



WINTERS CROSS COUNTRY

SEE PAGE 3

The Winters ENTERPRISE

75¢



Volume 26, Issue 43

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Thursday, September 22, 2016

Briefly

Friday night lights

The Winters Blizzards will take on the Texas Leadership Charter Academy Eagles at 7:30 p.m. Friday at Blizzard Stadium for a non-conference game.
ON THE NET:
<http://whs.wintersisd.org/>

RCHC to meet

The Runnels County Historical Commission will meet for their regular scheduled meeting at 10 a.m. Saturday at the Railway Museum of San Angelo at 703 S. Chadbourne St.

Annual Cotton Field Day

The Runnels County Annual Cotton Field Day sponsored by the Texas AgriLife Extension Service is slated for Wednesday, Sept. 28. The event begins at the Paul Minzenmayer farm, south of Highway 67 between Rowena and Ballinger and then moves the SPJST Hall in Rowena for discussions and lunch. Topics will be on the Runnels Variety Plot, Harvest Aide, resistant weed management in cotton, USDA and FSA program updates and wheat and small grains pre-plant updates. Three CEU's will be offered. Please RSVP as soon as possible for the meal count by calling 325-365-2219.
ON THE NET:
<http://runnels.agrilife.org/>

The last drop

Hot weather has returned to Runnels County this week as temperatures reached the upper 90s which is considerably above the normal temperatures for this time of year according to the National Weather Service in San Angelo.
The rain was spotty over Runnels County last week, with intermittent showers reported throughout the area.
The NWS reported Ballinger received .46 inches of precipitation, while Wingate reported .73 inches and San Angelo reported .26 inches of rain.
Partly cloudy and hot conditions will prevail at game time Friday. A 40 to 50 percent chance of rain is in the forecast for Saturday and Sunday. Highs will be in the upper 90s through Saturday, with a cold front expected to come through the area on Sunday, bringing high temperatures down to the mid 80s and lows in to the 60s.
So far this year, Ballinger has received 21.16 inches of rainfall, with 22.87 inches reported in Wingate and 26.13 inches received in San Angelo.
ON THE NET:
<http://www.srh.noaa.gov/sjt/>

Winters City Secretary resigns amid allegations

Police conducting investigation

BY CELINDA HAWKINS
MANAGING EDITOR
WINTERS ENTERPRISE
chawkins@ballingerledger.com

The Winters City Secretary has resigned amid allegations of malfeasance and Winters police have confirmed that an investigation is underway. Shelley Antilley-Guevara, reportedly resigned on Aug. 28 after being with the city

in some capacity for approximately nine years.

Winters Police Chief Randall Davis, said Antilley-Guevara was under investigation for theft of service.

"We are looking in to the allegations of over \$15,000 in theft of service," Davis said. "The case has been turned over to my office for a criminal investigation."

Davis declined to give any

other details about the allegations.

Antilley-Guevara served as city secretary since 2014, and acting city secretary from 2011-13. She worked for the Chamber of Commerce, serving as a director, secretary, and vice-president. She also served the North Runnels Hospital District as a director, secretary and vice-president.

On Aug. 21, the Antilley-Guevara was selected by the board of the Winters Area Business

and Industrial Corporation to serve as the economic development director, replacing Randall Conner, who had announced his retirement.

Following her resignation from the city, Conner said the board is considering other options for the position.

Conner was planning to retire from WABIC on Dec. 31.

"I will continue on a limited basis until they (the board) decide on a replacement," Conner said.



Shelley Antilley-Guevara

SPRING MARKET holds ribbon cutting



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY JOE GERHART

Spring Market in Winters held a ribbon cutting ceremony to commemorate the opening of the store on Tuesday, Sept. 13, 2016.

BY CELINDA HAWKINS
MANAGING EDITOR
WINTERS ENTERPRISE
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Brookshire Grocery Co. officially opened its Spring Market store in Winters with a ribbon-cutting ceremony at 4 p.m. Tuesday, September 13. The company held three ribbon-cutting ceremonies on Sept. 13 - one each in Anson, Merkel and Winters - completing the openings of 25 Spring Market stores.

Spring Market in Winters is located at 1010 N. Main St. and will be open from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily. Store Director Chris Hinojosa welcomes customers to enjoy a full shopping

"Shoppers at Spring Market in Winters will enjoy outstanding customer service and will find very competitive prices on the products they need."

— Chris Hinojosa, Store Director

experience with produce, market, dairy, bakery, grocery and health and beauty care items as well as a fuel center.

The store will also carry beer and wine. Bakery items will include sweet snacks, breakfast items, breads and rolls as well as cakes and pies.

"Shoppers at Spring Market in Winters will enjoy outstanding customer service and will find very competitive prices on the products they need," Hinojosa said. "We are looking forward to becoming actively involved in the local community and are very excited to open Spring Market here in Winters."

The 12,000-square-foot stores offer customers a full shopping experience with produce, market, dairy, bakery, grocery, and health and beauty care items, as well as fuel centers. During

MARKET, 5



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Kelly Lynn Wyatt pictured here with her husband Cecil Wyatt, died Monday Sept. 19, 2016 from injuries she received after being struck Sunday, Sept. 11, by truck driven by Runnels County Commissioner Richard Strube.

Woman dies from injuries after parking lot accident

County official under investigation

BY CELINDA HAWKINS
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SAN ANGELO - On Monday afternoon, a Mereta woman who was reportedly struck in the parking lot of Walmart in Ballinger on Sunday, Sept. 11, died from her injuries.

Kelly Lynn Wyatt, 53, died from head and other injuries she received after she was reportedly struck in the parking lot by Runnels County Precinct 4 Commissioner Richard Strube.

According to reports Strube was driving a county pickup in the Walmart parking lot in Ballinger at 4:30 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 11 when he allegedly struck Kelly Wyatt.

According to Sgt. Stanley Maresch of the Ballinger Police Department, Strube was in the pick-up area in front of the store, when the vehicle in front of him stopped in the garden area to load some items. Strube reportedly put his car in reverse to back up and go around the vehicle and when he did, he struck Wyatt, who was behind him.

Maresch said Wyatt was talkative at the scene following the crash. She was transported via ambulance to Shannon Medical Center in San Angelo, where she remained in ICU on Friday.

According to her husband Cecil Wyatt, Kelly fell into a coma about 15 minutes after arriving at Shannon and she never came out of it. At

ACCIDENT, 5

Abilene Meals on Wheels to continue meal delivery

Agency to serve Runnels County



Betty Bradley

BY CELINDA HAWKINS
MANAGING EDITOR
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Meals on Wheels Plus, an agency that has served Abilene and surrounding communities for more than 40 years, will be taking over the home delivered meal programs in Runnels County, which will no longer receive county funds as of Sept.

30. On Tuesday Sept. 13, Betty Bradley, executive director of Meals on Wheels Plus, spoke to Runnels County commissioners and informed them that her non-profit agency would be taking over the home delivered meals program.

Bradley met with her board last week, which approved the request of providing meals

to Runnels County clients. Currently, Meals on Wheels provides 1,100 meals per day to clients in Abilene, Potosi, Hamby and the Hawley and Hodges area. Meals on Wheels is a private non-profit organization with a 24-member board of directors.

In July, Runnels County Judge Barry Hilliard announced that the county would no longer fund the congregate or home delivered meals

MEALS, 5

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FUNERALS AND OBITUARIES

Robert W. Barnett

Robert W. Barnett (Bob), age 78, of Winters moved on to Heaven, on Wednesday September 14, 2016

Bob was born to his parents Jay Whitcomb Barnett, Sr. and Almata Marie Barnett in Paisley, Oregon, January 17, 1938.

He is preceded in death by his parents and 3 brothers John, Leslie and David.

Bob spent his school years in South Dakota before moving to Winters approximately 45 years ago.

Bob worked in the area, developing many friends in the community. Bob was known as honest dependable with a strong sense of humor and wit. Bob grew on you to become a loved and trusted employee, friend and brother.

He is survived by his daughter, Kandi Thorson of Spokane, WA, and three of his six brothers, Jay, of Billings, MT, Ray, of Mezeppa, MN, and Frank of Oklahoma City, OK. He is also survived by numerous grandchildren, nephews, nieces, other family members, and close friends in and around Winters, TX.

He was a member of the First Baptist Church, Winters, TX. Graveside services and burial will be held at 10:30 AM, Wednesday, September 21st at Lakeview Cemetery, Winters, TX. Reverend Heath Powers presiding. Arrangements were made through Rosewood Memorial Funeral Home in Ballinger TX.

Winters Enterprise, September 22, 2016

J.C. Wilkerson

J.C. Wilkerson, 91, of Winters died September 14, 2016. He was born November 4, 1924 in Crews, grew up in Winters and graduated from Winters High School. He served in the United States Navy from December 15, 1942 to February 7, 1946. Following his discharge from the navy, J.C. returned to Winters and married Lenora Sykes who preceded him in death in 1992. In 2002, he married Mary Murray. J.C. worked for the Lone Star Gas Company for 40 years, was a past member of the Winters Lions Club and the Winters Volunteer Fire Department, and led the Winters ex-student association in 1966. He was a member of the United Christian Presbyterian Church in Coleman.

He is survived by his wife: Mary Murray Wilkerson of Winters; 3 children: Mary Lou Garrett and husband Mike of Abilene, Jim Wilkerson of Winters and Joe Wilkerson of San Angelo; 1 sister: Pat Watkins of Ballinger; 4 grandchildren: Jill Garrett, Blake Garrett and wife Catherine, Katy Wilkerson and Bryce Wilkerson and 3 great-grandchildren: MaeMargaret Garrett, Carlisle Garrett and Eliza Garrett. J.C. was preceded in death by his brother: Kenny Wilkerson and parents Myrtle Allen and Loyd Wilkerson.

Following a private burial, funeral service will be held at 1:00 P.M. Saturday, September 17, 2016 in the Winters Funeral Home Chapel.

The family will receive friends Friday, September 16, 2016 from 5:30 P.M. to 7:00 P.M. at Winters Funeral Home.

The family suggests that in lieu of flowers, memorials be made to the West Texas Rehab Center or the Winters Public Library.

Winters Enterprise, September 22, 2016

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Olfen St. Boniface Church Fall Festival

The Olfen school and St. Boniface Church Fall Festival, celebrating 115 years, will be held from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 9 at the St. Boniface Catholic Church Parish Hall. Adult plates and all plates to go are \$10, children under 10, \$5. Dine in and walk up plates to go, enter Olfen from the north on FM 1874. Drive through plates should enter Olfen from the West on County Road 234. Handicap parking and shuttles will be available. During the event there will be games and concessions starting at noon, a live auction at 1 p.m. a candy drop at 3 p.m. and homemade items will be for sale at the Fancy Stand Country Store. There will also be a quilt raffle. Sausage sandwiches will be sold in the afternoon. Handmade raw sausage will be for sale for \$5 per pound. Pre orders are recommended. Mail payments to St. Boniface Sausage Sales, 1829 FM 584, San Angelo, TX 76904. For more information call the Parish office at 325-442-2893.

Lord's Acre Festival

The First United Methodist Church Lord's Acre Festival will be held from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 16 at the church at 1501 N. Broadway Ave. in Ballinger. A barbecue brisket and sausage diner will be served. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children 10 and under. All drive-through or carry-out plates are \$10. There will be a Christmas store, country store, friend-in-stitches, and a silent auction - all opening at 10 a.m. There will also be a Children's Fair with a petting zoo and horse rides starting at 11 a.m. The live auction begins at 12:30 p.m. A nursery will be available. For more information, call 325-365-2323.

Gun, Knife & Hunting Show

The Ballinger Rotary Club is sponsoring the 4th Annual Gun, Knife & Hunting Show 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 1 and from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 2 at the Ballinger Community Center on Crosson Avenue next to Ballinger City Park. Admission is \$5 per person and children 12 and under get in free. There will be a raffle on Sunday. tickets are \$5 per ticket of five for \$25. Tickets will be available from Rotary Club members or at the Gun Show. Proceeds are used fund scholarships and community service programs of the Ballinger Rotary Club.

Angel Run Oct. 29

MILES - All you fitness buffs, come to Miles, on Sat.,

Oct 29 for a 5K/1 mile Angel Run sponsored by the St. Theresa Altar Society. The event opens with a prayer and begins at 9 a.m. at St. Thomas Catholic Church at 404 7th St. Runners and walkers of all ages are invited to participate. Registration is \$20 if you register by Oct. 15 and \$25 on the day of the race. On-line registration can be done at: www.GetMeRegistered.com/AngelRun. Each participant will receive an Angel Run t-shirt and an angel pendant. Participants have the opportunity to run/walk "in memory or in honor" of someone special to them for a \$5 fee per name. Angel wings signage will be placed along the course with the names of who the participants are running/walking for. Proceeds from the Angel Run will benefit the new y constructed parish hall. For more information contact Linda Schwertner at 325-656-0298

Rub a dub, dub, dogs in the tub!

A dog wash is scheduled on September 24 benefiting the 2016 Walk to End Alzheimer's. Our first annual dog wash will start at 8 a.m. at Dog Gone Pretty Pet Salon at 1932 Hutchings Ave. in Ballinger and appointments are encouraged. All proceeds go to our Walk team, "Marvin's Marchers," named for our rock, Marvin Clark, who lost his battle to Alzheimer's in 2014. For information or to schedule their wash appointment, people can call 325-365-8727.

