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# Vinters En 0298769 10/21/2014 R001 RANDALL CONNER 216 CIRCLE DR WINTERS, TX 79567-3504

Thursday, August 14, 2014

### Six candidates in special election ballot

**RUBEN CANTU-RODRIGUEZ** 

BALLINGER- Six candidates will be running in the special election ballot for the unfinished term of District 28 State Senate seat, vacated by the resignation of Robert Duncan, who became the new Chancellor of the Texas Tech System in Lubbock, Texas.

In Runnels County the places on the ballot, as drawn by the County Clerk's Office, will be as follows: 1. Delwin Jones (R), 2. Charles Perry, (R), 3. Kerry Douglas McKennon (L), 4. Jodey Arrington (R), 5. E.M. Garza (R), 6. Greg Wortham (R). Special election day

will be Tuesday, September 9, 2014. Early voting will be held August 25 through September 5 with the exception being

Labor Day. Early voting will be Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m. through 5 p.m. at the Runnels County Courthouse Annex, behind the Courthouse, at 603 Strong Avenue, Ballinger, Texas.

On election day polling locations will be at the Runnels County Courthouse Annex for voting precincts 1, 2, 7 and 8. Precinct 3 polling place will be located at the Winters Housing Authority. For precincts 4, 5 and 6 the polling place will be at the Winters Tax Office, and for the precincts 9 and 10, the polling place will be the Miles City Hall.

The winner of the special election will serve the rest of Duncan's term, which ends in 2017. If no candidate receives at least 50 percent of the vote, a runoff will be called at some point later in the year.

Leroy

Pelzel

PAGE 6

Local WWII veteran

taking the Texas

**Permian Basin** 

**Honor Flight** 



PHOTO: RUBEN CANTU-RODRIGUEZ

Heavy machinery levels the ground at new Walmart Express location, on U.S. Highway 83, just north of Novice Road.

# Walmart breaks the ground

RUBEN CANTU-RODRIGUEZ WINTERS ENTERPRISE

WINTERS- Tuesday, August 5, 2014, Walmart was issued a construction permit in Winters, Texas, and without further ceremony the crews immediately started mowing and leveling the ground for the new Walmart Express, which will be located north of the intersection of U.S. Highway 83 and Novice Road, on the east side of U.S. 83.

The store, which according to corporate

**WINTERS ENTERPRISE** 

WINTERS- The 12th

Annual Winters Dove

Fest will be held Satur-

day, September 6, 2014

with a Dove Fest Queen

being crowned for the

first time. Contestants

senior at Winters High

interview with judges,

Fest Parade, and be

involved in Dove Fest

have a float in the Dove

activities during the day. The winner of the Queen

School, participate in an

must be a junior or

sources will be having a pharmacy among other amenities, is expected to

be open by year-end. In June, the Winters City Council approved the rezoning for a property located on NEC N. Main Street and Novice Road to C-1 to allow for development of Walmart Express.

The Winters store will be operating under a new concept, created to offer low prices in a smaller format, and provide convenient access shopping trips. The "Express"

ove Fest Queen to

crowned for the first time

Another new event for

Dove Fest is the parade

a.m. in the south part of

which will begin at 10

Winters and conclude

at the Winters Commu-

nity Center. A new Arts

and Crafts Show with a number of exhibitors will

be held in the City Park

beginning at 9 a.m. For

the pageant and the

more information about

parade contact Christina Davis at (325) 977 0958.

be at the Winters Com-

munity featuring Justin

Kaczyk and the Natural

Outlaws from 7-11 p.m.

A small admission fee

A Dove Fest Dance will

stores give Walmart flexibility, especially in rural and urban areas where shoppers may not have access to larger stores.

Previously, on April 28, the City Council approved a variance for sell of alcohol, and on May 19 another variance to city ordinances was passed regarding the number of parking slots required for the store.

The Winters store is one of five that Walmart will be opening in West Texas before the end of the year.

and cooler fee will be

The Hunters Apprecia-

tion Barbecue will be at

the Winters Commu-

nity Center, beginning

at 10:30 a.m. and lasting

until 1:30 pm. Adult and child plates will be avail-

able. Musical entertain-

ment and a silent auction

will be held under the big

tent in front of the Com-

auction will begin at 1:30

p.m. under the tent with

ing auction items for the

live and silent auctions.

The Dovefest is collect-

PLEASE CONTINUE PAGE 3

munity Center. A live

lots of nice items.

charged.

# Veterans counseling on the rise

PTSD and brain injuries leading mental health services among veterans; number of patients up 60% in five years

RUBEN CANTU-RODRIGUEZ WINTERS ENTERPRISE

BALLINGER- With the slimming-down of military forces and Vietnam veterans reaching retirement age, specialized counseling services are experiencing a boom in demand, particularly for Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and traumatic brain injuries.

Dennis Wright, Readjustment Counselor for the Taylor County Vet Center, said that during the last few years counseling services went from a few hours a day once a week, to three or four times a week all day back-to-back.

During the last five years, he said, the demand of counseling services has increased "60 percent through the Veterans Centers, and we expect the rise to continue.'

New research, Wright explained, shows that 68 percent of recently retiring veterans are receiving mental health services, mainly from traumatic brain injuries or PTSD.

Wright, who graduated with a PhD in Clinical Psychology and has been counseling professionally since 1994, came to Ballinger last week with the Mobile Vet Center. The center provides services for veterans and spouses of veterans in 76 counties throughout Texas.

"We focus on readjustment, helping veterans to comeback, to get assimilated back into the community," Wright said. "One thing that the vet centers got a little bit of advantage over the VA is that the VA focuses on

the veteran himself, we focus on the family system."
The center, he explained, provides family counseling, marriage counseling, and will help a veteran or veteran's spouse coming in by him or herself, which they get quite frequently.

Back in the 1990s, he said, the focus was on the vet-

eran, now they bring their spouse and the couple can start focusing on what the veteran is going through, he or she doesn't have to feel like it is all a secret, and they wind up helping each other.

'A lot of times the family is affected by PTSD, because they have to do everything around veterans... the home runs one way during the day, and when it's time for dad to come home everybody has roles they have to play to make sure everything is perfect, so they don't have that veteran exploding on them," Wright said.

"If we can get the veteran to hear this and how he is protected, then (the recovery process) is a lot faster." Recent changes in the military forces have generated a large workload in veterans related services.

In 2012 the federal government started a program to slim-down the military forces. A cut back of 27,000 soldiers and 20,000 marines was announced.

'We got so many veterans coming out of the military now, and as the military is winding down thousands of

people are coming to the private sector."

All of those discharged from service have Vet Center

benefits, as long as they served in a combat zone in one of the four branches of the military, and have an honorable discharge. The benefits are also extended to some people in case of a sexual assault, even if it happened while in boot camp.

The later, Wright said, have also been on the rise, not because there are more sexual assaults, but because now "it is becoming easier to stand up and talk."

Also increasing the number of PTSD cases being treated, he said, are Vietnam veterans retiring from the workforce. "While you are able to stay busy, you can walk it out of your mind, you don't have to deal with it, but when you retire you go through an identity crisis that you no longer know even who you are. People has more time on their hands, they spend more time by themselves and that's when the memories come back. "We are seeing veterans who have never come to the VA since they came back from Vietnam, and one of the things to do is rebuild their trust," he explained.

### Contest will be awarded a \$1,000 scholarship to attend college. **Turning** on the

Saturday, August 9, the Winters Blizzards took the field for the first scrimmage of the 2014 season, an intersquad held at Blizzard Stadium. The season continues to warm up this Saturday, when the Blizzards take the road to Cross Plains for another scrimmage, aiming to fine tune their game and skills.

gridiron

PHOTO: JOE GERHART





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**Immunization clinics in Runnels Co** 

The Texas Department of State Health Services will have an immunization clinic for children with Medicaid no insurance or underinsured, and adults with no insurance. For questions or to schedule an appointment, please call 754 4945, if no answer leave a message.

The clinic will be held Thursday, August 14, 10 a.m. to 12 and 1:30 to 3 p.m. at 600 Strong, (corner of Fifth St. and Strong Ave.) in Ballinger, Texas. Please bring child's immunization records. If child has Medicaid, please bring card.

**Section 504 Child Find Notice** 

Pursuant to Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the District has a duty to identify, refer, evaluate and if eligible, provide a free, appropriate public education to disabled students. For additional information about the rights of parents of eligible children, or for answers to any questions you might have about identification, evaluation and placement into Section 504 programs, please contact the District's Section 504 Coordinator Eva A. McBeth at Winters Elementary (754 5577) or by mail at: 603 N. Heights, Winters, Texas 79567 audine. mcbeth@wintersisd.org

Aviso sobre identificación de estudiantes discapacitados

Bajo la Sección 504 del Decreto de Rehabilitación de 1973, el Distrito Escolar está obligado a identificar, referir, evaluar, y proporcionar servicios educativos apropriados y gratuitos a estudiantes discapacitados que califiquen para recibir servicios bajo esta ley. Si usted desea más información sobre los derechos de padres de niños discapacitados, o si tiene preguntas sobre la identificación, evaluación, y colocación de niños en el programa de Sección 504, favor de ponerse in contacto con el Coordinador de 504 del Distrito Eva A. McBeth al número Winters Elementary (754 5577) o por correo a: 603 N. Heights, Winters, Texas 79567 email- audine. mcbeth@wintersisd.org

Friends of the "Gus" Pruser Exhibit to meet
The Friends of the "Gus" Pruser Agriculture Exhibit will hold their monthly meeting next Monday August 18,

at 6 p.m. The meeting will be in the Gus Pruser Agriculture Exhibit at 219 W. Dale, Winters. Friends of the "Gus" Pruser Exhibit is a group interested in preserving the agriculture heritage of the Winters area. The group works on tractors and other displays in the museum.

For additional information contact John Long at (325) 754 5389 or zihalemuseum@wtxs.net.

Family Night at the FUMC

Everyone is invited and encouraged to attend the Family Night at First United Methodist Church, 141 N. Church St., on Wednesday, August 20 from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. This will be a time of fellowship and registration for Kids In Christ Klub. KICK is for children Pre-K through fifth grade. KICK will begin on August 27 at 5:30 p.m. Come enjoy the food (hot dogs, chips, and drinks) and fellowship with your friends. For more information. Contact Bertha Owens at 754 5163

WES 'Meet the Teacher' night

Winters Elementary School will have "Meet the Teacher" from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Thursday, August 22, 2014. Title 1 meeting for all parents will follow immediately.

Kids In Christ Klub
Kids In Christ Klub (KICK) begins at First United Methodist Church, 141 N. Church St., Wednesday, August 27, 5:30 p.m.- 7 p.m. KICK is for Children Pre-K through fifth grade. Come, join your friends, and learn thrilling Bible stories, make fun crafts, and many more exciting activities. For more information contact Bertha Owens at 754 5163.

