

Look inside this edition of The Winters Enterprise for the Paint It Pink special section, featuring stories of cancer survivors and more. Remember that October is Cancer Awareness month.



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Winters Enterprise

Volume 24, Issue 48

Thursday, October 23, 2014

Winters, Texas 75c

Early voting currently underway

RUBEN CANTU-RODRIGUEZ
WINTERS ENTERPRISE

BALLINGER- Early voting for the November General Election, in which Runnels County citizens will be electing federal, state, county, city, and school officials is currently underway. Early voting will be held from Monday, October 20 through Friday, October 31, 2014. Election Day is Tuesday, November 4, 2014.

Early voting will be conducted at the Courthouse Annex building, located at 614 Strong Avenue (behind the Courthouse), from 8:30 a.m.- 5 p.m.

Elections for United States Senator and US Representative are being held.

The race for Texas Governor has four contenders: Greg Abbott (R), Wendy R. Davis (D), Kathie Glass (L), and Brandon Parmer (G), and state elections also include contested races for Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, Agriculture Commissioner, Comptroller of Public Accounts, Commissioner of the General Land Office, Railroad Commissioner, Chief Justice Supreme Court, Justice Supreme Court Place 6 - Unexpired Term, each one of Justices Supreme Court Places 7 and 8, Judge Court of Criminal Appeals Places 3, 4 and 9. Chief Justice, Third Court of Appeals District.

Uncontested state and county races are those for State Representative, District 72 - Drew Darby;

County Judge - Barry Hilliard; District Clerk - Tammy Bureson; County Clerk - Julia Miller; County Treasurer - Ann Strube; County Commissioner Pct. No. 2 - Ronald Presley; County Commissioner Pct. No. 4 - Richard Strube; Justice of the Peace Pct. No. 1 - Glenda Wood; and Justice of the Peace Pct. No. 2 - Richard Hamilton.

The Ballinger Independent School District will be holding a contested election for the unexpired term of Single Member District 4 Trustee. Those seeking the seat are Jason Battle and Janett Dankworth.

In Winters, the school board will be having two contested races. Carla Briley Hooper and Danny Martinez, Jr. are facing off for the Trustee, Place 2 seat, while the Trustee, Place 6 (at large) is being sought by Kevin Busher and Jerry W. Sims.

In the City of Miles a local election is also being held.

Applications for ballot by mail will be received through October 24. The last day to receive ballot by mail is November 4, 2014.

Requests to vote by mail should be sent to PO BOX 189, fax requests to (325) 365 3408, or call (325) 365 2720. Some restrictions apply. If you mail or fax please include your signature, your name, address, phone number and reason for a request by mail.



NHS holds induction ceremony

The National Honor Society, Winters High School chapter, inducted four new members this fall. Jonathan Sandoval, Elisabeth Wenzel, Brady Calcote and Daniel Gerhart where those being honored. Magan Ballard was also added to WHS ranks transferring in from the Ingram High School National Honor Society.

National Honor Society selection is based on a student's scholarship, leadership, character and service. Including the new inductees, the Winters High School NHS chapter now includes 16 members. Current officers include Lukas Kraatz, President; Kimble Bridgeman, Vice President; Ethan Bredemeyer, Secretary; Rudy Lara, Treasurer; Ashley Guy, Event Coordinator.

Winters NHS is actively involved in many community projects including Dove Fest, benefit meals and auctions, Halloween carnival and various cleanup projects. They also raise money for scholarships at their annual "Just Desserts" evening of entertainment.

The Blankets for Blizzards project has been implemented annually for the past seven years to provide blankets for elementary students. The NHS members raise about \$1,500 per year to buy fleece fabric and then make the blankets by hand for young children. Over 350 blankets have been given away since the beginning of this project.

PHOTO: JOE GERHART

Blizzards bound to postseason, steady and strong

RUBEN CANTU-RODRIGUEZ
WINTERS ENTERPRISE

WINTERS- The solid season the Blizzards have been having didn't find too much of an obstacle last Friday night, October 17, 2014, when Winters defeated the Roscoe Plowboys by a score of 32-15.

Stephon Cleghorn rushed for two touchdowns, and each one of Jimmy John Ripley, Ty Cortez and Michael Chavis contributed with one more for the Blizzards' victory.

Ripley completed two of four passes for a total of 85 yards and one interception. Receiving Luke Kraatz captured two passes for 85 yards.

Quarterback Jimmy John Ripley led the rushing game with 205 yards in 12 carries, followed by Michael Chavis with 55 yards in 11 carries, Stephon Cleghorn had 45 in four carries, and Ty Cortez tallied 28 yards in seven carries.

Michael Chavis got the party started for the Blizzards, when he rushed in a three-yard touchdown with 9:46 in the first quarter, the kick was failed and the Blizzards led 6-0.

Roscoe came back in the second quarter, when Kevin Lvalais caught a pass from Cutter Davila with 6:57 left in the half. Pablo Huidobro kicked the extra point to put the Plowboys ahead 7-6.

In their ensuing possession the Blizzards responded with a 62 yard run from Jimmy John Ripley, with 6:00 in the half to give the Blizzards the



PHOTOS: JOE GERHART

Cameron Cooper comes to help Ethan Bredemeyer sack the Roscoe quarterback.

lead one more time. The two point conversion was unsuccessful, 12-7.

In the third quarter Cleghorn scored his first touchdown of the night. With 4:41 on the clock he carried a 24-yard run, and with Kraatz's kick the Blizzards increased the gap to 19-7.

With 7:02 left to play Ty Cortez carried a one-yard rush into the end zone, 25-7.

The Plowboys came for more with 5:39 on the clock when Vincent Pantoja carried a 24-yard run, Rafael Aguayo captured a pass from Davila, 25-15.

The last touchdown of the night came from the Winters side, when Cleghorn carried the ball one yard into pay dirt with 4:08 left on the clock.

District 6-2A Div. II		
Standing		
Winters	2-0	6-1
Menard	2-0	7-0
Roscoe	1-1	3-4
Miles	1-1	4-3
Bronte	0-2	0-7
Roby	0-2	1-6
Scores		
Bronte	2-31	Miles
Roscoe	15-32	Winters
Menard	44-28	Roby
Upcoming games		
Winters	vs.	Bronte
Miles	vs.	Menard
Roby	vs.	Roscoe

Jimmy John Ripley

Kraatz kicked the ball between the poles for the final 32-15.

The Blizzards are now 2-0 (6-1) and share the top of the District 6-2A Div. II

standing with Menard. Friday night Winters will be facing Bronte. The Longhorns are going through a slump, and have a season record of 0-7.

A-maze-ing haunted maze in Winters

WINTERS ENTERPRISE
STAFF REPORT

WINTERS- On October 24-25, and 30-31, an "A-maze-ing haunted maze" will suddenly appear at 128 S. Main Street in downtown Winters, Texas. The fourth annual Haunting will be conjured to benefit REASON Animal Rescue, Inc.

This apparition will appear between the hours of 7 p.m. to 10 p.m on Friday, Saturday and the following Thursday evenings. Saturday, October 31 hours are from 7 p.m. until midnight. Admission will be \$5.00 for all ages. This year's Haunting is again, not for the "faint of heart." Especially, for really little children that are "pure of heart." But, if you are brave and "strong of heart," come and help us enjoy a little share of scare!

REASON Animal Rescue, Inc. of Winters, Texas, is a nonprofit organization that rescues abused, abandoned and stray dogs and cats. The group's goals are to: Rescue, Educate, Adopt,

Spay Or Neuter. "This is the Reason for all we try to do to help the animals," says Leslie Dunlap, President of the organization.

REASON all-volunteer organization became an officially recognized 501 (c) 3 charity in January, 2012. Through the concentrated efforts of its volunteer members and the support and contributions of area residents, over 400 abandoned dogs and cats were rescued, spayed or neutered and then adopted into their "Forever Homes" since REASON's beginning.

A large number of feral (wild) cats were spayed or neutered and then released back into their area colonies. They are not adoptable because of their wild nature. They are also not received into different colonies. So, they must go back into their original colonies. Hopefully, this will be a strong beginning to stop the wild population cycle. REASON volunteers are still trying to trap feral cats in different areas and map where the colonies

PLEASE CONTINUE PAGE 3

WINTERS STARBUCKS

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The Winters Enterprise

At (325) 365 3501



Picnic... and gymnastics

Thirteen students tumbled as representatives of G.L. Gymnastics in "Picnic at the Park" held recently in Ballinger, Texas. Students performed various tumbling skills for the public. Students from G.L. Gymnastics representing Winters and Ballinger are ABOVE left to right: Ashtyn Wilson, Scarlett Grimes, Addison Martin, and Emma Rutledge. ABOVE RIGHT front row left to right: Addison Martin, Alana Young, Addie Dawson, Scarlett Grimes, and Emma Rutledge. Back row: Adley Johnson, Jordan Rae, Abby Allen, Cierra Reyes, Brittany Olinger, Mattie Martinez, and Peyton Cook.

PHOTOS: CONTRIBUTED

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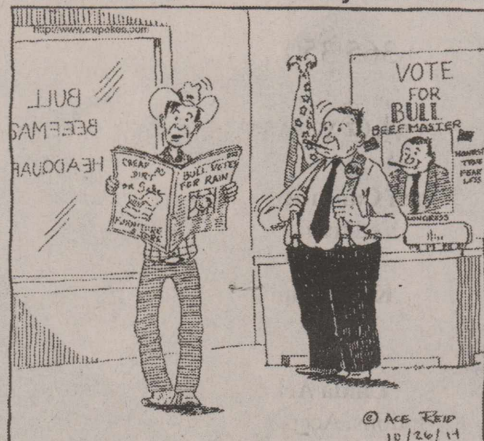
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"Sir, the poll says 15% undecided and 85% will vote for you when hell freezes over!"

CAFETERIA MENU

Subject to Change*

Oct. 27 -31

Winters ISD Breakfast Menu

Monday

Biscuit/Sausage/Gravy or Cereal, Applesauce, Fruit Juice, Choice of Milk.

Tuesday

French Toast Sticks or Cereal, Pear, Fruit Juice, Choice of Milk.

Wednesday

Pancake on a Stick or Cereal, Peaches, Fruit Juice, Choice of Milk.

Thursday

Breakfast Pizza or Cereal, Orange, Fruit Juice, Choice of Milk.

Friday

Cinnamon Roll or Cereal, Mixed Fruit, Fruit Juice, Choice of Milk.

Winters ISD Lunch Menu

Monday

Chef Salad or Grilled Cheese Sandwich/ Fish Bread (Elem., JH) or Chicken Pot Pie/Graham Cracker (Elem., JH) Breadstick (HS), Mashed Sweet Potatoes, Green Beans, Tossed Salad/Carrot Sticks, Apple, Choice of Milk.

Tuesday

Chef Salad or Meatball Sub or Chicken Nuggets, Mac n Cheese, Peas & Carrot, Tossed Salad/Carrot Sticks, Blue Bell Fruit Bar, Choice of Milk.

Wednesday

Chef Salad or Taco Salad or Bean Chalupa, Corn Spanish Rice, Tossed Salad/Carrot Sticks, Coleslaw, Orange, Choice of Milk.

Thursday

Chef Salad or Chicken Fried Steak/Gravy/ Graham Cracker (Elem., JH) Breadstick (HS) or Chicken Pattie/Fish Bread (Elem., JH) Bun (HS), Mashed Potatoes, Broccoli w/Cheese, Tossed Salad/Carrot Sticks, Mixed Fruit, Choice of Milk.

Friday

Chef Salad or Hamburger or Chicken Fries, Curry Fries, Baked Beans, Tossed Salad/Carrot Sticks, Lettuce/Pickles, Pears, Choice of Milk.