St. Ambrose Fall Festival

WALL - The St. Ambrose Fall Festival will be held from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 16 at St. Ambrose Catholic Church at 8602 Loop 570 in San Angelo. The cost is \$10 per plate for adults and \$5 for children 12 and under. Plates to go are \$10. There will be children's games from 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. and a live auction at 1:15 p.m.

Craft Time at Winters Public Library

Don't miss "Craft Time" at the Winters Public Library slated for 5 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 27. During this presentation Don Ware will show participants how to make pumpkins out of old used books.

Ready for some football

Purchases for the season tickets and reserved seats for the 2016 Blizzard Football season may be made at the WISD Administration Office between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Season tickets will be \$30 per seat this season. Season tickets and reserved seats are sold as one "Season Ticket" to

be used for all six home games. Fans that did not have season tickets or reserved seats last year may purchase tickets will be sold on a first come first serve basis. All senior citizens, 60 or older will receive free general admission. Senior citizen general admission passes are also available at the WISD administration office. General admission tickets may be purchased at the gate. No advance tickets are available. Admission to varsity games will be \$5 for adults and \$2 for students. Junior varsity and junior high admission prices will be \$4 for adults and \$2 for students. The Blizzards will host the first home game on Friday at 7:30 p.m. against San Saba.

CASA volunteers wanted

The Children's Advocacy Center of Tom Green County, Inc. CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) is seeking volunteers. Currently CASA serves 60 percent of the children in foster care. To sign up, call 325-653-4673 or email mblue@cactomgreen.org. CASA serves Tom Green, Rannels, Concho, Crockett, Coke, Irion, Reagan, Sutton, Sterling and Schleicher counties.

AA meeting

Sobriety First Alcoholics Anonymous group will meet at the First United Methodist Church, in Ballinger, at 7 p.m. every Monday and Wednesday. The group will meet Saturday with prior arrangements. Please use the Avenue A and Seventh Street entrance. Child care is available. For more information please contact the church at 325-365-2323.

A Time for Freedom

A new addiction class is forming in Winters called "A Time for Freedom," and Pastor Tommy Akin, of the Pioneer Church of God in Winters will be overseeing the program which will provide addiction education to addicts, family and loved ones. The meetings will be held at 7 p.m. every Thursday at the Pioneer Church of God at 158 North Main St. in Winters. For more information call 903-474-4740.

Ballinger Farmers Market

There will be a Farmers Market from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. every Saturday through September in downtown Ballinger. Fresh fruits, vegetables and eggs as well as other edible items such as canned goods, breads, jams, jellies and salsa - are welcome. Baked goods must be wrapped. Other items featured at the market will include plants, homemade lotions and soaps. Everyone from the area is invited to participate in

the weekly event, which will not include arts and crafts at this time. Call Cody Rice at 316-549-2017 for information or stop by RM's Cositas 718 Hutchings or fill out the application online at https://codyrice12.wufoo.com/forms/ballinger-farmers-market/.

Visit Friendly Neighbors

The Texas Extension Education Agency "Friendly Neighbors" invites everybody in the Rannels County area who is interested in learning about cooking, gardening, arts and crafts and other useful subjects to meetings at 2 p.m. on the fourth Tuesday of every month (except during the summer). Meetings will alternate between the Rannels County Extension Office on the corner of south 7th Street and Sealy Ave. in Ballinger and the Winters Public Library at 120 N. Main St. in Winters. If you are interested and would like to find out more about this group, call Martha at 365-3890 or Judy at 754-5386.

Rannels County Alzheimer's Support Group

The monthly Rannels County Alzheimer's Support Group will be held at Central Texas Nursing and Rehabilitation Center from 6:30-7:30 p.m. the second Tuesday of the month from. All concerned citizens are invited to share in discussion and education about the disease process and caregiver perspective. There is no charge for this public service sponsored by the National Alzheimer's Association.

Recycling Center Hours

The City of Ballinger's Recycling Center, located at South 7th Street and Sealy Avenue, is open from 8 a.m. to noon on Monday. The recycling center is open from 8 a.m. to noon and from 1 to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday. Saturday, the recycling center is open from 8 a.m. to noon.

WIC open to many incomes and families

Women Infants and Children, (WIC) located at 706 Strong Ave. in Ballinger is open from 7 a.m. to noon and from 1 to 6 p.m. Monday through Wednesday. WIC is closed every third and fourth Monday of each month. Phone 325-365-5925.

Wingate Masonic Lodge meetings

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

Rains in August means ample water supplies

Good fall forage statewide

BY ADAM RUSSELL
TEXAS A & M AGRILIFE EXTENSION

COLLEGE STATION - Near-record August rains brought most of Texas out of drought conditions and improved water availability and soil moisture indexes, said weather and water experts.

Dr. Kevin Wagner, deputy director of engagement at the Texas Water Resources Institute, College Station, said atypical August storm systems around the state delivered needed relief to some areas.

Wagner said rain events that brought 3 inches or more of rain to areas improved soil moisture indexes and likely produced runoff capable of filling farm ponds.

Most major water-supply reservoirs around the state are full or holding good amounts of water after several inches of rain fell over a week-long period in August, Wagner said. He suspects farm ponds are in better shape than major

reservoirs because they require much less runoff to impact smaller bodies of water.

"Generally, if an area is out of drought, we can assume that the farm pond levels are going to be in good shape," he said. "Producers in the South Plains and other arid areas of the state typically use groundwater as their predominant water source for livestock."

Wagner said he visited the San Angelo area recently, where several major reservoirs remained at 15-20 percent capacity but farm ponds were in good shape.

Water availability can change dramatically, especially during summer months when livestock consume water and liquid evaporates at a higher rate amid high temperatures, he noted.

The Climatic Atlas of Texas, produced by the Texas Department of Water Resources in 1983, compiled almost 30 years of weather-related data between 1950 and 1979 and remains the go-to reference for annual climate information.

The atlas showed the January monthly average evaporation for lakes was 2 inches in East Texas and 3.5 inches in far West Texas. Evaporation numbers around the state begin climbing in earnest in April - 3.25 inches in East Texas and 7.5 inches in far West Texas - and peak at between 5.5-7.5 inches in East Texas and 10.75-11.75 inches in far West Texas during July and August.

Evaporation rates begin a rapid descent starting in September, according to the report.

Overall, the two regions of the state are on both sides of the extreme, with East Texas losing between 45-61 inches and far West Texas losing 80-95 inches of surface water to evaporation annually.

But this year, August was one of the wettest on record in Texas, said State Climatologist Dr. John Nielsen-Gammon in College Station.

"Two corners of the state with severe drought at the beginning of August, the South Plains in the Lubbock area and northeast Texas, both got enough rain to improve considerably if not eliminate drought completely," he said.

Nielsen-Gammon said the average rainfall for the state was more than 5 inches during August.

AgriLife Extension district reporters compiled the following summaries:

CENTRAL: Wheat pastures were being planted. Small amounts of oats were in. Fieldwork resumed with grain and cotton harvests. Cotton remained in fields, with much of it having sprouted bolls. Lint quality was down. Producers were finishing up last cuttings of hay. Soybean harvests



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CROSS COUNTRY

Lady Breezes take first place

SPECIAL TO THE WINTERS ENTERPRISE

ELDORADO - The Winters Junior High cross country teams traveled to Eldorado on Tuesday Sept. 13, to participate in the Eldorado JH Cross Country meet with the following results:

The 7th grade Lady Breezes placed first as a team beating out eight other schools. Medalling for the Lady Breezes were Anastasia De La Cruz in 2nd place and Millie Rios in 6th. Other top finishers were Monica Garcia (17th), McKenzie Ventress (19th) and Myra Ochoa (27th). There were a total of 70 runners in the 7th grade girls division.

In the 7th grade boys division, Dayvin Oats was the lone Breeze medalist, as he placed 7th out of 30 7th grade boys. Trent Hamilton barely missed a medal, as he placed 11th. Wes Camacho placed 24th. The top 10 runners in each division received a medal.

In the 8th grade girls division, Hailey Renfro was the lone Lady Breeze medalist, as she placed 4th out of 68 8th grade girls. Other top finishers were Natalie Lara (20th), Jayden Galvan (26th) and Araceli Reyes (32nd).

The JH teams will run next in Mertz on at the Irion County Invitational.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

ABOVE: The medallists in the 7th grade division who participated in the Eldorado Junior High Cross Country meet on Tuesday, Sept. 13, 2016 are (L-R): Dayvin Oats, Hailey Renfro, Anastasia De La Cruz, Millie Rios

BELOW: The 7th Grade Lady Breezes Eldorado Meet champions are (left to right, standing) Monica Garcia, Keeley Zachary, McKenzie Ventress, Myra Ochoa, Saleen Jalomo and Alyssara Rodriguez. Kneeling from left to right are Millie Rios and Anastasia De La Cruz.



BLIZZARDS FOOTBALL UPDATE

Hamlin beats Winters

SPECIAL TO THE WINTERS ENTERPRISE

In Friday's non-league match, the host Hamlin Pied Pipers football squad scored a 55-6 victory over the Winters Blizzards. The game was held Friday, Sept. 16. The Blizzards (1-3) will now prepare for their match against Texas Leadership Charter Academy of San Angelo Friday. The Eagles enter the non-league match with a 0-4 record. In their last match, Texas Leadership Charter Academy was crushed by Colorado City, 40-0, in a non-league match.

Max Preps contributed to this report.

BREAKFAST AND LUNCH MENUS SEPT. 23-29

Breakfast

Friday
Cinnamon roll or cereal, yogurt, applesauce, fruit juice, choice of milk.

Monday
Biscuit & Sausage w/ gravy or Cereal, pineapple, fruit juice, choice of milk, jelly.

Tuesday
Breakfast taco or cereal, hash brown, orange slices, fruit juice, choice of milk, salsa.

Wednesday
Breakfast Pizza or cereal, egg pop, mixed fruit, fruit juice, choice of milk.

Thursday
Waffles or cereal, oatmeal, banana, fruit juice, choice of milk, syrup.

Lunch

Friday
Cheeseburger or hot dog, curly fries, lettuce/tomato, carrots, grapes, choice of milk.

Monday
Chef salad or spaghetti or raviolis, texas toast,

Italian green beans, salad, carrot sticks, applesauce, choice of milk.

Tuesday
Chef salad or chicken fajita or burrito, pinto beans, carrots, zesty cucumbers, mixed fruit, choice of milk.

Wednesday
Chef salad or grilled

chicken sandwich or meatloaf, baked potpie, salad, carrot sticks, pineapple, cookie, choice of milk.

Thursday
Chef salad or steak fingers or chicken tenders, mashed potatoes, gravy salad carrot sticks, dinner roll, apple slices, choice of milk.

NRH Clinic FAMILY PRACTICE

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Dr. Mark McKinnon, MD
Judy Zuspahn, PA-C • Tami Halfmann, RN, FNP-C

Army worms are on the march

BY ADAM RUSSELL,
TEXAS A & M AGRILIFE EXTENSION SERVICE

OVERTON - Fall armyworms are on the march in parts of Texas.

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service agents in a few of the agency's districts have reported increased armyworm activity in hayfields and pastures over the past few weeks. Dr. Vanessa Corriher-Olson, AgriLife Extension forage specialist in Overton, said producers should expect an increase in armyworm numbers following recent rains and cooler temperatures in areas of the state.

"I was getting calls about them before the rain," she said. "They like cooler temperatures and wet conditions in the spring and fall, so we could see a swell in their numbers."

Armyworm moths can lay up to 2,000 eggs that hatch in two to three days, according to a 2015 report by AgriLife Extension entomologist Dr. Allen Knutson. There are four to five generations per year.

Corriher-Olson said armyworm caterpillars are picky eaters that prefer high-quality, fertilized forage typically found on fields maintained for hay production. They are a common pest of Bermudagrass, sorghum, corn, wheat, rye grass and many other crops in north and central Texas.

Producers should scout each morning for armyworms, she said. Armyworms are night feeders that try to avoid daytime temperatures.

Armyworms are green, brown or black in color and can be identified by the white inverted Y on their head. They can grow up to 1 inch in length when mature.

The pest got its name because they appear to march across hay fields, consuming the grass in their path.

The threshold for insecticide spray treating a pasture is three or more armyworms per square foot, Corriher-Olson said. Armyworms in those numbers should be treated immediately. Armyworms in the last two or three days of their larvae stage consume 85 percent of their diet.

Corriher-Olson recommends insecticides labeled for armyworm control in pastures and hayfields. She said applicators should always follow all label instructions on pesticide use and restrictions.

"You don't need to wait a day if their numbers are at threshold," she said. "They are going to do a lot of damage quickly. If you find them in the morning, spray that day."

TEXAS A & M AGRILIFE EXTENSION PHOTO



Mealtime memories begin in the kitchen

BY SANDY TAYLOR
RUNNELS COUNTY EXTENSION AGENT

A good way to get young children excited about new foods and healthy eating is to get them involved in the kitchen. Young children like to imitate their parents and this is especially true during meal planning and food preparation.