WHS Class of 1964 reunion

WHS Class of 1964 will hold it's 50th reunion during Homecoming weekend, September 26-27. Friday night's activities will include attendance at the football game with the general homecoming of all classes after the game meet at the new gymnasium. Detailed information for the 1964 reunion can be obtained from local classmates or from Gary Hester, coordinator, 4706 Enchanted Lane, Austin, Texas 78745; (512) 444 4904; 3ghester@att.net: or Facebook.

Winters Area Chamber of Commerce meetings Winters Area Chamber of Commerce meets at 7 p.m.. first Thursday of the month at the Lone Star Video, 200 Tinkle Street.

TEEA 'Friendly Neighbors'

The Texas Extension Education Agency "Friendly Neighbors" invites everybody in the Winters and Ballinger area who is interested in learning about cooking, gardening and arts and crafts to join us on the fourth Tuesday of every month (except during summer) at 2

p.m. at the Runnels County Extension Office on the corner of South Seventh and Sealy Ave in Ballinger.

If you are interested and like to find out more about us, call Nancy at 325 5042 or Linda 754 5385.

Winters Women's Club

Members meet the second Tuesday of the month. Call Sylvia Wilson 754 4992 for additional information.

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

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

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

WIC open to many incomes and families Women Infants and Children, located at 706 Strong Ave in Ballinger is open Monday thru Wednesday 7 a.m. till noon and 1 p.m. till 6 p.m.

Closed every third and fourth Monday of each month. Phone (325) 365 5925. WIC is open to many incomes

and all kinds of families.

Ballinger Masonic Lodge meeting

Masonic Lodge No. 643, 500 N Broadway, Ballinger,
Texas. Stated meetings are at 7 p.m. on the first Monday of every month except for holidays if it falls on that Monday. For more information call (325) 365 3202.

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

WINTERS ENTERPRISE

ROWENA- The Veter-

ans of Foreign Wars Post

9196 Rowena and Ladies

Paint Rock Masonic Lodge meetings
Paint Rock Masonic Lodge No. 613 meets the first
Thursday night of each month at 7:30 p.m. Supper will be provided after the meeting. The location is the Masonic Lodge building located at 360 South Roberts on Highway 83 South.

VFW membership drive



Tim Griffin makes a call at the Washington at New Orleans game played September 9, 2012 at the New Orleans Superdome.

## 'The best seven games of my life'

**RUBEN CANTU-RODRIGUEZ** 

BALLINGER- When the local chapter of the Texas Association of Sports Officials in Abilene was looking for help, back in 1998, football fan Tim Griffin was encouraged by his wife to send his application. Little did he know that it would be the first step toward a dream come true, officiating for the National Football League.

Griffin, whose "real life job" as he calls it, is being an appraiser in Abilene, was in Ballinger last week presenting a program for the Ballinger Noon Lions Club.

"In my first season with the Abilene chapter I got four Varsity games and plenty of time with JV teams," he recalls.

That was the start of a journey that would teach him how to deal with coaches, players and apply judgement to a situation. "You study and learn the books, but applying that to



Tim Griffin pictured here alongside the then Philadelphia Eagles Head Coach Andy Reid.

a specific situation sometimes it's not just black and white," he says.

Some of his most memorable moments include the Gainesville vs. Forney game played in 2003 at the Texas Tech Stadium.

But without a doubt Griffin found his defining moment in officiating when he was working a 6-man game, with all the parents and fans surrounding the fence three-row deep, in a very poorly maintained field. He looked around and said to himself "this is what I want to do.'

His big opportunity would come in 2012, when the NFL and the NFL Referees Association wound up in a lockout over the collective bargaining agreement. By June of that year both parties failed to reach an agreement over changes to the retirement plan, salaries, and personnel The NFL announced it would begin hiring replacement officials.

"Fellow official Joe Clark called and told me to send my application in, it was right before deadline but anyway I sent it in," he

The next Monday he received an email from the NFL and he was sent to training in Dallas. Soon he would find himself traveling from Buffalo to Charlotte, Cleveland and Tennessee for preseason

"The school and training we received was the most professional ever, they treated us just like the regular officials, with all the benefits and privileges they had," Griffin said.

His first experience officiating for the NFL would be one hard-to-forget. On September 9, 2012 opening day, at the New Orleans Superdome he was designated side judge for the Redskins at New Orleans

"Robert Griffin, III came to the sideline and shook hands with all the officials, when it was my turn he said 'Robert Griffin,' and I immediately said Tim Griffin," he recalls. "He is such a classy guy."

Griffin would also officiate as a side judge in the Arizona at New England game, on September 16, and at the Buffalo at Cleveland game played on September 23, 2012.

Those four preseason games and three regular season games will forever be in his mind. "Those were the best seven games of my life."

Griffin's and all the replacement officials' season would come to an end on eptember 26, 201 days earlier, on the final play of the Seattle vs. Green Bay game, Seahawks wide receiver Golden Tate and Packers defender M.D. Jennings got their hands on the ball while both players were still in the air and attempting to gain possession inside the endzone.

The two officials near the play initially gave separate signals of touchdown and time out, before ruling the players had simultaneous possession. The ruling, a Seattle Seahawks gamewinning touchdown.

A later review of the play showed that prior to the catch Tate shoved Packers cornerback Sam Shields with both hands, which the NFL later acknowledged should have drawn an offensive pass interference penalty that would have negated the touchdown and resulted in a Packers

"I was watching TV that Monday night (Sept. 24) and I saw one of the officials calling a touchdown while the other one wasn't. I immediately started receiving text messages from my crew members, we knew right then it was the end of our season."

Fast forward in time Griffin no longer officiates college or professional games, but he is still active in officiating, and so far has been called to work in three State championships.

#### Auxiliary are hosting a membership appreciation and membership recruitment day on August 17, ing our post. Sunday, beginning at 4 p.m. It is a chance for ing or Korean Veterans will be held. The post members to renew their membership and the post

If you are a veteran, honorable discharged, with overseas duty during a period of conflict, we are inviting you to consider joining our post and joining other veterans in service and fellowship.

to recruit anyone interest-

ed in joining our post.

family affair and families are welcome. We look forward to meeting any veteran in joining or visit-A short program honorwishes to recognize those veterans who served

during that conflict and

thank them for their

After a period of visiting

free chicken strip dinner

will be served. This is a

and companionship, a

service and to show our appreciation for that The post meets once a month on the second Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m.

#### Public Record Runnels Co. Jail Record August 11, 2014 Kenneth L. Kendrick DWI 3rd or more Raymond S. Aleman RCSO Clayton D. Foster Coke Samuel D. Nall BPD Forgery of financial instrume BPD Brenton M. Shepard Jeri Holman BPD Robert D. Pullen Coke Co. DWLI with previous conviction

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# Veteran's Corner

Before recessing for a five-week break, the House and Senate passed legislation (Conference Committee report for H.R. 3230) to reform the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). The legislation includes:

Requiring the VA to offer non-VA care to any veteran enrolled in the VA health care system as of August 1, 2014 or who is a newly discharged combat veteran, if such veteran is unable to secure an appointment within 30 days or resides more than 40 miles from the nearest VA medical facility; extending the pilot program to provide rehabilitation services to veterans with complex-mild traumatic brain injury (TBI); improving care for veterans experiencing military sexual trauma; allowing the VA Secretary to expedite the firing of senior VA managers who are accused of mismanagement; hiring more physicians, other medical staff, and improving VA infrastructure; providing in-state tuition to veterans and eligible dependents using the Post 9/11 GI Bill;

providing Post 9/11 GI Bill benefits to spouses of service members who died in the line of duty; establishing a Congressional Commission on Care to evaluate access to care throughout the VA health care system; and authorizing 27 major facility leases in 18 states and Puerto Rico.

The final bill cost nearly \$17 billion over 10 years with \$5 billion in offsets, making it less expensive than previous VA reform legislation passed by the House and the Senate. The bill now goes to the President to be signed into law. For more information, contact Sandra at the Veterans Service Office at 602 Strong Ave on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10am to 3pm, or call 365-3612.

Sandra G. Van Zant Veterans County Service Officer P.O. Box 108 Ballinger, TX 76821 PHONE (325) 365-3612 E-MAIL rcvso@wtxs.net



PHOTO: FILE

The gun and knife show, one of the favorites at the annual fest.

## 2014 Dove Fest: Items of all variety to be auctioned at the silent and live auctions

Items of all variety will be auctioned off. Joel Lemley from Blackwell, Texas will be this year's auctioneer. Lemley is a member of the Texas Auctioneers Association and National Auctioneers Association. Lemley not only auctions for benefits and fund raising, he auctions for cattle sales in Ft. Worth, Lockhart, Archie Jobe at (325) 660 and Fredericksburg, Texas along with auctioning in Colorado Springs, Co. If you would like to donate Bobbie Collom at (325) 977 7379 or Teresa Walden at (325) 669 8157. Money that is raised through the Dovefest goes back to the

The raffle drawing for guns will begin right after the live auction. Six very

Winters community.

nice guns valued at over \$8,000 will be given away this year and raffle tickets are available from several people in advance or can be purchased in the Community Center that day.

Dove Hunts will be available around Winters. The cost includes a meal ticket. To arrange a hunt, contact 8334. The Clay Pigeon Fun Shoot will kick off at 8 a.m. on Rodeo Arena Road. For more information, call Bill Bredemeyer at (325) 977 0511.

The Winters Gun & Knife Show will begin at 9 a.m. at the Old Dollar General Building in Downtown. More information can be obtained by calling Randall Davis at (325) 977 1501. A barbecue meal

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1 will be served at the New Chick-Inn next to the Gun Show from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. The Motorcycle Fun Run will feature a "Scenic Bike Run Near Winters." Signup is at the Big Tent and begins at 9 a.m. Cost includes a meal ticket. For more information, call Elmer Buckelew at (325)

365 6124.

A drawing for door prizes will be held every 15 minutes under the Big Tent. Lunch is free to all active military — you do not have to be in uniform, just show your ID. Credit cards are welcome for all Dove Fest purchases. The Winters Dove Fest is hosted each year by the Winters Dove Fest Committee, the City of Winters, the Winters Area Chamber of Commerce, and the Winters Area Business and Industrial Corp.

events go to support 16 local youth and non-profit organizations which work to make Dove Fest a success. For more information, visit Facebook "Winters Dove Fest."

### Pest control calculator available for maintenance professionals

DALLAS- Maintenance professionals gearing up for the start of school now have a new tool to help defend students from the inevitable summer influx of undesirables roaming the halls. The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service's new integrated pest management website, http://ipmcalculator.com, offers school staff members in charge of pest control a wealth of practical information on managing rodents, birds, cockroaches, ants and a plethora of other unwelcome denizens, said Janet Hurley, AgriLife Extension integrated pest management program specialist at Dallas. "The cost calculator, available free on the website, allows the user to assess various pest risks on their school and district levels,' Hurley said. "The resulting information will be a big help for those responsible for developing a budget for a school integrated pest management program."

### Susan Sneed graduates summa cum laude

Susan Sneed graduated summa cum laude from the College of Allied Health Sciences at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center with a Master's Degree in Speech-Language Pathology on May 10.