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CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Across

- 1 Cheese ____
- 5 Rope's thinner cousin
- 10 Kit ____ (candy bar)
- 13 Fleshy plants
- 15 Windshield ____
- 16 Actress Long or Peeples
- 17 Get serious about things
- 19 Ending for real or surreal
- 20 Devour
- 21 Put on television
- 22 Highest Boy Scout rank
- 24 Part of a staircase
- 25 Book of the Bible
- 26 Feet-legs connectors
- 29 Group one smaller than an octet
- 31 Graph paper features
- 32 Patron saint of France
- 33 "You've been ____"
- 36 Got 100 on, as a test
- 37 Palindromic Honda model
- 38 Manner of speaking
- 39 "Understand?"
- 40 Rescued
- 41 Used a flashlight
- 42 Evening meal
- 44 President, say
- 45 Play parts
- 47 Blue jeans maker Strauss
- 48 Stadium
- 49 "Common Sense" pamphleteer Thomas
- 51 In favor of
- 54 Dem.'s rival
- 55 Good luck phrase
- 58 "What ____ doing?"
- 59 Strange
- 60 Get the feeling

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13			14		15					16	
17					18					19	
20			21					22	23		
			24					25			
26	27	28				29	30				
31					32					33	34
36					37					38	
39			40					41			
			42	43				44			
45	46					47					
48					49	50				51	52
54					55	56				57	
58					59					60	
61				62						63	

Down

- 1 Birthday food
- 2 Arm bone
- 3 Easy victory
- 4 Month after Nov.
- 5 Rugrat
- 6 Far and ____
- 7 Walkman's successor
- 8 ____ and improved
- 9 Hemingway and Rutherford
- 10 Noble rank
- 11 Supermarket section
- 12 Lion ____
- 14 Enjoys a frozen pond
- 18 Makes something up
- 23 Past tense of 20-Across
- 24 Wintertime transportation
- 25 Amazing
- 26 "Such a pity!"
- 27 Pleasant
- 28 Wading through, as mud
- 29 Cut
- 30 Oklahoma city that's also a woman's name
- 32 Jump into the pool, maybe
- 34 "____ of Green Gables"
- 35 Animal with antlers
- 37 Food holders
- 38 Cuisine from southeast Asia
- 40 Gym shoe
- 41 Lucky numbers
- 43 Motel
- 44 Joking Jay
- 45 Palin or McLachlan
- 46 ____ de menthe
- 47 Enjoys
- 49 Tiny hole
- 50 Amino ____
- 51 Small horse
- 52 Valentine's Day flower
- 53 Praising poems
- 56 Born, before a maiden name
- 57 Bring to the altar

LAST WEEK'S ANSWER GRID

L	I	M	O	S	O	B	S	U	B	E	R
A	W	A	I	T	Q	T	I	P	F	I	D
S	I	L	L	P	U	T	T	Y	O	L	D
T	N	T	L	E	I	S	O	N	L	I	E
S	O	D	A	S	A	D	D	I	G		
T	R	I	P	U	P	L	O	V	E	N	O
E	E	L	S	A	M	S	P	A	A	H	A
R	O	L	L	E	D	U	P	S	L	A	T
Y	E	S	G	E	T	I	S	O	N		
M	A	D	E	U	P	G	R	A	N	D	
E	R	A	P	O	D	O	N	E	A	I	M
D	U	L	L	W	I	L	L	Y	W	O	N
A	B	L	E	E	V	I	L	T	U	N	E
L	A	Y	S	R	E	D	S	S	T	E	A

Weather Whys

Q: What is the difference between a tropical storm, a depression, a hurricane and a cyclone?

A: The short answer is that they range in strength from mild to catastrophic, says Brent McRoberts of Texas A&M University. "Tropical depressions have a well-defined circulation and can cause heavy rains, and they are classified as having winds no more than 38 miles per hour," McRoberts explains. A tropical storm is much stronger, containing heavy thunderstorms and high winds of no more than 73 miles per hour. "And then there are hurricanes, which are the strongest winds on Earth. These have winds of at least 74 miles per hour and are classified according to their severity on a scale of 1 to 5, with 5 being the strongest. Hurricanes are assigned names for use as a reference point."

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ROLL-UP

Runnels County

4 Winters Enterprise

Thursday, October 23, 2014

UIL approves academics, athletics proposed changes

WINTERS ENTERPRISE
STAFF REPORT

AUSTIN— The University Interscholastic League Legislative Council met Sunday and Monday to make decisions on proposed rule changes in UIL academics, athletics, music and policy.

The Legislative Council approved proposals to create pilot contests in robotics, copy editing, conference 1A marching band, and computer science for A+ Academics.

In academics, the council

voted to place on a referendum ballot a proposal to allow schools in conferences 1A and 2A to utilize students enrolled in grade 8 for One-Act Play. An amendment to eliminate the speaker at the state level for the Feature Writing Contest was also approved by the council.

In athletics, an amendment to create a pilot program providing home field advantage to the higher seed in the first round of the 2015 6A football playoffs was unanimously approved by the

council. The 32-member rule making body also voted to increase the number of teams advancing to the playoffs from each district from three to four for all conference 2A varsity team sports.

A proposal to create a separate championship for Conference 1A volleyball for the 2015-2016 school year was approved. The current alignment will be utilized with 2A and 1A school grouped together for district play. Conference 2A schools would then be divided into a

separate playoff bracket and 1A schools would be divided into a separate playoff bracket.

In music, a proposal to create a state mariachi contest pilot was approved by the council. An amendment to modify the formula used to determine the number of bands advancing from area to state in UIL Marching Band was also passed by the council to account for bands that qualify to compete at area marching band contest but opt not to do so.

In other action, the council passed a proposed committee structure and process for implementation of the review and rewrite of the UIL Constitution and Contest Rules, as required by the Sunset Commission.

The Commissioner of Education must approve amendments passed by the UIL Legislative Council before they may take effect. If approved by the Commissioner of Education, these rules will take effect on August 1, 2015.

Public Record

Runnels County Jail Log
Oct. 20, 2014

Name	Age	Agency
Gregory L. Casey	38	Concho
	Charges	
	Public intoxication	
Harold W. Melius	32	WPD
	Theft	
Jerry B. Carson	60	BPD
	Public intoxication	
Nicole E. Crawford	32	Menard
Belinda C. Gray	43	RCSO
	Theft by check	
Cory T. Pringle	26	DPS
	D.W.L.I., possession of Marijuana	
Garrett L. Browne	18	Concho
	Assault causing bodily injury, family violence	
Michael L. Hicks	56	Miles
	D.W.L.I.	
Jose Salazar-Mata	32	BPD
	Federal charges	
Gerardo Rimconellq-Ramoz	21	BPD
	Federal charges	
Jose Sanchez	23	BPD
	Federal charges	
Guillermo Tovar-Salinas	37	BPD
	Federal charges	
Edward T. Walker	55	Concho
	Criminal trespass	

DPS reminding drivers to not pass stopped school buses

WINTERS ENTERPRISE
STAFF REPORT

AUSTIN— In conjunction with National School Bus Safety Week (Oct. 20-24), the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) is reminding drivers that it is illegal to pass any school bus that is stopped and operating a visual signal—either flashing red lights or a stop sign. During this time, DPS Highway Patrol troopers will be on the lookout for drivers who disregard the law.

"Children are particularly vulnerable when entering or exiting a school bus, and drivers who refuse to yield to a stopped school bus put our children in harm's way," said DPS Director Steven McCraw. "DPS will

not tolerate those who ignore the law, and we urge drivers to make safety a priority when they encounter school buses."

During National School Bus Safety Week, troopers in many areas will be riding on or following school buses to catch motorists who disregard the law. Troopers will also be patrolling areas where school buses pick up and drop off students, watching for motorists violating the school bus law. Drivers who violate the law could face fines as much as \$1,250.

In 2013, Texas Highway Patrol troopers issued 566 tickets for passing a stopped school bus. According to the Texas Education Agency, more

than 40,000 school buses transport 1.5 million Texas children every school day.

According to Texas statute, a driver—traveling in either direction—must stop when approaching a school bus that is stopped and operating a visual signal. The driver may not proceed until one of the following occurs: the school bus resumes motion; the operator is signaled by the bus driver to proceed; or the visual signal is no longer activated.

If a road is divided only by a left-turning lane, drivers on both sides of the roadway must stop for school buses with alternating red flashing lights activated. However,

if the lanes are separated by an intervening space or physical barrier, only motorists going in the same direction as the bus are required to stop.

As a reminder, school buses, by law, must stop at all railroad crossings. Here are several safety measures drivers can take to help keep children safer:

When driving in school zones, watch out for student pedestrians.

Slow down and watch for children congregating near bus stops.

Look for children who might dart into the street without looking for traffic.

Know and obey the laws concerning traffic and school buses in Texas.

Conaway commends USDA for speeding up drought relief

WINTERS ENTERPRISE
STAFF REPORT

WASHINGTON, D.C.— Congressman K. Michael Conaway (R-Texas), Chairman of the General Farm Commodities and Risk Management Subcommittee, issued the following statement regarding Secretary Vilsack's recent

decision to speed up implementation of a critical drought relief provision in the Farm Bill:

The provision became effective on February 7 but USDA announced in March that the relief would not be available until 2016. The Secretary announced

today that the provision will now be moved up to start with the 2015 spring crop.

"I would like to have seen this drought relief made available starting with the winter wheat crop, but I commend Secretary Vilsack for breaking the bureau-

cratic logjam to ensure it is available for the 2015 spring crop," Conaway said. "Speeding up this relief is crucial, especially to farmers who are coming off of a string of crippling drought years and who now face sharply falling crop prices."

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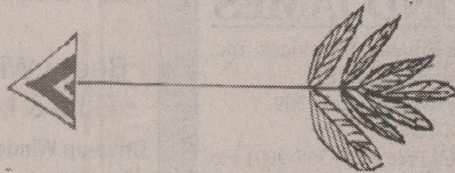
92nd Annual

St. Joseph's Fall Festival

Rowena, Texas

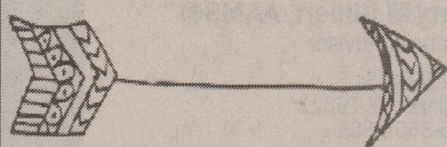
November 9, 2014

Turkey & Country
Sausage Dinner



Served from 11:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
Adults \$10.00 Children (10 & under)- \$5.00
Plates to Go \$10.00 - Drive Thru or Walk Up

Children's Games * Bingo * Country Store * Sausage for Sale
Games and Bingo: 11:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.



Auction at 1:15 p.m.

Cotton at 2:00 p.m.

Sausage Sandwich Supper at 4:30 p.m. - \$3.00 each

St. Joseph's Church - 1907 † 2014

VOTE EARLY

MIKE CONAWAY

The Conservative Leader Texas Trusts

Stand Up to Obama's Agenda

Voted to Repeal Obamacare

Voted against every Obama bailout and stimulus package.

Cut Waste

Bring Fiscal Sanity to Washington

Voted for meaningful federal spending cuts and a Balanced Budget Amendment.

Protect Texas Jobs

Endorsed by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce

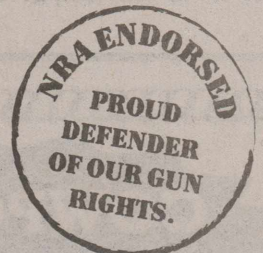
Took on the EPA in the fight to protect Texas energy jobs.