Young children can:

- wipe and help set the table.
- select fruits or vegetables for the meal.
- rinse vegetables and fruits.
- stir pancake batter.
- help assemble a pizza or make sandwiches.

Parents need to remember some safety tips when children are in the kitchen:

- cook with pots and pans on the back burners.
- keep hot dishes where children can-

not touch or pull them down on top of themselves.

■ children should not remove cooked food from the microwave.

■ keep knives and other sharp objects out children's reach.

Watching children closely and giving them specific, child appropriate tasks can help to increase your child's interest in new foods and preparation. Dr. Sharon Francy, Associate Professor and Nutrition Specialist with the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, recommends that parents teach children to wash their hands with warm water before helping in the kitchen. This life long habit will keep children from getting sick or making others sick with a food borne illness.

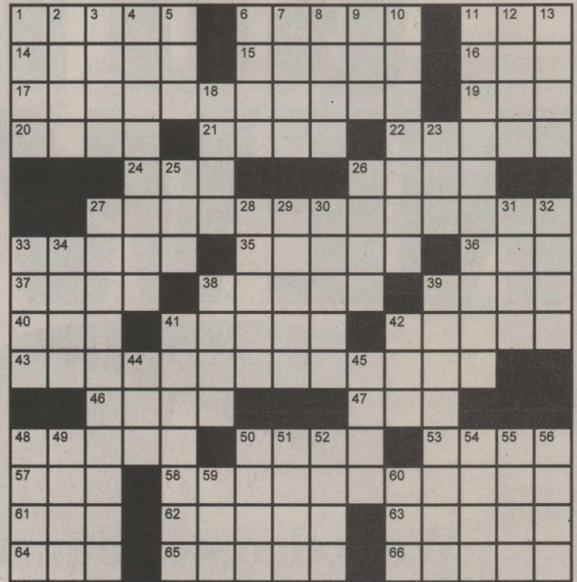
Visit our website <http://www.dinnertontight.tamu.edu> for great recipes and ideas for family mealtime.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

"Play On"

Across

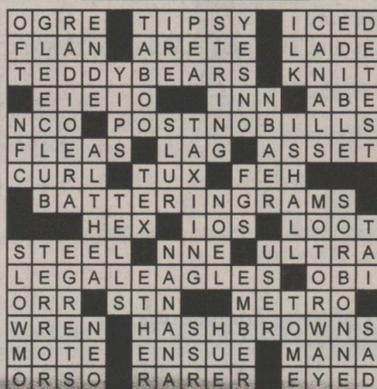
- 1 Olympic symbol
- 6 Sharp sound
- 11 Inexperienced
- 14 Steel girder
- 15 Island west of Maui
- 16 "You ___ here"
- 17 Proposal prop
- 19 Kind of party
- 20 Cry out
- 21 Coastal raptors
- 22 It's an honor
- 24 Memo letters
- 26 Et ___
- 27 Onsite journalist
- 33 Halt
- 35 Casting choices?
- 36 Diminutive suffix
- 37 Essence
- 38 Imitates a hot dog
- 39 Queens place
- 40 NBA great
- 41 Cavalry weapon
- 42 Promise
- 43 Play with fire
- 46 Takes care of
- 47 Keats piece
- 48 Joplin's Bobby
- 50 Chow
- 53 Darlings
- 57 Compact weapon
- 58 Propose a story
- 61 Whup
- 62 Soup server
- 63 Tack on
- 64 A little work
- 65 Result
- 66 Second best effort



Down

- 1 Like some sums
- 2 "Rent" award
- 3 Not made up
- 4 Scout warmer
- 5 Med. care provider
- 6 Shortening online letters
- 7 Alert
- 8 Spanish liqueur
- 9 Bread served with korma
- 10 Ladies' men
- 11 Pest controller
- 12 Province
- 13 Become tiresome
- 18 Armstrong
- 23 Word said with a salute
- 25 Nevertheless
- 26 Big galoots
- 27 Sentencing prior to a trial
- 28 Abu ___
- 29 Clair and Coty
- 30 Seconds
- 31 Parmenides' home
- 32 Behind
- 33 Flexible, electrically
- 34 Staten Isl., e.g.
- 38 Stationer's stock
- 39 Cleaning job
- 41 Church part
- 42 Benchmark: Abbr.
- 44 Lobster coral
- 45 Slammin' Sammy
- 48 Silent
- 49 Mogul
- 50 LAX info
- 51 Rights grp.
- 52 Quaker's "you"
- 54 Irish novelist O'Brien
- 55 Overbrim
- 56 Old German duchy name
- 59 Publisher Ballantine
- 60 Collar

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Runnels County ROLL-UP

4 Winters Enterprise

Thursday, September 22, 2016

Runnels County Jail Record

September 22, 2016

Name	Age	Agency
Earnest Smith	43	Self turn in
Terrorist threat.		
Rigoberto Gutierrez	39	Concho
Warrant, assault bodily injury, family member.		
Juan M. Martinez	34	RCSO
Sentenced 10 days (F-DWI).		
Randy Mitchel	59	Coke Co.
Sentenced 10 days (F-DWI).		
Jennifer N. Tankersley	37	Concho
Sentenced CRTC.		
Domingo Salazar Jr.		Coke Co.
Public intoxication.		
Jose A. Sanchez		BPD
Blue warrant.		
Donald K. Briley	46	Concho
DWI third or more.		
Arthur R. Garcia	32	Concho
Warrant, possession of controlled substance.		
Dexter E. Peterson	54	RCSO
Sentenced five days.		
Matthew Trevino	26	Concho
Possession drug paraphernalia.		
Bradley L. Keim	45	RCSO
Assault on public servant, resisting arrest.		
Jimmy R. Holder	46	BPD
Possession of marijuana.		

VETERANS CORNER

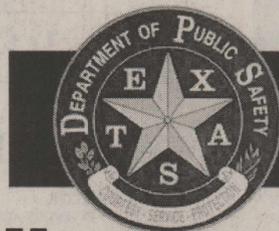
On Tuesday, September 6, Congress returned from summer recess. Their top priority is to pass a Continuing Resolution (CR) to avoid a (partial) government shutdown. The CR will keep government operating at current spending levels, except for the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), which will see an increase due to the two year funding plan. How long the CR will keep the government operating is still being negotiated. The new fiscal year begins on the 1st of October, yet Congress has not completed work on any of the 12 Appropriations (spending) bills for FY 2017. Legislators will also be working on the final version of the FY 2017 Defense Authorization bill (H.R. 4909/S. 2943). It was "strike three!" for appropriations legislation last week as the Senate, for a third time, failed to pass the Defense Department (DoD) appropriations legislation (H.R. 5293). The Senate, after returning from its summer recess, had procedural votes on two spending bills. Senate Democrats blocked movement on the defense appropriations bill, (55-43), and the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs (MilCon/VA) bill (H.R. 4974) that included Zika funding, but stripped out an Agent Orange/ Blue Water Navy provision (52-46). Both needed 60 votes to proceed. Democrats say they're blocking the defense spending bill so Re-



Sandra G. Van Zant

publicans cannot separate it from other spending measures, while Republicans accuse Democrats of playing politics with military funding. As predicted, Congress will now prepare to pass a stop-gap funding measure this month known as a Continuing Resolution (CR) to keep the government funded, beginning October 1, 2016—the start of the new fiscal year. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell announced the Senate will try to pass a CR that keeps the government open until December 9, 2016. After enacting a CR, Congress will work on merging the 12 regular appropriations (spending) bills into one larger "omnibus" spending bill that can pass each chamber to then be signed into law by the President. For more information contact Sandra Van Zant at the Veterans Service Office at 602 Strong Ave. on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., or call 325-365-3612.

— Sandra G. Van Zant, Veterans County Service Officer



Texas Department of Public Safety

Most wanted fugitive, murder suspect arrested in San Angelo

STAFF REPORT

AUSTIN - Justin Lane Slatton Jr., 20, a Texas 10 Most Wanted Fugitive and September's featured fugitive, is now in custody after being captured Sept. 11 in San Angelo. Slatton, who has ties to the Latin Kings gang, was wanted for murder and burglary of a building. The arrest was the result of investigative work, which was assisted by a tip; and a reward will

be paid. (Although Slatton's arrest occurred in September, the associated tip was received prior to him being the September featured fugitive.)

San Angelo Police Department officers on Sunday located and apprehended Slatton outside of a residence in San Angelo. His last known address was in San Angelo. Slatton is a suspect in an April 2016 shooting in Temple

that left two Bell County men dead. For more information, see his captured bulletin at: www.dps.texas.gov/Texas10MostWanted/capturedDetails.aspx?id=329.

So far in 2016, DPS and other agencies have arrested 15 Texas 10 Most Wanted Fugitives and Sex Offenders, including nine sex offenders and seven gang members, and \$26,000 in rewards has been paid for

tips that resulted in arrests.

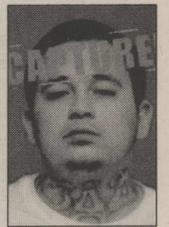
To be eligible for the cash rewards, tipsters must provide information to authorities using one of the five following methods:

- Call the Crime Stoppers hotline at 1-800-252-TIPS (8477).
- Text the letters "DPS" - followed by your tip - to 274637 (CRIMES) from your cell phone.
- Submit a web tip through the DPS website by selecting the fugitive you have information about, and then clicking on the link under their picture.
- Submit a Facebook tip at <http://www.facebook.com/texas10mostwanted> by clicking the "SUBMIT A TIP" link (under the "About" section).
- Submit a tip through the DPS Mobile App. The app is currently available for iPhone users on the Apple App Store: (<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/texas-dps/id902092368?mt=8>) and for Android users on Google Play: (<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.microassist.texasdps&hl=en>).

All tips are anonymous - regardless of how they are submitted, and tipsters will be provided a tip number instead of using a name.

DPS investigators work with local law enforcement agencies to select fugitives for the Texas 10 Most Wanted Fugitive and Sex Offender lists. You can find the current lists - with photos - on the DPS website at <http://www.dps.texas.gov/texas10most-wanted/>.

Do not attempt to apprehend these fugitives; they are considered armed and dangerous.



Justin Lane Slatton Jr.

SUBMISSIONS POLICY

Winters Enterprise

All submissions to the Ballinger Ledger or Winters Enterprise must be typed and emailed to the editor. Handwritten submissions will no longer be accepted.

The word count for letters to the editor is no more than 350 words, for guest columns it is 650 words. Lengths for other submissions will be determined by the content.

Please email all submissions to chawkins@ballingerledger.com or if you have questions, call 325-365-3501.

GOT NEWS

We welcome your news items and photos to include in the upcoming edition of The Ballinger Ledger or Winters Enterprise

Choose the way that's most convenient for you

In person, at 709 Hutchins Avenue in downtown Ballinger.

Office Hours are

Monday - Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Thursday 8:30 a.m. to 12 noon.

By phone to 325-365-3501.

By fax to 325-365-5389.

By email: chawkins@ballingerledger.com

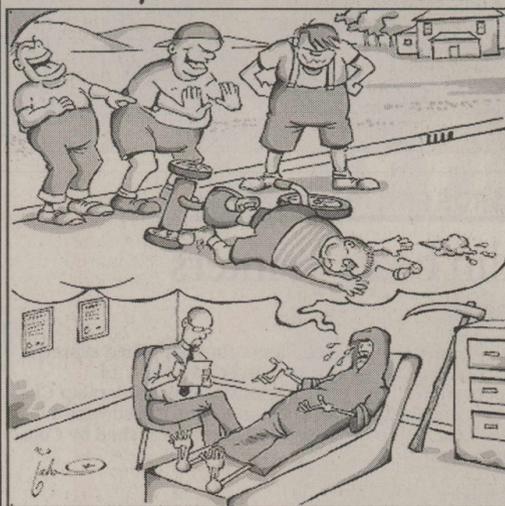
Deadlines are as follows: News items - Noon Monday; Display advertising - 5 p.m. Monday; Classifieds line advertising - 11 a.m. Tuesday.

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The Ballinger Ledger

The Winters Enterprise

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The Grim Reaper talks about his troubled childhood, which is where his shrink thinks his life took a turn.



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By Ace Reid



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ST. BONIFACE FALL FESTIVAL QUILT RAFFLE



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

ABOVE: Pictured above is the handmade queen-size "Flower Garden" quilt that will be raffled off at the annual St. Boniface Fall Festival at Olfen on Sunday, October 9. Quilters left to right are Bernice Halfmann, Beatrice Michalewicz, Cornell Hoelscher, Karen Foster, Kathy Halfmann, Felda Lange, Mary Lou Multer and Germaine Hoelscher.



ACCIDENT

CONTINUED FROM 1

about 5:30 p.m. Monday, Cecil unplugged the respirator and Kelly succumbed to her injuries at around 6 p.m.

"This is the hardest thing I ever had to do," Wyatt said Monday before she was pronounced dead. "I am devastated."

Wyatt said he had asked that no autopsy be performed, however, he said the Texas Rangers who were contacted to participate in the investigation by the Ballinger P.D., ordered an autopsy in Lubbock.

In addition, Maresch said the Department of Public Safety will assist with the investigation.

"They will be helping us with re-measure the scene of the accident so we can find out exactly what happened," Maresch said. He added that there was no video of the accident available from Walmart.