Susan is currently working as a Speech-Language Pathology Clinical Fellow at Garrison Geriatric Education and Care Center in Lubbock, Texas.

Susan is the daughter of Randall and Cheryl Sneed and a 2008 graduate of Winters High School.

22

### **CROSSWORD PUZZLE**

43 44

29

77 Cheese with holes

1 Pat of "Wheel of

Fortune'

4 Inquire

2 Give a speech

5 Medieval worker

7 Clark of "Gone With

8 Quarterback Manning

\_(scary

9 Goes down, as the

6 Walks slowly

the Wind"

Sun

snake)

12 Not new

11 Like some beds

13 Bank conveniences

10 Black

### "Royal Flush"

Across

- 1 Soft drinks
- 6 A long, long time 10 Light blue color
- 14 Come up 15 Man or boy
- 16 Do a household chore
- 17 Animal with big ears
- 19 Judge
- 20 Devoured
- in the blank
- 22 Goes too fast 24 Sneakers brand
- 26 Hazard for a ship 28 Big coffee holder
- 29 Angry cat's sound
- 31 Parking place
- 33 Take a chair
- 36 Rouse
- 39 Small
- 40 Nest egg shelter, for short
- 41 Boxing great 42 Certain bill, in slang
- 45 Zig and \_\_\_
- 46 Actor Chaney 47 Kitchen fixture
- 48 Unwraps
- 50 Cost an arm and a
- 51 Earl Grey or chamomile
- 52 Not crazy 54 Tax expert, for short
- 56 Former senator Trent 58 Low- diet
- 62 Mythical creatures
- 65 Hard to find
- 68 It has a sash
- 69 Wound cover 72 Surrounding glow
- 74 Actress Day
- 75 School orgs.

73 Trick

- 76 "What \_\_ is new?"

#### 18 Puts on TV 23 Clothing store clerk's

- urge 25 Not he
- 27 Toss (a coin)
- 30 Counting everything 3 Cut into small cubes 32 Lennon's lady
  - 34 Its capital is Tehran
    - 35 They tell you an item's price
    - 36 One of four in most
    - 37 Soothing plant
    - 38 Snake with a hood 39 Bill Gates's portal
  - 43 Christmas 44 Actress Patricia
  - 49 Chest muscle, for
  - 52 Home to a horse

- 53 Razor brand
- 55 "Guilty" and "not guilty
- 57 Two-color cookies 59 Video game company
- 60 TV star Philbin
- 61 " \_ you!" (words to a sneezer)
- 62 Snare 63 Easy victory
- 64 Place to keep valuables
- 66 Finishes 70 Rank below gen.
- Jones Industrial Average

### LAST WEEK'S ANSWER GRID

### GREENEGGSANDHAM TALES SAILS ODEALAS SCORN PROPS YERTLETHETURTLE YEARS TAHOE Proceeds from all Dove Fest NANALYE UPS GONG PIANO THREE ISM HORTONHEARSAWHO TRIES LEANS

COMMUNITY BOARD

# Weather Whys

Q: What are the "dog days of summer?"

A: It's a slang term for the hottest time of the year, explains Brent McRoberts of Texas A&M University. "In general terms, it's the time between early July and early September when the highest temperatures occur in the Northern Hemisphere," he says. "The ancient Egyptians named the brightest star in the sky Sirius, which they labeled the 'dog star' after one of their mythic gods. Sirius could be seen in the sky during this time and they believed it was responsible for the intense summer heat." "The Old Farmer's Almanac marks the 'dog days' as the 40 day period occurring from July 3 to August 11, but other countries mark them differently," he says. "It is usually the hottest and most uncomfortable time of the year.'

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THE ORGANIZATION OF RUNNELS COUNTY

# Stores, post offices and churches

Once established the new county, sales, faith and communications played a key role in the developing of the land

CONTRIBUTED BY RUTH COOPER

WINTERS- The county had been organized about a year when changes came fast for the settlements of Picketville, Walthall, and the post office of Blue Gap moving to Content by 1881. By 1880, Runnels County had a county seat. Runnels City was established. It was 1882 when the line was determined between Coleman and Runnels counties and that indicated Blue Gap was really in Runnels County.

In 1881, the town/community of Content/ Tokeen was beginning to be settled. It was located in far northeast Runnels County and founded by storekeeper Daniel W. Hale and named by him "for the contentment of this valley." Hale became the first postmaster in 1882. There was a school and by 1888, a hotel. Other businesses included different stores, two gins, a lime kiln, and blacksmith shop. In 1890, Content was the county's second largest town. The town's name was changed to Tokeen in 1905. The Santa Fe Railroad extension missed Content in 1909 and most residents moved to Goldsboro. The post office closed in 1916. After that, the name was changed back to Content.

The population continued to decline.

The community of Maverick was located on State Highway 158 in western Runnels County. It was named for Samuel Augustus Maverick. He was the largest landowner in that area. Marion Cobb's store was established in 1883 with a post office inside. Later the community was moved one mile east. A school was started in 1889. Maverick had three stores, three churches, two gas stations, a barbershop, and Woodmen of the World Hall. The school was moved to Norton in 1937. There were 31 residents in 1980 with several homes, an abandoned church, school house and a store. The population remained the same in 1990. Benoit/Norwood was

on US Hwy. 67 and the Santa Fe Railroad 12 miles northeast of Ballinger in east central Runnels County. The community was started in 1886 and was named Norwood but with the establishment of a post office March 29, 1906, it was named Benoit for J. Benoit, an early settler. The first postmaster was W.F. Hill who opened the first store in 1912 and was the last postmaster. Benoit had two stores, a gin, a blacksmith shop and a one-room schoolhouse. The store owners changed several times. Mr. Nutt owned it when the highway was built and it came up to the stores doorstep. He sold the store to the highway department and it was demolished to make way for the highway. The settlement eventually disappeared.

The community of Val-

ley View was located at the intersection of State Highway 158 and FM 2111, six miles northwest of Ballinger in Runnels County. The Pearce School was built in the area in 1887, but the community name Valley View originated when a Baptist Church by that name organized in the school in 1908. A schoolhouse was built nearby the next year and was called Valley View. The two schools merged in 1920 to establish Hagen School named after its superintendent. The school was destroyed two different times, in 1922 by a cyclone and in 1932 by a fire. It was rebuilt each time. In 1942, it was moved near the highway and in 1948, the building was moved to Ballinger. Local resident J.A. Patterson helped with moving of a Runnels City church building to Valley View about 1917. This church consolidated with the Barnett Church in 1946. The community declined to have only one business and a church at the town site in 1980. Over a period

of time, all was gone. The German Catholics living in southeast Texas in the 1840s and later began looking toward West Texas for a healthy climate and for farm land since the Indian threat had diminished. They began to settle at the confluence of the Colorado and Concho Rivers. With the railroad having reached Ballinger, it was in the 1890s they wanted to establish a Catholic environment in the area. Bernard Matthiesen from Ellinger in Fayette County came by train in June and by horse

in October of 1891 to look at farm land. He moved his wife, Elizabeth (Hoelscher) and family in 1893 to the area now known as Olfen. In 1901, Mattheisen and Willy Glass wrote to Bishop John Forest in San Antonio and obtained permission to build a school. That community was first known as Fuzzy Creek, then Maas, and finally Olfen and after that, Westphalia. The first Mass in the church-school was the wedding of Bernard Niehues and Amalia Matthiesen. The new bride was given the privilege of naming the church and chose the name of St. Boniface for a popular German Saint. In 1909, Father Frank Garmann, who had followed Father Maas, built a new church. In 1921, a group of men from outside Olfen, agitated by the anti-German sentiment during and after World War One, took Father Joseph Meiser from the rectory, with intentions to tar and feather him. Unknown to them, the housekeeper had managed to hide herself, telephoned parishioners, and within minutes, a caravan of cars was in pursuit. The men, seeing all of the cars, pounded on the Father and shoved him out of the car and gave up their plan. The 1909 church burned to the ground January 15, 1922. The people immediately began work on a large Romanesque Church and were finished 10 months later. The dedication was held November

Ten miles northwest of Winters, people were moving into a community given the name of New Hope. This settlement began in the 1890s and by 1900, it had a school that grew to a four room concrete building by 1949, the same year all classes transferred to Winters. The post office was established October 4, 1901. The name was changed from New Hope to Pumphrey for W.M. Pumphrey or Lewis Pumphrey. Pumphrey had two general stores, a drugstore, a barbershop, a gin and two blacksmith shops. The Baptist organized March 3. 1901. The services were held in the schoolhouse until their building was completed in 1903. It was called the New Hope Baptist Church but the name was changed in 1926 to Pumphrey Baptist Church. The Methodist Church was organized on March 17. 1901. It served the community until it closed in 1954. The last store closed

16, 1922. The community

is still very active.

The community of Crews is located at the junction

in 1950.

of State Hwy 153 and FM 382 in east-northeast Runnels County. There were suggestions for various names when the post office was established in 1892. One of the popular names was Tillery in honor of a local sheepherder and fiddler who had a five foot long beard. Later the decision was to name the town Crews after C.R. Crews, a Ballinger business man. J.D. Wise and Mr. Broughton established a post office and store with Wise as Postmaster. The first school was held in the home of Betty Craig Sims. She was the teacher and also rode to Glen Cover to get the mail. In 1888, a school was built a mile northeast and had a dirt floor, split log benches and was known as the Pig Pen. Mr. Dan Fannin was the teacher. In 1890, a frame building was erected closer to Crews and called Lone Star, The Rev. Lockhart was the teacher. In 1905, the school was moved to Crews and had two rooms. A four-room brick school was erected in 1922. By 1930, the Dietz school consolidated and seven teachers were employed. A gymnasium was built in 1940. The school consolidated with others in 1948. Crews had several doctors. Dr. F.M. Hale, Dr. C.A. Watson and Dr. R.E. Burrus were the most popular. Dr. Hale started a telephone system in his house with his wife as operator. Crews had 11 businesses and two churches. The Methodist was organized in 1894. In 1922, the community's post office closed. The Baptist Church closed in 1968 and the Methodist Church closed sometime

tinues to come together to meet in the gymnasium for certain occasions. George W. Norton was well known in the early days of Runnels County. A town called Norton, located on FM 383 in west central Runnels County was named in his honor. He owned a lot of land and also owned the townsite. The post office opened in 1894 with Marion Wilkerson as postmaster. The first houses were built in 1901 and in 1902 and the post office was moved at that time. The school was operating in 1901, as well as the first store built by Robert Turner. Businesses included a gin and a bank that was operating from 1923 to 1930. In 1912, a cyclone killed one resident and damaged buildings. In 1929, a fire caused a lot of property damage. Norton had four churches, a Baptist, Methodist, Church

of Christ and Presbyterian.