Lower Taxes

Voted to Cut Taxes

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Pink out supporting Karen Mills Winters High School cheerleaders "pinked out" supporting long-time Winters ISD teacher Karen Mills, who was recently diagnosed with tongue, throat, and neck cancer. She received treatment at MD Anderson throughout the summer. A fundraiser will be held on Sunday, October 26, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Winters HS Cafeteria. The meal will consist of spaghetti and meatballs, green beans, a salad, garlic/cheese breadsticks, and a dessert. Donations will be received at the door. This fundraiser will help the Mills offset the cost of her treatment. There will also be a silent auction which will be going on simultaneously to the meal.

PHOTO: JOE GERHART

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Free Spam Filtering • Free Parental Controls

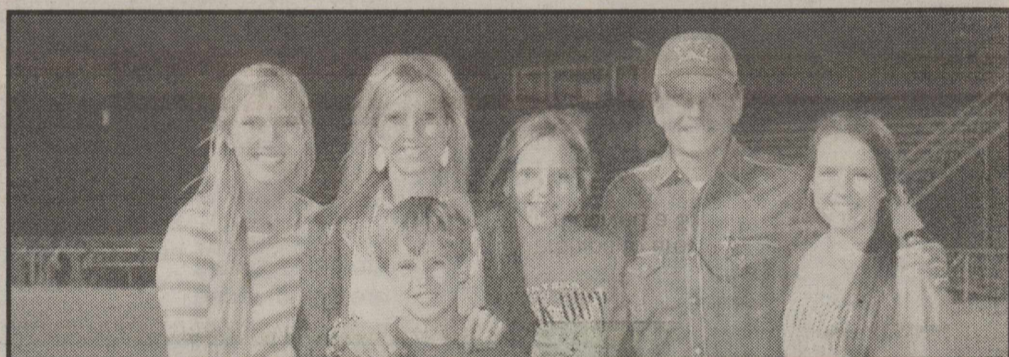
Call **800-695-9016** to see if you're included in our new coverage area.



WHS grad recipient of West Central Wireless scholarship

West Central Wireless recently presented scholarships to area high school students. Melissa Kate Calcote from Winters High School, received a \$500 scholarship presented by Sherry Townsley from West Central Wireless.

PHOTO: CONTRIBUTED



RE-ELECT KEVIN BUSHNER

School Board Trustee for Winters ISD Place 6 (Everyone Votes)

ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4TH

- ★ Elected unanimously as board president by the WISD Board of Trustees in November 2013
- ★ Served on the WISD board for the last 6 1/2 years
- ★ My wife and I currently have 3 of our 4 kids enrolled in WISD, one on each campus: elementary, junior high, and high school and our oldest is enrolled at Texas Tech University
- ★ WISD graduate and attended WISD K-12
- ★ Texas A&M University graduate
- ★ Self-employed in the farming and ranching business
- ★ Property owner and tax payer
- ★ Awarded the 2013 Farm Credit Leadership Award by Central Texas Farm Credit
- ★ Elected to the board of directors of the Texas & Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association in April 2014
- ★ The current WISD board has maintained the low tax rate of \$1.04 while greatly improving the facilities of WISD over the last 5 years while also maintaining a strong fund balance with no debt.
- ★ The current WISD board has recently hired a new superintendent who needs the support and stability of this board

I would like to thank the voters for allowing me the opportunity to serve you the past 6 1/2 years. It has been an honor and a privilege as well as a responsibility that I have given my best effort to. I believe that my experience will enable me to serve you well another term and I would greatly appreciate your support again.

SINCERELY, *Kevin Bushner*



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Dr. Varghese completed an Interventional Cardiology Fellowship at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences. Previously, he served as a Cardiovascular Fellow at Scott & White in Temple, Texas. He has a bachelor's degree in medicine as well as a bachelor's degree in surgery from India.

For the past two years, Dr. Varghese has provided cardiac care to many in Abilene. He now looks forward to reaching out to current and new patients in the Ballinger and Winters area making healthcare more accessible. His goal is to provide compassionate and high quality care to his patients while integrating the newest cardiovascular technologies.

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PAINT IT PINK

Knowledge and technology join
the fight against breast cancer

Thursday, October 23, 2014

Behind the Curing Cancer Music Fest and it's over \$76,000 raised for cancer research there is a story of courage, family support and hope

RUBEN CANTU-RODRIGUEZ
PAINT IT PINK

BALLINGER- After her mother was struck by cancer, Elizabeth Cook knew she had to do something to fight this terrible disease, and the best way she could think of was bringing a community together to raise funds and help the American Cancer Society with their curing cancer research.

In 2009 Elizabeth's mother, Tamara Harper, celebrated her 10th anniversary of being cancer-free, and the best way to celebrate her life was by doing something special.

She organized a dance with six country music bands which donated their time and support. She received help from volunteers Kellye Potter, Jennifer Korn, Terry Hucks and Elizabeth's husband Kyle Cook. The first event raised more than \$8,000 for the American Cancer Society.

The inspiration for this event goes back over a decade, when Tamara was first diagnosed with cancer. She first took the diagnose very calmed and received support from all of her family, but reality really struck her after undergoing chemotherapy.

"After the first round of chemotherapy it was shocking, it became a little harder thinking about weather I was going to be able to go through this," she recalls.

Tamara and her husband Jim live in Killeen, Texas, and while under treatment she was able to spend a lot of personal praying time not only at the hospital, but also at her church and everywhere where her family and friends were praying for her.

The treatment, consisting of a three-day chemotherapy every month for four months, was the test of a lifetime for Tamara.

"When you go through this is when you discover who you really are," she says.

Tamara was finally declared cancer-free, but her battle with this dreadful disease was far from over. In 2011 it was her husband, Jim, the one who would have to deal with it.

"Jim was diagnosed with throat cancer. Him, just like me, was diagnosed stage four," she said.

Her husband's illness gave her the opportunity to live this challenge from the caregiver's standpoint. She saw him struggling with chemotherapy and radiation, an episode she recalls as being definitely very hard.

"Because of the radiation in his throat and neck area his ability to eat, drink, and talk was seriously diminished. He had to undergo 35 rounds of radiation, it was very intense."

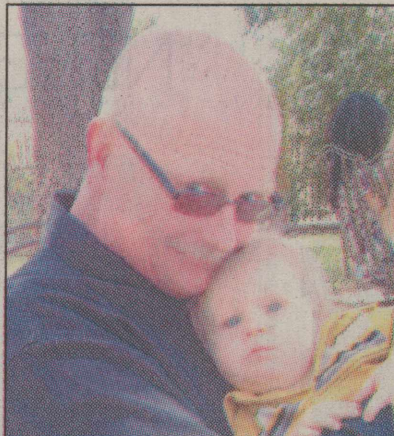
Now Tamara is a firm believer in the purpose of life. "Forty years ago everybody would have thought that my life was over, but in today's world that's a

← PLEASE CONTINUE PAGE 2

INSPIRED by CANCER



The Fourth Annual Curing Cancer Music Fest gathered Elizabeth Cook's family celebrating their victory over cancer. Pictured are left to right: uncle Shelby, aunt Kelly, cousin Clayton and girlfriend Heather, Cat, cousin Kyle, Elizabeth's husband Kyle holding their son Cooper and Elizabeth with son Collin, RC, Elizabeth's sister Tara, mother Tamara Harper holding Easton, Elizabeth's dad Jim Harper, and her brother Alex.



Cancer survivor Jim Harper with grandson Cooper Cook.



Tamara Harper, Elizabeth's mother and inspiration.



The Curing Cancer Music Fest has been gathering hundreds of country music fans since 2009.

MYTHS and FACTS

BY MELISSA ERICKSON
MORE CONTENT NOW

A disease like breast cancer can be a mortal battle fraught with overwhelming stress and devastating physical and emotional impact. Confronting breast cancer is made even more difficult when fictions get caught up with the facts. Here's a myth-busting look at breast cancer risks:

Myth: Breast cancer only affects older women

Fact: Breast cancer doesn't discriminate. Although it most often strikes women between ages 55 and 65, women of all ages should be diligent about screenings and be aware of their risk factors. "Diagnosing breast cancer in its earliest, most treatable stage is difficult in young women whose breast tissue is generally denser than that of older women, making mammogram and physical exam unreliable. There is also the common belief among young women that they're simply too young to develop the disease, says Dr. Gale England, an Advocate Medical Group breast surgeon," said Dr. Gale England, an Advocate Medical Group breast surgeon, Downers Grove, Illinois.

Misinterpretation: 1 in 8 women will develop invasive breast cancer

Fact: Your risk increases as you get older. It's more accurate to say 1 in 8 women who reach the age of 80 can expect to develop breast cancer. "In each decade of life, the risk of getting breast cancer

is actually lower than 12 percent for most women," according to BreastCancer.org.

Q: Do breast self exams save lives?

A: "The use of breast self exams is controversial, technically they do not save lives as a self-exam-detected cancer is going to be bigger than one detected mammographically," England said. "That being said, I always encourage my patients to perform self breast exams. They may detect subtle changes, especially in younger women, where mammograms are less sensitive."

Myth: Most breast lumps are cancerous

Fact: Eight out of 10 lumps that women may feel in their breasts are not cancerous, according to BreastCancer.org. "A benign lump can be a collection of normal or hyperactive breast gland cells, or it may be a water-filled sac (cyst)," according to its website.

Myth: Men don't get breast cancer

Fact: Yes, men do get breast cancer, but it is not common. The chance of a man getting breast cancer is 100 times less than women, England said.

Myth: Mammograms prevent breast cancer

Fact: Mammograms do not prevent breast cancer, but they are a screening tool that will detect cancer that is already in the breast. "They are tools for early detection, which improves survival," England said.

Myth: Only people with a family history of breast cancer are at risk

Fact: "Most women who get breast cancer do not have a family history. Only 20 percent of new breast cancer cases are related to heredity," England said.

Myth: A family history of breast cancer matters only on the mother's side

Fact: It's now known that a history of breast cancer in the women on a father's side is just as relevant as a woman's family history on the mother's side. Hereditary breast cancer can be passed down from the father's side, according to BreastCancer.org.

Myth: Wearing an underwire bra increases your risk of getting breast cancer

Fact: There is no scientific evidence that wearing an underwire bra causes "breast cancer by blocking the drainage lymph fluid cause breast cancer by blocking the drainage of lymph fluid from the bottom of the breast so it can't get back into your body," according to BreastCancer.org.

Myth: The mortality rate from breast cancer is the same for African-American women as it is for Caucasian women

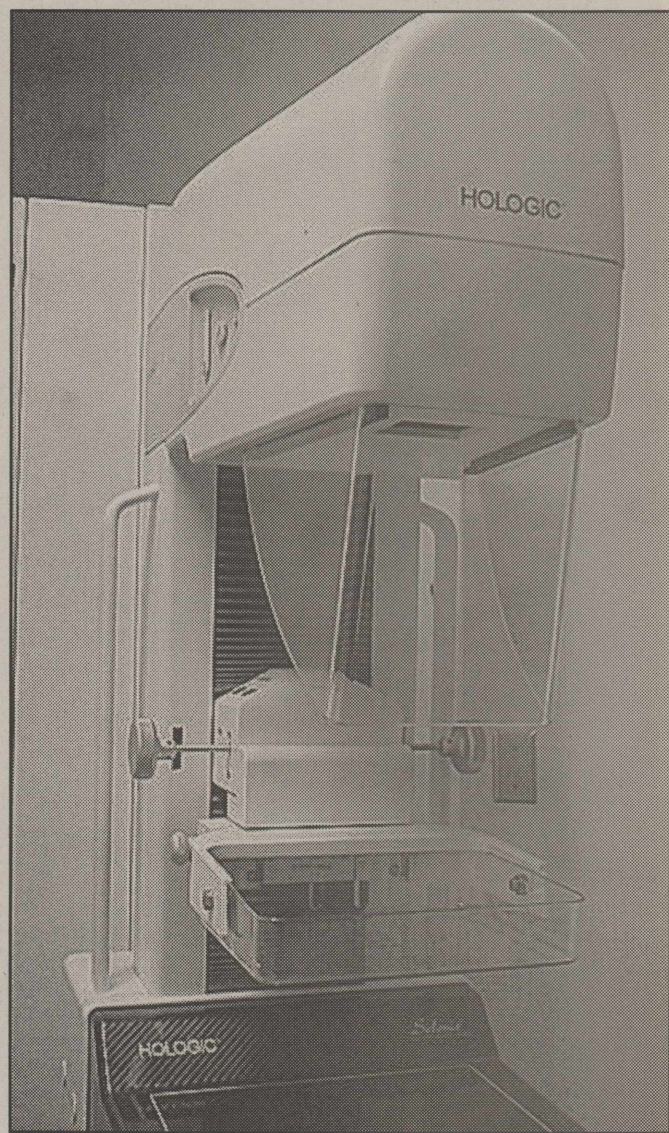
Fact: White women are more likely to be diagnosed with breast cancer, but African-American women are more likely to die from it, according to the National Breast Cancer Coalition. About 118 of 100,000 African-American

women are diagnosed compared to 128 white women and 88 Hispanic women. The mortality rate for breast cancer for African-American women is about 33 per 100,000 women compared to 24 for white women and 16 for Hispanic women.

