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WINTERS, TX 79567-3504

## Tuesday is Election Day for constitutional amendments

RUBEN CANTU-RODRIGUEZ  
WINTERS ENTERPRISE

**BALLINGER-** This Tuesday, November 8 is Election Day for the Constitutional Amendment Election and Special Election for the City of Miles regarding a local sales and use tax.

Constitutional amendments to be voted include changes that would authorize the legislature to provide an exemption from ad valorem tax to surviving spouse of a 100 percent disabled veteran; also to provide issuance of additional general obligation bonds by the Texas Water Development Board in an amount no the exceed \$6 billion at any time outstanding; amendment number three provides for the issuance of general obligation bonds of the State of Texas to finance educational loans to students.

Amendment number four would authorize the legislature to permit a county to issue bonds or notes or finance the development or redevelopment of an unproductive or blighted area and to pledge for the repayment of the bonds increasing ad valorem taxes imposed by the county on property in the area.

The constitutional amendment number five authorizes the legislature to allow cities or counties to enter into interlocal contracts with other cities or counties without the imposition of a tax or the provision of a sinking fund.

Other amendments include clarifying references to the permanent

### Primary filing window open on Nov. 12

RUBEN CANTU-RODRIGUEZ  
WINTERS ENTERPRISE

**BALLINGER-** Filing window for the 2012 Primary Election to be held in March will be opening on Saturday, November 12, 2011. The filing period will remain open until Monday, December 12, 2011 at 6 p.m.

Positions to be put up for elections in Runnels County are County Sheriff, County Attorney, Tax Assessor-Collector, County Commissioner Precinct No.1, County Commissioner Precinct No.3, Constable Precinct No.1 and Constable Precinct No.2.

Anyone wishing to file for any of the positions must submit a fee. Filing fee for the position of County Sheriff, County Attorney, Tax Assessor-Collector, County Commissioner Precinct No.1 or County Commissioner Precinct No.3 is \$750.

Filing fee for the position of Constable Precinct No.1 or Constable Precinct No.2 is \$350. A signed petition may be presented in lieu of a filing fee. For the position of Sheriff, County Attorney, or Tax Assessor Collector the petition must be presented with 53 signatures.

In order to waive the filing fee for the position of County Commissioner Precinct No.1, County

Commissioner No.3, Constable Precinct No.1 or Constable Precinct No.2 the petition must be presented with 50

signatures. Candidates wishing to participate in the March Primary need to obtain and file an "Appointment of Campaign Treasurer" form from the County Clerk's office before making a campaign expenditure or accepting a campaign contribution.

Incumbents holding the positions to be put up for election are currently County Sheriff William Baird, County Attorney Stuart Holden, Tax Assessor-Collector Robin Burgess, County Commissioner, Precinct No.1 Bobby Moore, County Commissioner, Precinct No.3 Thurman Self, Constable, Precinct No.1 Wayne Poehls, and Constable, Precinct No 2 Archie Jobe.

None of the incumbents has publicly announced his intentions to seek or not seek reelection so far.

To file with the Republican Party, a candidate will need to contact Charles Hensley at 601 CR 259, Ballinger, Texas 76821, (325) 365 262 at home or (325) 365 1082 (cell)

To file with the Democratic Party, a candidate will need to contact Jane Jeschke at Box 402, Miles, Texas 76861 (325) 468 3841 (home). Jeschke will not be available Nov. 16 thru Nov. 27.

The 2012 Primary will be held on Tuesday, March 6. If a runoff is needed the runoff will be held on Tuesday, May 22, 2012.

school fund, allowing the General Land Office to distribute revenue from permanent school fund land or other properties to the available school fund; authorizing the legislature to permit conservation and reclamation districts in El Paso County; providing for the appraisal for ad valorem tax purposes of open-space land devoted to water-stewardship purposes; authorize the Governor to grant a pardon to a person who successfully completes a term of

deferred adjudication community supervision, and the constitutional amendment to change the length of the unexpired term that causes the automatic resignation of certain elected county or district office holders if they become candidates for another office.

The Miles Special Election would re-authorize the local sales and use tax in Miles at the rate of one-fourth of one percent to continue providing revenue for the streets.

Runnels County  
**Hunters Guide**  
2011

Look inside for the  
**2011 Runnels County  
Hunters Guide**



**Colorful play**  
Fourth graders filled the WHS auditorium with their production of "Texas"  
SEE "TEXAS" PAGE 6

## Football Sweetheart



PHOTO: JOE GERHART

Double celebration. Camille Kurtz was named 2011 Football Sweetheart last Friday, October 21, at the game the Winters Blizzards held against the Goldthwaite Eagles. On Friday, September 23 her sister Caitlin was named Homecoming Queen.

## School trustees approve resolution for November Election

WINTERS ENTERPRISE  
STAFF REPORT

**WINTERS-** Following the recent decision of the City Council, Winters ISD School Board members approved a resolution to commence the application process to move May elections to November. Under Senate Bill 100, passed by the Senate and House and was signed into law by Governor Rick Perry on June 17. The purpose of the bill is to adopt voting procedures necessary to implement the federal Military and Overseas Voter Empowerment Act (MOVE Act) which is aimed at making the voting process easier and faster for military and overseas voters. Provisions of that law require balloting materials be available to be mailed or emailed not later than

the 45th day before Election Day. Under the former primary election system, this deadline could not be met for the primary run-off election.

"Representatives from all three entities (the city, the hospital and school) collaborated in September to discuss the recent election change and to weigh our options," said school superintendent Don Kuempel, Jr., "it became apparent the best option for our school district was to move the May school board election date to November and coordinate a joint election with the other entities."

Among other things, the bill states that counties are no longer required to contract with and provide electronic voting equipment to municipalities and school districts

for the May uniform election date in even numbered years. This means that if an election were to be called by the Winters School Board in even numbered years, Runnels County Elections would not have to assist the district as in the past. "Our office has filed a pre-clearance letter of the resolution to the United States Department of Justice and should hear back from them in 60 to 75 days," stated Kuempel, "in essence, our board is requesting to move board elections to November and to extend the length of each board members term by six months to conform to the move." If the pre-clearance letter is approved, it will go into effect at the district's first election held after January 1, 2012.

## Winters ISD will honor Veterans on Nov. 11

WINTERS ENTERPRISE  
STAFF REPORT

**WINTERS-** The Administration and Faculty of Winters ISD is proud to announce a school/community gathering to honor its Veterans. The gathering will take place in the new gymnasium on the Winters ISD school complex. Veterans will places have of honor to sit in the new gymnasium, and the wives and widows of Veterans will have special seating, as will Gold Star Moms who lost a child fighting in WW II. If you fall in this category, or if you know of someone who does, please remind them of this celebration and extend an invitation on behalf of Winters ISD. Letters were sent to those

persons of whom we had addresses, but it is the desire of our District to honor ALL who served our country! (If you know an address or know of someone who needs a letter of invitation, please contact Fran Kidwell at 754-5577).

Veterans are invited to a morning breakfast reception prepared by the Winters ISD School Trustees in the Red, White, Blue room of the new complex at 8 a.m. and then are asked to attend a luncheon in their honor at the Rock Hotel in Winters at the noon hour!

The public is invited to attend the luncheon. Veterans will be fed free of charge; all others will be asked for a donation.



PHOTO: FILE

The Veterans Day program at the new gymnasium will start with a breakfast for Veterans.

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and in-town RV park.

Call 723-2081 or 754-4424 for information.



**NEWS NOTES**

**Veteran's Day Taco Luncheon at the Rock Hotel**

The Rock Hotel will be having a Veteran's Day Taco Luncheon on Friday November 11, from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Rock Hotel.

The luncheon will be consisting of taco salad and desert, Veterans lunch is complimentary. For everyone else donations will be accepted. The Veterans Room upstairs will be open to the public.

This is going to be the monthly fundraiser for the month of November of the Rock Hotel.

The Z.I. Hale Museum will also be open honoring Veterans.

**Workout area users meeting**

If you have been using the yellow building workout area we would like for you to attend a meeting in the workout facility at 5 p.m. on Thursday November 3.

There will be some changes and we are looking for ideas that will make keeping the facility available but yet secure at the same time possible. So bring your ideas. We want to hear them.

If you have any questions please call Charles Murphy at 325 754-5577 or email charles.murphy@wintersisd.org

**Immunization clinics**

Texas Department of State Health Services will be having two immunization clinics in Runnels County. The first clinic will be held in Winters on Thursday, November 3 from 1:30-5:30 p.m. at the Professional Building, 110 South Main, Suite 108. Please use rear entrance (Grant Street) for your convenience.

The second clinic will be held in Ballinger on Thursday, November 10, from 10 a.m.-12 noon and 1:30-3 p.m. at 608 Strong (behind the Courthouse).

Please bring child's immunization records. If child has Medicaid or CHIP please bring card. For more information call (325) 754 4945.

**Fall Festival**

Come and join the good souls of Winters First United Methodist Church for fun, food, and fellowship at their Annual Fall Festival on Sunday, November 6, at the school cafeteria. A delicious meal of southern fried catfish with all the trimmings, dessert, and drink will be served from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Large plates are \$8 and small plates are \$6. Carryouts will be available. You will also want to stop by the Sweet Shoppe to pick up some of your early holiday dessert needs. All proceeds will benefit the missions of First United Methodist Church.

**Harvest of Faith Fest in Rowena**

St. Joseph Catholic Church in Rowena will be holding its 89th Annual Fall Festival "Harvest of Faith" on November 13, 2011.

The program starts at 10:30 a.m. with the flag raising and balloon release, then at 11 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. will be served a turkey and Rowena style German sausage dinner with trimmings. Adult plates will be \$8 and children plates \$4. Plates to-go \$8. Drive thru and walk up will also be available. Uncooked sausage for sale at \$4 lb. while it lasts.

From 11:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. children and adult games and Bingo. Country store opened all day. Tickets on sale for two prize drawings.

Auction will begin at 1:30 p.m. The sausage sandwich supper (\$3) with tea will be served at 4:30 p.m. All activities are in the parish hall and on church grounds.

**Fund raiser Fun Run**

Bronte High School Class of 2014 will be having a Fundraiser Fun Run on Saturday, December 3, 2011, at Christmas in 'Ole Bronte. Registration fee for the 10K run will be \$15, 5K run \$10, and there will also be a one mile run/walk. The registration fee for the one-mile run/walk will be \$3.

Registration and fees will be available on the race day only, at 8 a.m. at old Bronte Railroad Depot.

Race starts at 9 a.m. Pre and post race refreshments/water stops will be provided.

Divisions participating will be U-19, 20-25, 26-44, 45-59, and 60 and Up. There will be male and female overall winners.

For more information call Jerita Taylor at 473 8966 or 473 5551, or send an e-mail at Jerita.taylor@bronteisd.net; Tammy Thorn at City Offices at 473-3501.

Disclaimer must be signed by parents for minors to run. No dogs will be allowed on the course.

**Spirit nights at WHS**

Winters Athletic Booster Club is sponsoring the following Spirit Nights.

- November 4 at Mason  
Road trip... Let's take all of Winters to Mason for a showdown!

**Ballinger Rotary Annual Raffle**

Ballinger Rotary Club will be having its Annual Raffle

with a TW200 trail Wagon Runabout 4x2 light utility vehicle as the main prize. Tickets are \$10 and tax deductible. Chances are available with any Rotary member. Drawing will be held at the Hunters Appreciation Dinner on November 5, 2011. Proceeds go to scholarships for local students.

**Mentors needed**

Winters Elementary School is looking for volunteers to be a mentor on an elementary student. The volunteer would meet with the student once a week during school hours for approximately 30 minutes to help with homework, read a book, or just talk. Mentoring has shown to help build self-esteem, improve grades and in some cases improves test scores. Anyone interested may contact Charles Murphy, Elementary Counselor at 754 5577 ext. 1126.