later. The community con-

In 1968, the Norton school burned and students were sent to other area schools. An elementary school was built but was later consolidated. The post office

closed later. May 25, 1903, the town of Mazeland was founded when a store and post office was opened on the Hutchison Ranch with Mrs. Hutchison as postmistress. A school was built in 1904 on land donated by M. T. Hensley about one and one-half miles northeast of Mazeland. Mazeland was named for the maize that grew in the area. In 1910, a two-story building was erected and more teachers employed. The year 1915 saw a remodel on the school. There was a church and a community auditorium at the school that consolidated with Winters in 1947. By 1906, settling the area shifted to a mile east of the school house. This settlement would be named after a Ballinger banker, Jo Wilmeth. Housewives brought the mail from Mazeland to Wilmeth so a Mrs. Smith saw a need for a post office. She became the Postmistress April 1, 1907. Richard Nash bought the Mazeland Store in 1907 and became the Mazeland Postmaster. The following year, he moved the store and post office to Wilmeth. Both post offices closed in 1909. Wilmeth had blacksmith shops, a gin, a store as well as the post office, a barber and a telephone system with over 60 subscribers. The Methodist Church was built at Mazeland School in 1913. Members of the Church of Christ constructed a building in 1916. The Baptist organized in 1906 at Mazeland in the school. In 1909, the Methodists and Baptist together built a tabernacle at the school. The Baptist then built a church in Wilmeth in 1921. The Church of Christ closed in 1962, Methodist in 1949 and the Baptist in 2004. The remaining store closed in

of Truitt was located 10 miles east of Winters just off Highway 1770. The town was named for the baby son of one of the merchants, Truitt Billups. A post office was established March 21, 1904 with John L. Golden, postmaster. He had a store on the east side of one street running north and south and the Billups General Mercantile was on the west side. Mail was delivered from Winters by John Brown, son of the Justice of the Peace. The post office was closed in 1912. Doctors Ash and Pool had their offices in the Branham Drugstore. A Doctor Watson came in 1909, but moved to Crews two years later. A telephone system was set up in the Billups store. There was also a hardware store and a blacksmith shop on the east side of the street. Arthur Nichols started a gin in 1906; then a school with one room and two teachers was started but consolidated with Meadows School in 1915. Elmer Burke, Baptist minister held services at the school. At one time, there were eleven dwellings in Truitt. When the railroad was established through Winters instead of Truitt, the town began its decline.

the 1970s.

The community-town

Located along US Hwy. 83, in central Runnels County and originally named Vogelsang for Otto Vogelsang, a local settler, the town of Hatchel was established with a post office in 1904. It was named for E.W. Hatchel, a store keeper and the community's first postmaster. The Abilene and Southern Railway reached Hatchel in 1909, and soon the community had eight businesses, including a depot, cattle pens and a gin. The first school was built one mile north and was known

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS BUDGET AND PROPOSED TAX RATE

The WINTERS I.S.D. will hold a public meeting at 6:00 PM, August 25, 2014 in 603 N HEIGHTS WINTERS, TX. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the school district's budget that will determine the tax rate that will be adopted. Public participation

The tax rate that is ultimately adopted at this meeting or at a separate meeting at a later date may not exceed the proposed rate shown below unless the district publishes a revised notice containing the same information in comparisons set out below and holds another public meeting

Maintenance Tax

\$1.140000/\$100 (proposed rate for maintenance and operations)

School Debt Service Tax

Approved by Local Voters

\$0/\$100 (proposed rate to pay bonded indebtedness)

### Comparison of Proposed Budget with Last Year's Budget

The applicable percentage increase or decrease (or difference) in the amount budgeted in the preceding fiscal year and the amount budgeted for the fiscal year that begins during the current tax year is indicated for each of the following

Maintenance and operations

-4.94 % decrease

Debt Service

Total expenditures

-4.94 % decrease

#### **Total Appraised Value and Total Taxable Value** (as calculated under Section 26.04, Tax Code)

**Preceding Tax Year** 

**Current Tax Year** \$429,243,117 Total appraised value\* of all property \$428,524,781 Total appraised value\* of new property\*\* \$1,309,555 \$ 898,963 \$211,958,672 Total taxable value\*\*\* of all property \$220,480,036 Total taxable value\*\*\* of new property\*\* \$ 1,132,567 \$935,275

\*Appraised value is the amount shown on the appraisal roll and defined by Section 1.04(8), Tax Code

\*\* "New property" is defined by Section 26.012(17), Tax Code. \*\*\* "Taxable value" is defined by Section 1.04(10), Tax Code.

### **Bonded Indebtedness**

Total amount of outstanding and unpaid bonded indebtedness\* \$0

\*Outstanding principal.

17 6 6 6 6 6	Comparison of Proposed Rates with Last Tear's Rates				
	Maintenance & Operations	Interest & Sinking Fund*	Total	Local Revenue Per Student	State Revenu Per Student
Last Year's Rate	\$1.040000	\$0*	\$1.040000	\$3,749	\$5,953
Rate to Maintain Sa Level of Maintenand Operations Revenue	ce &c				
Pay Debt Service	\$1.013230	\$0*	\$1.013230	\$3,952	\$5,992
Proposed Rate	\$1.040000	\$0*	\$1.040000	\$4,062	\$6,142

\*The Interest & Sinking Fund tax revenue is used to pay for bonded indebtedness on construction, equipment, or both. The bonds, and the tax rate necessary to pay those bonds, were approved by the voters of this district.

#### Comparison of Proposed Levy with Last Year's Levy on Average Residence This Year Last Year Average Market Value of Residences \$49,420 \$50,471

Average Taxable Value of Residences \$34,420 \$35,471 Last Year's Rate Versus Proposed Rate \$1.040000 \$1.040000 per \$100 Value \$357.97 \$368.90 Taxes Due on Average Residence \$10.93 Increase (Decrease) in Taxes

Under state law, the dollar amount of school taxes imposed on the residence homestead of a person 65 years of age or older or of the surviving spouse of such a person, if the surviving spouse was 55 years of age or older when the person died, may not be increased above the amount paid in the first year after the person turned 65, regardless of changes in tax rate or property value.

Notice of Rollback Rate: The highest tax rate the district can adopt before requiring voter approval at an election is \$1.040000. This election will be automatically held if the district adopts a rate in excess of the rollback rate of \$1.040000.

**Fund Balances** 

The following estimated balances will remain at the end of the current fiscal year and are not encumbered with or by a corresponding debt obligation, less estimated funds necessary for operating the district before receipt of the

Maintenance and Operations Fund Balance(s) Interest & Sinking Fund Balance(s)

\$4,154,678

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plications for a address for place on the filing applica-City of Winters, tions in person Texas, Regular for place on the ballot ballot: Election filed (Dirección a may be fisica para during the presenter following time:

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horario:)

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End Date: (Fecha Limite) **FECHA LÍMITE** 

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las solicitudes (Se da aviso por persona para un

Winters, Texas Date Posted 79567

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para un lugar en la boleta (en para caso de presenter correo)

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Guevara August 18, 2014 Printed Name of filing Officer

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**CITATION BY PUBLICATION** - TRC 109 & 114

CAUSE NO. 15, 303 IN THE 119TH DISTRICT COURT OF RUNNELS COUNTY, **TEXAS** 

THE STATE OF TEXAS: Shelly Antilley- IN RE: ESTATE OF LUCILE MOORE AND

UNKNOWN HEIRS OF HORACE H. THOMAS OR THE ASSIGNS OR SUCCESSORS

OR REPRE-SENTATIVES OF SAID **PERSON** 

HEIRS HORACE THE ASSIGNS above entitled SUCCES- cause. OR SORS OR

REPRESENTA-TIVES OF SAID **PERSON** Defendant GREETING

have scribed property sued. If land describe: You may em- All of lot # Three ploy an attor- (3) block #Fifty-ney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk issued this citation by 10:00 am on

Legal Notices Legal Notices Legal Notices

of 42 days af- Eight (58) of the date Original Town of citation Ballinger Run-County. was issued, a nels default judg- Texas ment may be as is more fully against shown by taken Plaintiff's Second

You are hereby Amended commanded to Petition on file appear by filing in this suit. a written answer

to the Plaintiff's Issued and giv-Second Amend- en under my ed Petition at or hand and seal 10:00 of said Court at o'clock A.M. on Ballinger Texas Monday this 25th day of next after the July, 2014.

for

expiration of 42 days after the Attorney date of issuance Plaintiff or of this citation Plaintiff: the same being Elizabeth Sep- O'Connor Monday tember 8, 2014 P.O. Box 495 before the Hon-Ballinger. Texas 119th 76821 orable District Court of

Runnels Clerk the County, at the Court: in Tammy Courthouse Burleson said County in P.O. Box 166 Ballinger, Said Ballinger, Texas Texas. 76821 Plaintiff's Second

Runnels Amended Peti- County, Texas TO: UNKNOWN tion was filed in By Tammy OF said court on Burleson, H. the 24th day of Deputy OR July 2014 in the

> One Man's Junk Is A brief statement of the na-Another Man's ture of this suit is as follows, to-Treasure wit: Declaratory Judgment regarding the title of the above de-

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1205 N. 8th, Ballinger, Texas – 2 bdrm/1 bath home, living, dinitroom, kitchen w/laundry, fenced yard, car carport and garage 111 Belair, Winters, Texas- 3 bdrm, 2 bath, open kitched dining room, central h/a, garage, carport, great neighborhoo close to school.

109 CR 395, Wingate, Texas -newly remodeled 3 bdrm, 1 bath, very clean, living, kitchen, utility room, large yard, pecan trees, carport, water well.

705 W. Dale, Winters - 2 bdrm, 1 bath, updated floors and paint, fireplace, central heat, attached garage and alley entry garage, screened porch

315 E. Pierce, Winters, Texas – 3 bdrm, 2 battls, high ceilings, large closets, 2 living areas, dining room and large informal dining. Bonus room upstairs for extra bedroom or playroom, utility room, hobby room, central heat and air, new cedar fence, large metal shop 110 S. Main - Office space available for rent, Professional Building.

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### **Business of the Quarter**

The Winters Area Chamber of Commerce would like to thank the North Runnels Hospital for the hard work and great care given to the Winters and surrounding area

Pictured here are Bobbie Collom, chamber President Pam Barnes, chamber Vice President Tena Gray, and hospital Administrator Sidney Tucker, taking picture Mat-

The North Runnels Hospital always takes good care of their patients, they proud themselves in good food and friendly service from their kitchen staff. Nurses and nurse aides take pride on their one-on-one patient care. All departments stand by the their motto "The hospital with a big heart."

PHOTO: CONTRIBUTED



Date: Sunday August 24th Time: 5:00 pm Where: North Main Church of Christ Please join us for a hamburger supper after service.



PHOTO: CONTRIBUTED

Wolrd War II veteran and retired Miles farmer Leroy Pelzel will be honored in September in Washington, D.C.

# **Bringing back** memories of WWII

WINTERS ENTERPRISE

WINTERS-Leroy Pelzel, a former Army Sergeant and World War II veteran who served from 1944-1946, is one of the two Runnels County residents who will be attending the Texas Permian Basin Honor Flight when he visits the World War II memorial in Washington, D.C., this September.