"One reason for the difference in mortality among African-American women may be that young African-American women are disproportionately affected by triple-negative breast cancer. There is no targeted treatment for this subtype," the Breast Cancer Deadline 2020 website reads. This type of cancer lacks certain receptors and cannot be controlled by drugs like tamoxifen that target those receptors. The website continues, "There are fewer effective treatment options for these patients, however it appears that chemotherapy may be more effective in this type of breast cancer."

True or false: Fewer people are dying from breast cancer now than in the past

True: Breast cancer mortality rates are declining, which is good news, but 40,000 women will die of breast cancer this year, according to the National Breast Cancer Coalition. Between 1930 and 1990, breast cancer death rates changed little, but they decreased 27 percent from 1990 to 2005. Between 1994 and 2003, the mortality rate for women of all races combined declined by 2.4 percent annually. In white women, breast cancer mortality declined by 2.5 percent annually. In black women, mortality declined by 1.4 percent annually



THEMOZHI'S PIXEL DISPLAYS/FLICKR
Mammograms are important tools in recognizing existing cancer, but don't help prevent it.

during the same period.

Myth: Breast cancer is preventable, or if you're at risk, there's little you can do to prevent breast cancer

Fact: While breast cancer is not preventable, there are things a woman can do to lower her risk such as losing weight if she's obese, getting regular ex-

ercise and limiting alcohol consumption. Some factors that increase the risk of breast cancer are mostly uncontrollable such as age, personal and family breast cancer history, genetic factors, first menstrual period before age 12, menopause after 55, breast density and race, according to the National Breast Cancer Coalition.

Inspiration: It is not necessarily a death sentence

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

different story, that's what is so wonderful about this. People need to understand that it is a very hard disease to deal with, but it is not necessarily a death sentence," she said.

"I am a woman of faith, and when you have faith you definitely create certain type of belief, and that's when miracles start happening," said Tamara.

The miracle for her, besides learning to appreciate her and her husband's life even more, came in the form of a country music fest in Ballinger, which keeps on going strong, and has raised over \$76,000 in funds donated to cancer research through the American Cancer Society.

The fest has fully blown, and in 2013 was awarded Humanitarian of the Year at the Texas Regional Radio and Music Association Awards.

Elizabeth's idea is still going strong, and she enjoys her parents coming to each and everyone of the Curing Cancer Music Fests.



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YOU CAN GET YOUR LIFE BACK

For 10-year cancer survivor Alene Walters, who recently moved to Ballinger from California, breast cancer was unexpected and the hardest challenge in her life; her willing to live, faith and her daughter helped her to win this epic battle

RUBEN CANTU-RODRIGUEZ
PAINT IT PINK

BALLINGER- The American Cancer Society recommends that every woman gets a mammogram done every year starting at the age of 40. In 2004 Alene Walters was 38, so she was not expecting the diagnose she got from her doctor: stage three breast cancer.

"I was diagnosed on May 21, 2004. I just found a lump and went to the doctor," she said.

Her grandmother had ovarian cancer, her father died of kidney cancer, but she never really thought she could get breast cancer.

"You don't think you are going to get breast cancer, it was pretty shocking for me," she said.

After the first shock she thought about it, she had her whole life ahead of her and a 13-year-old daughter to raise, giving up was never an option so she decided she was going to fight.

"I figured 'we going to fight this', and that's exactly what we did."

Doctors, she says, were very up-front, they never sugar-coated her condition.

The cancer, in the meantime, was growing more than anybody anticipated. When she had a biopsy done the tumor was three centimeters, and three weeks later, when the oncologist saw it, it was already 11 centimeters.

"It was very aggressive, they told me that I was going to loose my breast and there was nothing anybody could do about it," she said.

The next step was a mastectomy — a surgical removal of the breast — and the ensuing chemotherapy and radiation. At this point she wasn't sure if the treatment was more painful than the disease.

"Chemotherapy was painful both physically and emotionally, because not only you have the nausea. In my case they gave me two different types of chemotherapy, so I had

excruciating pain in my bones, I had to be on pain medication to manage it," she adds.

The falling hair is morally devastating, she says, because you have to deal with things you never thought you would, such as wearing a wig, hats, or nothing.

"The hardest part was my hair falling out, because I didn't have any control over it."

When her hair started falling off in clumps she went to see a hair dresser and took control over the situation. Instead of loosing her hair over three weeks, she just did it all at once.

Alene had a single mastectomy. In those days she didn't have the option to prophylactically have both of her breasts removed, an option she says, she would have embraced without a doubt.

"Had I known then what I do now, I would have done it," she said.

So far Alene has been cancer-free for 10 years and she is fully recovered. She had reconstructive surgery and she is working and enjoying every day with her daughter and her daughter's family.

Her experience, she says, was not great, but now she is fully aware that being diagnosed with cancer is not the end of the road. There are treatments and options, and you can get your life back.

"Early detection is key, so make sure that you get your self examinations done, if you are going to get cancer you are going to get it, just putting it off because you don't want to hear the diagnosis isn't going to stop the reality of it," she says.

Nowadays, she adds, there are so many people that can survive it with early detection, that is just silly to postpone an examination for fear of the unknown.

"It is what it is, and not hearing about it isn't going to help anybody."



It was very aggressive, they told me that I was going to loose my breast and there was nothing anybody could do about it.

Alene Walters
Cancer survivor

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CANCER DREW HIM CLOSER TO THE SUFFERING OF PEOPLE

Fr. Hugh Wade, pastor of St. Mary Star of the Sea Catholic Church

RUBEN CANTU-RODRIGUEZ
PAINT IT PINK

BALLINGER- Because of its high rates among women and numerous campaigns and fundraisers, breast cancer is often under the spotlight. However, there are many different types of cancer affecting people nowadays, and this devastating illness knows no borders, gender, age or creed.

Fr. Hugh Wade, pastor of St. Mary Star of the Sea Catholic Church in Ballinger, Texas, has given spiritual support to many cancer-stricken families in his parish. He thought his knowledge of cancer and its effects was extensive... until he himself was diagnosed with a less common form of the disease.

In January of 2013 his knee was hurting so bad that he went to the doctor. After taking an x-ray he was told he needed to see another specialist.

"I thought it was just a bad knee problem. I went to several doctors and they made biopsies, they sent the biopsies to the Mayo Clinic and to MD Anderson. It came back as a large B-cell lymphoma in the bone," Fr. Wade recalls.

He then went to MD Anderson on Valentine's Day. In six weeks his health had deteriorated so bad that he couldn't drive himself there.

"Some of the parishioners drove me to the hospital, I went in in a wheel chair and in five days I went through

a whole battery of tests."

On the fifth day of his stay he went to see his doctor who diagnosed stage 4 large B-cell lymphoma.

According to the American Cancer Society this type of cancer makes up about 85 percent of the non-Hodgkin lymphomas diagnosed in the United States.

Large B-cell lymphoma, as defined by the American Cancer Society, usually starts as a quickly growing mass in a lymph node deep inside the body, such as in the chest or abdomen. It is also found in a lymph node you can feel, such as in the neck or armpit. It can also start in other areas such as the intestines, bone, or even the brain or spinal cord.

After being diagnosed Fr. Wade accepted his doctor's recommendation of an aggressive treatment, with three-day chemotherapy sessions every three weeks. He chose Shannon Medical Center, in San Angelo, Texas, because he wanted to be close to home.

His chemotherapy treatments spanned nine months, until the specialist at MD Anderson said the cancer had been "resolved."

"They said it's been 'resolved' they don't say 'remission,' they don't say 'cured' because this type of cancer can come back, so every three months since then I've been going back to Houston," he said.

His quarterly trips will continue for a minimum of two years.

"I certainly don't mind going to the hospital because I am very confident that my cancer has been cured, not just resolved."

As a man of God, faith

and prayers played a key role in Fr. Wade's treatment.

"The doctors said that prayers help guide their hands and to get a deeper knowledge of what's going on," Fr. Wade said.

Parishioners took their prayers all over the state, out of the state, and even inmates in the correctional system — encouraged by a Christian ministry — elevated their prayers for him.

"I received a handkerchief were 42 federal prisoners wrote words of encouragement for me. That meant so much for me," he said.

Side effects of the cancer still remain. He has to deal with neuropathy affecting his hands and feet.

"I have a finger that doesn't work very well but I am very grateful that that's all I have," he said.

While in the Army — where Fr. Wade served 23 years — he went to Vietnam, Panama, and the first Gulf War. Despite going through tough times in the service, his personal battle with cancer was the most challenging episode of his life, because he was actually struggling for his life.

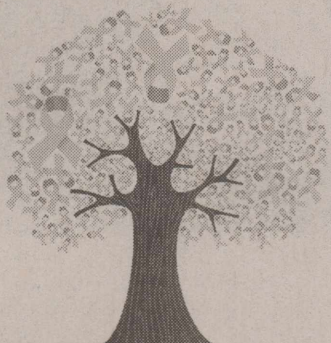
After the whole ordeal, Fr. Wade says something good came out of it. It was a learning experience that drew him closer to those who are in pain.

"It drew me closer to the suffering of people, I wasn't as closely in tune with their suffering, and at the same time to the health care people.

My faith has gone a lot deeper, my God has said he still has something for me to do, and I said OK. I will continue to do the best that I can."