**Runnels Co. RSE meetings**

The Runnels Co. Retired School Employees meet at the First United Methodist Church, the second Tuesday of the month at 9:45 a.m. On Tuesday, Nov. 15 Dorothy Hoelscher will be presenting the program - Yoga - at the FUMC in Ballinger; on January 10, at FUMC, Massage Therapist Ashley Wiley will present the program; on February 14, 2012 Dist. XV President Nancy Byler will present the program at the Miles Citizen's State Bank; on April 10, 2012 UIL Students will be the program at the Winters ISD.

**Cross Emmaus Community gatherings**

The Cross Emmaus Community gatherings held second Tuesday of each month at 6:30 at the United Methodist Church. For more information call (325) 365 2323.

**VFW meetings**

Winters Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 9193 meet the second Monday night of each month at 6 p.m. in the Rock Hotel. All eligible veterans of the United States military are invited to attend.

**Band Boosters**

The Band Boosters meet every Monday evening at 7 p.m. at the Band Hall.

**Winters Women's Club**

Members meet the second Tuesday of the month. Call Marlene Smith at 754-4961 for additional information.

**AA Meetings**

AA meeting are held at 204 W. Truett behind church on Main St. Tuesday and Thursday at 7 p.m.

**Ballinger Al-Anon meetings**

Al-Anon meetings will be held every Monday and Wednesday at the First United Methodist Church of Ballinger, on Broad Ave. Meetings begin at 7 p.m. Please enter through the south side of the church.

**City Council Meetings**

Winters City Council meets at 6 p.m. the last Monday of the month at 310 North Main.

**School Board Meetings**

Winters ISD School Board meets at 6:30 p.m. every second Monday of the month at 603 North Heights.

**Wingate Masonic Lodge meetings**

Wingate Masonic Lodge 1042 A.F. & A.M., meetings on fourth Monday of the month, at 6:30 p.m. at Wilmeth, TX Lodge. For further information contact Hank Bourdo, at 754 2048.

**Ballinger Masonic Lodge meeting**

Masonic Lodge 643, 500 N Broadway, Ballinger, Texas. Stated meetings are at 7 p.m. on the first Monday of every month except for holidays if it falls on that Monday. For more information call (325) 365 3202.

**Medicare Part D assistance and open enrollment**

A representative from the Area Agency on Aging of West Central Texas will provide assistance with Medi-

care Prescription Drug coverage (Part D) Open Enrollment from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Ballinger Senior Citizen Center located at 608 Sealy Ave. Suite B on November 10. Participants must bring their Medicare Cards and a current list of prescriptions, including dosage and strength.

**Annual Thanksgiving Feast on Nov. 12**

Come one come all for a time of reflection and thanksgiving. Jesus Christ Church and RAM International Ministries Annual Thanksgiving Feast is planned for November 12, 2011, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Ballinger Community Center, 200 N. Crosson, Ballinger, Texas.

The Feast is the community's way of giving thanks to God and all in our community. This will be a day of love, encouragement and great food. There will be no charge, everything is free.

Dine in from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Take out and delivery will be available.

We thank the business community, organizations, churches, and people of Ballinger who support this annual event. For more information please call (325) 365 8711.

**Flu Clinic at the Community Center**

Texas Department of State Health Services will be hosting a Flu Clinic at the Ballinger Community Center, 200 N Crosson Avenue on Monday, November 14th from 9 a.m.-12 p.m. and 1:30-3 p.m.

If on Medicare or Medicaid please bring card For more information please call (325) 754 4945

**Christmas for Kids in need of sponsors**

Children's Advocacy Center of Tom Green County's "Christmas for Kids" program is in need of sponsors for 22 children from Runnels County who are presently being cared for under the CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate) Program or under the CAC's early intervention programs.

These 22 Runnels County children have either been removed from their homes due to documented child abuse or have been removed in order for early intervention services to be provided to them and their parent or guardian. You can sponsor a child by obtaining their "Wish List" and purchasing the items or by making a monetary donation which will be used to purchase the items.

Depending upon the age of the child, the total cost per child is \$45-75. To be provided with a child's Wish List, please contact Sam or Laura Mallory, 365-4277. To make a monetary donation, please make your gift payable to the Children's Advocacy Center of Tom Green County and send it directly to: Rebekah Lewis, Children's Advocacy Center, P.O. Box 5195, San Angelo, TX 76902.

Please be sure to note on your check "Christmas for Kids Program - Runnels County".

**Garage Sales in Rowena**

Lodge 49 Rowena will be hosting garage sales in the SPJST Hall , there will be 13 vendors. Some items are antique dishes, McCoy pottery, cookie jars, lots of children's items, and lots of misalliances treasures. It will be held on Saturday November 5 from 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Youth will be serving hot dogs for lunch.

**Harvest of Faith Fest in Rowena**

St. Joseph Catholic Church in Rowena will be holding its 89th Annual Fall Festival "Harvest of Faith" on November 13, 2011. The program starts at 10:30 a.m. with the flag raising and balloon release, then at 11 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. will be served a turkey and Rowena style German sausage dinner with trimmings. Adult plates will be \$8 and children plates \$4. Plates to-go \$8. Drive thru and walk up will also be available. Uncooked sausage for sale at \$4 lb. while it lasts.

From 11:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. children and adult games and Bingo. Country store opened all day. Tickets on sale for two prize drawings.

Auction will begin at 1:30 p.m. The sausage sandwich supper (\$3) with tea will be served at 4:30 p.m. All activities are in the parish hall and on church grounds.

**Drought emphasizes need for turfgrass breeding trials**

WINTERS ENTERPRISE  
STAFF REPORT

COLLEGE STATION - A green checkerboard at the new Turfgrass Urban Ecology Field Laboratory in College Station is a project to develop new cultivars of major turfgrasses with improved drought and salinity stress tolerance.

Dr. Ambika Chandra, a Texas AgriLife Research assistant professor of turfgrass breeding and molecular genetics in Dallas and the principal investigator of this project, is working under a \$3.8 million grant from the Specialty Crops Research Initiative program sponsored by the U.S. Department of Agriculture National Institute of Food and Agriculture.

"The main idea is that five universities in the south and southeast have gotten together with one goal in mind - to develop cultivars of turfgrasses that are drought as well as salinity tolerant," she said.

Chandra and Dr. Lloyd Nelson, professor emeritus in turfgrass, have AgriLife Research turf plots at both Dallas and College Station. They are collaborating with scientists from North Carolina State University, Oklahoma State University, University of Georgia and University of Florida on the five-year study.

In the first year of the project, 160 different experimental genotypes of Bermuda grass, zoysia grass and St. Augustine grass and 80 genotypes of seashore paspalum grass were planted, Nelson said. Ryegrass germplasm or experimental lines were planted this month.

These lines are not ready to be released to the public, he said, but they are ready for evaluation by the participating universities at multiple locations throughout the southern U.S.

"We want to develop cultivars that are drought and salinity tolerant that can be used in parks, golf courses, home lawns and commercial landscapes," Chandra said. "We want to provide the best to our producers, consumers and industry."

She said breeding is the answer to these two issues - drought and salinity - because a chemical can't be developed to fix either of them, as is the case in controlling disease and insect pest damage. And, the freshwater

supply is limited and increasingly more expensive.

"It is becoming necessary to use water of lesser quality on your turf and landscape," Chandra said. "That's why we are doing this, and why these seven breeding programs in the southern region are working collaboratively under this project."

By evaluating the same plant material under different environmental conditions, breeders can determine the range of adaptation and identify breeding lines best suited for regions across the south and the southeast.

This first year got the plots established, using full fertilizer and irrigation, Nelson said.

"A 4-inch plug was planted to fill each 3-foot-by-3-foot plot," Chandra said. "You can already see the differences in the amount they have spread, the color, the density of the grass - these are the things we are taking notes on this year."

"We will start stressing it for moisture next summer and begin our evaluation for heat and drought tolerance," she said. "We will also look at winter kill this winter."

Chandra said next summer another set of experimental germplasm will be evaluated for all five grasses at all seven locations.

In the third and fourth years, the best material from these first-year plots, as well as those planted next year - regardless of what program it came from - will be replicated in larger field plots, Chandra said.

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# THE IDLE AMERICAN

## 'Gun-jumping' on the rise...

Commentary by  
Dr. Don Newbury

When we over-the-hill bunch were in the early stages of the climb, we faced unending barrages of hints, admonishments, suggestions and commands that our folks and teachers drilled into our skulls.

They believed their guidance would serve us well in dealing with obstacles along life's winding roads.

We were urged to be deliberate, slow to anger and resolved to stay the course. "Cutting the butter" was a "no-no," and when a tough decision loomed, it was almost always best to "sleep on it." That was long before "instant everything" took over. Now, much confusion, anger, misunderstanding and hurt feelings are incurred needlessly because "send buttons" are hit too quickly....

Deliberation is critically

needed in these days — from our house to the White House. Ours is a culture marked by folks "going off half-cocked," or not even coked at all.

With social media "at the ready" to convey our thoughts, we all risk saying too much too soon. We forget Shakespeare's admonition to "give every man thine ear but few thy voice."

In but a jiffy — maybe even a "mini-jiffy" — we respond without thinking. Despite our yearning for the "King's X" time-out option we chose as kids, toothpaste won't go back in the tube....

The higher the profile, the louder the "buzz." No doubt, the Texas A&M University Athletic Director regrets the deci-

sion he made to react quickly to the trashing out of a football team bus during the Aggies' recent visit to Texas Tech. His comments on "Twitter"



TEXAS  
COLUMNIST  
Don  
Newbury

sprouted legs to radio/newspapers/TV, overshadowing coverage of the game.

Verbal barrages ensued, mostly concerning the exact make-up of material smeared on the bus.

How unfortunate that venting of outrage sometimes trumps reliance on common sense....

Major League Baseball honchos would like to claim a mulligan on their position that initially denied the Texas Rangers' invitation to professional basketballer Dirk Nowitzki. The Dallas Mavericks star was chosen to throw out the first pitch before

Game 3 in the 2011 World Series.

When MLB balked, switchboards lit up. Soon, the baseball brass "unbalked."

I can understand unsavory folks like Jack the Ripper being stricken from the list of invitees, but Dirk? MLB should get a life, giving the local franchise wide berth in determining honorees to throw out first pitches. (Team President Nolan Ryan may disqualify himself from catching ceremonial tosses in the future. George W. Bush made a decent pitch to open game #4. But, "unofficial scorers" — more than 51,000 of them — charged Ryan with a passed ball on the presidential pitch. In an instant, Ryan went from "no-hitter" to "no-catcher!")...

The NFL would like a "scuse me," too. League brass understandably exacts fines from players

and coaches who misbehave.

Surely the \$10,000 assessment against Pittsburgh safety Troy Polamalu will be voided. He was cited for his sideline use of a cell phone.

He was advising his wife that an injury incurred a few minutes earlier was likely just a "mild concussion."...

Years ago, I responded to an email received from a colleague. He asked me to evaluate an institutional board member. I composed a frank message, then hit the "reply all" button. That was the very day I learned the difference between "reply" and "reply all," since my response also wound up in the board member's email.

I was beyond embarrassed and drove immediately to the home of the board member to apologize. It was a round-trip of some four hours.

Come to think of it, there's something to be said for the "mute" and "delete" buttons. They can save us considerable embarrassment....

The oldest jurist in Supreme Court History, Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr., distinguished himself during his three decades on the bench. He outlasted other justices by serving until age 90, dying three years later in 1935. He became highly quotable along the way, and his observations still are valuable — if applied.

One of his gems reads thusly: "Speak clearly, if you speak at all; carve every word before you let it fall."

'Nuff said....

Dr. Newbury is a speaker in the Metroplex. Send inquiries/emails to: newbury@speakerdoc.com. Phone: 817-447-3872. Web site: www.speakerdoc.com

## Blizzards are ready for Mason

WINTERS BLIZZARDS ATHLETIC REPORT  
BY STEPHEN HERMESMEYER

JR High Football (Coach Bicknell)

Jr. High Football

The Breezes will host the Mason Punchers this Thursday in the final game of the season for the sub varsity teams. The Seventh Grade game will start at 5 p.m. followed by the Eighth Grade.