The Permian Basin Honor Flight that will take veterans and their guardians to D.C. will take place between September 17-19. During the trip, veterans and their guardians will visit the World War II, Korean and Vietnam memorials and the Arlington National Cemetery. They will also tour the U.S. House of Representatives

At age 88, Pelzel is a retired farmer living in Miles, who was born in Westphalia, Texas. His parents moved to Rowena when he was 6-months-old. He went to school there and joined the Army in October of 1944. After receiving induction in Fort Sam Houston

in San Antonio, Pelzel was sent to Camp Wolters in Mineral Wells where he took basic training.

He saw the first in a series of unexpected changes when he was transferred to the Air Force, in Sheppard, Wichita Falls. Then he and some others were sent from Wichita Falls to Amarillo, where they would attend airplane mechanic school. For some reason he never received airplane mechanic instruction while in Amarillo, and he was later sent to Biloxi, Mississippi. But the war ended while he was in Biloxi.

Pelzel was sent to Dallas, where he spent a few months driving pilots back and forth to Love Field, and then he was sent to Brazil, where he was an ambulance driver and a clerk for the medics.

His duty with the Army was due, and he was discharged in September 1946.

He came back to Rowena, and while working at a neighbor's farm he met the farmer's daughter, Elaine, his now wife for almost 67

Although this will not be his first trip to D.C., the significance of the flight and the places he will visit have Pelzel very excited.

## Stores, churches: After 1920 a two-story school was built

as Bowman. Later after 1920, a two story rock school building was constructed east of the railroad near downtown. A Baptist Church was built near the school. With the decline of the town, the post office closed in the

In 1900, the heirs of John Harris of Galveston offered for lease a league of land in the southeast part of Runnels County. This area was to become known as the Oxien Community. July 27, 1905 a post office was opened with W.W. McKissack as postmaster. The mail was brought from Talpa three times a week at first, but when the town grew, the mail was brought daily. Oxien had a cotton gin, a general store with a post office, a telephone switchboard and a filling station. Later another store and filling station opened. Oxien's school was built in 1909. In 1913, the Oxien school and the Dietz school consolidated. The combined school was relocated on the Jarm Morrison place. The post office closed in 1913. In 1920, a larger building was built. After this, the school was known as Dietz School District No. 31. In 1930, this was consolidated with Crews. In the early days church was held in the school house. In 1924, the Baptist Church was organized and a building was erected. It

closed in 1937. The community of Marie was located in west central Runnels County. It was named for the wife of Walter (Buck) Gentry, a local landowner. The post office was established in 1906. Walter C. Bass was the store keeper and first postmaster. A gin was built in 1904 and operated until 1916. A school was started in 1901. A Woodman Hall was built above the school. The churches met in the building. A Baptist church Alton O'Neal, Jr.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4 was organized in 1903 and later a Methodist Church was started when the Baptist dissolved in 1916. A new two-teacher school was erected that same year and was then moved to Bronte, Texas in 1938. The post office was discontinued June 14,

It was once called County Line because of its location near the Taylor County Line. The name of the town would be Drasco in the north central part of Runnels County. Its name was derived from letters taken from names submitted by the residents. The community's name was changed because there was another place by that name in Texas. The post office was then granted in 1909 to Drasco but was discontinued in 1911. A school was started in 1903 and in February of the same year, a Union Sunday School composed of Methodists and Baptists was also formed.

The Methodists organized in 1904 and built their first church in 1912. The Baptist organized November of 1907. They built their first building in 1908. Those churches have all closed. The community supported several businesses but then all either closed or moved except for the Drasco Baptist Church building that is now active with the Bluff Creek Cowboy Church meeting there.

Each community of Runnels County almost always established a post office, a school and churches. Cemeteries were established in almost all of the communities and to date, only a very few are not active and maintained.

Resources: Runnels County Historical Commission Histories Eighteen Ghost Towns of Runnels County, Texas,

The Perfect Gift a subscription to The Winters Enterprise



# **Blair Realty Welcomes** Domingo Lara

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Domingo has been a resident of Winters for the past 37 years. Domingo is married to Leslie Lara and has three daughters, Caitlian 18, Querstin 11 and Janie 7. Domingo is Volunteer Firefighter for Winters and has been for the past five years. Give Domingo a call today, he will be more than honored to help you with all your real estate needs.

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AS SETS DOVE,

PAGE 4

EMPIRE-TRIBUNE

BROWNWOOD BULLETIN BALLINGER LEDGER Winters Enterprise GLEN ROSE REPORTER

# There is skill to hitting a flying bird

By Kevin Holamon kevin.holamon@brownwoodbulletin.com

It's common practice, particularly among new dove hunters, to simply pick up a few boxes of the cheapest shells on the shelf. It's easy to fall into the mindset of, "The more I shoot, the better chance I have of limiting out, so cheaper is smarter."

Rare are the hunters who can fill their limit of 15 birds, with 15 shots; and then only under optimal circumstances. You'll likely never meet one of them.

There is skill to hitting a flying bird with consistency that only comes from doing it ... repeatedly. That may sound like it supports the originally stated assumption, but by adding the element of using the proper ammunition, the ratio of bagged birds to shells can be dramatically increased.

Here is a down and dirty explanation of the whats and whys of shotshell selection, starting with a brief description.

The sides of the boxes pictured here are examples of what decisions face the shopping hunter. Of course, the first in the line is pretty self explanatory. Being sure it

matches your gun is about all that needs to be said.

The next number, in this case 2 3/4, is the length of the shotshell and it is imperative it matches the shotgun's chamber. That information is found on the barrel of the firearm, along with the gauge identifier. If yours says it's a 3 inch chamber, you can shoot either 2 3/4 or 3 inch shells. The reverse is not an option, unless you'd care to find out what it's like to have a shotgun explode in your hands.

On the 12 gauge box, the next number reveals the "dram equivalence" that indicates how the performance compares to older shells, which were measured by the weight of black powder in drams, rather than grains. Most consider it an antiquated measure of performance, but today the only people who might be concerned with it are reloaders. The only thing that may be important to everyone else is that the number has a direct correlation to the size of the bruise on the hunter's shoulder, at the end of a long day of shooting. The larger the number, the larger the bruise. Here endeth the lesson.



PHOTOS BY KEVIN HOLAMON

On the 20 gauge box, the third number — 1165 — is simply the approximate velocity in feet per second. Since most shots with a 20 gauge will be around 50 yards or less, it means the shot and the bird will arrive at the same location (if all goes as planned) in about 0.13 seconds. Keep that in mind when judging how far to lead a bird.

The fourth number is the combined weight of all

of the shot in the shell, which should be considered with the last number. The 12 gauge shells pictured have 1 1/8 ounces of size 7 1/2 shot. Each lead shot, in 7 1/2, is 0.095 inches in diameter and weighs 1.46 grains. An ounce of 7 1/2 shot is 338 individual pellets. In this case, the 12 gauge shells contain about 380 pellets.

Now, if you've made it this far, or just skipped ahead of all that technical stuff and wound up here, what does all of that mean when it comes to buying shells that will help put birds on the grill or in the skillet?

According to long-time manager and 32-year employee of Weakley-Watson Sporting Goods, Gerry Laing, shells with the specs in the two photos are the most popular.

"If you're carrying one box of shells to the field, I'd suggest 1 1/8 ounce 7 1/2 shot," Laing said for those shooting a 12

UPLAND & SMALL GAME
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20 23/4 1165 1 71/2
GAUGE RICHES VELOCITY 02 SHOT

MADE IN LIBA A SWIPING Seep out of reach of control 3 Similar warmings on possage art strictles and the seep out of th

gauge, "That's our number one seller." In 20 gauge, Laing suggests 1 ounce 7

In areas where white-winged dove are more prevalent, Laing says "heavy sixes" will produce better results. The number six shot is significantly larger and heavier, relatively speaking of course. While the pellets will produce greater force on impact, more easily bringing down the larger birds, the downside is there are far fewer of them — 218 per ounce — making accuracy much more critical. These shells are easily identifiable by the longer brass on the end.

"More and more people are using 1 1/4 ounce for white-wing," Laing said. "One ounce aren't heavy enough for white-wing. 1 1/8 is the minimum and we recommend 1 1/4."

Laing suggests 1 ounce 6 shot for 20 gauge shooters in areas of high white-wing populations.

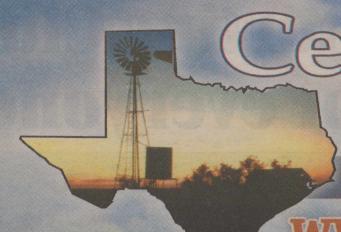
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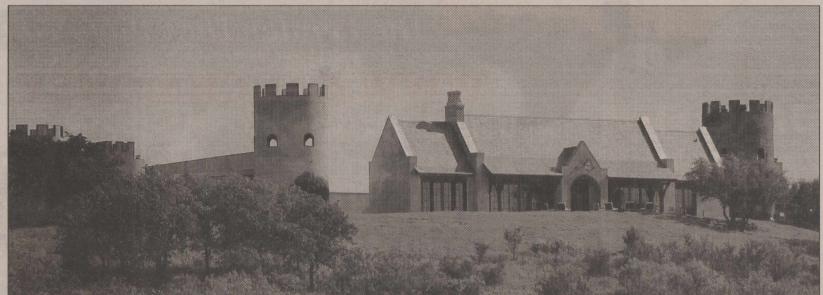
# Greystone Castle Sporting Club offers something for everyone

By Phil Riddle phil.riddle@empiretribune.com

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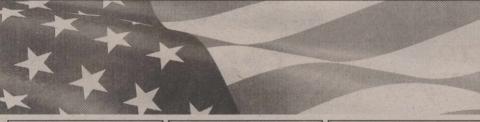
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Greystone Castle Sporting Club, on Interstate 20 in Thurber, features award-winning hunting to start your day, then comfortable accommodations along with chef-prepared meals and an extensive wine list to top it off.



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

SEE GREYSTONE. 17 The outline of Greystone Castle Sporting Club graces the country side on Interstate 20 near Thurber.



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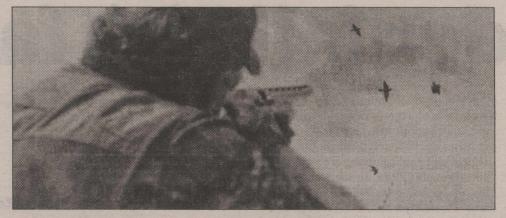
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# Hunting licenses currently on sale

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

AUSTIN — New licenses for the 2014-15 hunting and fishing seasons went on sale Friday, Aug. 15. The current year Texas hunting and fishing licenses (except year-to-date fishing licenses) will expire Aug. 31.

Every year, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department issues about 2.5 million hunting and fishing licenses through the agency's 28 field offices, more than 50 state parks and at over 1,700 retailers across the state. Licenses may also be purchased online through the TPWD website at www.tpwd.state.tx.us/buy or by phone at 1-800-895-4248. Call center hours are Monday through Friday, 8 p.m. to 5 p.m. and there is a required \$5 convenience fee for each phone or online transaction. The online transaction system is available 24/7. For online and phone orders, a physical license will be mailed within three business days. During that time period, a transaction receipt will be provided via email that will be sufficient proof of hunting license that can be used



for dove hunting, though it will not be allowed for the take of fish or wildlife that require a tag.