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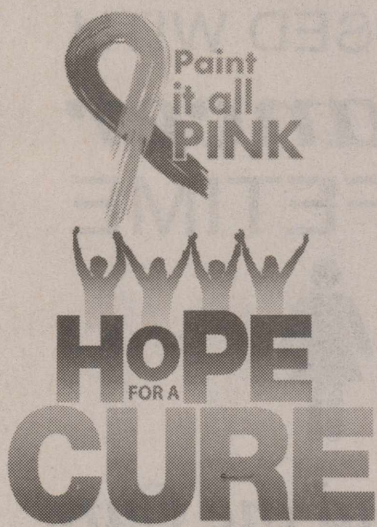
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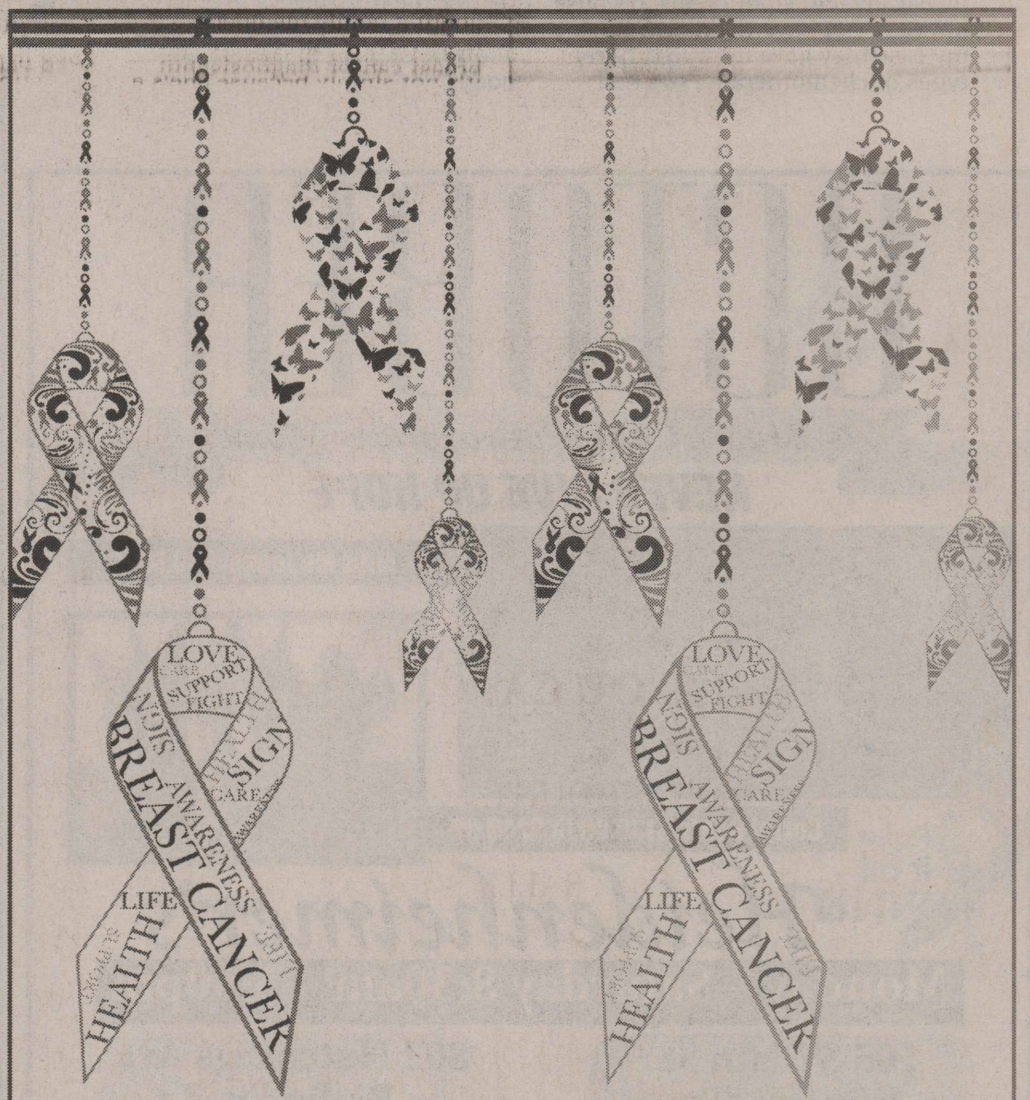
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'I FOUND A LUMP'

Linda Byler's had hardly recovered from seeing her mother struggling with breast cancer, when she found something wrong in her body and started her own battle

RUBEN CANTU-RODRIGUEZ
PAINT IT PINK

BALLINGER- In November of 2012 Linda Byler's life changed radically. When she realized something was wrong with her body she immediately thought of her mother, who recently had undergone cancer treatment and a radical mastectomy.

Linda is a business owner in Ballinger, whose life has been touched by cancer in more than one way. Her mother, two of her mother's sisters and a cousin had undergone different types of cancer. She wasn't expecting her diagnose, but it wasn't exactly a surprise either.

"I found a lump and anyway I had an appointment with the doctor at Community Medical Center in San Angelo. The doctor sent me to the radiologist, and right away we knew it was malignant," she recalls.

"Two years before my mother had breast cancer, she underwent a surgery and radiation, she was having daily therapy and then they discovered a second lump in the same breast, she had to have a radical mastectomy," Linda adds.

She called her mother and said "you are not going to believe this..."

Further analysis revealed that the lump in her breast was only part of the problem. The doctor in Dallas discovered a brain tumor.

The doctor wanted to start radiation right away, but a second specialist recommended surgery first.

The surgical procedure proved her decision to be the right one. The brain

tumor was a meningioma. Meningiomas are tumors that arise from the meninges, a membrane that surrounds the brain, and even when some may be cancerous Linda's was not.

Linda recovered from her brain surgery and went to Dallas to undergo a double mastectomy, she thought it was the end of the story but little did she know. Her mother, recovered from her own breast cancer, was now diagnosed with thyroid cancer and she finally passed away in June 2013.

Despite the whole ordeal Linda considers herself lucky because her type of cancer is not normally diagnosed until fully blown.

"I been very fortunate, normally you don't find this type of cancer until it's stage four. I'm grateful because this November will be the second year since I was diagnosed, and in March of 2013 I was cancer-free for one year," she said.

As a cancer survivor she had reconstructive surgery and has to have a blood test every six months just to make sure everything is fine. Still she feels lucky to have faced death and being able to be here today. She now treasures more every moment she shares with her family and loved ones.

"I feel lucky because I saw my mother and her two sisters go through this, one of them had two different types of cancer in the late 1970s, she had mesothelioma and there was nothing to do. The other one had breast cancer in 2000 and her daughter had bilateral mastectomy," she recalls.

Now Linda is a firm believer in cancer

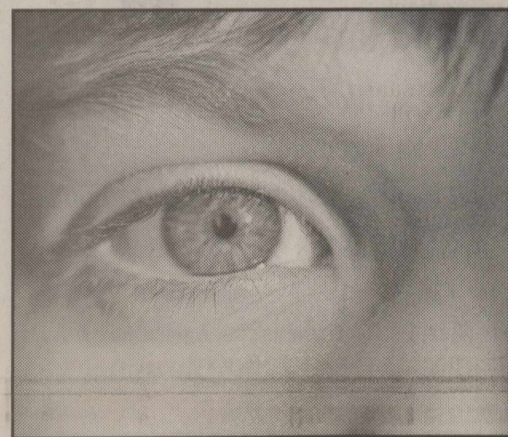


awareness and cancer research, while her faith in God, her church and her community has been strengthened.

"I have two daughters and three granddaughters, now I am more aware that you need to eat right, take care of yourself, go see the doctors and do what they recommend you to do, but always have a positive attitude, it takes lots of faith, go to your friends and

church, have people pray for you, it works," she said.

She also reminded everyone at risk or being diagnosed with cancer to have a second opinion if they don't like the first one "you have the right to go somewhere else, I had the experience of my family and already knew where to go. I just thank the Lord every day," she said.



RANDEN PEDERSON/FLICKR

An important conversation

How to talk to children about a cancer diagnosis

BY MELISSA ERICKSON
MORE CONTENT NOW

Sara Goldberger knows how tough it is to talk to children about a family member's breast cancer diagnosis, but it's not simply because she's a licensed clinical social worker

and senior director at Cancer Support Community.

It's because she's a cancer survivor whose son was 13 when she was diagnosed.

Cancer affects families in many ways, and children of all ages feel the impact of the illness whether you talk to them about it or not.

Parents often fear "they'll open Pandora's box" if they bring up the subject of cancer, Goldberger said. They're

scared they'll make it worse.

"It's challenging and it's difficult, but that's OK. It's a tough conversation, but it needs to be had," Goldberger said. "I believe having these conversations with your child are life-learning experiences."

While 2-year-olds have no idea what cancer is, "even the youngest, infants and toddlers, can recognize changes in the day-to-day routine or notice something's different

and know something's going on," Goldberger said.

Whispered discussions or phone conversations that end abruptly when a child walks into a room will alarm children at any age.

"The anxiety of knowing something bad is going on is worse than knowing the reality," Goldberger said.

"So talk to your kids, but be sure the message is appropriate for your child.

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NEW TREATMENTS

What's making headlines in breast cancer research

BY MELISSA ERICKSON
MORE CONTENT NOW

Breakthrough drugs and new, advanced treatments give breast cancer patients and their families hope for a longer and better life. Here's a look at some recent advancements:

Gene mutations

It's an exciting time in breast cancer research, especially with what's happening with genetic research and testing, said Dr. Marleen Meyers, assistant professor in the Division of Medical Oncology at the NYU Perlmutter Cancer Center.

The PALB2 gene is something doctors have known about for years, but recently they've uncovered that it holds a newfound importance. The new research shows that women with mutations in the PALB2 gene have on average a 1 in 3 chance of developing breast cancer by age 70, making it potentially one of the most relevant genes associated with breast cancer after BRCA1 and 2. "It's not new, but it's important," Meyers said.

"Women who were tested 10 years ago, but came up negative for BRCA1 and BRCA2, should go back and get tested again for the PALB2. It's especially important if you have a strong family history of breast cancer," she said.

Pre-surgery drug

Also exciting is the first drug approved to shrink breast tumors cancer before surgery, said Dr. Chau Dang, chief of medical oncology at MSK West Harrison, an outpatient treatment center of Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, which will open in October.

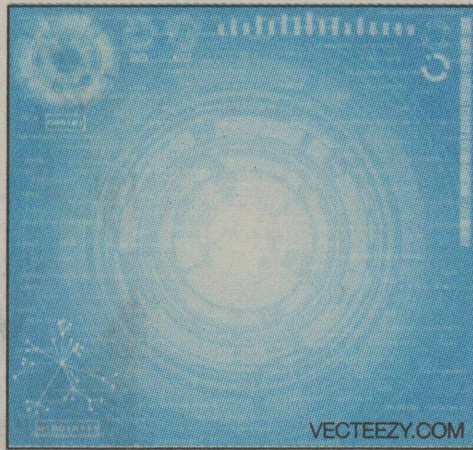
Oncologists sometimes use chemotherapy to treat

breast cancer before surgery, but this is a drug. Pertuzumab was approved last year to treat metastatic HER-2 positive breast cancer along with a combination of other drugs, and is now approved to treat patients with early stage breast cancers that respond to the HER-2 protein, said Dang. The medical oncologist specializes in the treatment of women with breast cancer, and her research focuses on developing more-effective and less-toxic treatment strategies.

Screening

New screening technologies like tomosynthesis are also benefitting breast cancer patients. In this digital process, rather than one photo, a series of small, photographic "slices" at different depths and thicknesses is taken, which saves both time and reduces radiation exposure. While mammography and MRI have their downsides (false positives and unneeded biopsies), tomosynthesis or digital breast imaging is more precise and can pick up smaller, hidden tumors, Meyers said.

A new three-dimensional breast imaging device, General Electric's SenoClaire, was approved by the FDA in September. Developed in collaboration with Massachusetts General Hospital, SenoClaire uses a step-and-shoot procedure and a low-dose short X-ray sweep to create a 3-D image with no increase in radiation from a standard



2-D mammography.

Hormone, radiation therapy

Another recent change in treatment is the duration of the therapy for women with hormone-receptor positive breast cancer — the most common form of breast cancer, Dang said. "While five years used to be the standard, now a decade of follow-up care is being shown to lead to a longer survival rate and lower risk of breast cancer recurrence," Dang said.

The American Society of Clinical Oncology now recommends 10 years of tamoxifen for both pre- and perimenopausal women. Post-menopausal women who have completed a five-year regimen of tamoxifen have the option of five more years of AI (aromatase inhibitor) treatment.

"Hormonal therapy is effective and women have options. The choice of drugs depends on their tolerance, but for most people longer therapy is better," Dang said.

Radiation therapy is also "shorter and more safe now," said Dang. "The classic regimen was five or six weeks, now it's three weeks or even one week," she said "And it's given on the stomach to protect the heart and lungs."

