. He is also shown with two of the sixteen crappie he pulled in.

just a bonus. We might call it Carson Wardlow were patrolfishing, but when you're pay- ling in San Ygnacio on Aug. ing for a charter, "catching" is 18 when they saw a pickup the ultimate goal.

schools of fish and you can't Wardlow stopped his truck catch them, he should offer when he saw what appeared suggestions and encourage- to be a gun barrel sticking out encouragement do not mean dow. As the wardens watched, pointing at a spot somewhere the passenger shot twice, and out on the water and scream- the driver got out to retrieve ing, "dang it, throw it right a white-winged dove from the there, right now."

goal: a happy client.

and makes the trip enjoyable.

that won't be the case with a ing issued for using illegal particular guide, either get means and methods. Civil another one or don't go.

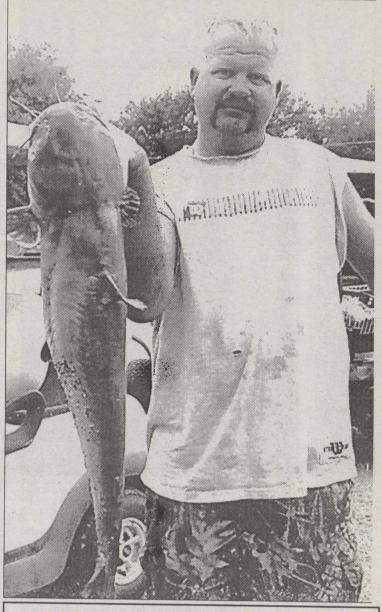
It's your money - and mak- white-winged dove. ing it enjoyable is, ultimately, the guide's job.

TPWD Game Warden Field Notes

The following items are compiled from recent Texas Parks and Wildlife Department law enforcement

Dad joins kids on illegal hunt: Zapata County Game

happen to catch trout, they're Wardens Stevan Ramos and truck stop a couple of blocks If your guide puts you on in front of them. Warden bushes just off the road. The This should be the guide's wardens quickly made contact and found that the pas-A "guide" is supposed to be senger and driver were both the knowledge-filled expert juveniles. Their father was that gets you to your goal - also in the vehicle. One citation was issued for hunting in If your instincts tell you a closed season and a warnrestitution was filed for one



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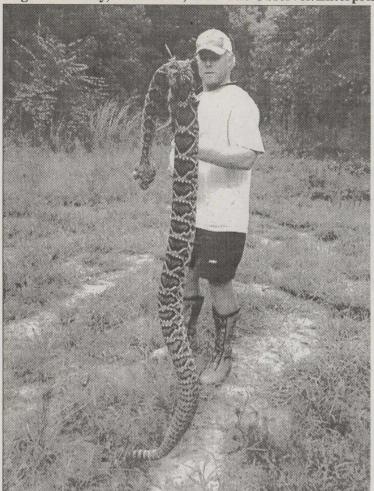
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This gargantuan rattler was killed on a ranch outside of Coleman. The man holding the snake stands 6'-2".

Hunters, Anglers share traditions with youth

In recent surveys conducted on HunterSurvey.com, ShooterSurvey.com AnglerSurvey.com, responses revealed sportsmen overwhelmingly take the time to introduce kids to the joys of hunting and fishing. Asked if in the past 12 months they had taken a child hunting or fishing, just over 45 percent of hunters said they had taken a son, daughter, nephew, niece or other young person hunting, while a whopping 61 percent of fishermen said they had taken a child fishing.

While the relation of the child to the angler would be assumed to most often be a son or a daughter, that is the case only half of the time. The survey revealed 30 percent were nephews, nieces or another young relative; 15 percent were an unrelated child and 4 percent was as part of an outing with a Boy Scout troop, church group or other youth organization.

Where hunting was concerned, the relation of the child to the hunter was a son or a daughter 54 percent of the time. The survey revealed 29 percent were nephews, nieces or another young relative; 14 percent were an unrelated child and 4 percent were as part of an outing with a Boy Scout troop, church group or other youth organization.

"These numbers certainly boost the future of hunting, fishing and conservation as more young people are introduced to and learn the joys of these sports," said Rob Southwick, president of Southwick Associates, which designs and conducts the surveys at HunterSurvey.com, ShooterSurvey.com and AnglerSurvey.com. "While every child taken hunting or

fishing may not continue doing so as an adult, it's expected a good number of them will."

To help continually improve, protect and advance this treasured way of life, all anglers are encouraged to participate in the surveys at HunterSurvey.com, Shooter Survey.com and Angler Survey.com. Each month, participants who complete wildlife continue to shrink on the survey are entered into a drawing for one of five \$100 gift certificates to the sporting goods retailer of their choice.