Hunting and fishing regulations for the new season can be found in the 2014-15 Outdoor Annual, available at license retailers now and online at www. txoutdoorannual.com. Starting this fall, hunters and anglers can take the Outdoor Annual with them in the field or on the water via a new app available by the end of August for free download on iPhone and Android platforms.

In addition to a hunting license, anyone born after Sept. 1, 1971, must successfully complete a hunter education training course or purchase a one-time deferral good for one license year in order to hunt legally in Texas. The certification is valid for life and is honored in all other states and provinces.

Hunters who need hunter education certification now have expanded contemporary options including a streamlined, one-day basic course and an option for anyone 17 years of age or older to take the hunting safety training completely online. A combination online home study and 4 to 5 hour skills field day course is also offered. More information on hunter education certification is available online at www.tpwd.state.tx.us/outdoor-learning/hunter-education.

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

There are other mandatory endorsements to consider at the time of license purchase. An Upland Game Bird Stamp (\$7) is required to hunt all non-migratory game birds, including turkey, quail, pheasant and chachalaca.

SEE LICENSE, 6





# Hunter's practice shots reminder fall isn't far away

Well, it's happening — fall is on the way. Back-to-school sales are running full force, preseason football is scratching the itch of fans who have been watching high school playoff reruns and Canadian football since February, and the sound of hunters practicing their shots for dove season is crackling through the Central Texas air.

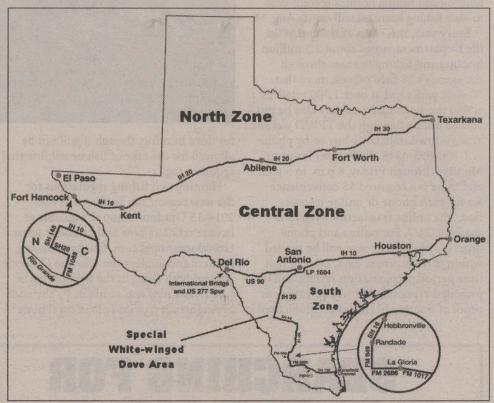
Dove season opens in nearly all of the Lone Star State's 254 counties Sept. 1. Unlike the old days when hunters had to wait in line to get their licenses on the morning of opening day, technology and a receptive ear from state wildlife officials have allowed hunters to get the formalities out of the way ahead of time and watch the sun rise on opening day from the comfort of a sunflower field.

Licenses go on sale Friday at retail outlets across the state, and they're also available online through the TPWD website. Or if you want to go old school, you can order a license by calling 800-895-4248, Monday through Friday between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.

If you don't own hunting land or have access through family or friends, you've got other options to get afield. A number of leases can be found throughout the region, and public hunting access is available through TPWD. The annual public hunting permit costs \$48 and provides access to nearly a million acres of land, a good chunk of it right here in the Heart of Texas.

It's always a good idea to shake the dust from your gun and off your shot before setting up for the first hunt of the year. The Central Texas area has a number of shooting ranges to accommodate hunters. Check the Centex Outdoors website for a link to area ranges.

Be sure to pick up a copy of the TPWD Outdoor Annual, the guidebook to Texas hunting and fishing. It contains both informational articles and the year's rules and regulations. They're free, and a game warden will have no mercy on ignorance of fishing and hunting law violations. These books are available online and anywhere that sells licenses.





# Continued from 5

Big Time Texas Hunts provide opportunities to win one or more of eight premium guided hunt packages with food and lodging provided, as well as taxidermy in some cases. The crown jewel of the program is the Texas Grand Slam dream hunt package, which includes four separate hunts for Texas' most prized big game animals — the desert bighorn sheep, white-tailed deer, mule deer and pronghorn. There are several quality whitetail hunt packages available, as well as opportunities to pursue alligator, waterfowl, upland game birds, wild hog and exotics. Big Time Texas Hunts entries are available online for just \$9 each at www. tpwd.texas.gov/buyentry, or for \$10 each at license retailers or by phone.

There is no limit to the number of entries an individual may purchase and all proceeds benefit conservation, wildlife management and public hunting. The program is made possible with support from Toyota, Texas Trophy Hunters Association and the Texas Bighorn Society. More details on all eight premium hunts can be found online.

Hunters and anglers can also take care of their licensing requirements for life with the purchase of an \$1,800 Lifetime Super Combo, or enter for a chance at winning a lifetime license through the Lifetime License Drawing. Entries for the drawing cost \$5 each and may be purchased wherever licenses are sold. There is no limit on the number of entries that may be purchased. Winners will be drawn on Dec. 30, 2014 and June 30, 2015. If you enter by Dec. 27, you will be eligible for both drawings.

# Warmup and activities before season opens

By Kevin Holamon

There is not a better way to get warmed up for dove season than burning powder on the skeet range and not many better ways to kick off the season than with a "World Championship Barbecue Goat Cook-Off."

On Aug. 23, the Early Chamber of Commerce, Weakley-Watson Sporting Goods, Heart of Texas EMS, Mike Hall State Farm, and Tracer will sponsor the Second Annual Skeet Shoot.

Registration is only \$15 per round, on a five-station range. The fee includes the clays and shells, as well as a hamburger lunch and cash and door prizes. Perfect for the out of town guests, the Chamber offers two free rounds, including clays and shells, for shooters who present a receipt from a Early hotel for the weekend of the event.

A cash prize of at least \$100, subject to an increase dependent upon the number of shooters participating, will be awarded to the top adult shooter.

Raffle tickets are available now and the day of the skeet shoot, for a Beretta 12 gauge shotgun, for \$10. The winner need not be present to claim the prize.

New shooters should never be intimidated by a skeet shoot. It's a great opportunity to pick the brains of the experienced, getting tips on improving accuracy and putting more birds in the bag.

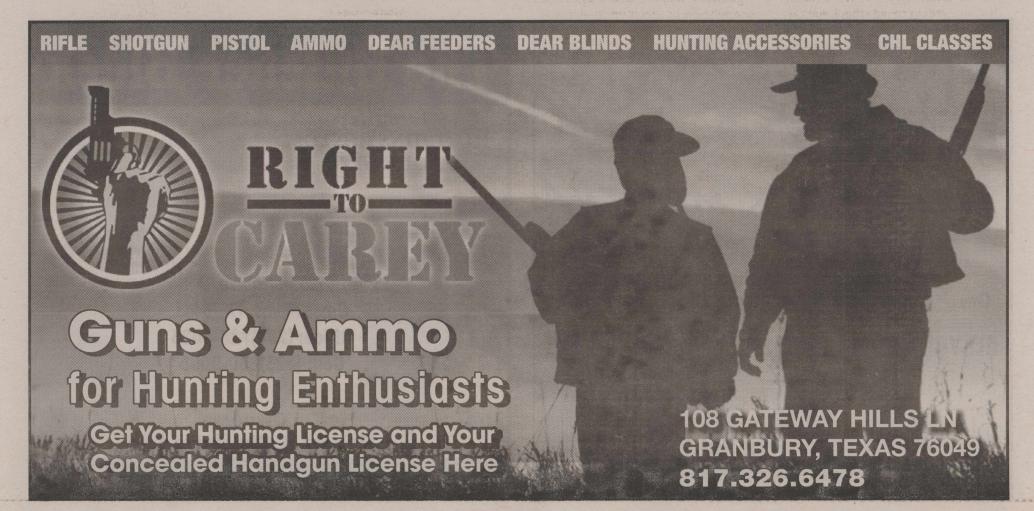


Registration forms are available at www.earlychamber.com/events/skeet-shoot.

The range is located on Brown County Road 315, off of FM 2525. Signs will be posted to guide guests to the range.

Early registrants will be entered in the shotgun raffle. The event begins at 9 a.m.

For more information or to purchase raffle tickets, visit the Early Chamber at 104 E. Industrial, call (325) 649-9300 or email ecoc@earlytx.com.



# Organizers gear up for 41st Annual World Championship Barbeque Goat Cook-Off

By Kevin Holamon

The weekend before opening day, Aug. 29-30, in excess of 15,000 will descend upon Richards Park in Brady for the 41st Annual World Championship Barbeque Goat Cook-Off.

Visitors can witness 206 cooking teams prepare a half of a goat for judging, which takes place at 3 p.m. on Saturday. To get an idea of how popular this Central Texas event is, organizers are already registering teams for 2015. The cook-off and festivities have been featured in Texas Monthly, Bloomberg, USA Today and many other publications.

Throughout the weekend there are plenty of events and activities for the entire family, from washer pitching to special kids games and nightly dances to the Goat Gallop 5K and 1K Fun Run

and Walk

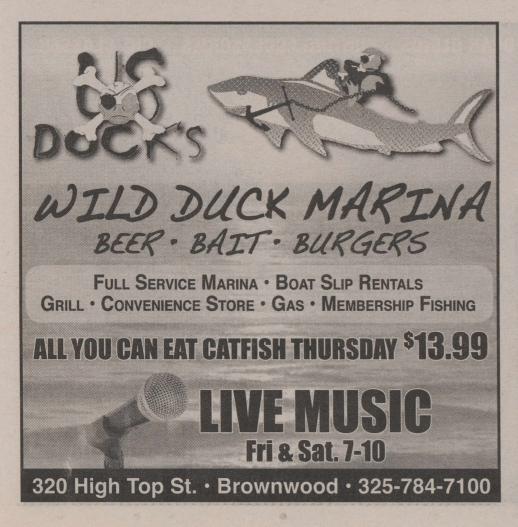
There is always a large variety of food vendors and a goat meal will be served beginning at 11 a.m., until it's all gone.

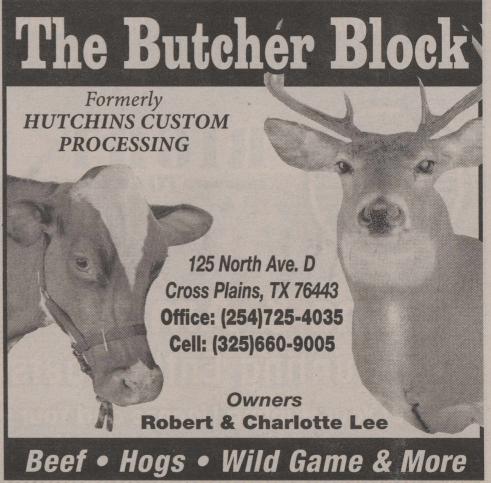
The Friday night dance begins at 8 p.m. with country music from Amber Digby. Saturday's dance also begins at 8 and features Dolly Shine, Brandon Rhyder and Cody Johnson and the Rockin' CJB.

Everything starts at noon Friday and ends after the Saturday night dance, which gives you all day Sunday to recuperate and get all the gear together for the Monday morning hunt.

For more information, visit the Brady/McCull-och County Chamber's website at www.bradytx.com, email info@bradytx.com or call them at (325) 597-3491.