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PAGE 4

**EXERCISE CAUTION
WITH YOUR KILLS**

PAGE 6

**CHOOSING YOUR DEER
RIFLE IS PERSONAL**

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WHAT'S ITS SCORE

A B&C GUIDE FOR MEASURING BIG GAME ANTLERS

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WICHITA FALLS
EMPIRE-TRIBUNE

BROWNWOOD BULLETIN

THE
BALLINGER LEDGER

THE
WINTERS ENTERPRISE

GLEN ROSE REPORTER

What's Its Score

A B&C guide for measuring big game antlers

BY MATT WILLIAMS
CENTRAL TEXAS OUTDOORS

There is more than one way to score a set of deer antlers, but the Boone and Crockett scoring system is largely perceived as “the bomb.” It is by far the most widely accepted method for evaluating North American big game animals such as white-tailed deer, elk and pronghorn antelope.

The B&C system takes into account a variety of antler characteristics to tally a score. Among them are the number scoreable points (one inch or longer), beam length, tine length, circumference and inside spread. After performing a series of measurements, the figures are tallied to reach a “gross” score. Calculated differences between the left and right antler are deducted to determine the “net” score.

Texas Big Game Awards utilizes the B&C scoring method to rank qualifying entries in eight geographic regions. The program has scored categories for whitetail deer (typical and non typical) mule deer (typical

and non typical), and pronghorn antelope. There also is a first harvest category.

TBGA is a popular program jointly run by the Texas Wildlife Association and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. It is intended to encourage quality game management practices and recognize landowners and hunters for producing and harvesting quality big game animals.

Minimum net green Boone & Crockett scores for program eligibility are as follows: pronghorn — 70, typical mule deer — 145, non-typical mule deer — 160, typical white-tailed deer — 125 to 140 (depending on region), and non-typical white-tailed deer — 140 to 155 (depending on region).

All entries must be scored by a certified TBGA scorer and are subject to re-scoring. Regional and statewide rankings will be based on net green Boone & Crockett score. Ben Bartlett has been certified as a TBGA scorer since the program's inception and has since taped more than 100 animals. The Lufkin insurance agent also is an official scorer for Pope and Young, a well-known



BY MATT WILLIAMS

TBGA scorer Lee Richards puts the tape on a set of whitetail antlers.

bowhunting organization recognizes trophy class animals using the B&C scoring system.

Bartlett says scoring big game animals is somewhat of a labor of love that runs hand-in-hand with his passion for hunting. Not surprisingly, he pointed out some racks are more difficult to score than others.

“Anything that deviates from the basic structure of a whitetail rack can be a problem, Bartlett said. “Without a doubt non-typical growth gives you the most challenge.”

The most difficult rack Bartlett ever scored came from the Finley Flat area north of Lufkin.

“It was what I call a nuclear waste buck,” he said. “Its main beams came out and just exploded, sort of like a star burst. It's not uncommon to spend as long as two hours scoring a set of antlers that are extremely difficult.”

Bartlett says a typical 10 pointer is much easier, because the formula is pretty much cut and dry.

“It basically consists of four circumference measurements on each side, main beam lengths, length of each point and inside spread,” Bartlett said. “It's not that difficult. Where people run into problems is when there is some sort of deviation from the norm.”

The B&C website (boone-crockett.org) offers a wealth of information on scoring,

including downloadable scoring sheets that are accompanied by easy-to-follow instructions for more than a dozen animals.

There are dozens of TBGA scorers around the state. You can view a complete list according to city at texasbiggameawards.org.

Sidebar: Measuring Typical Whitetail Antlers

Note: All measurements must be made with a 1/4-inch wide flexible steel tape to the nearest one-eighth of an inch. (Note: A flexible steel cable can be used to measure points and main beams only.) Enter fractional figures in eighths, without reduction. Official measurements cannot be taken until the antlers have air dried at a habitable room temperature for at least 60 days after the animal was killed. The 60-day drying period for a trophy that has been frozen or boiled begins the day it is removed from the freezer, boiling pot, or submersion in any liquid.

* Number of Points on Each Antler: To be counted a point, the projection must be at least one inch long, with the length exceeding width at one inch or more of length. All points are measured from tip of point to nearest edge of beam as illustrated. Beam tip is counted as a point but not measured as a point. Point totals do not add into the final score.

SEE SCORE, 5



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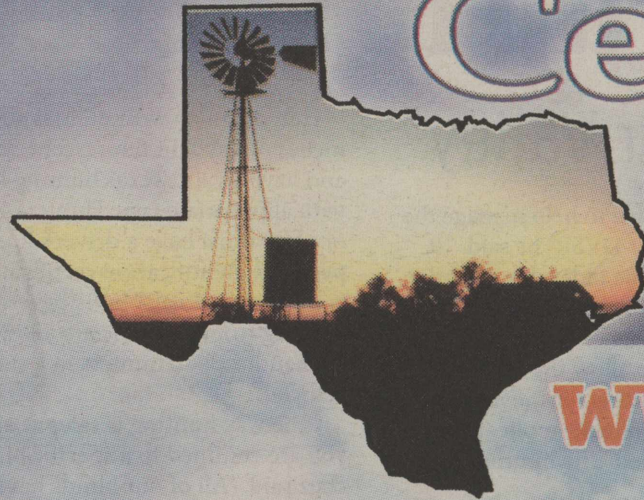
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Where hunters are set up to succeed

Muzzleloaders go deer hunting at Dinosaur Valley

BY TYE CHANDLER
CENTRAL TEXAS OUTDOORS

Deer hunting can be quite challenging, but chances for success are above average at Dinosaur Valley State Park.

The park, located a few miles west of Glen Rose, allows for a bag limit of one whitetail deer – antlerless or spiked buck. The first public hunting period runs from the morning of Jan. 12 to the morning of Jan. 14, while the second period begins the evening of Jan. 14 and lasts until the morning of Jan. 16. Hunters must report to park headquarters by noon on the first day of their assigned hunting period, and then hunting ends at 11 a.m. on the final day of their assigned period.

After a brief orientation, park personnel will take hunters to their preselected blinds.

“Our deer population doesn’t support shooting all month,” said Jason Sanchez, lead ranger at Dinosaur Valley. “The Texas

Parks & Wildlife website lists all the available public hunts throughout the state. Our population only allows for 20-25 deer to be taken off the property (annually).

“Our last survey was approximately one deer per 20 acres. We do book up every year, so our hunt is well known throughout the parks and wildlife community.”

Hunters, required to use an assigned blind, must shoot either muzzleloaders or shotguns with slugs.

“That’s due to when our season is,” Sanchez said. “It’s regulated by the state. It also gives a different type of hunter opportunities to hunt public lands. Muzzleloaders bring a very specific crowd and this gives them a new place to hunt.”

There are 20 permits available for \$80 per adult. A supervising adult 18 years or older can accompany a youth hunter age 8-16, while a solo hunter must be 17 years or older.

Sanchez hopes visiting hunters are successful.

“Our hunts are able to help manage the (deer) population of DVSP,” he said. “It helps cull some of the older doe or antlerless bucks to facilitate a healthy herd. Conservation is a key part of it, and the hunters understand why we allow the hunt. Most of our hunters are hunting for the meat.”

Last year, there were 88 applicants for the 20 permits issued. The hunting success rate was 29 percent.

“The last two years were pretty rough because of the weather,” Sanchez said. “It was really cold last year, and the year before that it rained every day. The temperature was in the 20s or below every morning last year, so a lot of folks came in to hunt the first day and the next morning it was so cold that about six of them just bowed out. But I’d already sold their spots.”

“Three years ago, we had a success rate of 120 percent. Every hunter got a deer. Some shot a deer and we couldn’t find it, so we let them hunt again because technically they didn’t find the deer.”

Hunters must wear at least 400 square inches of daylight fluorescent orange and have a valid Texas hunting license with appropriate tags. Hunters 17 years or older must have a driver’s license or personal identification certificate, as safety is a priority. No alcoholic beverages or hunting from a vehicle are allowed, except for handicapped hunters in a stationary vehicle.

“The way hunting is safer at our park is you are confined to a specific blind,” Sanchez said. “All of our blinds have been strategically located to prevent any overshoot into another hunting area. When we drop them off in the morning or evening, they have a certain range they can shoot in.”

“We planned out that if a bullet goes astray, it won’t be towards any other hunter. You aren’t allowed to leave the blind until park personnel returns, so you can’t get in position to be shot by another hunter.”

A hunter’s time spent at the blind is up to them.

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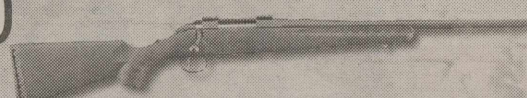
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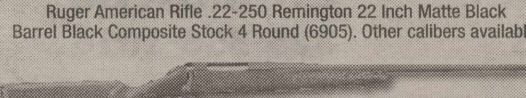
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SCORE

Continued from 2

* Tip to Tip Spread is measured between tips of main beams. Tip to tip spread does not add into the final score.

* Greatest Spread is measured between perpendiculars at a right angle to the center line of the skull at widest part, whether across main beams or points. Greatest spread does not add into the final score.

* Inside Spread of Main Beams is measured at a right angle to the center line of the skull at widest point between main beams. Enter this measurement again as the spread credit if it is less than or equal to the length of the longer main beam; if greater, enter longer main beam length for spread credit.

* Total of Lengths of all Abnormal Points: Abnormal Points are those non-typical in location (such as points originat-

ing from a point or from bottom or sides of main beam) or extra points beyond the normal pattern of points. Measure in usual manner and enter in appropriate blanks.

* Length of Main Beam is measured from the center of the lowest outside edge of burr over the outer side to the most distant point of the main beam. The point of beginning is that point on the burr where the center line along the outer side of the beam intersects the burr, then following generally the line of the illustration.

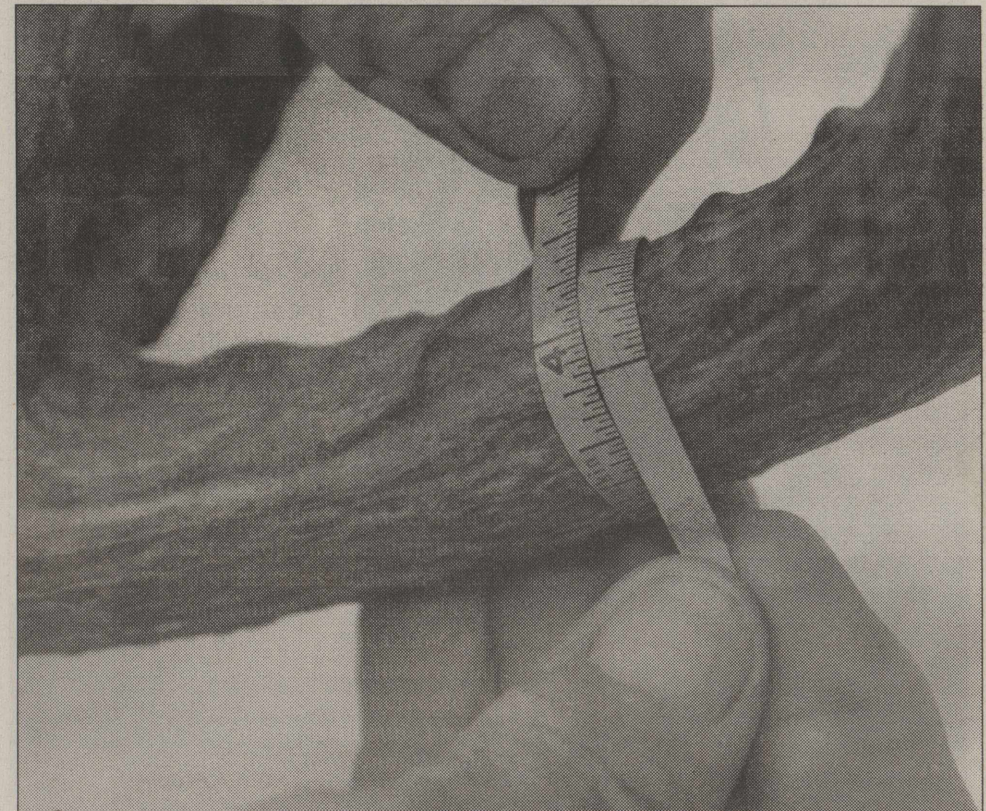
* Length of Normal Points: Normal points project from the top of the main beam. They are measured from nearest edge of main beam over outer curve to tip. Lay the tape along the outer curve of the beam so that the top edge of the tape coincides with the top edge of the beam on both sides of the point to determine the baseline for point measurements. Record point lengths in appropriate blanks.