Meanwhile, Wyatt is preparing for the arrangements for his wife of only two months. The newlywed couple married in July.

"We were happy," Wyatt said. "We had plans. What a vibrant human being she was. She was like seeing the lights at a carnival - they are all a little dimmer because she's gone."

Wyatt said his wife suffered a skull fracture and broken bones in her back and "many other injuries" that weren't listed.

"The world no longer has her because of an act of carelessness," Wyatt said. "Somebody just didn't bother to look in the mirror."

As of Monday, Wyatt said he had been contacted by officials at Walmart. But that he had not been contacted by Strube or any county officials.

"I pray for him, but at the same time, I'm living without my wife," Wyatt said of Strube.

Runnels County Judge Barry Hilliard expressed his sympathy.

"It is a horrible tragedy no matter the circumstances," Hilliard said. "It has certainly been on our minds."

Hilliard confirmed that Strube was at Walmart that day conducting business on behalf of the county, filling coolers for his road crew for the next day.

Arrangements for Kelly Wyatt's services are under the direction of Harper Funeral Home in San Angelo. Wyatt said he was grateful for a man, who wished to remain anonymous, who paid for her arrangements.

For now, Wyatt's only comfort is that his wife is in heaven.

"She's with God, I know," Wyatt said. "And when I go, I know I'll see her again."

RAINS

CONTINUED FROM 2

were delayed by recent rains. Range and pastures were in good condition due to August rains. Livestock and cattle were in good condition. Soil moisture conditions were good in all counties.

ROLLING PLAINS: Cooler weather followed a few hot days. Wheat preparation and planting continued. Armyworms were reported. Cotton looked good and the milo harvest will begin soon. Livestock were in good condition.

PANHANDLE: Good general rains were received early, with approximately 1.5-6 inches in some areas. Producers were slowly getting back in the field after rains subsided. Wheat fields were planted, and some early planted fields were already making a stand. Silage choppers were running again, trying to catch up after rain delays. The corn crop was starting to dry down, and harvest of the early plantings was just a few weeks away. Grain sorghum was in all stages with some dryland fields starting to tiller out again, which will extend the harvest period. Cotton was in a holding pattern from the lack of sunshine and heat units. Warm temperatures and sunshine helped the development of the

cotton and peanut fields in southern parts of the region. Irrigated grain sorghum acres looked good with average to above average yield prospects. Sugarcane aphids were eating into slim profit margins for many producers who were forced to apply insecticides a second time to control the pest. Winter-wheat planting was starting again after the fields began to dry down. Pastures continued to improve, as did cattle conditions.

WEST CENTRAL: Weather was fair with hot, humid days. Some scattered showers were reported in a few areas. Soil moisture was good. Field preparations for fall planting were underway. Some early winter wheat and oats were planted for grazing. Producers were starting to cut and bale their third cutting of hay on Bermuda pastures. Cotton was in mostly good condition following recent rains. Bolls were beginning to open and defoliation will begin soon. Sorghum and corn harvest was near completion after delays by rain. Range and pasture conditions continued to improve. Growing conditions were good to excellent due to warm days following recent rains. Stock tanks were full from runoff. Livestock remained in fair to good condition. The cattle market was struggling as prices continued to drop. Pecan crops were slowed by hot, dry summer conditions.

MEALS

CONTINUED FROM 1

programs after Sept. 30. In July, Runnels County Judge Barry Hilliard announced that the programs would no longer be funded and would be turned over to the respective cities where they are administered which includes Ballinger, Winters and Miles. Funding from the state and the West Central Texas Council of Governments ceased and four employees lost their jobs as a result. Congregate meals will end Friday and clients will receive home delivered meals through Sept. 30.

Bradley has been working on a solution for the Runnels County clients for the past several weeks, and on Tuesday of this week, she confirmed that Meals on Wheels will be taking on Title XX and Title III home delivered meal clients from the Department of Aging and Disability Services. In all, that is 50 clients in Runnels County who will be served by Meals on Wheels. She has contracted with Meals for the Elderly of San Angelo to provide one or two meals to clients in Miles. Meals on Wheels will begin delivering meals in Runnels County on Monday, Oct. 3.

She stressed the need for community support. "For us to do this we need financial support from the county the churches, civic clubs and individuals," Bradley said. "We also need volunteer support."

The meals cost approximately \$6.70 each. The state pays between \$4.50 and \$4.95 for the meals depending on which program the client falls under. The difference calculated for five days a week over a calendar year, comes to about \$18,000.

"We don't expect the community to pay the entire cost of the meals," Bradley said. "Whatever they can contribute would be of great help."

In addition, clients have a choice of two entrees each day. Each week the clients will receive a card in the mail with a return envelope, which they fill out and return to Meals on Wheels with their weekly selections. The meals include salad, entrée, vegetables, dessert and a drink.

Pastor Al Brakke, led the effort in Winters with the Winters Ministerial Alliance. Brakke said that he will make sure someone from Winters will pick up the meals, which are freshly cooked five days a week, every day. The meals will be brought back to Winters. The Ballinger meals will be picked up each day in Winters by a volunteer or employee and then delivered to the Ballinger clients.

"We voted to form a partnership with Meals on Wheels Plus," explained Brakke, pastor of St. John's Lutheran Church in Winters explained.

Brakke requested a vehicle from commissioners and \$711 to pay the various fees associated with Meals on Wheels. Commissioners have not made a decision on the vehicle, but did approve payment of the \$711. Plus, the county will

continue to pay for utilities and equipment at the senior centers in Ballinger and Winters. But any other financial support must come from the cities, civic groups or fund raisers.

Brakke then met with the Ministerial Alliance of Ballinger, headed up by Max Pratt of the Ninth Street Church of Christ. Pratt said they will head up the effort in Ballinger, but volunteers are needed to deliver the meals. Plus, intermittent fundraisers will be necessary to keep the program going.

"We're not able to take on the program financially," Pratt stressed adding that the groups must raise between \$10,000 and \$20,000 annually to support the program.

Bradley will be hiring two part time employees - one each in Ballinger and Winters - to work at the Senior Citizens Center for approximately 15 hours a week at \$9.50 an hour. After a 90-day period, the pay will increase to \$10 an hour. The employee will be responsible for signing up clients, doing home visits as required by DADS, coordinating fund raisers and volunteers.

Bradley hopes to grow the program to serve more clients in Runnels County. Private pay clients are welcome too. It takes about three days to get the client processed with a home visit, paper work and on the delivery route.

"We are interested in providing meals to persons age 60

or over, or age 18 -59 and up to 60 that has one or more disabilities or who cannot prepare meals themselves," Bradley said. "It can also be temporary - while a person is recovering from surgery or an illness."

Bradley said next year she will apply for the Texans Feeding Texans grant from the Texas Department of Agriculture, which will allow the agency to feed more clients.

"The reason I want to serve more meals? To me this is a ministry, an outreach of my faith," Bradley said. "I don't want anyone to go hungry who is not able to prepare balanced meals for themselves."

To sign up for Meals on Wheels Plus, call 325-672-5050 to make an appointment for a home visit. You may also visit Meals on Wheels Plus by going to <http://mealsonwheelsplus.com/>.

MARKET

CONTINUED FROM 1

the Winters Grand Opening, city officials and community leaders were present.

The banner name represents and honors the company's 88-year history, which began with the opening of its first store, on Spring Avenue in Tyler, Texas, on Sept. 1, 1928. In addition to the three new locations, Spring Market stores now are open in the Texas cities of DeKalb, Diana, Edgewood, Frankston, Godley, Grandview, Haskell, Hughes Springs, Italy, Kemp, Leonard, Lone Star, Naples, Palmer, Redwater, Waskom and Whiteright.

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Legal Notices
Administration Office 603 N. Heights St., Winters, TX. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss Winters I.S.D.'s rating on the state's financial accountability system.

Legal Notices
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Runnels County 4H

Team shows well at West Texas Fair and Rodeo

STAFF REPORT

ABILENE - The Runnels County 4-H Show Team competed at the West Texas Fair and Rodeo in Abilene over the past two weeks and represented our local clubs and program at a tremendous level.

Overall, it was a very successful trip for the Runnels County 4-H Show Team to start out the show year, said Runnels County Extension Agent Garrett Cline said.

"We are extremely proud of all these young people and how they represented our program at the state level," Cline said. "It should be an exciting show year in Runnels County!"

The sheep show kicked things off on Saturday, September 10 with 11 competitors from Runnels County exhibiting their projects in several different divisions. Participants in the sheep show and some highlights included: Jessica Bean, 8th place Southdown; Olivia Bean, 9th place Southdown; Cash Drennan, Finewool & Medium wool; Keni Drennan, 4th place Southdown; Avery Flanagan, 2nd place Southdown; Ben Flanagan, 1st place Finewool Cross; Shane Flanagan, 3rd

place Southdown; Trevor Gibbs, 3rd place Finewool Cross; Stihl Skelton, 5th place Finewool Cross; Storm Skelton, 2nd place Finewool and Regan Smithwick who had a Champion Finewool and a Champion Southdown.

Later that day, Abby Ratliff exhibited a 3rd place Red Angus in the Junior Heifer show.

During the Wednesday night Rodeo performance, Runnels County 4-Her Shane Flanagan participated in the calf scramble, ending up as the first one to cross the finish line, for which he was awarded a certificate to assist in his purchase of projects for next year.

Finally, in the steer show, Runnels County had seven participants who competed on Wednesday and Saturday. Participants and highlights of the West Texas Fair steer show included: Minnie Belew, Reserve Champion prospect Mini-Hereford; Corley Belew, 1st place Black Cross; Charles Childress, 2nd place Hereford; Camryn Dankworth, 5th place Charolais; Payton Dankworth, 2nd place progress Angus; Hannah Pullin, 3rd place Charolais and Sam Woodall with a Reserve Champion Angus.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS



TOP: Abby Ratliff of Winters exhibited her 3rd place Red Angus at the West Texas Fair and Rodeo in Abilene last week.

CENTER: Sam Woodall of Winters exhibited his steer during the West Texas Fair and Rodeo in Abilene last week.

BOTTOM: Minnie Belew of Winters shows her Reserve Champion Prospect Mini-Hereford during the West Texas Fair and Rodeo in Abilene.

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SEPTEMBER 2016

CENTRAL TEXAS OUTDOORS

DOVE SEASON CONTINUES

DEER SEASON BEGINS IN NOVEMBER



4D CHARITY DOVE HUNT
SEE PAGE 2

FINDING THE RIGHT DOG
SEE PAGE 11

DEER PROJECT AT GSM
SEE PAGE 4



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4D HOLDS CHARITY DOVE HUNT



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

BY STEVE NASH
BROWNWOOD BULLETIN
steve.nash@brownwoodbulletin.com

"It was pretty awesome."

Those were the words of Dan McDorman, ranch boss of the 4D Poverty Ranch just outside of Mercury in northern McCulloch County, after the ranch hosted its annual dove hunt on Sept. 3.

But this year, the ranch did something different:

Ranch owner Allen Cox and McDorman decided the ranch needed to raise money for a worthy cause and help children in need — and the hunt became known as the Charity Dove Hunt.

Thanks to the efforts of the ranch and area hunters, Cox and McDorman were able to present the Center for Life Resources Child and Adolescent program with a donation of \$1,050.

Before the hunt, the two contacted Laurie Chastain, an on-call crisis counselor at the center and made arrangements for the donation.

The 4D has belonged to the Cox family for generations and is a hard working ranch with a soft heart, full of generosity and appreciation, the ranch's Facebook page states.

The Child and Adolescent Program in Brownwood helps central Texas chil-

dren with a wide variety of vital services from counseling, life coaching, clothing, medical resources, and on and on and on. These two knew they had found their "go-to" charity after only a brief conversation with Chastain.

"We had a lot of local sponsors who pitched in big, donated and really helped out, and tons of volunteers who made sure everything went off without a single hitch. It looked like everyone had a blast and there (were) plenty (of) birds to shoot at and tons of food," Cox was quoted in a Facebook post.

McDorman described the hunt as a "huge success" and credited the sponsors: Blevin's Body Shop, Central Texas Credit Repair, Lone Star Home and Loan, Ag-Mart, Car Corral, Stanley Dodge's Parts and Service Department, Lance Bond at

DOVES, 8



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4D Poverty Ranch Charity Dove Hunt 2016

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TOP LEFT: Ag-Mart, one of the many sponsors who donated items, donated 10 bags of deer corn.

ABOVE: The 4D Poverty Ranch's Charity Dove Hunt provided a \$1,050 donation for the Center for Life Resources Children and Adolescents Program.



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GSM PREPARES FOR DEER PROJECT

BY MISTY BOWERS
SPECIAL TO THE BULLETIN
news@brownwoodbulletin.com

Imagine the middle of November and the deer have been plentiful. The two you already harvested have more than filled your freezer so reluctantly you clean your gun and store the hunting gear for next year. Right?

Because most hunters are conservationists, they do not like to waste a deer when they don't need the meat just because they have tags left to fill. The volunteers on the Deer Project committee of Good Samaritan Ministries has the perfect solution. Go ahead and use the rest of those tags, get a full season of use out of that hunting camo and fill the freezers of Good Samaritan Ministries so that your friends and neighbors at risk of hunger have plenty of quality protein to feed their families.