About AnglerSurvey.com and HunterSurvey.com: increase deer harvest early in Launched in 2006, AnglerSurvey.com,

ShooterSurvey.com and HunterSurvey.com help the 1, for bowhunting and Nov. 5

government fisheries and wildlife officials and conservation organizations track consumer activities and expenditure trends. The information above represents only a small sample of the vast amount of data collected from the complete survey results and available to government agencies, businesses, the media and other interested parties. Results are scientifically analyzed to reflect the attitudes and habits of anglers and hunters across the United States. Find them on Facebook at http://facebook.com/huntersu rvey and http://facebook.com /anglersurvey.

Wildlife officials urge deer hunters to manage herds during drought

Mired in what will undoubtedly be one of the worst droughts on record, white-tailed deer in Texas are facing tough conditions heading into the fall hunting season.

"It doesn't take a biologist to understand that drought has serious impacts on the state's nearly 4 million white-tailed deer," said Alan Cain, deer program leader with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. "Everything from antler quality, to fawn production and overall survival will be affected by the tough range conditions this year."

Food and water sources for a landscape-wide level and to help ensure enough resources are available through the winter months, biologists are encouraging hunters to the hunting season.

The Texas deer hunting season opens Saturday, Oct. outdoor equipment industry, for the general gun season. A

through Jan. 1, 2012 in North whitetails were harvested. Texas and Jan. 15, 2012 in hunting and fishing regulations.

"By reducing deer numbers early on, hunters can help ensure enough groceries will be available through the winter months," Cain said. "As with many wildlife species the very young and the very old often have much more difficult times dealing with extreme weather events." These stress periods are a way for nature to 'thin the herd,' especially in areas where deer populations are already exceeding the carrying capacity of the native range. As deer become stressed they are more susceptible to infections or other disease. Drought like this can be a contributing factor towards stress."

Cain said that isolated incidents of deer die-offs as a result of the drought are possible, but anything on a large scale isn't likely even if dry conditions continue."Keep in mind deer have survived through some pretty tough times including the drought of the 1950s," he said.

The one positive aspect to the drought, Cain noted, is that deer may be more visible to hunters as they seek out water sources and feeders. Last year, Texas hunters harvested a record 688,000 deer and Cain predicted that record could be topped this year if conditions stay the same.

Atop every hunter's mind this year is how antlers will be affected by the drought,

special youth-only weekend said Cain. The 2011 season season is set for Oct. 29-30. will pale in comparison to last The general season runs season when two state record

"Hunters can expect antler South Texas. A late youth- quality to be below average only season is also slated for and much lower than last Jan. 2-15, 2012. For addi- year," Cain said. "However, tional late season deer hunt- that's not to say there aren't ing opportunities, consult the some good bucks out in the 2011-12 Outdoor Annual of woods this year. Those ranches managing habitat properly, keeping deer populations in check and maybe providing a little supplemental feed will not see as large a decrease in antler quality as other places not actively managing habitat."

> By managing habitat properly, many ranches can moderate some of the effects of drought on antler quality. Any buck with a good set of antlers this year is one that has great potential, Cain added, especially a young buck, and hunters may consider passing up that type of deer.

> "Just think if a buck can grow a good set of antlers on the native range under these conditions what he could do during a good year," he said.

Hunters should see a good number of 1 1/2-year-old bucks as many areas of the state experienced good fawn production in 2010 and those buck fawns from last year will now be sporting their first set of antlers this fall. In addition, 2005 was a good fawn production year based on surveys conducted by TPWD wildlife biologists, and those 2005 buck fawns are now 6 1/2 years old. Hopefully, a number of these mature bucks will show up in the harvest this year.

As for recruitment, Cain indicated fawn production doesn't look promising this year. In many areas it is likely to be below 20 percent and in single digits for some of the most drought-stricken regions

"Fawns are susceptible to



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heat stress which could greatly impact fawn survival," said Cain. "These young deer can become dehydrated quickly and good milk production from the doe is critical. In addition, a lack of fawn cover has been critical this summer."

Temperatures at the soil surface can be excruciatingly hot, Cain stressed. "I worked on ranches in South Texas during graduate school, collecting vegetation samples where the soil surface was nearly 140 degrees. These sites were severely overgrazed with little cover and sparse shrubs and mesquites providing little shade. In these sorts of environments fawn survival is dismal. This is why good habitat providing shade and cooling areas is critical during summers and has been very important this summer."

By taking measures early in the season, hunters can do their part to help deer until relief from the drought comes.