# Understanding the bag limits and other migratory bird regulations

By Ruben Cantu-Rodriguez

BALLINGER- Dealing with different species, new regulations and hunting zones on top of a split season, sometimes is hard to keep up with norms and regulations regarding dove hunting in Texas. But if a hunter wants to avoid fines, and most importantly always practice safe hunting, there are a few key considerations to keep in mind for the upcoming Sept. 1, 2014, opening day.

One of the most common violations found among hunters is the lack of the Hunter Education Course, a requirement for all hunters born on or after Sept. 2,

Lane Pinckney, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Game Warden in Runnels County, said that hunters sometimes forget, ignore or neglect this requirement with the result being citations or fines.

"You may think this is a requirement for younger hunters, but as of this year hunters up to the age of 43 are required to have their Hunter Education Course," Pinckney

Every hunter, regardless of being a Texas resident or not, born on or after Sept. 2, 1971, must successfully complete a Hunter Education Training Course. The minimum age of certification is 9-years-old and through 16 the hunter must successfully complete the course, or be accompanied by a person who is at least 17 and has successfully met all the requirements.

Some other violations often found among hunters pertain to the bag limit and the lack of the migratory stamp or endorsement. Having a hunting license is not enough to go after all species.

"The bag limit applies to all species combined," Pinckney explained. "You may have any combination of mourning doves and white-winged doves in your daily bag

Understanding the difference between the daily bag limit and the possession limit is also key for a successful and trouble-free

The 15-dove bag limit is the maximum number of dove that may be taken in one day. Some hunters, Pinckney explains, think they can go in the morning and harvest 15 doves, and then go out in the evening to get 15 more.

Others may know the rules but simply choose to ignore them.

Regarding the possession, Pinckney said the limit applies until the hunter arrives to his or her final destination, which means a permanent residence.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service approved the 2014-15 Texas dove season with a 15-dove daily bag and a possession limit

'The hunter cannot have doves in excess of the possession limit at any time, with

the only exception being when they have Eurasian doves," Pinckney said. "Eurasians are considered an exotic species and there is no season or bag limit for them."

If the hunter has Eurasian doves, Pinckney recommends leaving a wing on the dove for identification purposes although it is not required by law.

In the event of a hunter wanting to transfer his or her doves to another person, there is a permitted way to do so, they need to fill out the proper paperwork.

"There is a document called a Wildlife Resource Document that the hunters need to fill out," Pinckney said. "Both donor and recipient need to state their information and details of the donation, it doesn't have to be a particular form, it can be any piece of paper as long as it contains the required information," Pinckney said. Hunters should also be mindful of commingling harvested birds while in the field. Just

remember each person should be in possession of only his or her birds and be within the bag limit.

Some other restrictions/regulations to consider include the shooting hours, which are 30 minutes before sunrise until sunset. "A lot of people don't realize that the shooting hours are different for migratory birds," Pinckney said.

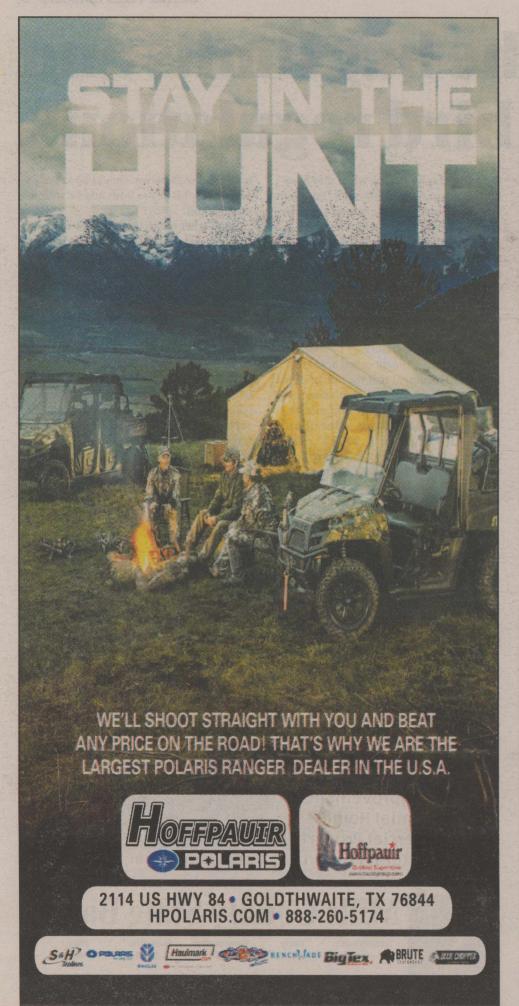
Recommendations also include being mindful of your surroundings because dove season has always been a social sport.

"In dove hunting we have a lot of people in close proximity and sometimes alcohol is involved," Pinckney added. "Game Wardens typically see the most hunting accidents in September. Also be aware that the hunter is responsible for any projectile that is shot across a fence line they don't have permis-

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# Texas sets dove, teal seasons

TPWD News Release

AUSTIN — Dove hunters will have more opportunity later in the season with dates and bag limits finalized recently by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has approved the 2014-15 Texas dove season, including a 70-day season and 15-bird daily bag limit statewide, and a 16-day early teal and Canada goose season.

The traditional Sept. 1 dove season opening day in the North and Central Zones remains; this year falling on Labor Day Monday. However, the first segment in those zones will be shorter than last season, closing on Monday, Oct. 20. The season will reopen Friday, Dec. 19 and run through Wednesday, Jan. 7, 2015, in the North and Central Zones.

In the South Zone and Special White-winged Dove Area, the first segment will be shortened by five days compared to last year, and those days would be added to the end of the second segment. The South Zone opens Friday, Sept. 19 and runs through Monday, Oct. 20. The second segment will run Friday, Dec. 19 through Sunday, Jan. 25, 2015.

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

The Special White-winged Dove Area will be restricted to afternoon only — noon to sunset — hunting the first two full Sep-

tember weekends — Sept. 6-7 and 13-14. Hunting in this area will reopen Friday, Sept. 19 and continue through Monday, Oct. 20, and then reopen Friday, Dec. 19 through Wednesday, Jan. 21, 2015. During the early two weekends, the daily bag limit is 15 birds, to include not more than two mourning doves and two white-tipped doves. Once the general season opens, the aggregate bag limit will be 15 with no more than two white-tipped doves.

A 16-day statewide early teal and Eastern

Zone Canada goose season will run Saturday, Sept. 13 through Sunday, Sept. 28. The daily bag on teal remains six, with a possession limit of 18. Bag limit for Canada geese will be three and a possession limit of 6 in

# What you need to bring along

The No. 1 thing to take to the field is SAFETY

Hunting license (last year's expires the day before dove season)

Shotgun

Shells

Stool or padded bucket

Bag or vest for birds

Shades or shooting glasses

Cool clothing and headcover

Water (Hydrate or die)

Decoy(s)(Yes, they do work)

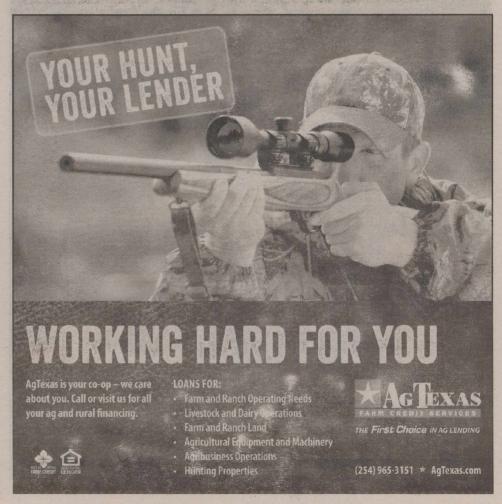
Cooler for icing dressed birds, if hunting away from home for more than a day

Last, but certainly not least, take a kid hunting.

the Eastern Zone only.

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# Toshootor not to shoot?



**Mourning dove** 

By Kevin Holamon

kevin.holamon@brownwoodbulletin.com

Identifying dove in flight can be a challenge for even the most experienced hunter, especially when the sun is low in the sky, during the popular times for hunting - in morning and evening.

In this area, demarcated as the Central Zone by Texas Parks and Wildlife, hunters will find mourning, white-winged, whitetipped (rarely) and Eurasian Collared dove. The first three are considered protected, thus subject to regulation by state and federal law, including bag and possession

Although the Eurasian collared dove, commonly called the ringed-neck, are not protected, it is important to know them on sight; mainly because they can greatly increase the weight of your bag at the end of the day, while still obeying limits. Because they are not considered protected, there is no closed season and no limits on their possession. Second, being much larger than resident mourning dove and a little larger than white-winged, it doesn't take as many to make a meal.

Looking at the ringed-neck closely, it is easily identified by the white outlined, dark

band around the back of the neck. It stands out against the pale gray, almost light tan body and slightly pinkish head. As mentioned already, their size is also quite distinctive. The latter characteristic lends itself to identification of an inflight bird, but look for the white color under their tails, which are squared off at the end.

Mourning dove represent the largest population of any of the species in Central Texas. These smaller dove are generally seen in singles or pairs, but are present in larger groups during magration. In flight, their wing beat is more rapid and their speedy flight is often arked by sudden directional changes. The mourning dove's wing color is a darker gray, with black spots, but an easily identifiable characteristic in flight is the pointed tail.

The white-winged dove is very easy to identify on the ground or a perch. In flight, it gets a little more tricky. Each wing is marked with a white bar across the middle, seen along its edge when folded. The tail also has a white bar across the end. Unfortunately, these can only be seen in flight, if the the bird is climbing away from the hunter, unless the tail is fanned, exposing

### SHOOT

Continued from 12

the white along the end of the tail. But, watch for the long, rounded tail, unique to the white-winged.

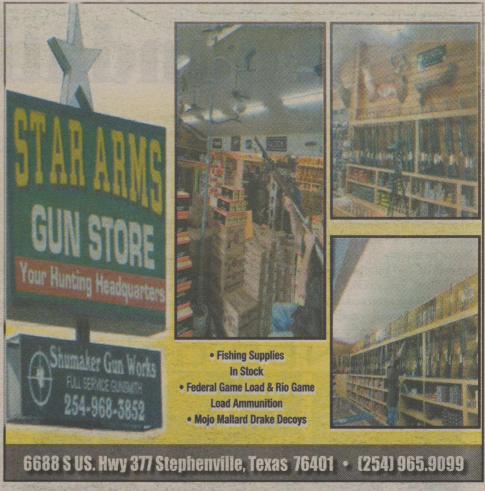
In short, to answer the original question, if in doubt, don't shoot. A 19th century

French composer, Hector Berlioz, once said, "Time is a great teacher, but unfortunately it kills all its pupils." Forget the last part, but remember, time in the field will greatly improve the ability to quickly and accurately identify a dove in flight, making for an overall better hunting experience.

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White-winged dove





# NRA Foundation gives back

By Kevin Holamon

kevin.holamon@brownwoodbulletin.com

The Heart of Texas Friends of NRA held their 2nd annual banquet, Aug. 8 at the Brownwood Coliseum, to raise funds for the NRA Foundation and shooting sports, and to gather for an evening of fun and food with like-minded people.