JV Football (Coach Cates)

The JV Blizzards will wrap up their season at home against Mason on 11-3-11. The game should start around 7:30-7:45 p.m. We hope to see everyone at the game. Go Blizzards!!!

WHS/WJHS Cross Country

By Coach Holson

Regional Cross Country meet will be this Saturday at Vandergriff Park in Arlington. The boys will run at 12:30 p.m. Our regional qualifiers are Strait Daniel, Nik Kraatz,

Kolten Garcia, Marshall Scates, and Jordan Hamrick. Good luck boys!

Varsity Football

The Blizzards will travel to Mason on Friday night to take on the #2 state ranked Punchers for the District Championship. Both Mason and Winters have clinched playoff spots and the winner will get a bye in the first round and the loser will play the #3 seed from District 14 (Bracketville, La Pryor, Johnson City, Center Point). We hope everyone can come support our Blizzards but if you can't the radio station KRUN in Brady covers Mason's games and will have a live internet radio broadcast.

The Mason FCA will be hosting a donation spaghetti supper to raise money for their FCA (Fellowship of Christian Athletes) fund. The meal will start at 5 p.m.-6:30 at the community center in Mason right beside the football field.

## A&M scientists study Mexican fish with an 'alien' appetite

WINTERS ENTERPRISE  
STAFF REPORT

COLLEGE STATION - Could there be life on other planets less hospitable than ours? Many have speculated the possibility, but a team of Texas A&M University and Oklahoma State University scientists studying a tiny Mexican fish think it's plausible.

"The fish we study are extremophiles, meaning they are adapted to life at the edge of biological tolerance," said Katherine Roach, a graduate student at Texas A&M University in the wildlife and fisheries sciences department.

Roach, together with Regent's Professor Dr. Kirk Winemiller and collaborator Michael Tobler, recently authored a paper on the fish accepted for future publication in the journal Ecology. The small fish their study focuses on is *Poecilia mexicana* found in the Cueva del Azufre or the "cave of sulfur" located in Tabasco state, Mexico.

The small (about 2.5 inches at maturity), almost blind fish live in total darkness swimming in oxygen-starved water with hydrogen sulfide concentrations so toxic they would kill most other life forms, according to Roach.

"Our research shows that organic carbon produced by sulfur bacteria oxidizing dissolved hydrogen sulfide, a process called chemoautotrophy, is the main food source for the fish," Roach said. "Though it is known that simpler life forms flourish by feeding through this process, ours is the first study to actually document a fish, a true vertebrate, directly receiving its sustenance through bacteria performing chemoautotrophy."

"Their ecosystem in the cave is basically self-sustaining without much input from plants at the surface. As a result, our research has implications for discovering life outside the earth. If these complex vertebrates can thrive on sulfur bacteria, why couldn't similar, more evolutionary derived organisms be supported by chemoautotrophic bacteria on other moons or planets such as Europa, one of Jupiter's moons? It may not be altogether impossible."

## Failed cotton presents management concerns

WINTERS ENTERPRISE  
STAFF REPORT

COLLEGE STATION - Drought made it hard to grow cotton this year, but it is also making it hard to kill the cotton in preparation for wheat or other follow-up crops, according to a Texas AgriLife Extension Service specialist.

Dr. Gaylon Morgan, AgriLife Extension state cotton specialist, said many producers in the Blacklands and Rolling Plains are looking at planting or have planted wheat into harvested or destroyed cotton fields, which could present some problems.

"As the cotton stalk-destruction deadline quickly approaches in East and Central Texas, numerous farmers have indicated cotton stalks are more difficult to control with both tillage and chemicals this season," Morgan said.

"Cotton is a perennial plant that we grow as an annual crop," he said. "This is never more obvious than when we are trying to kill the cotton plants and prevent host plants for the boll weevil."

Morgan said several factors contributing to increased difficulty with control of cotton stalks this year are:

- Early harvested fields have more time to regrow following tillage or herbicide applications and prior to the first killing freeze.
- Under moisture-stressed conditions, herbicide efficacy is reduced.

- Residual nutrients that were not used by the cotton plant early in the season can encourage regrowth.

"Unfortunately, there is no 'one recommendation fits all' for killing cotton stalks, especially in a dry year with prolonged growing conditions following harvest," he said. "However, there are some general management strategies that should be considered and have proven effective in the past."

On the tillage front, pulling stalks has typically been quite effective, followed by other tillage methods, Morgan said. However, it is common to have a sufficient number of stalks still standing that require another tillage operation or herbicide application to meet the Texas Department of Agriculture stalk-destruction requirements. On the herbicide front, more than 10 years of applied research and demonstration trials have been initiated to evaluate the efficacy of the chemical-stalk destruction, he said.

Previous research in Texas has indicated the most effective and consistent herbicide is 2,4-D at 1-1.5 pounds of active ingredient per acre on standing, freshly shredded - one to four hours after shredding, or delayed applications - two to three weeks after shredding.

The herbicide Clarity, at 0.5 pound of active ingredient per acre, has been the best alternative to 2,4-D, but has typically provided slightly less kill than 2,4-D, he said.

Although 2,4-D and Clarity typically provide more than 90 percent kill, where growing conditions remain favorable for approximately 60 days or more after herbicide application, a follow-up treatment may be required to kill any remaining host plants, Morgan said. If a second herbicide application is required, 2,4-D at 0.5-1 pound of active ingredient per acre or Clarity at 0.5 pound of active ingredient per acre is recommended.

In years with early harvest and a warm fall, there may be some advantage to the delayed herbicide applications, two to three weeks after shredding, he said.

"The herbicide efficacy is comparable, but this delayed application may decrease the chance of a second application being necessary and can also help control emerging seedling cotton," Morgan said. "However, herbicide efficacy can be hindered as temperatures cool in the fall." Another area where problems can occur is in cotton fields that are planted into wheat, he said. This cropping sequence has numerous benefits, but one challenge in South, Central and East Texas is destroying the cotton crop prior to planting wheat or after wheat establishment.

When destroying cotton stalks prior to planting wheat, remember 2,4-D has a minimum of a 30-day planting restriction to wheat, Morgan said. Even observing this

30-day planting restriction, some wheat injury can occur, if inadequate rainfall occurs. At the recommended rate of Clarity for cotton stalk destruction, the plant-back restriction is 44 days.

When destroying cotton stalks in established wheat fields, 2,4-D is labeled for application to fully tillered wheat through the boot stage, he said. Applications of 2,4-D prior to the full-tiller stage can significantly decrease yields. Clarity is labeled for application from wheat emergence through jointing; however, the labeled rate is a maximum of 4 ounces per acre.

Morgan said several other products are labeled for post-emergence broadleaf weed control in wheat, include Affinity Broadspec, Aim, Buctril, CleanWave, ET, Huskie, Peak and Starane, and this should provide sufficient suppression of cotton stalks until the first killing freeze occurs to cotton. He referenced several publications to get more information, including "Managing Volunteer Cotton in Grain Crops," "Weed Control Recommendations in Wheat" and "Cotton Stalk Destruction with Herbicides."

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# ROLL-UP

## Runnels County

Winters Enterprise

Thursday, November 3, 2011

### St. Joseph's Parish 'Harvest of Faith'

WINTERS ENTERPRISE  
STAFF REPORT

ROWENA- Because of the long, hot, dry summer, harvesting of crops in our area has been very slim. But, on Sunday, November 13, 2011, the parish family of St. Joseph's, Rowena, will celebrate a "Harvest of Faith" as it hosts the 89th Annual Fall Festival. Everyone is invited to join in this celebration of faith and thanksgiving.

The day will begin at 10:30 a.m. with a flag raising at the flag pole in front of St. Joseph School Building with members of the Rowena VFW Post #9691 in charge of the ceremony. A balloon release honoring all veterans, POW'S-MIA'S and current members of the U.S. Armed Forces throughout the world will climax the event.

The traditional mid-day meal will be served from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and will consist of turkey and all the trimmings including Rowena style German sausage along with homemade

desserts, tea and coffee. Adult plates and plates-to-go will be \$8.00; \$4.00 for children. A drive through and walk-up window will provide plates to go.

In preparation for the meal, parishioners will begin making 8,500 lbs. of sausage on Friday evening, November 11, and ending Saturday, November 12. Raw sausage will be sold the day of the festival at \$4.00 lb.

Handicapped parking and seating is available. A shuttle bus will be on hand for those who may need help getting from the parking area to the hall. In case of bad weather, the meal line will be routed through protected areas. All activities will take place



PHOTO: CONTRIBUTED  
Left to right (seated and standing) Jackie and Laura Pospical, Kitchen Food Coordination Chairmen; Quentin and Margaret Watkins, General Co-Chairmen; Donnie and Danelle Schwertner, General Chairmen; Tim and Janice Travis, Kitchen Food Coordination Co-Chairmen; Robert and Angela Martinez, Worker Coordination Chairmen; Troy (not pictured) and Brenda Halfmann, Worker Coordination Co-Chairmen.

at St. Joseph Parish Hall and church grounds. Games for all ages will begin

at 4:30 p.m. at a cost of \$3.00 with tea included. Tickets for two drawings

at 11:30 a.m. ending at 3:30 p.m. A playground for smaller children is located just outside the north entrance of the parish hall and one for older children is north of the red brick school building.

The Country store will be opened throughout the day, featuring handmade one-of-a-kind items, plants, canned goods and baked goods.

The Auction will begin at 1:30 p.m. with merchandise donated by parishioners, merchants and friends. Cotton auction will start at 2:00 p.m.

A Sausage Sandwich Supper begins at 4:30 p.m. at a cost of \$3.00 with tea included. Tickets for two drawings

can be purchased from any St. Joseph parishioner or on the day of the festival. Prizes for the first drawing include: 1.) A Queen Size Quilt; 2.) Afghan with matching pillow. A second drawing will include: 1.) TS-3 Playstation 160 GB; 2.) Sony Handycam 16 BG Memory; 3.) RCA 7 - Inch Dual Screen Mobil DVD System.

Mass for festival workers will be held Saturday, November 12th at 5:00 p.m. at St. Joseph Church. Sunday Mass on November 13th is at 9:30 a.m.

The parish family of St. Joseph's and the community of Rowena extend an invitation to old friends and welcome new comers to its Fall Festival as they celebrate a "Harvest of Faith" and thanksgiving for the recent rains. The children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great, great grandchildren of the early parishioners of St. Joseph's look forward to meet and greet you as this great "tradition lives on."

### Hunters provide needed venison

WINTERS ENTERPRISE  
STAFF REPORT

BALLINGER- The general hunting season begins November 5 and hunters will be doing their part to alleviate hunger in Texas through the Hunters for the Hungry program. Food assistance agencies such as food banks, food pantries, soup kitchens, and shelters count on venison from Hunters for the Hungry to help stretch agency budgets and provide a nutritious source of protein to the people they serve.

According to the U.S. Department

of Agriculture, one in five, or 18.8 percent of Texas households, were at risk of hunger between 2008 and 2010. Many families served by food pantries have to choose between paying for food and paying for utilities or prescriptions.

Last year, hunters donated 178,662 pounds of venison statewide, resulting in more than 700,000 servings. Of that, 1,750 pounds were donated in Runnels County alone.

This season, Hunters for the Hungry is working with Owen's Deer Processing in Ballinger to accept

venison donations. Hunters who wish to be a part of the solution to hunger can learn more about the program by visiting [www.tacaa.org/hunters-for-the-hungry](http://www.tacaa.org/hunters-for-the-hungry) or call (800) 992-9767, ext. 506.

Please contact Anitra Hendricks to arrange to speak with local food assistance agencies who received venison donations last season.

Hunters for the Hungry is a program of the Texas Association of Community Action Agencies, Inc. (TACAA). For more information about TACAA, visit [www.tacaa.org](http://www.tacaa.org).

### A&M joins recognition to fallen troops

WINTERS ENTERPRISE  
STAFF REPORT

COLLEGE STATION- Following the 10th anniversary of the September 11 terrorist attacks, Texas A&M University is joining a nationwide grassroots effort to honor American service men and women who paid the ultimate sacrifice in Iraq and Afghanistan during the past decade.