The Deer Project is a hunger program of Good Samaritan Ministries that partners hunters with processors and donors to provide lean protein to families living in poverty in Brown County. The premise is simple. All a hunter has to do is take a legally harvested, tagged and field-dressed deer to one of four participating processors and tell them that he or she wants to donate the deer (or a portion of it) to The Deer Project. That's it. The processor will then grind the meat for easy processing and preparation into two-pound chub packs. Those packs are then deposited into the Deer Project freezer and distributed to the families who come to the GSM Food Pantry.

"Protein is always a high priced commodity and is often very difficult to come by in the quantities that we need it," said Leesa Stephens, Executive Director of Good Samaritan Ministries. "That's what makes The Deer Project not only such a success but such a great idea."

After a couple of slim hunting seasons, the 2015-16 deer season was the most abundant season the Deer Project had seen since its inception. More than 16,000 pounds of venison were donated which provided more than 64,000 servings of lean protein on the plates of Brown County families who are food-insecure.

■ The participating processors are:



METRO CREATIVE PHOTO

- Perk's Processing in Brownwood
- M&M Processing in Zephyr
- Lone Star Taxidermy and Processing in Owens

■ Santa Anna Custom Processing
And, just like they did last year, the Deer Project committee is offering a chance for hunters to win prizes just for donating a deer to the project.

"When you drop your deer off at the processor of your choice, fill out a card with your name and contact information for a chance to win one of several really great prizes," said Stephens. "We know hunters are generous to donate, but we wanted to make sure they know how much we appreciate them giving of their time and resources to help those we serve through the food pantry."

Some of this year's prizes include:

- Browning Xbolt 6.5 Creedmoor w/ Leupold VX-1 3-9 X 40 Scope* sponsored

by Weakley Watson Sporting Goods and Ranch Pro Real Estate

- A family Aoudad/Hog hunt at Wheeler Ranch in Medina sponsored by Wheeler Ranch

■ A \$500 Shopping Spree to Weakley Watson sponsored by an anonymous Deer Project supporter

- A \$450 full shoulder mount redeemable at Santa Anna Custom Processing sponsored by Santa Anna Custom Processing.

■ Two (30 oz.) RTIC Tumblers sponsored by Johnson Gun Works

Other prizes may be added as the season progresses so check out goodsambwd.org throughout the season for further updates.

If you like the project but aren't a hunter yourself, Stephens said you can help by telling your friends who do hunt about the program, or you can always

donate financially to the program.

"If this year comes even close to last year then we will see another banner year for venison to feed our families," Stephens said. "It takes everyone working together to make this project successful from the committee who work year-round making plans to the processors without whom we wouldn't have a project, and, finally, the hunters and the donors who contribute financially so that the program remains free for our hunters; it's a team effort."

There are multiple ways to be a part of The Deer Project and play an active role in providing for those less fortunate in Brown County. If you would like more information about The Deer Project, please visit goodsambwd.org or check us out on Facebook at The Deer Project or call 325-203-2489.

Texas dove hunting prospects bright: longer season, lots of birds

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE

AUSTIN - More validation that everything's bigger and better in Texas, dove populations are soaring and the hunting season, which began Sept. 1, is the longest in 80 years.

A new 90-day season this fall means hunters will have 20 more days of opportunity compared with previous years. The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) is integrating those additional days early in the season to take advantage of mourning dove migrating into the state, as well as at the end of the season in the Special White-winged Dove Area to offer more bird hunting opportunities.

"Hunters will now be able to take advantage of those northern birds riding early November cool fronts into Texas, without sacrificing days of opportunity early in the season," said Dave Morrison, TPWD Small Game Program Director. "We've also tacked on extra days to the back end of the season in late January when South Texas prospects are still pretty solid. It's a win-win for dove hunters."

Roughly 10 percent of the nation's 350 million mourning dove reside in Texas, along with about nine million white-winged dove. Each fall, over 415,000 Texas dove hunters take to the field in pursuit of these acrobatic, fast-flying game birds. Based on field observations by TPWD wildlife biologists, prospects for the 2016-17 hunting season are good to excellent.

"During the start of breeding season (March) in Texas, habitat conditions for dove were good to fantastic, thanks to the carryover of precipitation from 2015," said Shaun Oldenburger, TPWD Dove Program Leader. "Biologists witnessed good early production on both white-winged and mourning doves throughout the state until the May rains arrived. However, good production was witnessed in June and July as more sporadic, isolated storm events continued across the state."

Based on early survey results at TPWD, mourning dove numbers may be some of the highest in more than a decade in the Panhandle with similar numbers as 2015 in the rest of the state. White-winged doves continue to increase in numbers across the state, but the growth is gradually slowing.

"Hunters should be prepared for good seed production across the state, so there will be plenty food available for mourning doves except in areas where flooding occurred," said Oldenburger. "This may make hunting a little more difficult due to thick vegetation cover, and hunters will need to spend a little more time finding downed birds in areas due to this issue during opening day in some areas."

Dove season in the North Zone runs through Nov. 13 and Dec. 17 - Jan. 1, 2017;

PROSPECTS, 10

DOVE HUNTING TIPS

Dove hunters can improve their game and increase their odds of having a successful outing by following these important tips from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD).

■ **Practice with a purpose:** Get the gun out well ahead of the hunt and take some "batting practice" swinging on birds. "Even practicing leading a bird without shooting can improve your accuracy," according to TPWD dove program leader Shaun Oldenburger. "The average hunter takes five shots to bag one dove; that's three boxes of shotgun shells to get your bag limit! Effective shooting leads to better hunts and more birds in the bag." Shoot at least a couple boxes of shotshells at clay targets to get your timing, shooting stance, head, gun mounting and follow through in sync.

■ **Know your limitations:** Pattern your shotgun on paper targets with different chokes, loads and at various distances within 30 yards, where dove loads are most effective. Not all guns, chokes and loads pattern the same. Practice estimating distances to spots and then verify them with a range-finder. You'll better understand your distances from birds and be able to make more effective shots and reduce crippling loss.

■ **Know the routines:** Mourning doves will typically be going to fields from roost locations to feed early in the morning, but there's also good hunting opportunities during mid-morning or even mid-afternoon at watering holes in areas with good dove concentrations. Birds won't be flying in flocks, but it can be some great hunting as singles and doubles look for daily drinking water. White-winged dove flocks always seem to be flying in and out of an effective gun range; make sure to single out individual birds that are lower than others when shooting to be more effective.

■ **Be safe:** Always be aware of your shooting lanes and locations of other hunters, which can change constantly when birds are coming in and the action gets hot. Shooting outside of a safe zone of fire is the number one cause of hunting accidents in Texas, mostly during dove hunting.



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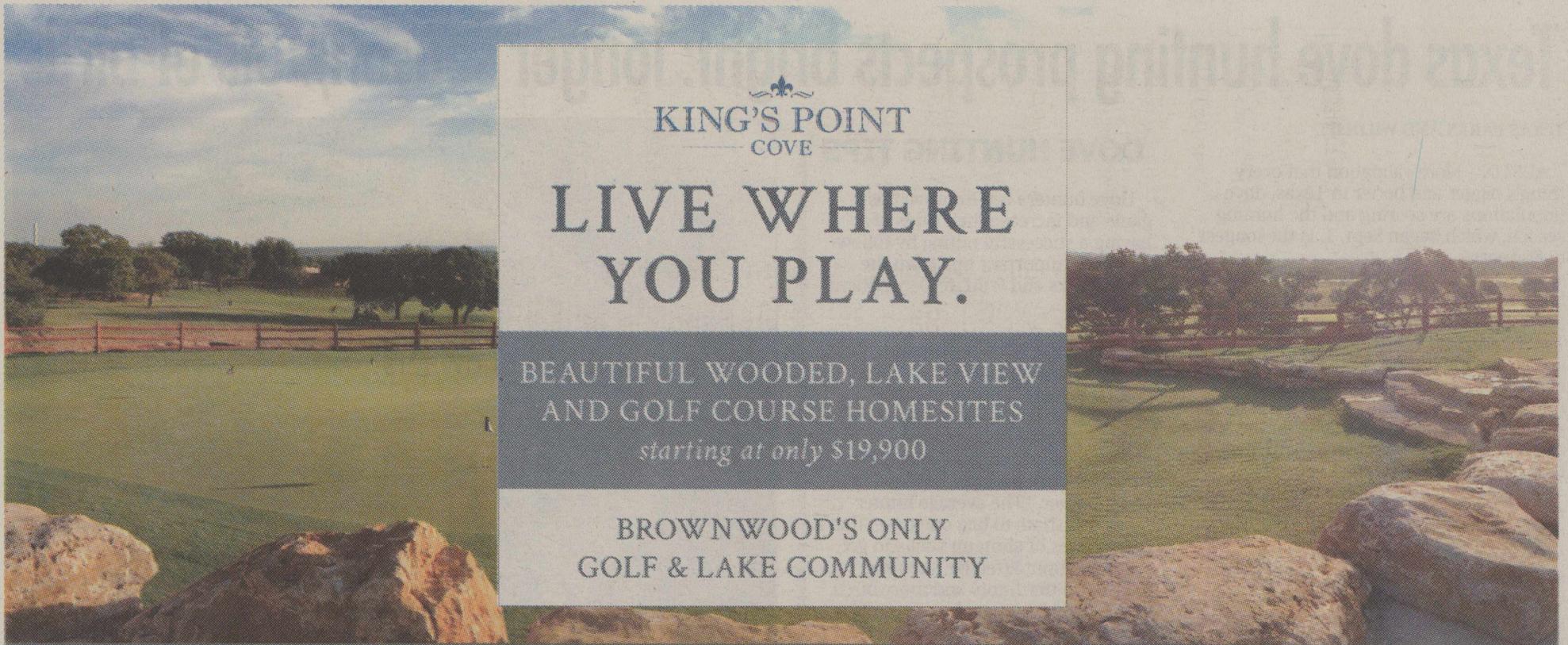
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GUN SAFETY RULES

Statistically speaking, hunting is among the safest sports in the world. Basic safe gun handling and storage is easy to achieve, especially for responsible gun owners.

Whether you have been taught gun safety by a family member or have enrolled in a training course, it's important to always put your knowledge into practice when heading out for your next big hunt. Doing so will help ensure your safety and the protection of others.

SAFE HANDLING

One of the first lessons every shooter and hunter should learn is to treat every gun like it is loaded and ready to fire at all times. Following this mindset will help you handle your gun with the respect it deserves.

Experts teach that even the safety of a gun — the mechanical device designed to prevent unintentional firing — can become faulty and inoperable. Trusting that a safety will always perform as intended can lead to deadly consequences.

Follow your common sense to realize that a gun can cause serious harm and death if improperly handled. There is no margin for error. You owe it to yourself to know as much about your gun as possible to ensure safe handling 100 percent of the time.

HELPFUL TIPS

The National Shooting Sports Foundation offers the following tips for safe gun handling:

- Never touch the trigger on a firearm until you actually intend to shoot;
- Keep your fingers away from the trigger while loading or unloading; and
- Never pull the trigger on any firearm with the safety on the "safe" position.



Following these tips will help keep your hunting trip enjoyable and safe. Don't forget to pass along these tips to others, especially inexperienced shooters.

One of the tenets of responsible gun ownership is sharing what you know with others, so spread the word.

WEAR THE RIGHT GEAR

Understanding your weapon is the most important aspect of safe hunting. Another key factor is wearing the right protective gear while you're hunkered down in your blind or taking in the view from your tree stand.

Wear shooting glasses and some

form of hearing protection at all times when shooting. If you're exposed to shooting noise without the appropriate buffer, your hearing may become damaged. The right glasses can protect your eyes from debris and falling shot during your hunt.

DOVES

CONTINUED FROM 2

Texas Farm Bureau, Keith Newman at Ebby Halliday Realtors in Dallas, Shay Newbern — and, of course, everyone who brought food.

Dion White, chief executive officer of the Center for Life Resources, thanked the ranch.

"I am really proud to work for an organization that has a primary mission to help people, and you guys are helping too," White said.

"You are literally helping folks as well with your fundraiser because any funds we can receive really helps us."

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The 4D Poverty Ranch is located just outside Mercury in northern McCulloch County.



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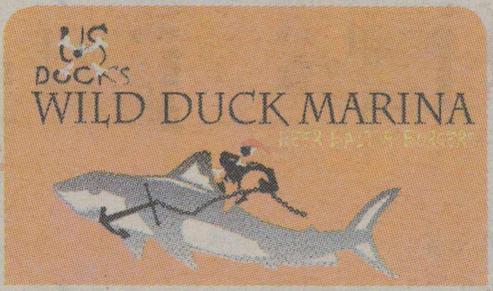
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OUTDOORS WITH LUKE CLAYTON AND FRIENDS

Dove season at hand

I used to think the word hunt was inappropriate for describing the pursuit of dove. To my way of thinking, shoot was much better suited. After all, one doesn't really hunt dove, right? Well, through the years, I've changed my opinion on this matter. I guess as a young dove shooter I did very little hunting. I simply positioned myself on a pond dam or along a tree line bordering a grain field and banged away at passing doves. Truthfully, I sometime harvested dove and sometime wished there were dove to harvest!

I had left hunting out of the equation!