* Circumferences are taken as detailed

in illustration for each measurement. If brow point is missing, take H-1 and H-2 at smallest place between burr and G-2. If

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

Source: Boone and Crockett Club



BY MATT WILLIAMS

Circumference measurements are key figures in attaining an accurate score.

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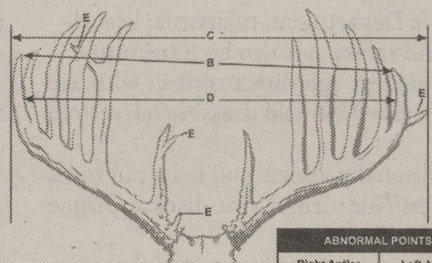
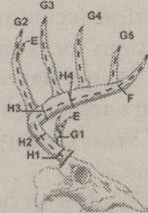
(CHECK ONE):
 whitetail
 Coves'

MINIMUM SCORES AWARDS ALL-TIME

160 170

100 110

Detail of Point Measurement



ABNORMAL POINTS

Right Antler Left Antler

SEE OTHER SIDE FOR SCORING INSTRUCTIONS

BELOW DATA (A, B, & C) DO NOT CALCULATE IN THE FINAL SCORE BUT ARE REQUIRED

A. No. Points on Right Antler No. Points on Left Antler

B. Tip to Tip Spread C. Greatest Spread

D. Inside Spread of Main Beams SPREAD CREDIT (May Equal But Not Exceed Longer MAIN BEAM)

E. Total of Lengths of Abnormal Points

F. Length of Main Beam

G-1. Length of First Point

G-2. Length of Second Point

G-3. Length of Third Point

G-4. Length of Fourth Point, if Present

G-5. Length of Fifth Point, if Present

G-6. Length of Sixth Point, if Present

G-7. Length of Seventh Point, if Present

H-1. Circumference at Smallest Place Between Burr and First Point

H-2. Circumference at Smallest Place Between First and Second Points

H-3. Circumference at Smallest Place Between Second and Third Points

H-4. Circumference at Smallest Place Between Third and Fourth Points

TOTALS

ADD TOGETHER: Spread Credit Exact Locality Where Killed:^A County: State/Prov:

Column 1 Hunter (Legal Name): Date Killed:

Column 2 Trophy Owner (Legal Name): Telephone #:

Subtotal Trophy Owner's Address:

Column 3 Trophy Owner's Email: Guide's Name:

FINAL SCORE Remarks (Mention Any Abnormalities or Unique Qualities):

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Exercise caution with your kills

BY PHIL RIDDLE
CENTRAL TEXAS OUTDOORS

With archery season for deer already under way in Texas, and the rifle season in the North and South zones is quickly approaching, experts are warning hunters to take precautions handling their kills.

Though uncommon, some diseases can spread from wildlife to humans. For example, anthrax, which is caused by naturally occurring bacteria found in soil. Animals can contract the disease by swallowing anthrax spores while grazing.

Humans, in turn, can contract the disease through touching infected animals, either alive or dead, or consuming their meat.

According to the Texas Park and Wildlife Department, tularemia, brucellosis and rabies can also be transmitted to people through direct contact with live animals or while field dressing harvested game.

Additionally, insects and ticks can transmit West Nile virus, Lyme disease, plague and other diseases.

Fortunately, avoiding most of these issues are as simple as observing easy, practical safety methods. Methods like using insect repellent and wearing long sleeves

and long pants can prevent illnesses that can be passed to humans by mosquitoes and ticks.

Health professionals also advise hunters wear gloves while cleaning game or when cutting and packaging meat. And be sure to wash your hands when you are finished.

The American Veterinary Medical Association says particular care should be taken around the head of a fresh kill.

"Minimize contact with brain or spinal tissues," says the AVMA on its Web site. "When boning out the carcass, keep both the head and spine intact. Do not cut into the head of any antlered animal that showed abnormal behavior, even to remove the rack. When removing antlers from a healthy animal, use a handsaw rather than a power saw, and always wear safety glasses."

The Texas Department of State Health Services recommends the following precautions for Lone Star State outdoorsmen.

¥ Do not harvest animals that appear ill or are acting abnormally.

¥ Wear latex-type gloves when dressing game.

¥ Wash your hands thoroughly with

SEE CAUTION, 8



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Big Bore Rifles: A new old way to hunt

BY PHIL RIDDLE
CENTRAL TEXAS OUTDOORS

Outdoorsmen in Texas, as well as across the country, are paying more attention lately to the use of big bore air guns for hunting and varmint control.

But the technology is hardly new. In fact, some of the first firearms ever used featured pneumatics to propel bullets or pellets.

According to Randy Mitchell, writing in the e-zine americanairhunter.com, the history of the weapon is extensive, beginning more than 400 years.

SEE BORE, 8



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SUCCEED

Continued from 4

"We pretty much let them run the show," Sanchez said. "We're here to help facilitate the hunt, so if they want to go out at 3:30 in the morning, that's what we do for them."

Baiting is allowed.

"You can put out corn or a special concoction of whatever you want to make," Sanchez said. "A couple of weeks before the hunt, we'll start putting out corn in the shoot areas and get the deer used to

coming in. Nobody wants to pay to sit out in a blind and not see anything, so I think we have a responsibility to try to get our hunters a deer. That's the whole purpose of this."

A non-hunting adult can assist permitted handicapped hunters.

"We work for everybody in the state of Texas, so we need to accommodate the hunters," Sanchez said. "We help the handicapped folks just like anyone else. If they need someone else there to help them hunt, that's okay."

Camping is available for permitted hunters, and hunters are encouraged to

bring a flashlight, food, drinking water and foul-weather gear.

"Like two years ago, when it rained hard and cold, people wanted to hunt but they were soaking wet," Sanchez said. "We just want them to be prepared."

Even if someone misses out on one of the 20 permits, they still have a chance to hunt this season.

"You have to register by noon of the first day," Sanchez said. "We told the 20 people whose names were drawn for permits they had a certain number of days to send their money in. If they don't pay in time, other people can show up to

the park the first day of each hunt period and we'll draw for those open spots to be filled. It's a gamble."

Sanchez recommends hunters download the outdoor annual hunting and fishing regulations smartphone app provided by Texas Parks & Wildlife.

"The app is a very good resource," he said. "Everybody has smart phones nowadays, so you click on the app and there's all the info you need."

For more information about public hunts, go to tpwd.texas.gov and click on "Public Hunting." To contact Sanchez, email him at jason.sanchez@tpwd.texas.gov.

BORE

Continued from 7

"One of the earliest examples of a bel-lows-powered gun dates back to 1590 or so, and King Henry IV of France had one of the first known pump-up pneumatics around 1600," Mitchell reported. "If you go back 300 years or so, some of the most powerful and elite arms of the time were airguns, though they were rare and uncommon even then."

Additionally, mention has been made in history books about 17th Century German

hunters taking a red deer with an air rifle and Lewis and Clark purportedly journaled about killing a deer with a pneumatic gun between 1804 and 1806.

Mitchell credits Allen Dicke with creating an air rifle with enough knock-down power to efficiently kill larger game, including deer, using modern technology. Dicke made at least five different models of air rifles in the 1980s, each an improvement over the last, firing .44 or .510 caliber ammunition.

Still, the dogma of firing an air gun pellet or bullet, instead of the more traditional gun-powder based round is hard for

some American hunters to overcome.

"We have a very strong hunting culture in the USA, and it can be argued that it is the most egalitarian and inclusive hunting community in the world," wrote Jim Chapman, an outdoors columnist for Airguns of Arizona. "There is however, one area in which we have historically lagged behind, and that is the sport of airgun hunting."

Though most experts agree that air guns will never replace firearms, the technology has expanded to include weapons that can humanely drop a variety of game from squirrels, to coyotes, even deer and bison.

Even Texas-based Luke Clayton, who writes a widely-read weekly column and blogs extensively, has begun using an air rifle.

"I enjoyed my first ever (legal) air rifle hunt for squirrels this past week,"

he wrote in early October. "I have a .25 caliber Air Force air rifle that is a tack driver. Topped with a 1-6 X 24 power Sun Optics USA scope, my little rifle equals or exceeds the accuracy I've ever achieved with my .22 rimfire rifles."

Clayton says the air rifle's main advantage over his .22 is that it operates silently.

"The rifle is much quieter which makes it lethal in the squirrel woods, he wrote. "I have the rifle sighted in dead on at 30 yards and have learned that the trajectory changes very little at closer shots. Rather than pellets (which I believe will also work well on squirrels), I've been shooting 53-grain bullets. These heavier bullets group as well as well designed pellets and pack a much harder punch."

Cutline: Korean air rifles are popular with hunters in the U. S. Models like the Sam Yang 44-909 features a 500 cc tank.



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CAUTION

Continued from 6

soap and water after handling game. If soap is not available, an alcohol-based hand sanitizer is a good alternative.

¥ Consider eye protection when dressing game to prevent contact between fluids or tissues and eyes. Shooting glasses provide an adequate level of protection in most cases.

¥ Avoid eating, drinking, using tobacco, or rubbing eyes while dressing game.

¥ Do not touch non-hunter-killed dead animals or their remains, including ant-

lers, bones and hides.

¥ Use an approved insect repellent and follow the instructions on the label. EPA-approved repellents include those containing DEET, picaridin, IR3535, and oil of lemon eucalyptus/p-Menthane-3,8-diol.

¥ Stay on trails and avoid areas of overgrown brush and tall grasses.

¥ Wear protective clothing such as a hat, long-sleeved shirt and long pants tucked into boots or socks, and check frequently for ticks.

Additional disease information for hunters and other outdoors enthusiasts is available at <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/idcu/health/zoonosis/outdoor/outtips.pdf>.