On Friday, November 11 campus and community volunteers at more than 100 college s and universities across the nation will read the names of the 6,200-plus casualties of Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) and Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF), now called Operation New Dawn. Each campus participating in Remembrance Day National Roll Call will organize its own reading of names and will observe at 1 p.m. CST, a simultaneous nationwide minute of silence. Currently, more than 157 schools in 50 states plus the District of Columbia have agreed to participate in the event.

The Remembrance Day National Roll Call is sponsored nationally by the Veterans Knowledge Community of NASPA Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education. NASPA is a 12,000-member association for the advancement, health and sustainability of student affairs professionals. The Veterans Knowledge Community (VKC) mission is to advocate for best practices to help student veterans transition to college and succeed. As the National Roll Call sponsor, the goal is to have at least one institution in each of the 50 states participating. "We wanted to rally campus communities across the nation to send a powerful message to the troops" said Lt. Col. (Ret) Brett Morris.

### SWCDS seek rule changes in CRP program

WINTERS ENTERPRISE  
STAFF REPORT

SAN ANTONIO- Because of the extended drought conditions in Texas and because wildfires have ravaged a large part of the state, Texas soil and water conservation district directors attending their 71st annual meeting in San Antonio are seeking to obtain changes in the rules of the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) to permit more intensive grazing of CRP contracted land to minimize dry fuel as a fire hazard on those acreages and to increase a landowner's Environmental Benefits Index points (EBI) on existing and new contracts to permit the construction of firebreaks along public roads.

"The problem we are having in the state is that there are large acreages of unmanaged CRP grasses that pose extreme wildfire hazards which are a threat to wildlife, property, and human life. In addition, even though the USDA allows for the establish-

ment of 21 foot firebreaks on private land along roads and highways, the problem is compounded because there has not been an incentive for producers to construct the firebreaks," said Jimmy McCurry, chairman of the Lamb County SWCD who prompted resolutions for a change in the rules.

"Wildlife biologists have given testimony that managed grazing on CRP contracted lands would benefit wildlife and reduce fire hazards. Firefighters concur with the biologists, but added that constructed firebreaks on CRP grassland acreage adjacent to public roads would also be a benefit toward reducing fire hazards."

What Texas SWCDS are wanting are rule changes to increase management and maintenance fees as well as grazing of CRP lands which in turn reduces the dry mass that contributes to fire hazards, concluded McCurry.

The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) is a

voluntary program for agricultural landowners. The program is administered by the USDA Farm Services Agency (FSA) while technical support functions are provided by USDA's Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) and local soil and water conservation districts. Through CRP, agricultural producers can receive annual rental payments and cost-share assistance to establish long-term conservation grass cover on eligible farmland.

The Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) makes annual rental payments based on the agriculture rental value of the land, and it provides cost-share assistance for up to 50 percent of the participant's costs in establishing approved conservation practices. Participants enroll in CRP contracts for 10 to 15 years.

FSA evaluates and ranks eligible CRP offers using an Environmental Benefits Index (EBI) that shows the environmental benefits to

be gained from enrolling land in CRP. The EBI consists of five environmental factors: wildlife, water, soil, air and enduring benefits and cost.

"In the case of what Texas SWCDS are asking for, current agricultural landowners who are participating in the CRP program forfeit 25 percent of their rental rate if they graze their contracted acres. So, districts are asking FSA to waive the forfeiture for grazing rights," said Mark Habiger, NRCS Assistant State Conservationist.

### SWCD Directors approve changes in digging rules

WINTERS ENTERPRISE  
STAFF REPORT

SAN ANTONIO- SWCD directors attending their 71st Annual Meeting of SWCD Directors October 24-26 in San Antonio approved a resolution to seek legislation requiring all underground utility companies to be on the one-call number list (811 or 1-800-DIG-TESS).

"The purpose of the resolution concerns addressing potential safety and liability concerns that need to be addressed to not only avoid loss of life, but to prevent any disruption in services to the general public," said Edward Vajdak, vice-chairman of the Burleson County SWCD, sponsor of the resolution.

Vajdak explained that the Texas Utility Commission requires that property owners and contractors call 811 or 1-800-DIG-TESS at least two working days prior to construction when any excavation is more than 18 inches in depth to receive a confirmation number.

"As it stands now, the liability falls upon the property owner and the contractor to make certain that there are no underground utilities in the construction area because not all underground utilities are on the list to be contacted by 811 and DIG-TESS," said Vajdak.

### Veteran's Corner

Please be sure to consider voting yes to pass Proposition #1(SJR14) when you vote on November 8th. This Constitutional Amendment will exempt all of the property tax value of a residence homestead of a surviving spouse of a totally disabled, service connected veteran. Up until now, the totally disable service connected veteran received the exemption, but not their spouse upon the veterans death. This is a great benefit for the surviving spouse. If we ignore our benefits, they will go away. For more information, contact Sandra at the Veterans Service Office at 602 Strong Ave or call 365-3612.

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By Ace Reid

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## RUNNELS COUNTY CLASSIFIEDS

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**Unwanted Items?** Sell them in the RUNNELS COUNTY CLASSIFIEDS Call 325-365-3501

**\$500 REWARD** FOR INFORMATION LEADING to the arrest & conviction of the person who drove into the front of the WINTERS LAUNDROMAT ON 10-03-2011 Contact the Winters Police Department at 325-754-4121

### 900 Legal Notices

**BID NOTICE** North Runnels Hospital Clinic is accepting sealed bids from trade contractors and suppliers for the North Runnels Hospital Clinic Project until 2:00 p.m. on November 8, 2011 at which time the bids will be privately opened, re-evaluated. Bids will be received at the office of the Construction Manager, Waldrop Construction Company, Inc., P.O. Box 1000, 3208 Fourth Street, Brownwood, Texas

**Announcement of the Application Period for the HOME Rehabilitation Assistance to Reconstruction/Rehabilitation of Homes for Low-Moderate Income Homeowners**

The City of Ballinger has received funds through the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs to administer

the HOME Rehabilitation Assistance to Reconstruction/Rehabilitation of Homes for Low-Moderate Income Homeowners program. The program is designed to assist eligible homeowners in making repairs and improvements to their homes. The program is open to homeowners who own their homes. Applications will be available for pick up on November 9, 2011 at 9:00 am. The deadline for returning applications will be November 23, 2011 at 5:00 pm. The application period will be open from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm Monday through Friday. The first six households to (1) complete and return the application information, (2) provide all requested information to verify eligibility, (3) meet all eligibility requirements and (4) agree to participate in the program will be served. The applications will be reviewed on a first come and Community first serve basis. Tommy New at 325-365-3511.

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**Application packets will be available for pick up at the Ballinger City Hall starting on November 10, 2011.**

The City of Ballinger is an Equal Housing Opportunity entity.

### 900 Legal Notices

Each application will be timed and dated upon return to Ballinger City Hall. After the applications have been reviewed, an appointment will be scheduled with the qualifying homeowners. Program information and assistance completing additional paperwork will be provided at that scheduled time. The city will host an Application Workshop to provide program information. Applicants are encouraged to attend this workshop, but are not required to participate in this workshop as an eligibility requirement.

The Quality Housing and Work Responsibility Act of 1998 requires the Housing Authority of the City of Ballinger to prepare a Five Year Plan and an Annual Plan covering operations of the Public Housing Authority. On December 14, 2011 at 6:00 pm, the Ballinger Housing Authority will hold a public meeting to receive comments on the Housing Authority's Five Year Plan and Annual Plan. The meeting will take place at 1401 N 13th St. in the office of the Ballinger Housing Authority.

The draft plans and all supporting documentation are available to the public for viewing at the administration office of the Housing Authority located at 1401 N 13th St., Monday through Friday during the hours of 9:00 am until 12:00 pm.

Bidders may contact the Winters on-duty police officer to inspect the vehicles. High bidder will be notified by Chief of Police. Vehicle must be removed within 20 days of notification. Anyone having any legal or proprietary interest in any of the above listed vehicles must present a valid legal claim for the property to the Chief of Police prior to the closing date of bids and will be responsible for payment of all appropriate assessed fees prior to release of the vehicle.

**NOTICE:** Winters Police Department hereby gives public notice of the intent to sell the following abandoned vehicles on an "as is, where is" basis by sealed bid auction. City reserves the right to refuse any bid.

1. 2000 Nissan SUV VIN#5N1E028T XYC525769 Registered to Annette Webster of Lubbock, TX.

2. 1984 Chevrolet 4-Door Sedan VIN #1G1AW19X0E 6850071 Registered to David Rose of Winters, TX.

3. 1993 Nissan 4-Door VIN# 1N4BU31F2PC 140650 Registered to Tiffany Brisono of Lockhart, TX.

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# Fourth graders take over 'Texas'



PHOTO: FILE

Kathleen Mills

## Kat Mills participating in McMurry Chanters

### WINTERS ENTERPRISE STAFF REPORT

ABILENE- Kathleen Mills, a Sophomore Music Ed / Instrumental major from Winters, Texas is a member of the McMurry University Chanters choral ensemble for the 2011-2012 academic year.

McMurry Chanters is the primary touring choir of the McMurry University Music Department. They are selected by competitive audition, and the ensemble performs a wide variety of music with an emphasis on traditional a cappella literature.

McMurry's Sounds is a small select, auditioned ensemble that performs repertoire which ranges from madrigals to vocal jazz. This ensemble also tours with Chanters.

The Chanters are currently preparing for a concert on December 8th at the Episcopal Church of the Heavenly Rest in Abilene, Texas. The group will travel to Colorado in April and participate in musical Collage Concert in the spring in Abilene.

The McMurry's Sounds features Stephanie Van Noord, Kalya Cunningham, LeVaughn Friar and James McDonald. They will be performing for two programs in November. On November 10 they will present music during the Youth Appreciation program presented by the Odd Fellows of Abilene. On Saturday, November 12 Sounds will be performing for an important Abilene Philharmonic Orchestra's fund raiser.

For more information or to schedule an audition contact: Dr. David Wallis, Director of Choral Activities, Box 698 McMurry Station, Abilene, TX 79697; (325) 793-4947, wallis.david@mcm.edu



PHOTOS: TOP CONTRIBUTED/LEFT JOE GERHART

Winters fabulous Fourth graders under the direction of Fran Kidwell filled the auditorium with their colorful production of "Texas." Broadway must have taken a deep breath as these Fourth graders entertained a packed house last Thursday night. Wow is all that describes this production. The music, dancing and storytelling was no less than fabulous. If you haven't experienced one of Fran's gala's, put it on your must see list. When the show ended the kids didn't want to stop. They just kept on singing and dancing and the audience was enamored.

Thank you Fourth Grade and thank you Mrs. Kidwell for a great night. Looking to the next one!

## Texas Tree Conference honors tree lovers

### WINTERS ENTERPRISE STAFF REPORT

WACO- A longtime arborist from Austin was among several civic leaders and government officials from across the state to be honored for their dedication to trees during the 2011 Texas Tree Conference held earlier this month.

Certified Arborist Nevic Donnelly — who serves as president of They Might Be Monkeys! Texas Tree & Land Care in Austin — was named the 2011 Texas Arborist of the Year.

In addition to the individual award, four project awards also were given out. The Houston District of the Texas Department of Transportation was awarded the Arboricultural Project of the Year for The Green Ribbon Project: Corridor Aesthetics and Landscape Master Plan. The city of Grand Prairie, Dallas Parks and Recreation and Texas Trees Foundation each were given 2011 Gold Leaf Awards.

"These award winners exemplify the best of the best in tree care and community forestry," said John

Giedraitis, past president of the Texas Chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture and urban forestry manager for Texas Forest Service. "They serve as models for statewide efforts to plant, care for, protect and plan for the trees where we live, work and play."

The awards are sponsored jointly by Texas Forest Service and the International Society of Arboriculture Texas Chapter.

Individual Award Winner was Nevic Donnelly, 2011 Texas Arborist of the Year. Donnelly developed his love of nature while growing up in San Diego. He worked on a forestry crew with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection from 1992 to 1994, which is when he moved to the Lone Star State and got his start in the tree business. He took to the job quickly, proving himself as a good climber and one of the best in his profession. By 1999, he became his own boss as he launched They Might Be Monkeys! Texas Tree & Land Care.