Granted, dove often aren't hunted in the same manner as many other game birds and animals but they should be! Take goose hunting for instance. I've enjoyed many successful goose hunts from the Canadian border to the Texas coast and every hunt had one common denominator: preparation. Scouting occurred the day before the hunts and decoys and calls were used to attract the birds within shotgun range. I've never tried using dove calls to bring passing birds in close but I know for a fact that proper scouting is important to locate concentrations of birds and a mixture of stationary and spinning-wing decoys will bring the birds in close for the shot.



Luke Clayton

Here are a few things that I've learned about dove hunting from almost a half-century in the dove fields each fall. I bet if you've spent very much time pursuing this great game bird; you can add a few of your own tips to my list!

SCOUT FIRST —

Most of us are limited to the fields we can hunt. Individual fields may not be 'red hot' on any given hunt but scouting before the hunt will insure you set up where your percentages are best.

From a good vantage point, use binoculars during early morning and late afternoon and determine the flight pattern used by doves. Then, locate a good spot to ambush them. The end of tree lines, grown up fence rows or even high weeds adjacent a grain field can be good spots to hunt. If you're hunting over a pond, chances are pretty good that dove have a particular area they prefer to come

AT HAND, 22



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY LUKE CLAYTON

Soon dove hunters from across the state will gather to partake in the opener of our first of the fall hunting seasons. Dove hunting is a tradition with Texas hunters, a time to meet with old friends and make new ones.



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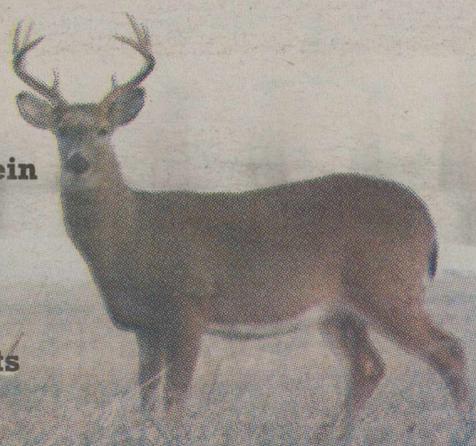


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Texas gets longest dove hunting season in 80 years

2016-17 Migratory game bird seasons set

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE

AUSTIN — Texas dove hunters can look forward to the longest season in 80 years, thanks to season dates adopted by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission recently.

While the traditional opening dates established by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service remain fixed, a new 90-day season this fall means hunters will have 20 more days of opportunity compared to previous years.

The additional days are being integrated early in the season to take advantage of birds migrating into the state, as well as at the end of the season in the Special White-winged Dove Area to offer more wingshooting opportunities.

Dove

■ North Zone

Through Nov. 13 and Dec. 17 - Jan. 1, 2017.

■ Central Zone

Through Nov. 6 and Dec. 17 - Jan. 8, 2017.

■ South Zone

Through Nov. 13 and Dec. 17 - Jan. 23, 2017.

The daily bag limit for doves statewide is 15 and the possession limit 45.

Special White-winged Dove Area

■ Through Nov. 9, Dec. 17 - Jan. 23, 2017.

During the early two weekends in the Special White-winged Dove Area, hunting is allowed only in the afternoon and the daily bag limit is 15 birds, to include not more than two mourning doves and two white-tipped doves. During the general season opens, the aggregate bag limit is 15 with no more than two white-tipped doves.

Under new federal guidelines, Texas is now able to adopt migratory game bird regulation changes earlier in the year than previously allowed. This means waterfowl hunters will have more time to plan trips afield.

Waterfowl seasons approved for 2016-17 include a later opener for duck hunting this year, with a shorter break between splits for the North Duck Zone and a later overall season in the South Duck Zone.

General Duck

■ High Plains Mallard Management

Unit: Youth: Oct. 22-23; Regular: Oct. 29-30 - Nov. 4 - Jan. 29, 2017; "Dusky" Duck: Nov. 7 - Jan. 29, 2017.

■ North Zone: Youth: Nov. 5-6; Regular: Nov. 12-27 and Dec. 3 - Jan. 29, 2017; "Dusky" Duck: Nov. 17-27 and Dec. 3 - Jan. 29, 2017.

■ South Zone: Youth: Oct. 29-30; Regular: Nov. 5-27 and Dec. 10 - Jan. 29, 2017; "Dusky" Duck: Nov. 10-27 and Dec. 10 - Jan. 29, 2017.

Bag Limit: six per day in the aggregate to include no more than five mallards, of which only two may be hens, three wood ducks, three scaup, two redheads, two pintail, two canvasback, one "dusky duck" (mottled, black or Mexican-like) after the first five days. Mergansers: five per day with no more than two hooded merganser. Coots: 15 per day. Possession limit is three times the daily bag limit for all migratory game birds except snow geese which have no possession limit.

Geese

■ East Zone: Nov. 5 - Jan. 29, 2017; white-front Nov. 5 - Jan. 29, 2017; light Nov. 5 - Jan. 29, 2017; conservation order

Jan. 30 - Mar. 19, 2017.

Bag Limit after the Early Canada Goose: five dark geese, to include no more than two white-fronted geese, 20 light geese (no possession limit).

■ West Zone: Nov. 5 - Feb. 5, 2017; conservation order Feb. 6 - Mar. 19, 2017.

Bag Limit: five dark geese, to include no more than two white-fronted geese, 20 light geese (no possession limit).

Sandhill Crane

■ Zone A: Oct. 29 - Jan. 29, 2017. Bag Limit: 3, possession limit 9.

■ Zone B: Nov. 18 - Jan. 29, 2017. Bag Limit: 3, possession limit 9.

■ Zone C: Dec. 17 - Jan. 22, 2017. Bag Limit: 2-possession limit 6.

Snipe

Oct. 29 - Feb. 12, 2017 with a daily bag of 8 and possession limit of 24

Woodcock

Dec. 18 - Jan. 31, 2017 with a daily bag limit of 3 and possession limit of 9.

Falconry

Statewide: dove Nov. 19-Dec. 5; ducks Jan. 30-Feb. 12, 2017.



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PROSPECTS

CONTINUED FROM 5

in the Central Zone through Nov. 6 and Dec. 17 - Jan. 8, 2017; and in the South Zone through Nov. 13 and Dec. 17 - Jan. 23, 2017. The daily bag limit for doves statewide is 15 and the possession limit 45.

In the Special White-winged Dove Area, the season runs through Nov. 9, Dec. 17 - Jan. 23, 2017. During the early two weekends in the Special White-winged Dove Area, hunting is allowed only in the afternoon and the daily bag limit is 15 birds, to include not more than two mourning doves and two white-tipped doves. During the general season opens, the aggregate bag limit is 15 with no more than two white-tipped doves.

For novice dove hunters or those new to the sport, TPWD is offering Hunting 101 workshops this year dedicated to dove hunting. These 3-8 hour, hands-on seminars and workshops are designed for family members of all ages to learn more about the animals hunted, tools used in hunting and the shooting sports and where to go in Texas to enjoy these activities. Class schedules are available online or by contacting the TPWD

Hunter Education Department at 512-389-4999.

Hunters are reminded that all current hunting licenses expired Aug. 31 and in addition to a 2016-17 hunting license, anyone born after Sept. 1, 1971, must successfully complete a hunter education training course. Those under 17 and those 17 and older who purchase a one-time deferral license may hunt legally in Texas if accompanied by a licensed hunter 17 years or older who has passed hunter education or who is otherwise exempt. Accompanied means being within normal voice control. The TPWD Hunter Education certification is valid for life and is honored in all other states and provinces. More information on hunter education certification is available online.

A Migratory Game Bird endorsement and Harvest Information Program (HIP) certification are also required to hunt dove. HIP certification involves a brief survey of previous year's migratory bird hunting success and is conducted at the time licenses are purchased.

Hunting and fishing regulations for the new season can be found in the 2016-17 Outdoor Annual, available in print form at license retailers; digital version online and in the free Outdoor Annual mobile app available for Apple and Android devices.

Finding the Right Dog



How much money should you spend on your hunting dog? If you're like most American hunters, the answer is likely, "A lot!" Hunters in the United States spend \$605 million per year on hunting dogs, according to the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies.

From buying top breeds and dishing out major dollars for top-flight training, hunters are willing to spend big bucks for the right gundog. If you're looking to add a new partner to your hunting repertoire, there are many steps to take to ensure the right fit for your needs, as well as the needs of your new pup.

FINDING THE RIGHT RETRIEVER

Waterfowl hunting is the major segment of the sport requiring a quality retriever. Hunting dogs come in all shapes and sizes, so be sure to do your research before shelling out your cash for

one.

A few of the main factors that should guide your decision-making process are temperament, size and trainability. Talk with your fellow hunters and work with your local breeding professionals to find out what kind of retriever will be best for you.

The commitment of training a new gundog can be a costly one, so covering all your bases before the purchase is a smart move.

CHOOSING THE RIGHT BREEDER

Finding the right hunting dog starts with finding the right breeder. Choose an experienced

breeder with proven bloodlines and a long-standing reputation for producing healthy dogs.

There are desirable traits for gundogs, depending on how you plan to use yours, so work with your local professionals to talk through some of your requirements and expectations for your new dog. They will be able to match you up with the right personality traits and genes for your needs.

TRUST YOUR INSTINCTS

The best hunters have strong instincts. Follow yours when choosing your next gundog. Avoid picking litters based solely

on pedigree designations. These are titles used by buyers to identify pups that may have award-winning blood in their pedigree.

Some of these titles from the American Kennel Club include Amateur Field Champion (AFC) and National Field Champion (NFC). While these designations are important characteristics to consider, these traits are not guaranteed to be passed down to your pup.

Trust your instincts to uncover positive genetic traits, including calm temperament, tractability, nose, retrieving desire and natural delivery to hand.



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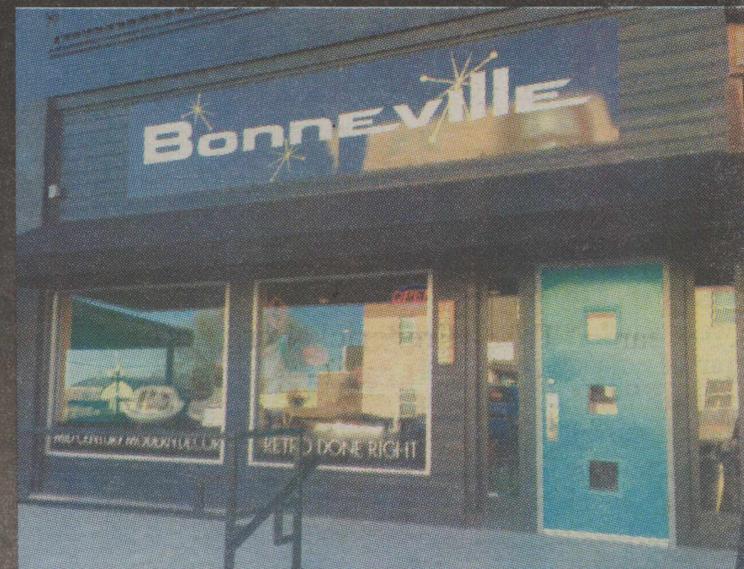
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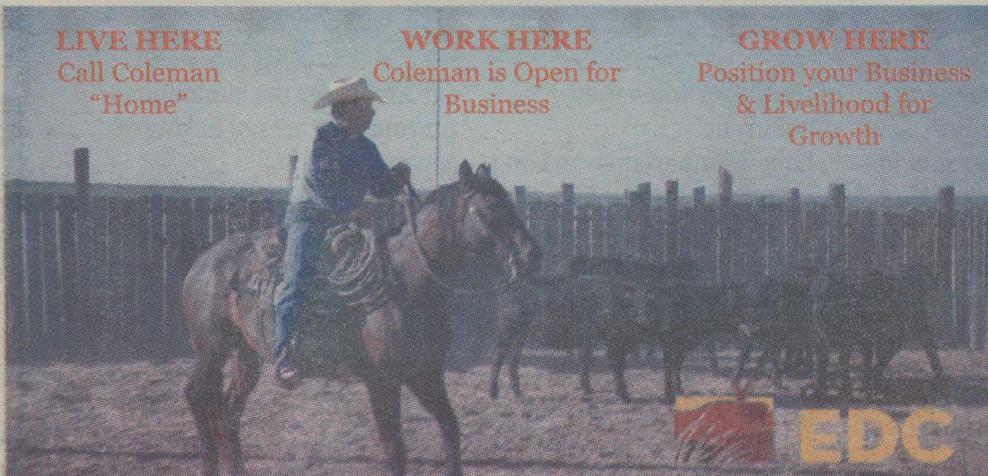
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CONSIDER BOWHUNTING

Looking to take your hunting skills to the next level? Bowhunting may be the next natural step for you. Many hunters across the country have taken to archery, and there are many reasons. Bowhunting has a way of connecting you with nature as you discover a more primitive approach of hunting.

It also teaches you discipline and patience as you hunt your game and opens up a world of new equipment and gear to explore.

According to a recent study by bowhunter-ed.com (provider of recreational safety education materials for all 50 states), 24 percent of those who claimed they hunt with a bow cited the longer season as their top reason, and 11 percent said it was because bow season had an earlier start.

No matter your reason for entering this fast-growing hunting segment, it's easy to find the right equipment and get started on advancing your newfound passion.