Long-term, Wildfires have positive impacts for wildlife

Despite the hardship endured by those closest to the recent wildfires, time will eventually illustrate the positive ecological role that fire plays. The scarring left by wildfires that consumed more than a million and a half acres in Texas so far this year will continue to fade, according to TPWD biologists; replaced eventually by a landscape in much healthier condition for wildlife.

How long the recovery will take depends on a lot of things, most importantly rain.

"Following sufficient rainfall, recovery of burned vegetation will be fairly rapid," said Glen Gillman. "Wildlife species such as white-tailed deer will move back into burned areas. This may take longer in areas where brush species were hit hardest."

Initial field assessments by TPWD indicate minimal losses to wildlife populations from recent wildfires, although some mortality is to

be expected during large scale fires, and plant communities are expected to recover over time. Individual ranches may see fewer animals until habitat conditions improve.

"Once rains come, forbs and grasses will respond quickly on most wildfire sites," said Chip Ruthven, TPWD wildlife management area project leader in the Panhandle. "Typically with spring fires warm-season grasses will respond better than forbs. Regrowth normally has a higher nutritive content and woody resprouts are more available for species such as white-tailed deer.

Big game animals, such as white-tailed deer, are capable of evading fire, burrowing animals can seek refuge underground and birds fly out of harm's way. Even on ranches having high fences, deer usually can find an escape route.

The impacts to ground nesting bird species, like bobwhite quail and turkey, are tougher to project because nesting cover will take longer to recover. But, they do come

"Game bird species evolved with fire and have been observed actively feeding in recently burned areas," noted Robert Perez, TPWD upland game bird program leader. "Seeds become easier to find not to mention the tasty toasted grasshoppers."

Since the fires occurred during drought conditions, nesting attempts were already limited, suggested Jason Hardin, TPWD turkey program biologist.

"The majority of Rio Grande turkeys will not even attempt to nest during drought conditions considering it a better option to put their energy into surviving until the possibility of success is higher in subsequent years," Hardin explained. "That said, on a year like this, if a hen decided to take a shot at nesting and if a nest was lost to a wildfire then I doubt the hen would re-nest. In good years like 2010 a Rio Grande turkey may re-nest several times as long as they have the energy and the temperatures do not get too hot."

Biologists suggest the greatest impacts from the fires will be to reptiles and insect populations, both of which are capable of making rapid recoveries.

Time, rest and rain are the key elements to recovery.

... Bob White Quail

(Continued from page 4) covey only once and don't chase the singles or pairs, or limit how long you hunt."

Perez also encourages hunting early in the season, which runs Oct. 29-Feb. 26.

According to the National Bobwhite Conservation Initiative, a coalition of wildlife professionals across 25 states, bobwhite quail populations have plummeted nationwide by as much as 80 percent over the past half century by some estimates. In addition, entire suites of unhunted songbirds that depend on the same habitat of native grasslands and shrublands have recorded similar declines.

History has shown bobwhites can bounce back when the weather cooperates and suitable habitat is available. Ideal quail production occurs in years that remain wet and cool during the spring and early summer months because it extends the window of opportunity for reproduction, according to Perez. He noted hens typically would make as many nesting attempts as conditions allow until they pull off a successful clutch.

"We need to manage habitat in preparation for those times," Perez offered. "A majority of bobwhites don't survive the first year even during good times; that's why



Sixteen year old Dustin Davis of Midland brought down this 15 point buck near Tennyson opening weekend of last season. This was only his second deer to harvest. He and his stepdad kept track of the buck on game cameras and on opening morning were ready.

Initiative. By bringing all at all times while hunting. stakeholders to the table, the scape level conservation.

(Continued from page 10) 4999.

it takes more than one good is good for life and is honvear to bring numbers back." ored by all states, Mexico, Texas is taking a proactive, and all Canadian provinces partnership strategy to that require hunter education. address quail declines in Proof of certification, which Texas through a coalition of includes the card or the state, federal and private hunter education certification stakeholders — the Texas number printed on the hunt-Conservation ing license, must be carried

Hunters ages 9-16 must initiative can focus on land- either pass the course or be accompanied by a person ... Hunting accidents who is at least 17 or older licensed to hunt in Texas who state.tx.us or call 512-389- has had hunter education or is exempt. Hunters younger The hunter education than age 9 may take the course is a minimum 10-hour course but they will not be class over two days that certified and must be accomteaches hunting safety, mod- panied by a person licensed ern and primitive sporting to hunt in Texas who is at arms, wildlife conservation, least age 17 or older who has management, game laws, out- had hunter education or is door skills and responsibility. exempt. Accompanied means When the course is com- within normal voice control and pleted, the certification card preferably within arm's length.

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