Committed to both his own education and that of the community, Donnelly has served on a variety of boards.

## Leprechauns, ghouls and goblins



PHOTO: JOE GERHART

Children and grownups enjoyed last Saturday a great time in the Halloween Fest held at the Winters ISD gymnasium. Alyssa Roman placed first in the toddlers costume contest, the second place was for Logan Heathcott and Janner Rose placed third. Holding the toddlers are Sabrina Esquivel, Isha Tamez, Courtney Jo and Catherine Thurman at far right. In the front row Christopher Martinez, Rylee Calcote and Malaki Alvarado.

## WHS 2011 Football Sweetheart candidates



PHOTO: JOE GERHART

Football Sweetheart 2011 candidates left to right Camille Kurtz, Hannah Franklin, Sarah Lara and Michelle Kruse. Camille was named Winters High School Football Sweetheart last Friday, October 21 at the game the Winters Blizzards held against the Goldthwaite Eagles at Blizzard Stadium.

## Four cemeteries, WISD and the Rock Hotel in the VFW tour

### WINTERS ENTERPRISE STAFF REPORT

WINTERS- Winters Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 9193 have made plans for Veterans Day November 11, 2011.

V.F.W. members will post the United States Flag in the four cemeteries and the Korean marker in the City Park. They ask everyone else to fly their flag in honor of Veterans Day.

All members and other veterans and their families including families of deceased veterans are invited to attend the Winters Independent School District district-wide celebration for Veterans in the WISD gymnasium at 9 a.m.

After the program V.F.W. members will visit the Senior Citizen Nursing Home and

### Winters Assisted Living Home.

They will sponsor a Open House in the Veterans Room at the Rock Hotel from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and invite everyone to come and see what has been collected from the local veterans.

They will also join other veterans and anyone else who would like to attend at the luncheon sponsored by the Z. I. Hale Museum members in the Rock Hotel from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Veterans will eat free and others are asked to give an donation for the meal. A Veterans Day dinner is planned for Saturday night, November 12, 2011. If you would like to volunteer to help or have any questions call (325) 754 5182.

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### CAFETERIA MENU

Nov. 4 - 11

Subject to change\*

#### WINTERS ISD BREAKFAST

MONDAY  
Biscuit/Sausage or Cereal or Cheese and Egg Omelet, Toast w/Jelly, Juice, Choice of Milk.

TUESDAY  
Breakfast Pizza or Cereal or Breakfast Pocket, Toast w/Jelly, Juice, Choice Milk.

WEDNESDAY  
Biscuit/Egg Pattle or Oatmeal or Sausage on Stick, Toast w/Jelly, Juice, Choice of Milk.

THURSDAY  
Sausage Roll or Cereal or Breakfast Burrito, Toast w/Jelly, Juice, Choice of Milk.

FRIDAY  
Biscuit/Sausage or Cereal or Cinnamon Roll/Sausage, Toast w/Jelly, Juice, Choice of Milk.

#### WINTERS ISD LUNCH MENU

Note: Menus are subject to change without notice. Students may purchase extra Entree for \$1.00, Milk for \$.30, Sides for \$.50, Large Chef Salad for \$2.00, Small Chef Salad for \$1.00, Tea \$.50 (Jr. High and High School), Water \$1.00, Visiting Adult \$4.00, Visiting Child \$3.00.

MONDAY  
BBQ Ribs/Bun or Chicken Rice Pilaf, Broccoli Salad, Black Eyed Peas, Tossed Salad/Carrot Stick, Peaches, Hot Roll, Choice of Milk.

TUESDAY  
Lasagna or Chicken/Bun, Italian Green Beans, Cooked Carrots, Tossed Salad/Carrot Sticks, Rosy Pears, Rice Crispy Treat, Hot Roll, Choice of Milk.

WEDNESDAY  
Taco Salad or Chicken Fajita, Spanish Rice, Pinto Beans, Carrot Sticks, Coleslaw/Lettuce & Tomato, Rosy Applesauce, Cornbread/Jep. Che. Bread, Choice of Milk.

THURSDAY  
Chicken Tenders/Gravy or Sloppy Joe/Bun, Broccoli w/Cheese, Mashed Sweet Potatoes, Tossed Salad/Carrot Sticks, Orange Wedges, Hot Roll, Choice Milk.

FRIDAY  
Cheese Burger or Chili Dog, Curly Fries, Baked Beans, Lettuce/Pickles, Tossed Salad/Carrot Sticks, Rosy Applesauce, Hot Roll, Choice of Milk.

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Runnels County

# Hunters Guide

## 2011

**WHAT'S  
YOUR  
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**Bolt-action,  
semi-auto,  
muzzleloader**

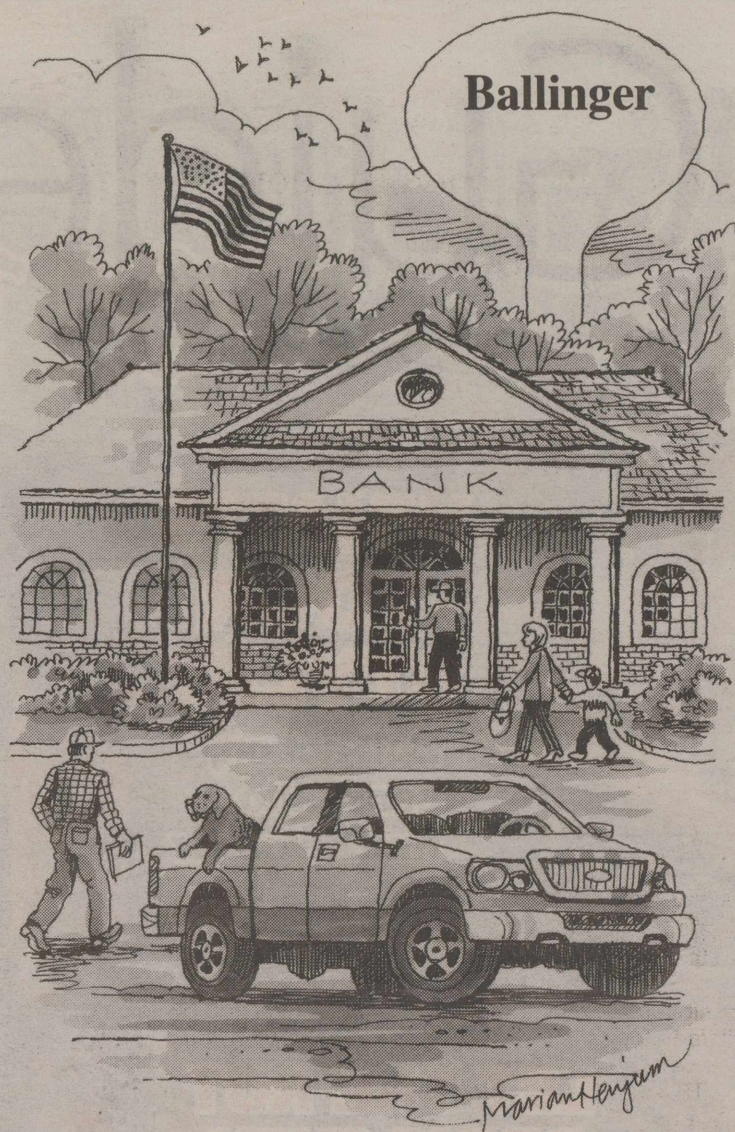
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FDIC

# Fit the rifle to your needs

**RUBEN CANTU-RODRIGUEZ**  
HUNTERS GUIDE

Experienced and old school hunters have trusted bolt-action rifles for many years when it's time to hunt, however many hunters are always looking for new choices and the market these days has plenty of options to chose from.

Semi-automatic rifles, muzzle loaders and slug guns are being widely used, and some states even require the use of shotguns for certain deer hunting sites and seasons.

For the traditional hunter the single-shot, break-open action rifle or shotgun is probably the best choice. It is safer, more reliable and accurate than other options, but it also has some disadvantages when compared with other guns.

The semi-auto, for example is becoming more and more popular everyday

among shotgun shooters as well as some rifle hunters, its advantage is obvious with sequential rounds without the need of taking your eyes off the target.

Maintaining the gun in the shoulder and steadily pulling the trigger as needed has been bagging many deer that other wise would be fleeing after the first shot.

The most common reloading system for these guns utilizes the gas expelled from a fired shot to take the action back and load another cartridge in the chamber. Safety and reliability of these method depends on the maker and the guns require much more maintenance and care than regular bolt-action or lever-action rifles.

Among other advantages semi-autos offer less

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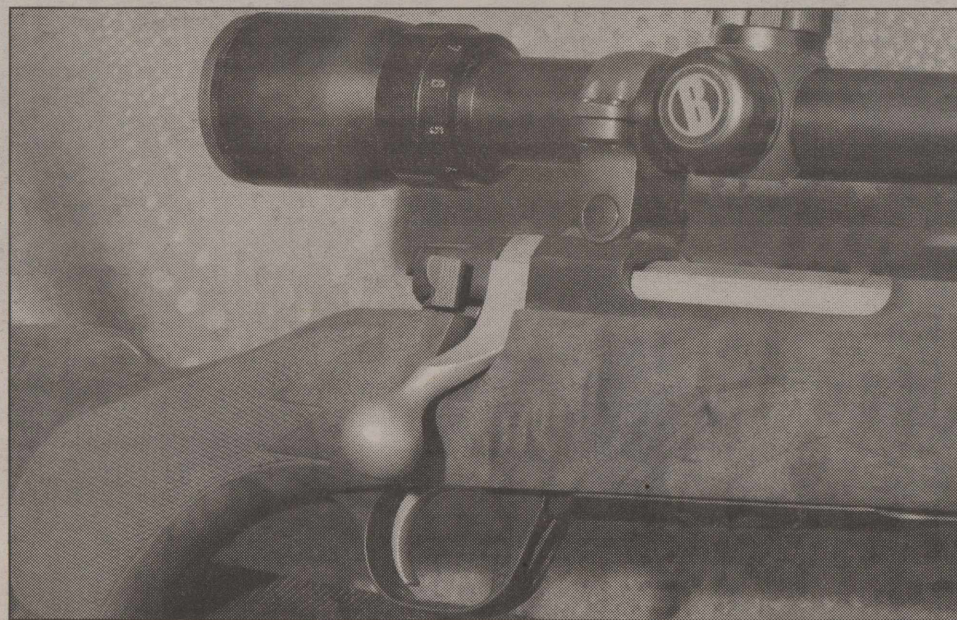


PHOTO: RUBEN CANTU-RODRIGUEZ

Hunters have been using Bolt-action rifles for decades but they have plenty of options to chose from these days.

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

recoil than their bolt-action counterparts, this makes them more comfortable to shoot, particularly with magnums, shotguns or heavy rifle calibers. Directing the gas to the chambering system instead of the muzzle helps to reduce the recoil in semi-autos.

The lack of reliability often associated with semi-autos may be compensated by using high quality ammunition to prevent jamming.

AR military assault-style rifles, widely found in .223 Remington or 5.56 mm not suitable for big game, are now being sold in .308 and many other hunting calibers.

Another rifle that has been in the hunting scene for well over 140 years is the lever action. The quick cycle of these guns make them suitable for repeated shooting situations. Their accuracy is also praised by many hunters and medium range shooters.

The main disadvantage of the lever-action lays within its core, its tubular design will not take modern pointed bullets aligned behind each other due to the danger of hitting the next bullet's primer. The most popular soft or rounded deer-hunting cartridges avoid this problem and some lever-action is still suitable for deer hunting.

In the muzzleloader the propellant charge is loaded from the muzzle, larger calibers like .50 are becoming more popular each day among exotic hunters. These rifles are not as accurate or reliable as cartridge guns and require closer shooting distances as well as better placement.