Since its inception, Friends of NRA has held over 16,000 banquets and raised over \$230 million. Every year, over half of the funds raised are returned directly to the states from where they come.

At this year's banquet, NRA Senior Field Representative Jack Cannon publicly acknowledged the presentation of two checks, from the NRA Foundation. The first was to Lake Brownwood's Texas 4H Center, represented by director Darlene Locke, for \$4,500.

"We used the money to buy archery equipment for the center," Locke said.

The second was a scholarship of \$5,000 to Kyle Locke, who plans to attend Texas A&M University, beginning this fall, seeking a degree in Allied Health for a career as a Physician's Assistant.



KEVIN HOLAMON/BROWNWOOD BULLETIN

Darlene Locke (right), director of the Brownwood Texas 4H Center, received a mock check at the 2014 Heart of Texas Friends of NRA banquet.





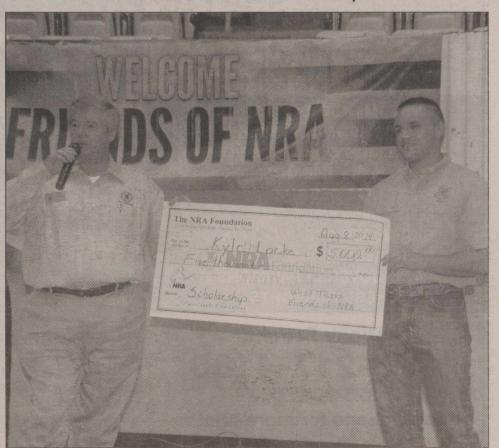
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NRA Senior Field Rep. Jack Cannon (left), presents a mock check to Kyle Locke, representing Locke's receipt of a \$5,000 scholarship from the NRA Foundation.

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Derrick Stuckly Sports Editor

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### **GREYSTONE**

Continued from 4

The Castle is a two-time winner of the Orvis Endorsed Winsgshooting Lodge of the Year, including most recently, this year. Making the honor all the more impressive for the Palo Pinto County hunting lodge, is that there are only about 30 Orvis awardees in the nation.

Making the land a suitable and attractive habitat for more than 40 species of wild game, including dove, requires a huge investment of time and effort.

The terrain features oak woodlands, which incorporate bass fishing ponds, cattail marshes and strips of sorghum, cane and corn, planted specifically to draw wildlife. Manipulation of the grounds includes continuously planting and pruning.

Noted outdoors broadcaster Billy Kinder, called the layout, "A beautiful ranch, a 365-day lesson in biology."

In a broadcast of Big Bill Kinder Outdoors, hosted by Greystone Castle, the radio personality noted the constant care taken planning.

"Everywhere you walk, everywhere you

look on the 6,300 acres, it has been carefully manicured and planned for the wildlife," Kinder said. "On the ranch biologists study and plan the weeds, the brush, the cover, the fish, the water, the soil, and the ranch crew follows through with hard work in every detail."

Another of the facility's bragging points is its location.

Not only convenient for hunters, the Castle's acreage is directly on the migratory central flyway, attracting huge numbers of dove during the September and October season, as well as quail and other birds year-around, and deer.

In addition, Greystone offers expert guides who are familiar with the grounds, as well as the prey, along with what its web site calls, "masterful gun dogs" to help in a bird hunter's outdoor quest.

When the sun sets on a successful day of Central Texas bird hunting, retire to accommodations that include five separate lodges within the Castle walls. Suites feature up to five bedrooms, four bathrooms, a living area and a fully stocked kitchen and bar.

Orvis, in its 2014 endorsement of Greystone Castle, reports the hunting, as



A happy hunter poses with his trophy following a successful trek at Greystone Castle.

anticipated, is excellent, however the accommodations and gourmet dining appeal to everyone, hunters and non-hunters, alike.

"There are five elegantly decorated suites capable of hosting more than 30 guests, a dining room complete with a full-time executive chef, spacious conference facilities, a swimming pool with hot tub and just outside the castle walls, a scenic lookout affords a breathtaking vista of the entire estate," Orvis wrote in its review.

The décor of the suites, not surprisingly, features dark, masculine wood furnishings, accented by overstuffed leather chairs. Bookshelves, holding hunting literature, and wildlife art and taxidermy mounts line the walls.

The dining hall is similarly decorated and includes royal seals along each wall.

For more information or for reservations, visit gresystonecastle.com, call (800) 399-3006 or e-mail at info@GreystoneCastle.com.



The interior décor of Greystone Castle features heavy wood and leather furniture and outdoors-inspired art work.



# Time to polish shooting skills

Every sport has its champions and all-time great players. Michael Jordan, Joe Montana, Serena Williams and Greg Maddux are all names that rarely need explaining for what they are famous for. All of these athletes are considered to be at the top of their chosen sport long after they have retired.

In fact some seem to defy the aging process.

Others are held to standards these athletes set. LeBron James is an awesome NBA star but until he garners more rings he will never be "THE MAN" as Jordan is considered.

There is one common trait among all of these athletes and that is their drive for excellence.

Practice, practice, practice.

All great athletes, business professionals, and successful people will attest to the fact that practicing and perseverance got them where they are. Hard work is hard work but the rewards are in the results.

Shooting is no different than any other hand to eye coordinating activity. Without practice shooters cannot hope to improve, and unless you are already gifted with a shotgun, practice will help you.

Dove season will start on Sept. 1, and this gives the rusty shot-gunner five weekends to get their practice in. The national average for dove hunters is in the neighborhood of two birds for every 25 rounds of ammunition. In other terms, a limit of dove will take roughly seven boxes of shells.

It is never too early to take out the shotgun and throw a few clays. Sporting clay courses are an awesome way to spend the afternoon to sharpen the skills. One hundred clays over the course will enable the doveor teal hunter to get the timing, lead and patterning skills back in order. If a bad habit has developed the clays can help correct these.

Mechanical throwers are great and can be set at different angles and speeds to reproduce a shot that is giving the shooter more trouble than most. I prefer the hand thrown clays and can have nearly as much fun throwing a clay as shooting them.

The sporting clay course is set for the shooter so this adds to the attractiveness, especially for shooters limited on time and space. All the gear necessary is available at Walmart or Academy and is relatively inexpensive.

However you choose to practice, doing it is rewarding. It also helps to introduce the new shooter to the shotgun and familiarizes them in a non-hunting scenario. You wouldn't take a first time shotgunner to adove or duck hunt without ever shooting their gun.

It's a recipe for failure or struggling to learn in a real time hunt. Load the family up this weekend and make some time for practice and help raise the average on your shot/hit ratio.





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# Swimmingat a state park thissummer

AUSTIN — From spring fed rivers to Texas-sized lakes, open ocean swims to diving in a pool, Texas State Parks offer a full range of swimming options to beat the heat. Parks around the state offer a variety of swimming options such as spring-fed rivers, lakes, and gulf water to help the entire family stay cool and enjoy what Texas' natural resources have to offer.

In the Austin area, state parks such as McKinney Falls, Inks Lake and Pedernales Falls offer an array of rivers and lakes in the heart of the Hill Country. Lyndon B. Johnson State Park and Historic Site opened its public swimming pool last month for the summer. Pool hours are from noon to 8 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday. Lockhart State Park located east of San Marcos also has a public swimming pool.

Near Houston, Huntsville State Park and Lake Livingston State Park are ideal destinations for river and lake swimming. If wading close to shore on the open ocean seems more appealing, Galveston Island State Park offers beach access to the Gulf of Mexico. After being battered by two hurricanes, Sea Rim State Park has reopened just in time for summer and is sporting improvements to be enjoyed for years to

Near Dallas, Eisenhower State Park, Fairfield Lake State Park and Lake Mineral Wells State Park and Trailway offer park visitors a chance to swim in the lakes soothing waters, cool off and enjoy a break from the bustle of the city.

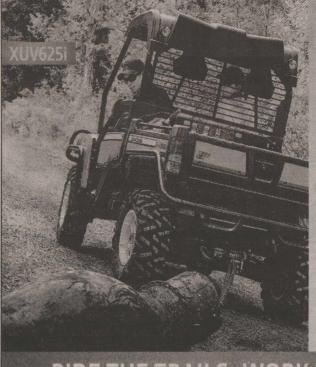
In the San Antonio area, Guadalupe River State Park and Palmetto State Park give park visitors a chance to go for a dip and beat the south Texas heat.

In West Texas, Balmorhea State Park, home to one of the world's largest springfed pools, with water so clear that many people bring their snorkel gear to experience the underwater world firsthand. The pool stays busy during the summer, so it is best to call the park and make sure the pool is accepting visitors.

No matter where you choose to swim, always be aware of your surroundings, environmental conditions and follow basic swimming safety tips include recognizing the importance of wearing a life jacket, staying hydrated and swimming in designated swimming areas, and heeding signs in parks about hours when swimming is prohibited.

Visit the Texas Parks and Wildlife website for a list of parks around the state that offer swimming





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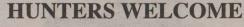
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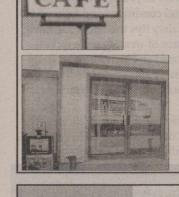
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# Staying safe in the water

#### Follow these tips every time you go on the water:

• First and foremost, learn to swim before heading out to any swimming area. If you fare not a strong swimmer, or you are getting tired, wear a life jacket. Children are strongly encouraged to always wear life jackets while swimming in lakes and rivers.

• Be aware of your surroundings. Lakes, rivers and streams are natural environments. Watch for sudden drop offs, changing bottoms and potential for unseen limbs, rocks, and other objects.

• Stay hydrated. Summer heat can contribute to dehydration, even when you are swimming. Take frequent breaks, wear sunscreen, drink plenty of water and avoid alcohol.

• Never swim alone. Even the most experienced swimmers can tire or get muscle cramps, so having a buddy can be helpful.

• Supervise children at all times. Drowning is the second leading cause of accidental death among children, so keep your eyes on your kids. It only takes a moment for a child to slip below the surface.

• Assess your skills and don't take chances. Know your swimming skills and don't rely on flotation devices. If you don't know how to swim, do not get in the water, even with a raft or other flotation device.

• Swim in designated swimming areas. Park staff members have made careful decisions about the safest and best places for swimming. Please swim only in designated swimming areas.

#### **Consider Currents**

• Water can look calm on the surface, but be aware of currents under the surface. Whether you're swimming in a lake, river or ocean, underwater currents exist and can put you in danger. If you find yourself in a current, do not swim against it. Instead, swim with it until conditions are calm enough for you to swim to safety.

#### On the River

• Be aware of changing river conditions. Swift currents from flash flooding can happen in an instant. If you notice the water rising, turning muddy or changing, leave the area immediately.

Wind, tide and currents all contribute to water's conditions. If you have questions or concerns about swimming conditions, ask park staff.

#### **In Case of Emergency**

Contact park staff or call 911 immediately if anyone is having trouble in the water.



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