CHOOSING THE RIGHT BOW

Before heading to your local outdoors shop, you have to decide what type of bow you want to use. Do some research on the variations, including compound, re-curve or long bow. If you're just starting out, the compound bow will most likely be your best bet.

That's because they are equipped with various accessories to increase your shooting accuracy and improve your sight. The other types of bows require more training and practice before you can expect to feasibly take down your game of choice, but you may



be up to the challenge. Sign up at your local range for training sessions to start sharpening your skills.

When it comes to what you're looking for in a bow, draw weight is one of the biggest factors to consider. Defined as the amount of force it takes to pull the bowstring back to the full draw, this measurement can vary by weapon.

The Missouri Department of Natural Resources recommends 40 pounds or greater for a clean, ethical shot.

BOWHUNTING SAFETY

According to the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, there are two general bowhunting practices that lead to injuries: not being safe in tree stands and having arrows out

of the quiver when they shouldn't be.

Equally important is making sure your equipment is in good shape. Shoddy equipment can lead to personal or animal injury, both of which should be avoided at all costs.

Here are some things to check on before heading out on your hunt, according to the UDWR:

- Make sure the laminations on your bow are not flaking or separating;

- Check the strings on your bow for fraying;

- On a compound bow, make sure the pulleys and cables are in working order; and

- Assess the stiffness of the arrow's shaft to make sure it matches your bow's draw weight.

OUTDOORS WITH LUKE CLAYTON AND FRIENDS

A day at dove camp

GRAFORD — There's deer camps and elk camps, why shouldn't there be DOVE camps? Well, there are! At least when my hunting buddies Bob Hood and John Bryan and I get together! Simply banging away at passing birds in a dove field for a couple hours might constitute a 'dove hunt' for some folks, but when we take to the field in quest of these little gray ghosts, we want the big package, which includes an evening meal of fresh grilled dove breasts and a chance to once again celebrate Fall and the beginning of the hunting seasons!

Hood and I arrived at the Holt River Ranch in mid afternoon, an hour or so before the birds begin flying. John Bryan was on station at his smoker, where a big lunch of pork, sausages, brisket and pinto beans was served to the morning dove hunters. The setting was an overhang of a big barn built around 1930. The gathering for the afternoon hunt was setting around on picnic tables and conversations consisted of about the same banter you'll hear in camps everywhere. "Where you gonna hunt this evening?" What do you think this wind will do to the hunting? And, of course a mild discussion of the prowess of the 20 gauge over/under over



Luke Clayton

the auto 12 gauge. Hood and I had made plans to spend the night there with John in the hunting cabin, situated a few miles off the main road. The evening meal was to be grilled dove breasts wrapped in bacon and baked beans. Veterans of many, many evening meals at hunting camps, Hood and I decided to take stock

of provisions and make sure we had everything needed for the evening feast. "On first check, it appeared we had everything except the dove, which we planned to harvest during the afternoon hunt. Jalapenos, toothpicks to spike the bacon to the dove breast, baked beans, bread, onion. "You got the bacon, Bob? Naw, Thought you had it. A mini crisis had developed!

Even two old salts like my buddy and I, with a combined century of planning evening meals at hunting camps, had slipped up and forgot to bring one of the prime ingredients! "I'll run in to town

CAMP, 19

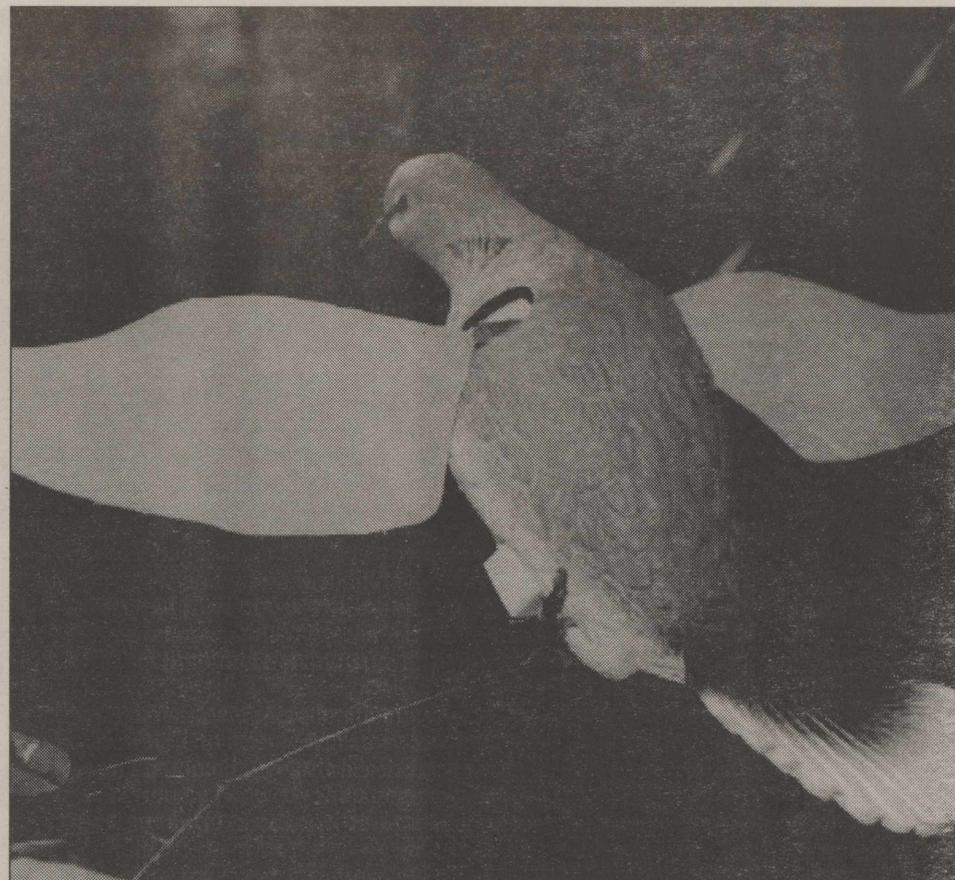
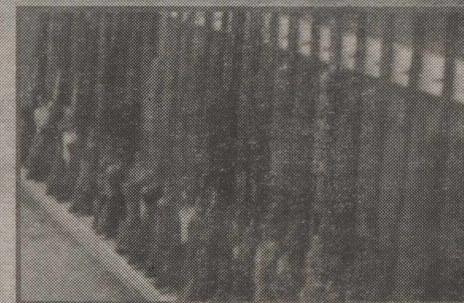
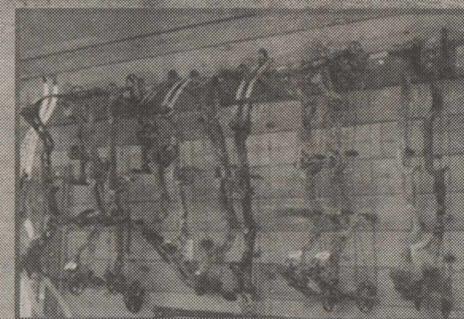


PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY LUKE CLAYTON
Doves, just like ducks, are attracted to decoys. John Bryan sets up his Mojo decoy for an afternoon hunt.

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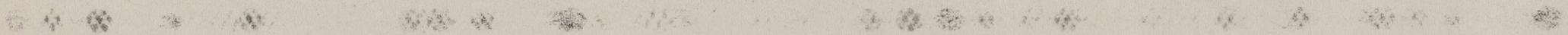
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OUTDOORS WITH LUKE CLAYTON AND FRIENDS

Outdoor cooking

With the arrival of dove season, many of us are enjoying the opener of the first of the fall hunting seasons. In Texas and much of the country, the opening day cook outs with family and friends is as much as part of the overall hunting experience as shooting doves. I've hunted large ranches with scores of other hunters and enjoyed huge BBQ feasts, usually at the noon meal. I've also opened the season hunting with myself of a family member or two. Regardless, it seems a shame to open the season without a celebratory meal.

Now, as all the veteran camp cooks out there know all too well, outdoor cooking requires a bit of planning! When the moon and planets are properly aligned and the bird's flight pattern intersects your position on the edge of a dove patch, it's possible to down a limit of birds on the morning hunt and prepare them for the noon or evening meal. But from past experiences, it's best to have the makings of the meal tucked away in the ice cooler and ready to cook when the hunt is over.



Luke Clayton

When I assume culinary duties on a dove hunt, as I often do, I have a main course planned and often cook a few fresh dove breasts to snack on before the meal. Cooking in the field can be challenging and much thought needs to be given to insure all the ingredients and utensils are on hand. There's two ways to meet the challenge, depending upon the time you have to spend cooking.

If you plan to hunt much of the day, better slow smoke a wild hog ham or have several freezer bags full of BBQ in the cooler which can be heated up quickly. A few years ago when hunting near Dublin, I actually brought along my Smokin Tex electric

smoker, loaded it with hams and loins from a small wild hog and let it slow smoke all night. But, this turned out to be not so good an idea. After hunting a couple hours the next morning, everyone came back to camp and smelled the slow smoked pork.

When I made the mistake of opening my smoker to give them a peek at the tender meat, they talked me into boning the meat in a big aluminum pan. In no time, they were making BBQ sandwiches. In a matter of minutes, our noon meal was gone! We wound up eating a late lunch at Dairy Queen!

Listen to Outdoors with Luke Clayton and Friends on radio stations from Nebraska to Texas on weekends or anytime online at www.cattfishradio.com.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY LUKE CLAYTON

Pictured is John Bryan with a BBQ meal.

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GADGETS FOR THE HUNTER

There is something wildly primitive about tracking down your next trophy, but there also is room for technology in the hunt. From Bluetooth trackers and hearing protectors to mobile applications that function as game call systems, there are a ton of options on the market for the tech-savvy hunter.

Whether you're planning for the perfect Christmas gift or buying a present for any occasion, you shouldn't have a problem tracking down a unique item — even for the hunter who seemingly already has it all.

WIND DETECTORS

A few companies have recently come out with innovative wind detectors that use advanced technology to identify wind direction and air movement shifts.

These handheld devices can even pick up wind that may be undetectable to humans.

Why is wind so important? Its direction and velocity can send your scent downwind to your target game and can wreck havoc on a bow shot. Knowing the specifics of the wind around you can help you be a more prepared, focused hunter.

RANGEFINDERS

You can purchase a rangefinder that attaches directly to your bow. The newest models emit a constant beam that displays a real-

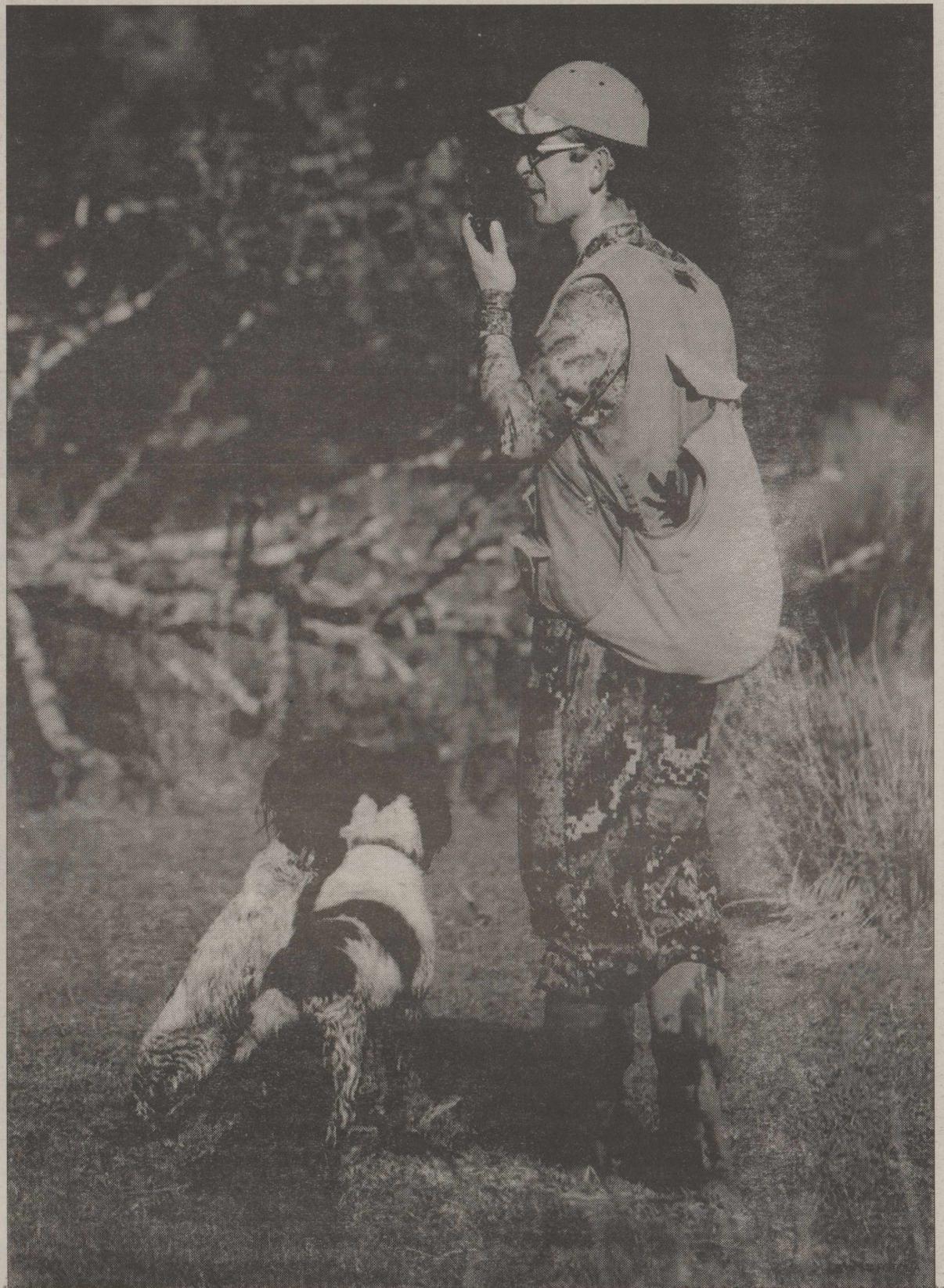
time reading. This helps prevent misses and gives you an accurate understanding of the distance between you and the animal.