Swabbing and deep cleaning before the shot helps to improve accuracy, so that there is no residue left in the barrel. Driven by demand for muzzleloaders for special extended primitive hunting seasons, firearms manufacturers such as Knight Rifles and Savage Arms have developed in-line muzzleloading rifles with designs similar to modern breech-loading centerfire designs.

# Myths and facts about feral hogs

Like the critters themselves, myths abound about feral hogs

**ROBERT BURNS**  
TEXAS AGRILIFE EXTENSION  
SERVICE

**OVERTON** — Until recently, if anyone tried to tell you how many feral hogs there are in Texas, they were just blowing smoke, according to a Texas AgriLife Extension Service wildlife biologist.

"When it comes to feral hogs in Texas, separating fact from fiction is becoming a little easier as research reveals more about the pesky porcines," said Dr. Billy Higginbotham, AgriLife Extension wildlife specialist. "There remains much we don't know about this exotic that has inhabited our state for the past 450 years."

Highest ranking among the myths are estimates of the actual number of feral hogs in Texas, Higginbotham said. A common number that has been bantered about for years is 1 to 4 million. But there was just no data to support this estimate.

That is, there wasn't until Dr. Roel Lopez, associate director of the Texas A&M University Institute for Renewable Natural Resources, recently used geographic information system procedures to turn the guesstimates into reliable estimates, said Higginbotham, who collaborated with Lopez on the study.

The term "geographic information systems," usually simply called GIS, refers to a procedure that involves diverse data gathering means, from on-the-ground GPS referenced data to satellite to historical records, and organizes it geographically.

"A simpler way to put it is that it's just a electronic map," Lopez said.

Using GIS techniques, Lopez was able to quantify first the extent of the feral hog habitat in Texas. He estimates that

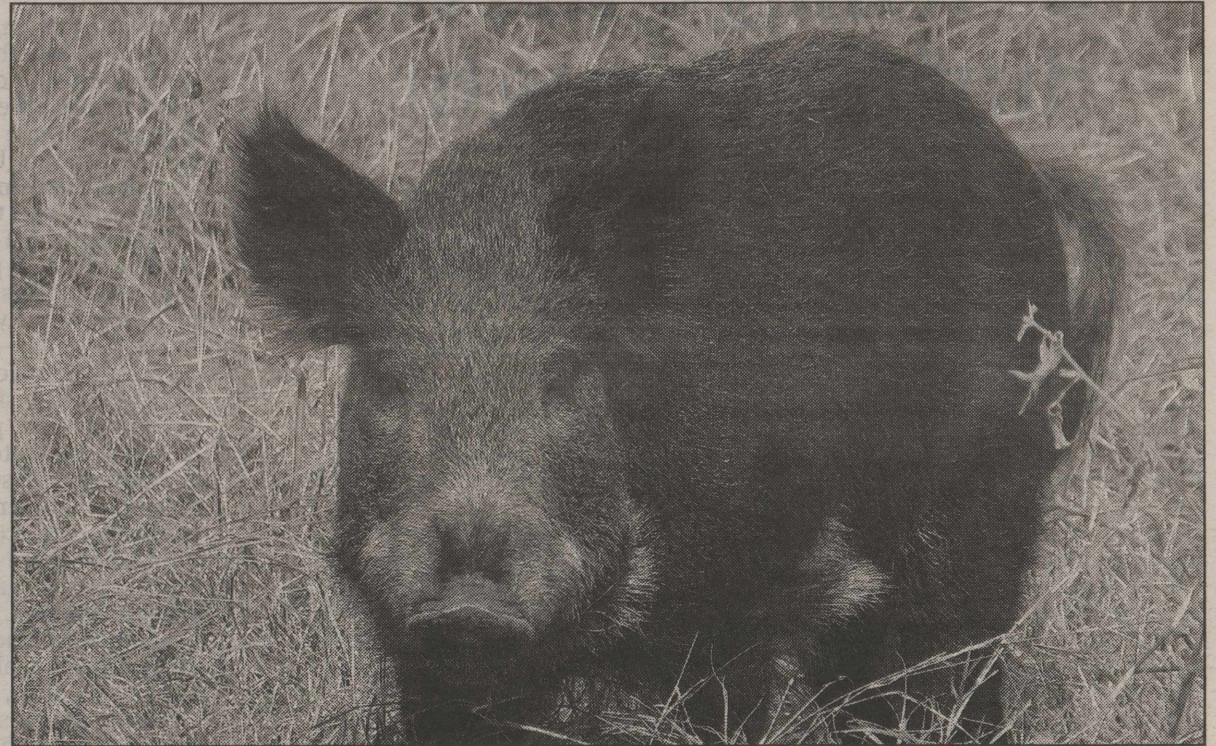


PHOTO: TEXAS AGRILIFE EXTENSION SERVICE DR. BILLY HIGGINBOTHAM

A common myth is that it's possible to identify the breed of a given feral hog by its color and markings. "Hogwash," said a Texas AgriLife Extension Service wildlife specialist.

"approximately 134 million acres, or 79 percent of the state's 170 million acres, represents feral hog habitat," said Higginbotham.

By knowing the range of feral hog habitat and the species population density in various types of Texas environments, Lopez also came up with a population estimate that has some meat to it, Higginbotham said. Lopez estimates that the actual number could range from a low of 1.9 million to a high of 3.4 million.

Exaggerated claims of feral hog population-growth rates are a related myth. Many of the population guesstimates are based on a purely arbitrary number of hogs in Texas being set at 1 million in the 1970s. This number, which also had no research basis, is then often extrapolated on using another bit of misinformation: That because of feral hogs' high birth rates, their population is doubling every year.

So what are the facts?

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# Deer hunters urged to manage herds during drought

## RUNNELS COUNTY HUNTERS GUIDE

AUSTIN- 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 wildlife continue to shrink on a landscape-wide level and to help ensure enough resources are available through the winter months, biologists are encouraging hunters to increase deer harvest early in the hunting season.

The Texas deer hunting season opened on Oct. 1, for bowhunting and Nov. 5 for the general gun season. A special youth-only weekend season is set for Oct. 29-30. The general season runs through Jan. 1, 2012 in North Texas and Jan. 15, 2012 in South Texas. A late youth-only season is also slated for Jan. 2-15, 2012. For additional late season deer hunting opportunities, consult the 2011-12 Outdoor Annual of 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

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A 2011 consolidation of past studies done by his graduate student, Janell Mellish, the average litter size in Texas and the Southeast is 5.6 pigs, Lopez said.

It is also known, that on average, a sow is about 13 months old when she has her first litter, and that also on average, mature sows have 1.5 litters per year. This means there is a significant population growth rate, but a far cry from the doubling-yearly myth, Lopez said.

"We estimated the population growth of feral hogs in Texas averages between 18 percent to 20 percent annually," Lopez said. "This means that it would take almost five years for a population to double in size if left unchecked."

The study, which was conducted by Lopez and Mellish, used three methods to estimate feral pig population growth in Texas: the statewide number of aerial permits issued for shooting feral hogs; the number of pigs processed in commercial processing facilities; and feral hog control data made available from U.S. Department of Agriculture-Wildlife Services.

Another common myth is that recreational hunting alone can control feral hog populations, Higginbotham said.

"Of the dozen studies conducted across the nation, hunting removes between 8 percent and 50 percent of a population, with an average of 24 percent across all studies," he said. "In order to hold a population stable with no growth, 60 to 70 percent of a feral hog population would have to be removed annually."

Another myth is that it's possible to identify the breed of a given feral hog by its color markings.

"Today's feral hogs are descended from domestic breeds, Eurasian wild boars and, of course, hybrids of the two," Higginbotham said. "But despite claims to the contrary, simply observing the color patterns, hair characteristics and size cannot let you definitively identify which of the three types and individual hog falls into."

One thing about feral hogs is definitely not a myth — the huge amount

of damage they do to crops, wildlife habitat and landscapes, Higginbotham said. And from all indications, the damage they do is expanding in scope and range.

"Feral hogs were once largely a rural or agricultural issue in Texas, inflicting over \$52 million in damage annually," he said. "But the porkers have literally moved to town and are now causing significant damage in urban and suburban communities. This damage includes the rooting of landscapes, parks, lawns, golf courses, sports fields and even cemeteries, as they search for food. It has been estimated that a single hog can cause over \$200 damage annually."

The \$200-per-hog estimate doesn't include the damage feral hogs do as they compete with other wildlife species, such as whitetail deer, for food and habitat, he noted. And some of the species challenged by feral hog invasions are endangered species.


It's important to keep in perspective that the bottom line is not an actual hog-head count, but the damage they do and how to develop ways to reduce it.

"For those landowners actively engaged in deer management, their tolerance of feral hogs should be very, very low," Higginbotham said. "Can we (significantly) reduce the damage feral hogs do through control efforts? The answer is 'absolutely yes.'"

"Texas AgriLife Extension Service has demonstrated that through education and outreach and Wildlife Services-led control efforts, damage can be significantly reduced by control efforts," he said. "In a 2006-07 study funded by the Texas Department of Agriculture, agricultural damage was reduced by 66 percent via control efforts in just two years."

Since 2007, subsequent studies done by AgriLife Extension and again funded by the state's department of agriculture confirmed that control measures such as trapping and shooting "prevented millions of dollars in damage," he said.


"Landowners remain the first line of defense since Texas is 95 percent privately owned land."



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Pastor Buddy Moore

First United Methodist Church

Ballinger, Texas



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

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, said Cain. The 2011 season will pale in comparison to last season when two state record whitetails were harvested.

"Hunters can expect antler quality to be below average and much lower than last year," Cain said. "However, that's not to say there aren't some good bucks out in the 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 of the

state.

"Fawns are susceptible to 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 site 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."



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# Mule deer check stations set up by TPWD

RUNNELS COUNTY  
HUNTERS GUIDE

AUSTIN- Texas Parks and Wildlife Department biologists are asking hunters and landowners to bring their harvested mule deer to one of the six voluntary mule deer check stations in the Trans-Pecos region Dec. 3-4 and Dec. 10-11. Voluntary check stations will be set up during the two weekends in Culberson, Midland, Pecos, Terrell and Brewster counties.

Data collected at these check stations is used to monitor harvest intensity, herd condition and age structure and to develop revisions in regulations. TPWD biologists annually collect mule deer harvest data by management compartment, which include age by tooth wear and replacement, antler measurements and field-dressed weights.

"In an effort to improve data, increase our knowledge of harvest intensity on a broader scale, and enhance efficiency, we will be operating voluntary check stations for the 2011 hunting season in five counties," said Shawn Gray, TPWD mule deer program coordinator. "These check stations will be located in areas where hunters can conveniently get their harvested mule deer aged, weighed, and measured [for bucks]."

In the Trans-Pecos, more than 14,000 harvested mule deer bucks have been checked since 1980, averaging more than 500 deer annually. Voluntary check stations will be located at these locations: Culberson County, Van Horn Convention Center - 1801 West Broadway; Midland County, Naturally Fresh (Deer Processor) - 1501 Elwyn, Midland, TX 79701; Bakersfield, Pecos County, Chevron Station - south of I-10 (Exit 294); Sanderson, Terrell County, Slim's Auto Repair - intersection of HWY 90 and 285; Alpine, Brewster County, Hip-O Taxidermy - east side of town on HWY 90.

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# Understanding the rut, key for a successful hunt

RUBEN CANTU-RODRIGUEZ  
HUNTERS GUIDE

Hunters are often wondering when the rut is going to occur. Hunting season it's all about this magic time of the year when bucks lose all caution looking for does, and deer are coming out from the grass looking to mate.

One of the best allies of the hunter is the rut, it makes the bucks move and lose a lot of their natural caution trying to find a receptive female. But despite the common belief chances of bagging a good trophy are not limited to the rut. Many successful hunters spend a lot of time in the field throughout the hunting season, not just during the peak of the rut.

Hunters and outdoor experts often talk about the rut being early or late. In Texas, at least, the breeding season for white-tailed deer is fairly predictable. Habitat conditions not only affect fawn survival, but can affect the timing of breeding.

"Late rut" is often attributed to breeding activity of does that didn't find a buck when they were first receptive. Hunters or landowners witnessing this activity may call it "late rut".

The rut can be broken down into pre-rut, peak rut and the post rut. Depending on the hunter's experience any of these is a good time to hunt.

Successful hunters know that success is based on the ability to understand deer habits, read the signs and above all be patient.

Planning the hunt at least two or three months before the season has proved to be a huge help when looking for a trophy buck. Game cameras often reveal quality and quantity of the game in certain spot.

Experienced hunters know that game is likely to appear in the same general area in the following year.

Peak rut is a great time to ambush a big buck, but experts recommend being wise with gadgets such as scent bombs and deer attractants. Despite the instinct that drives the buck to desperately look for the doe they are still aware when something is not natural.

Using two or three gadgets at the same time and creating what you would think is the "perfect scenario" for a great hunt may seem to be very unnatural for the deer.

## Brush up on safety for hunting season

BY FAITH HARPER  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

With hunting season beginning this weekend, it is a good time for local hunters to brush up on hunting safety before pulling their camouflage and guns out of storage.

Last year, Texans reported 25 hunting accidents, four of them fatal. All instances involved gunshots - two self-inflicted and two by other hunters, according to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) website.

"The number of hunting accidents has been trending downward for a long time, and we want to keep it that way," said Mike Cox, spokesperson for TPWD. The youth hunting season begins this weekend and the general gun season begins Nov. 5.

"They get basically a jump start," said Brian Bearden, game warden for Cherokee County.

During the youth weekend, licensed hunters 16

years old or younger may hunt deer by any lawful means, according to the TPW website. Bearden said they must have a hunter education class completed or be accompanied by an adult who has finished the course. He said the class also reviews how to hunt safely.

Terry Erwin, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's hunter education coordinator, said that safety begins with a clean gun and suggests cleaning rifles and checking for mechanical problems before going out.

Officials said accidents can also be prevented by wearing clothing that makes them more visible. Wearing blaze orange is not mandatory unless hunting on public land, Erwin said.

"Camouflage has kind of become the official uniform of hunters, and I do the same thing when I hunt, but really you don't want to be invisible from other hunters,"

PLEASE CONTINUE ON PAGE 7

## Union Pacific Railroad urges hunters not to hunt on or near tracks

RUNNELS COUNTY HUNTERS GUIDE  
UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD

SPRING, Texas - Union Pacific Railroad urges hunters to resist the temptation to hunt on railroad property this season. Wildlife will migrate and feed along the edges of freshly harvested fields, making these areas prime hunting spots. With many fields adjacent to Union Pacific tracks, hunters find it very tempting to hunt on or near the tracks.

"Too many people have been injured or killed trespassing on railroad property over the years. As part of our UP CARES initiative, we want to remind hunters that walking on or near railroad tracks is extremely dangerous because you never know when a train will come along," said Dennis Jenson, Union Pacific assistant vice president-chief of police.

"It can take a mile or more to stop a train, and, by the time a locomotive engineer sees you on the track, it is too late to stop," said Dale Bray, Union Pacific director - public safety. "Locomotives and rail cars overhang the tracks by at least three feet on either side of the rail. If you are too close to the tracks, you can be hit by the locomotive or a rail car," added Bray.

Union Pacific is committed to public safety through various outreach channels such as community events, media, Union Pacific Railroad police, employee resource groups and Operation Lifesaver. The UP CARES (Union Pacific Crossing Accident Reduction Education and Safety) public safety initiative brings together communities in a collaborative and caring effort to promote railroad grade crossing and pedestrian safety.

UP CARES activities include: Grade crossing enforcement with local, county and state law enforcement agencies; Safety trains that provide local officials a firsthand look at what locomotive engineers see daily while they operate trains through a community and Communication blitzes that educate the community at events or media outreach.

Hunters are not the only ones drawn to railroad tracks - hikers, bikers, fishermen and snowmobilers are, as well. Anyone choosing to walk on or near railroad tracks could face a tragic consequence. Last year, 442 people died and 388 were injured while trespassing on railroad property throughout the United States according to the Federal Railroad Administration.

People who enter railroad property can be arrested for violating trespassing laws. They could serve jail time and/or have to pay a fine. Do not become a statistic; stay away from railroad tracks during this hunting season.

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# Taking its toll

## TPWD taking action on Bobwhite quail decline

RUNNELS COUNTY HUNTERS GUIDE  
TEXAS PARKS & WILDLIFE

AUSTIN- The drought has taken a toll on all Texas wildlife resources, but among the hardest hit are 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."

Good news is that in one area of the state, the Gulf Prairies and Marshes region, quail numbers this year have actually risen due to proactive habitat management and adequate weather conditions.

Even in areas of the state where quail numbers have dropped considerably this year, particularly the Rolling Plains region in North Texas, there are still pockets with huntable numbers of bobwhites. But, dry

conditions this year contributed to major wildfires that consumed millions of acres of vegetation. Quail production in the Rolling Plains hit an all-time low, according to this year's BBS, and biologists say every bobwhite that survives the winter will be critical to next year's production.

"Burned areas will likely provide good habitat after future rainfall events but for now they offer very little cover for quail and other wildlife," said Robert Perez, TPWD's upland game bird program leader. "We're advising landowners if you are seeing low quail numbers on your ranch, you should consider reducing quail harvest. It's OK to hunt, work your dogs, but take a conservative approach. Flush a 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 un hunted 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."

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

ers," Cox said. "Deer are color blind so they don't see it but other hunters do, and that's what is important."

Bearden said hunters should also be aware of where surroundings they are in.

"You don't want to be shooting a deer and there is a barn or highway (behind the animal)," He said. "Be sure of your target and be aware of what you are shooting at."

Caution should also be used when transporting guns. TPWD's site said to make sure weapons are on safety and

to use extra caution when maneuvering in and out of stands.

"Use a haul line to bring your rifle up once you are safely in your blind, then, unload your firearm and lower it with the haul line before climbing down," Erwin said in the release.

TPWD also suggests checking deer stands for wildlife before entering. Erwin said slips and falls are the most underreported hunting accidents.

Bearden said hunters also have to abide by the rules of the game. He said the most severe violations include hunting deer at night, from a public roadway or on someone else's property.

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# Feeding the hungry

**MISTY BOWERS**

SPECIAL RUNNELS COUNTY HUNTERS GUIDE

In its fourth year, The Deer Project at Good Samaritan Ministries is pretty well established among hunters in the area, but there have been a few changes this year to make the program even more successful than in years past.

As last year, there is no cost to the hunter - unless he or she would like to make a donation. All a hunter has to do is take a legally tagged and harvested, field-dressed deer to one of the participating processors, tell them he or she is donating it to The Deer Project and that's it.

There are a total of five processors this year: M&M Deer Processing in Zephyr, Ted's Deer Processing in Owens, Santa Anna Custom Processing, Perk's Deer Processing in Brownwood and Hutchins Custom Processing in Cross Plains.

"We hope the addition of some new locations, along with the ones who participated last year, will make it even easier on the hunters to find a processor to leave their deer with," said Angelia Bostick, Executive Director of GSM. "This has turned into such an incredible program we want it to be as seamless as possible for everyone involved."

Another change to the 2011-2012 deer season is in how fund-raising has been approached.

"In order to make the program free to the hunters, we have been working very diligently to raise the funds to process the venison," Bostick said. "Also, in order to make the program work for the processors, we've had to increase the cost to process as well."

It costs about \$45 to \$50 to process one deer. All of the meat is ground into two-pound chub packs and given to families who, for whatever reason, have fallen on hard times.

In the past, to raise funds GSM has hosted a Cow Pasture Golf and Sporting Clays Shoot, but in considering the ever-increasing numbers of families needing help each month, it was decided that the fund-raising be done a bit differently.

"When we've seen 900 to 1,000 families consistently for the past five months and seen record numbers for the entire year, it just didn't seem right or smart to raise money in which a portion would be used for our entertainment," Bostick



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Once a deer is donated to THE DEER PROJECT, the processor will grind the meat and pack it into two-pound packages. The meat is delivered to the freezers of Good Samaritan and then distributed through the Food Pantry. Along with the meat, families receive a cookbook filled with recipes for using ground venison.

said. "Instead, we have team members who are talking directly to friends, neighbors, businesses and community leaders to raise money specifically for The Deer Project. This way 100 percent of all donations raised will go to process deer and feed hungry families in Brown County."

This has been an incredible year at GSM. Record numbers of families have come to the Food Pantry all year. For seven out of the nine months of the year so far, more than 900 families each month have needed assistance with their groceries and three of those same months saw more than 1,000 families. Everyone who comes through the front doors has a story and those vary from job losses, cut hours, sickness. Times are hard. And when times are hard, GSM is there to help, thanks almost entirely to the incredibly giving nature of the Brown County community.

Anyone who would like to make a donation may bring it by 305 Clark St., mail to P.O. Box 1136, or make a payment online via PayPal at [goodsambwd.org](http://goodsambwd.org).

"We encourage hunters to use up all of their tags and donate any deer they don't want for themselves," Bostick said. "We've read numerous stories about the necessity of hunters using all of their tags this year for the good of the deer population, as well. With the heat and the drought, there's just not enough food out there."

For more information about The Deer Project or any program offered by Good Samaritan Ministries call (325) 643-2273 or visit [www.goodsambwd.org](http://www.goodsambwd.org).

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# 2011-2012 Hunting Seasons

In addition to a hunting license, a migratory game bird stamp endorsement (\$7) is required to hunt any migratory game bird, including mourning dove (a Federal Sandhill Crane Permit also is required to hunt sandhill crane). An upland game bird stamp endorsement (\$7) is required to hunt turkey, quail, pheasant, lesser prairie chicken, or chachalacas. See County Listings for specific county regulations.

<b>ALLIGATOR</b>	22 counties & special properties (by permit only) Remainder of the state	Sept. 10-30 Apr. 1 - June 30
<b>PRONGHORN ANTELOPE</b>	By permit only	Oct. 1-9
<b>DOVE</b> (PLEASE REPORT LEG BANDS TO 1-800-327-BAND)	North Zone and Central Zone South Zone Special White-winged Dove Area	Sept. 1 - Oct. 23, Dec. 23 - Jan. 8 Sept. 23 - Oct. 30, Dec. 23 - Jan. 23 Sept. 3, 4, 10 & 11, Sept. 23 - Oct. 30, Dec. 23 - Jan. 19
<b>EARLY TEAL-ONLY</b>	Statewide (all counties)	Sept. 10 - 25
<b>CANADA GOOSE-ONLY</b>	East Zone Only	Sept. 10 - 25
<b>WHITE-TAILED DEER</b>	Archery-Only Season General Season: *Special Youth Season North Texas (209 counties) South Texas (30 counties) Late Antlerless and Spike: North Texas (106 counties) South Texas (30 counties) Muzzleloader (57 counties)	Oct. 1 - Nov. 4 Oct. 29-30, Jan. 2-15 Nov. 5 - Jan. 1 Nov. 5 - Jan. 15 Jan. 2-15 Jan. 16-29 Jan. 2-15
<b>MULE DEER</b>	Archery-Only Season General Season: Panhandle (38 counties) SW Panhandle (10 counties) Trans-Pecos (19 counties)	Oct. 1 - Nov. 4 Nov. 19 - Dec. 4 Nov. 19-27 Nov. 25 - Dec. 11
<b>JAVELINA</b>	(43 counties) (50 counties)	Oct. 1 - Feb. 26 Sept. 1 - Aug. 31
<b>SQUIRREL</b>	**Special Youth Season East Texas (51 counties) Other Open counties (see County Listings)	Sept. 24-25 Oct. 1 - Feb. 5, May 1-31 Sept. 1 - Aug. 31
<b>LESSER PRAIRIE CHICKEN</b>		No open season for lesser prairie chicken
<b>PHEASANT</b>	Chambers, Jefferson and Liberty counties Panhandle (37 counties)	Oct. 29 - Feb. 26 Dec. 3 - Jan. 1
<b>QUAIL</b>	Statewide (all counties)	Oct. 29 - Feb. 26
<b>RIO GRANDE TURKEY</b>	Archery-Only Season Fall Season: *Special Youth Season North Zone (122 counties) South Zone (26 counties) Brooks, Kenedy, Kleberg and Willacy counties Spring Season: North Zone (101 counties) *Special Youth Season South Zone (54 counties) *Special Youth Season 1-Turkey Bag Limit (11 counties)	Oct. 1 - Nov. 4 Oct. 29-30, Jan. 21-22 Nov. 5 - Jan. 1 Nov. 5 - Jan. 15 Nov. 5 - Feb. 26 March 31 - May 13 Mar. 24-25, May 19-20 Mar. 17 - Apr. 29 Mar. 10-11, May 5-6 Apr. 1-30
<b>+EASTERN TURKEY</b>	Spring-Only Season: East Texas (28 counties)	Apr. 15 - May 14
<b>CHACHALACA</b>	Cameron, Hidalgo, Starr and Willacy counties	Oct. 29 - Feb. 26
<b>RABBITS AND HARES</b>		No closed season.