Rangefinders have long been friends to hunters looking to fire accurate shots. Being able to affix one to your weapon will help you avoid toggling back and forth between a handheld option and your bow, which can waste precious time.

HANDHELD RADIOS

Communication can be everything on hunting day, especially if you're with a group of friends spread across a field or forest. You can find a rugged, reliable set of handheld radios to help you keep in touch during inclement weather.

Most are waterproof and able to attach to your hunting vest. This makes working with your hunting party convenient. Many radios come with a desk charging station and USB cables to make sure you're always charged up.



CAMP

CONTINUED FROM 15

after the hunt and get a pound of bacon for the dove breasts," says Bob as we change into our camo, load hunting vests with shells and pack the Mojo dove decoys.

We chose to hunt a corner of a huge sunflower field in which Bryan had mowed shooting lanes.

Big mesquite flats abutted the corner on two sides, creating a natural funnel for birds coming from feeding to roost sites. Hood had harvested a limit of dove from this exact location the day before and allowed me to hunt in the exact spot he'd recently occupied. The Mojo spinning wing decoys was soon working its magic and I settled in next to a big mesquite tree for the afternoon shoot, my little 20 gauge Tri Star over/under at the ready. I managed to down a couple of birds quickly, both with the second shot. I spend some time a couple days before breaking clay targets but there is no substitute for the real thing and I've yet to find a more challenging target than the dipping, diving morning dove, especially when pushed by a stiff wind as they were on this hunt.

Out of the corner of my eye, I spotted a fast moving dove coming toward the tree line at supersonic speed. One instant, I was staring at sunflowers, the next, and before I had time to mount my shotgun, the bird was upon me. Behind it a few yards, in hot pursuit was a Prairie Falcon, its intent the same as mine: dove for dinner! Both birds, the predator and its intended prey, were out of sight in the mesquites in a split second. I couldn't help but wonder the outcome of this

desperate scene that is as much a part of the natural world as the sunflowers or, mesquite tree I was using for cover. I heard my friend's shotgun popping around the corner and managed to add a few more birds to my game bag. We quit the field a little early, after all, I had birds to clean and Hood needed to make that short run into town for bacon!

About the time I had the fire burning down to coals and the birds cleaned, Hood pulled up to camp and informed me the stores were closed and there was no bacon. Neither of us panicked, we had the makings of dinner; we just needed to decide the best way to prepare our very freshly harvested dove. "They are too dry to just put on the grill without bacon; we need to figure something out." I said as we discussed the evening meal around the camp fire. "How about that Chorizo Sausage you brought. Let's make sausage patties and place the dove breast on the sausage and smoke them! The sausage will baste the doves and keep them moist. Wouldn't that work?" says Hood.

An hour later, we were dining on what might just become a staple dish for upcoming dove camps!

John Bryan says he still has openings for dove hunts at the Holt River Ranch www.holtriver-ranch.com this season and the shooting usually continues to be good, especially when the flocks of migrating doves heading south spot the huge sunflower fields on the ranch.

For more information, call 940-452-3415.

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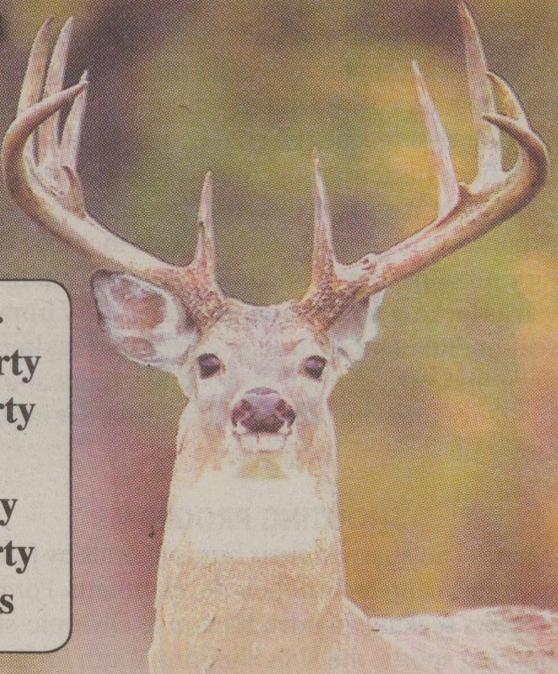
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KIDS AND HUNTING

Youth represent one of the fastest-growing segments in the sport of hunting, making it more imperative than ever for comprehensive gun safety education in our communities. Your state's department of natural resources likely has child shooting safety programs in place, including certification classes that cover basic gun handling techniques.

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, for example, offers a firearms safety certification course for children starting at age 11. This designation is focused on teaching children the following principles:

- Treat each firearm as if it is loaded;
- Always control the muzzle of your firearm; and
- Be sure of your target and what is beyond.

There also are numerous national shooting programs dedicated to not only providing a safe learning environment for our youth, but also to developing the next generation of safety-minded, responsible gun owners.

TALK TO YOUR KIDS

If your child shows a real interest in guns and taking up the sport of hunting, it's important to have open, regular conversations with them. After all, you are their best teacher when it comes to safely handling firearms and respecting the animals you hunt.

As a parent and teacher, it's important to display responsible firearm ownership. This includes keeping your guns locked and out of reach of children, as well as locking up ammunition separately from the weapon. Remember to also teach your children to never pick up a gun if they see one left out at a friend or family member's house, even if it looks like a toy gun.

SHOOTING PROGRAMS

Youth can sharpen their hunting skills by joining programs centered on their development. For junior shooters seeking an introduction to Olympic-style shooting sports, the USA Shooting Youth Programs and Athlete Development division may be available in your area.

The national organization is present in many cities across the country and is focused on teaching patience, determination, organization skills, mental and physical control, safety awareness, goal setting, problem solving and good sportsmanship.



HUNTING ETHICS

Any responsible outdoorsman or woman knows there is a certain respect that comes with the sport. Not only must you respect your fellow hunters to ensure their safety, but you also must show reverence to the game you are hunting and the grounds upon which you hunt.

Big-game hunters in particular have made the news recently, with their actions being criticized by animal activist groups. In this age of technology and information sharing, it is critical to maintain a healthy hunting discipline at all times, even when you think there is no one watching.

FOLLOW THE LAW

There are a number of laws you must follow as a hunter. Rules and regulations are in place for a reason. Taking them seriously is paramount if you hope to have a safe, successful hunt.

Hunting out of season is a major regulation to which you must adhere, as your state's department of natural resources has put in restrictions to protect animal populations. Hunting seasons for all types of game vary from state to state, so be sure to check in with your local offices to make sure you are in compliance.

TIPS ON HUNTING ETHICS

Here are some tips from the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources on hunting ethics and how to follow them:

- Always think of safety first and shooting game second.
- Respect the rights of landowners. You should never go



on private property without permission, and remember that cooperation and respect are the keys to getting permission to hunt.

- Know your gun and what it can do. Maintain your equipment so it functions properly

and does not pose a safety threat.

- Shoot only when absolutely certain of your target, and make every effort to locate crippled or lost game.
- Pick up spent shells and other litter.

• Clean and care for your game properly.

- Alcohol and hunting can make for a dangerous combination.
- Be mindful of local regulations, and always be properly licensed. Taking game out of

season and before or after legal shooting hours is poaching, not hunting.

- Realize that just being out there is what a good hunt is all about and you can have a great day without taking the bag limit.

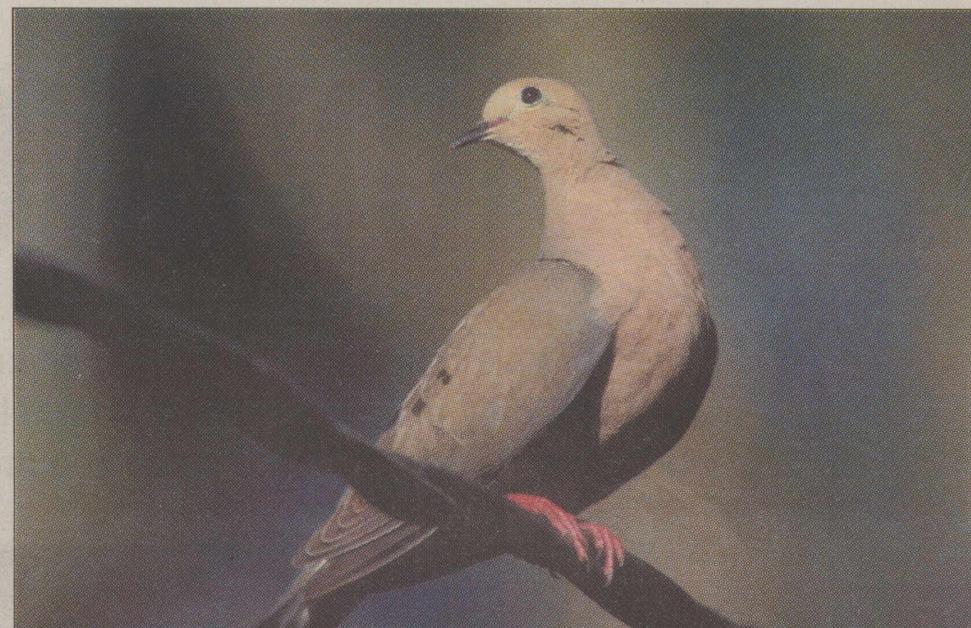
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AT HAND

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to water. These 'watering zones' usually are areas with clean banks that provide grit for the birds and protection from predators. Also, pay attention to the wind when choosing a spot to hunt. All birds take off and land into the wind.

CROSSING SHOTS ARE MOST DIFFICULT — For most hunters, crossing shots at dove are the most difficult to make, especially shots on fast flying birds. It's very common to shoot behind birds flying right to left or left to right. Nothing sharpens the eye for these shots better than a few rounds of skeet or trap.

Practice by beginning your shotgun swing behind the flying bird (clay target), seeing daylight behind your shotgun barrel and the flying bird and pulling the trigger. The trick for the shotgunner is just how much daylight is required in order to put the shot string at the exact spot where the bird will be! This study in physics has challenged the wingshooter since the invention of black powder and shot; it's also what makes dove hunting so much fun. To my way of thinking, dove are the most challenging of all birds to knock down with a scattergun.

BLEND INTO YOUR SURROUNDINGS

— Back in the early sixties when I first began hunting dove, blue jeans and a dark colored T-shirt was the uniform of the day. Dove have excellent eyesight and from their elevated position, they can easily spot anything that looks out of the ordinary, (i.e. hunters) wearing solid colors. These days, I hunt dove in the same light weight, breathable camo I use for early season bow hunting. Wear camo and avoid movement until you begin your shotgun swing and chances are very good that you will have a heavier game bag at the end of your shoot!

RETRIEVE YOUR BIRDS IMMEDIATE-

LY — Dove blend well into their surroundings and many are lost by hunters that take their eye off of a falling bird and shoot at another. Unless shooting over a recently cut grain field or an area with short grass, it's a good idea to watch your bird hit the ground after the shot and go immediately to retrieve it, especially if you're not hunting with a good retriever.

USE DECOYS — Ten years ago, decoys were seldom used by dove hunters but we've caught on to the fact that doves are flocking birds and they respond well to decoys. Motion type decoys (spinning and flapping wing) have proved to be highly effective. My current decoy spread includes decoys I found online, where you can locate everything from dove to elk decoys. On many occasions, I've had dove actually fluttering overhead above motion decoys. They work and I use them on every hunt.

OUTDOOR TIP OF THE WEEK — With the opener of dove season at hand, many of us will be looking forward to eating the rewards of our hunts. The key to tasty dove is keeping the birds cool while in the field. I bring an ice cooler and carry gallon freezer bags for this purpose.

While on a white wing hunt in Mexico a few years ago, I learned a great recipe for dove breasts. Use a thin-blade fillet knife and take the time to remove the breast meat from each side of the dove breast.

Place a sliver of jalapeno on the piece of boneless breast meat and wrap with bacon. Place over hot coals and baste frequently with your favorite syrup. The blend of flavors created by the jalapeno and syrup will have your guests coming back for more.

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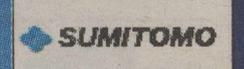
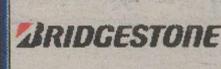
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