\* In all counties that have an open season for those species.  
\*\* In all counties that have an Oct. 1-Feb. 5 and May 1-31 Open Squirrel Season.  
+ Rio Grande and Eastern Turkey may be hunted in these counties.

## What's new for 2011-2012 season

RUNNELS COUNTY HUNTERS GUIDE  
TEXAS PARKS & WILDLIFE

### Spring Turkey Seasons

Turkey hunters will see several changes in 2012. There will be no spring turkey season in the following 15 East Texas counties: Cherokee, Delta, Gregg, Hardin, Houston, Hunt, Liberty, Montgomery, Rains, Rusk, San Jacinto, Shelby, Smith, Tyler and Walker. In recent years, these counties have reported low populations and harvest numbers. Closing the spring season will enable biologists to reassess Eastern turkey restoration efforts in areas having suitable habitat, restock sites and provide brood stock protection. The agency's goal is to reopen hunting when Eastern turkey populations in the affected counties are capable of sustaining harvest.

Eastern turkey hunting in other counties that have an open season will be delayed by two weeks, to give hens time to begin nesting. The 2012 season will run from April 15 to May 14.

In counties having a spring bag limit of four turkeys, hunters may harvest any bearded Rio Grande turkey. This includes gobblers and bearded hens.

Check the hunting section of this Web site for a complete list of hunting season dates by animal or by county.

### Fishing Regulations

Effective June 17, 2011

Hand fishing for catfish is legal in Texas fresh waters. Existing length limits and daily bag limits for channel, blue and flathead catfish apply to hand fishing as to any other legal method. Hand fishing is not allowed on Community Fishing Lakes or any other waters designated pole-and-line only.

Texas residents born before Jan. 1, 1931 are exempt from fishing license requirements.

### Effective September 1, 2011

Wheeler Branch Reservoir, a new 180-acre impoundment in Somervell County, opened for fishing Sept. 1, 2011 with a 14-21 inch slot length limit for largemouth bass; an 18-inch minimum length limit for smallmouth bass; and a five-fish daily bag limit for black bass (combined) including no more than three smallmouth bass and only one largemouth bass 21 inches or greater. Only pole-and-line fishing is allowed.

Lake Kyle in Hays County is set to open to the public by mid-2012. This lake will have a 14-21 inch slot length

PLEASE CONTINUE ON PAGE 10



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limit for largemouth bass and a five-fish daily bag for black bass (combined), with only one largemouth bass of 21 inches or greater.

On Kirby Reservoir (Taylor County) and Lake Palestine (Cherokee, Anderson, Henderson, and Smith counties), the minimum length limit is eliminated for blue and channel catfish. These species now have a combined daily bag limit of 50 fish, of which only five can be 20 inches or longer.

On Lake Alan Henry (Garza County), limits on black basses have been adjusted as follows:

Minimum length for smallmouth bass changed from 18 inches to 14 inches.

No minimum length limit for largemouth or spotted bass.

Combined daily bag limit for all species of black bass is still five fish, of which no more than two can be largemouth or spotted bass under 18 inches.

Texas-Louisiana Border Waters

Effective Sept. 1, 2011, waters shared by Texas and Louisiana have standardized bag and size limits for game fishes listed below. Affected waters include Caddo Lake, Toledo Bend Reservoir, and the Sabine River from Toledo Bend downstream to the I-10 bridge.

The north boundary of Toledo Bend

Reservoir moved upstream from the US 84 bridge to the point where the river and state line diverge (coordinates N 31°59.963', W 94°2.541'). A "Texas State Line" sign is mounted on a tree on the north bank.

For blue and channel catfish on all three water bodies, no minimum length limit. The combined daily bag limit is 50 fish, of which only five can be longer than 20 inches.

For flathead catfish, daily bag limit increased from five to 10 fish.

For black and white crappie, no minimum length limit. For Toledo Bend, daily bag limit decreased from 50 to 25 and the winter no-release restriction no longer applies.

For largemouth, spotted, striped and white bass, regulations on the Sabine River below the dam are the same as Toledo Bend Reservoir.

On Caddo Lake:

Daily bag limit for largemouth and spotted bass increased from five to eight fish.

The 14-18 inch slot length limit for largemouth bass remains in effect, but anglers may keep no more than four largemouth bass measuring 18 inches or longer.

No minimum length limit for white bass.

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# Put safety in your cross hairs

**RUNNELS COUNTY HUNTERS GUIDE**  
TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE

AUSTIN - With hundreds of thousands of Texans getting ready for opening day of the general gun season for white-tailed deer on Nov. 5, it's important to keep safety in your crosshairs.

"It looks like hunting accidents are headed for another record low this year, and we want to keep it that way," says Terry Erwin, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's hunter education coordinator. Last year, Texas saw 25 hunting accidents, four of them fatal.

If you were born after Sept. 1, 1971 and this is going to be your first deer season, keep in mind you must have completed a hunter education course or obtained a one-time deferral if you aren't able to get into a course.

"This coming weekend is a good time to get that taken care of," Erwin says. "It's also a good time to make sure all your equipment is up to speed, from your stands to your firearms."

Erwin suggests cleaning your rifle, checking for any mechanical problems and getting it sighted in.

"Beyond that, the week before deer season starts is a good time to go over the basic rules of gun safety, even if you've heard them a jillion times before. The big four are always making sure your rifle is pointed in a safe direction, always treat it like it was loaded, always make sure of your target before you shoot (use binoculars, not your rifle scope) and keep your finger off the trigger until you're ready to pull it. You can't call a bullet back, and it always has the right-of-way."

Last year in Texas, four persons died in hunting-related accidents. All four instances involved gunshots

- two self-inflicted, two by other hunters.

TPWD's annual Hunting Accident Report for 2010 identifies the factors involved in reported hunting accidents last year. The number one cause involved hunters swinging on game outside a safe zone of fire. One way to stay out of some other hunter's sights is wearing blaze orange clothing or hat.

"Blaze orange is not mandatory in Texas unless you're hunting on public land, but it makes a lot of sense," Erwin says. "Deer cannot see color, but other hunters can."

While firearms safety should be a hunter's top priority, accidents in the field are more likely to occur without a shot being fired. "The most unreported of all hunting accidents are falls from elevated hunting blinds or tree stands," Erwin says. "If you're going to be hunting from a tree stand, make sure to use a Tree-stand Manufacturer's Association-approved tree stand and a TMA approved fall restraint device."

While tree stands see a fair amount of use in East Texas, many more hunters used elevated blinds or tripods accessible by ladder.

"Always keep in mind the three-point position when climbing into your blind," he says. "That means having two hands and one foot on the ladder at all times, or two feet and one hand."

Don't try to carry your rifle when you get into or out of an elevated stand and make sure it is unloaded until you are safely seated. "Use a haul line to bring your rifle up once you are safely in your blind, then, unload your firearm and lower it with the haul line before climbing down," Erwin recommends.

Another thing to remember about deer stands,

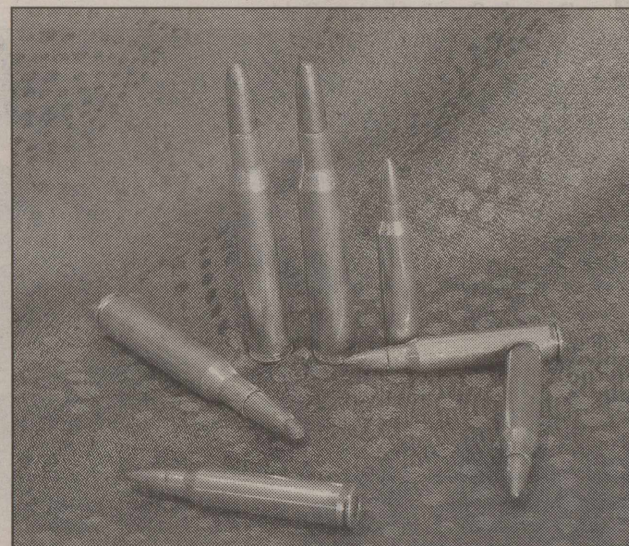


PHOTO: CONTRIBUTED

Firearms safety should be a hunter's top priority to prevent accidents in the field. The most unreported accidents are falls from elevated blinds or tree stands.

especially permanent blinds is that they make good habitat.

"Always check your blind for stinging insects, snakes and other critters that might have been living in it during the off-season," Erwin suggested.

The general gun season runs through Jan. 1, 2012 in North Texas and Jan. 15, 2012 in South Texas. A late youth-only season is also slated for Jan. 2-15, 2012. For additional late season deer hunting opportunities, consult the 2011-12 Outdoor Annual of hunting and fishing regulations.

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Good fishin'. Richard Choate of Mineral Wells caught this 13.2-pound bass from Lake Cisco on Jan. 27, 2007.

## The skinny on bass at Lake Cisco

### RUNNELS COUNTY HUNTERS GUIDE TEXAS PARKS & WILDLIFE

Why are there so many skinny bass in Lake Cisco? Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) Inland Fisheries biologist Spencer Dumont explains.

Cisco historically has been a good bass lake known for giving up some big largemouth bass, including a 13.2-pounder in 2007. Unfortunately, it is also known for its many small, skinny bass. Lake Cisco is a relatively unproductive lake to begin with, and when you add in four years of dropping water levels with virtually no input of nutrients from rain events, you get a recipe for unhealthy fish populations.

The Inland Fisheries crew of TPWD's Abilene district office recently completed an electrofishing survey at Lake Cisco with the help of one of our trusted volunteers, Chris Love. This survey, like all our electrofishing surveys, was done to determine the current status of largemouth bass and sunfish populations in the lake.

One of the first things we look at during drought years is how many young bass from the spring spawn are left in the fall. We collected only 14 young bass in one hour of electrofishing at Cisco, but the average for the lake and for area lakes is 50 young bass per hour of electrofishing. In other words, survival of young bass was very poor, because there wasn't enough to eat and there were fewer places to hide from other predators.

Another thing we look at is how many

adult bass (bass 8 inches and longer) are present. First, the good news. There were over 100 bass in one hour of electrofishing, which is the most we have seen at Cisco since 1999 and well above the average for the lake (78/hour) and the area (66/hour). The bad news is 86 percent of the adult bass were less than 12 inches long; they were three and four years old; and they were very skinny. Instead of a rounded belly and thick back, they had a sunken belly and were rail-thin across the back.

All this adds up to a stunted largemouth bass population where fewer individuals grow to a larger size. From a management viewpoint, we could put a regulation in place that allows anglers to harvest smaller bass. However, Cisco doesn't have enough fishing effort and harvest potential for a slot regulation to work. The real answer lies with Mother Nature. A significant rain event would flush in nutrients and flood habitat, resulting in more microscopic plants and animals, then more forage fish (shad, silversides, and bluegill), then faster growth of largemouth bass.

Lake Cisco recently caught about a foot of water. While that was nice, it's not nearly enough. The lake is still nearly 20 feet low. In the meantime, fishing can be excellent. Just expect to catch lots of skinny, small bass and an occasional big fish. However, Cisco also has some nice-sized redbreast and redbreast sunfish for those of you who like panfishing.

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