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Fine Fixin's

Properly cared for, venison makes excellent tableware

BY MATT WILLIAMS
CENTRAL TEXAS OUTDOORS

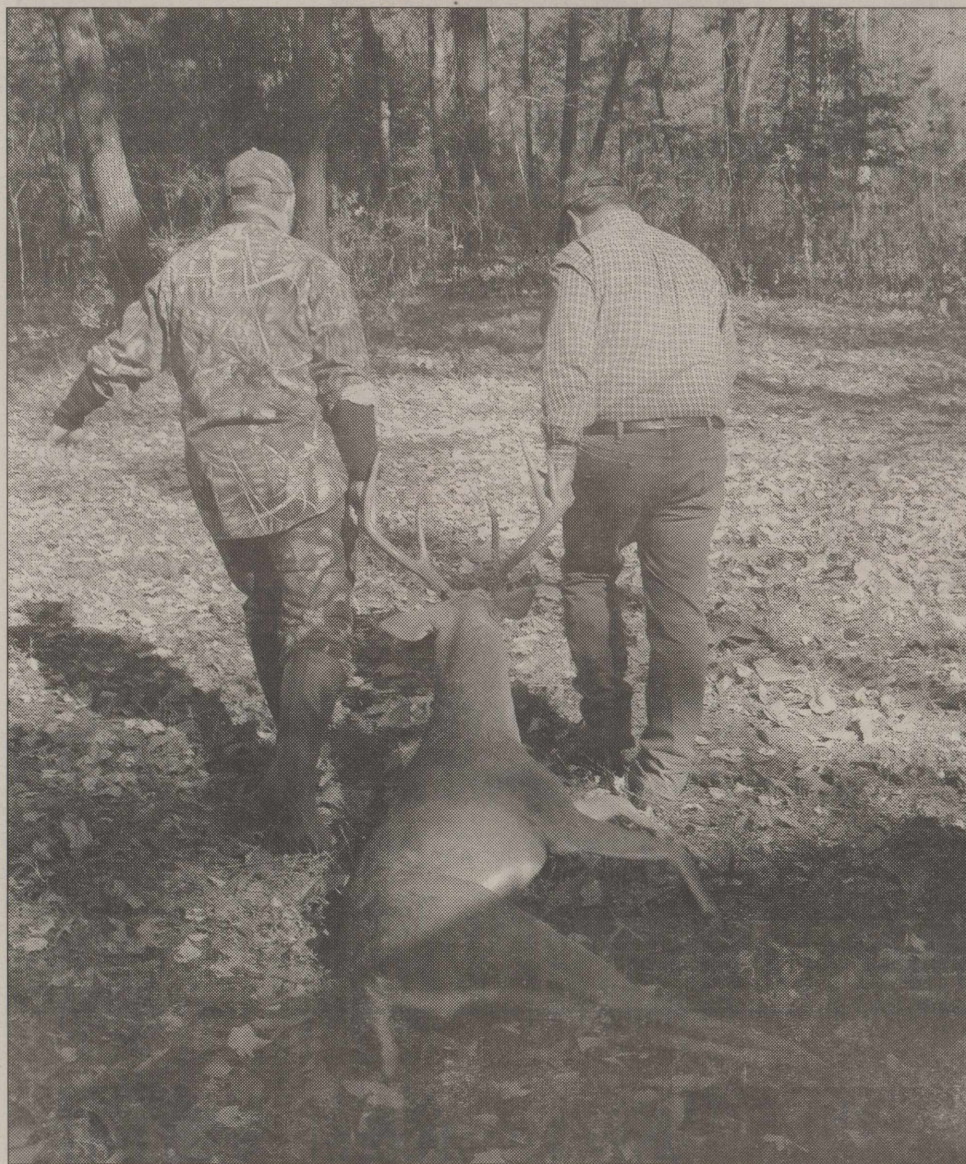
Pull the trigger on a whitetail deer, or any other big game animal, and you have just created a mountain of work that should be tended to promptly, not hours or days later. How wild game is cared for in the field will ultimately have a big impact on how well it tastes on the table.

The first order of business to take care of after you kill an animal is to field dress the carcass. This means removing all the entrails, which in turn allows the carcass to cool more rapidly and helps preserve the meat.

Most hunters choose to perform the task before bringing the animal into camp or taking it to the processor. Thus the term, "field dressing."

Once the carcass is field dressed, the hunter faces a critical decision. If a cold storage facility or refrigerator is available, the carcass can be placed inside with the skin left intact. You can also hang the animal outside, preferably in shaded area, if outside temperatures are cool.

SEE VENISON, 13



BY MATT WILLIAMS

How wild game is cared for in the field will ultimately have a big impact on how well it tastes on the table.

OTHER VENISON RECIPES

VENISON SLOPPY JOES

INGREDIENTS:

- 2 pounds ground venison
- 1 pound ground pork
- vegetable oil
- 1 onion, chopped
- 1 cup ketchup
- 1 cup tomato juice
- 1 cup cheddar cheese, shredded
- salt and pepper, to taste

PREPARATION:

Heat oil in a large skillet; brown meat and onion. Pour off excess oil and add remaining ingredients. Simmer for about 1 hour. Serve on open hamburger.

VENISON BURGER SOUP

INGREDIENTS:

- 2 pounds ground game or venison
- 1 onion, chopped
- 1 parsnip, sliced
- 3 potatoes, cubed
- 3 medium carrots, sliced
- 1/2 rutabaga, peeled and cubed
- 1 large can (28 ounces) tomatoes
- 3 beef bouillon cubes
- 3 cups water
- 1/2 head cabbage, cut in chunks

- 1 bay leaf
- 1/2 tsp. oregano
- 1 tsp. salt, or to taste
- 1/2 tsp. pepper

PREPARATION:

Brown meat and onions. Add the rest of the ingredients and simmer 1-2 hours. Serves 6.

BARBECUED VENISON

INGREDIENTS:

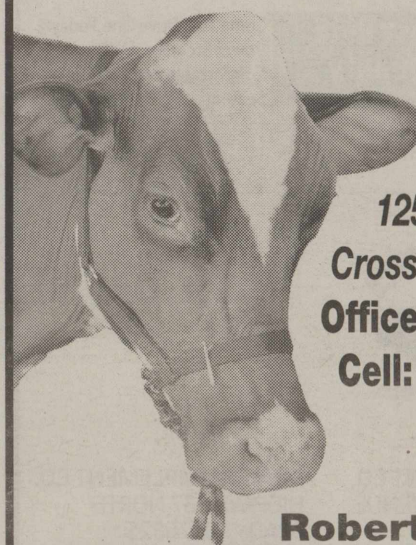
- 1 venison roast, about 3-4 lbs, leg or rump
- 1 can (12 ounces) beer
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- salt and pepper
- 2 onions, sliced
- 3 bay leaves
- 2 cups Barbecue Sauce, your favorite

PREPARATION:

Trim excess fat from venison. In large bowl combine beer, garlic, salt, pepper, onions and bay leaves; add venison (the marinade should cover meat). Marinate in refrigerator for 12 hours, turning occasionally. Remove venison and onions from marinade and place in slow cooker/Crock Pot. Pour 1 cup Barbecue Sauce over top. Cover and cook on LOW for 10 — 12 hours. Serve with remaining Barbecue Sauce.

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Primitive hunting: The black powder challenge

BY RUBEN CANTU-RODRIGUEZ
CENTRAL TEXAS OUTDOORS

While hunting, powder and guns have evolved for the best part of 1,100 years since the invention of explosives in China at some point during the 9th Century, most hunters have adopted modern technology as part of the game. However, there is still a few old-school hunters that enjoy a more primitive way of life, and they've found solace in muzzleloaders.

Also known as black powder guns, muzzleloaders are rifles or handguns that do not have a magazine, need to be loaded with a projectile and propellant each time they are fired, and can't be loaded from the breech.

The definition of a muzzleloader in Texas, according to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, is that of any firearm that is loaded only through the muzzle. A cap and ball firearm in which the powder and ball are loaded into a cylinder is not a muzzleloader.

In a muzzleloader a predetermined amount of black powder or substitute, followed by either a round ball or a bullet is inserted through the muzzle into the barrel, and in most cases the ignition is sparked by an external primer or percussion cap through a nipple.

Historically black powder was replaced by nitro-glycerin based powders around the turn of the 19th century, looking for more stable slow-burning propellants capable of maintaining a constant pressure on the projectile during its travel through the barrel.

"Smokeless" powder was also adopted looking for a black powder substitute that didn't blind the shooter with smoke, and an added value was keeping the shooter from revealing his position during a military confrontation.

Black powder is generally composed by potassium nitrate, powdered charcoal and sulphur, although modern substitutes can be found on the market with different formulas. They all have some pros and cons.

Black powder explodes — some say

ignite — burning its components very quickly and producing gases that expand to many times the volume of the base powder. The rapid expansion of the gases produces high pressure, which finds relief through the bore and toward the muzzle of the gun.

Black powder produces a lot of smoke and is less efficient than its modern counterpart, meaning that it takes more quantity of propellant to fire a slug at the same velocity and distance as with smokeless powder.

Smokeless powder produces less smoke and more gas and is safer to use than black powder. On the flip side and because of its complexity, smokeless powder is harder to clean up and petroleum-based solvents are needed to remove residues from the gun. With black powder, while more fouling is produced by the combustion, soap and water are more than enough to remove the organic fouling.

Even though in Texas there is no early season for black powder guns anymore, primitive hunters find in muzzleloaders a more challenging adventure, since the range of the gun is not as broad as that of centerfire guns, and the fire rate is widely reduced, depending on the type of gun, gun powder and shooter skills.

Some of the drawbacks of black powder include the promotion of rust inside gun bores and powder instability. The operation of muzzleloaders is also burdensome due to the fact that the shooter needs several pieces of hardware to properly operate the gun. Equipment needed to load a muzzleloader includes patches, lubricant or lubricated projectiles, a rod, a powder flask or hollowed out horn, percussion caps, and the list continues.

When shooting a muzzleloader the shooter typically needs to load the gun with powder, insert a patch and projectile, and make sure that everything is perfectly seated on the breech. Before being ready to pull the trigger the shooter also needs to place a percussion cap by half-cocking the hammer.

Evolution has also found a niche among

muzzleloaders. Purists prefer to shoot the traditional round balls or even mini-balls, but the market has plenty of options to choose from. Nowadays retailers offer soft point bullets, weldcores, powerbelts, hard-casts, plinkers, and many, many options more.

A wide variety of propellants is also available to choose from. Some of the options out there are Hodgdon Triple Seven FFG, Pyrodex RS, Black Mag3, American Pioneer, Goex Black FFG. All of these come in different presentations, either pellets, 50-grain pellets, or flakes, and differ from black powder in both weight and volume. Knowledge based on specific manuals, trial and error and personal preferences is needed to find the perfect combination for

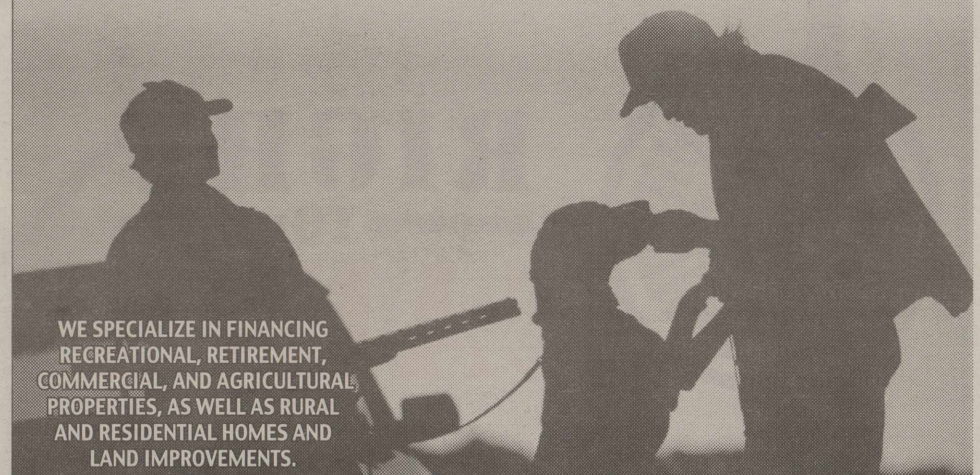
each shooter and target.

According to Hodgdon, one of the main manufacturers in the United States, Pyrodex is lighter in weight than black powder and weighs only about 70 percent as much as black powder. However, because Pyrodex yields more energy per pound, the same volume of Pyrodex gives similar performance to black powder.

Specific data for each type of black powder or substitutes is readily available with manufacturers and can be found either in their websites or by mail.

Be it for the nostalgia, as a challenge or just to try something new, muzzleloaders can be a lot of fun if you have the time, budget and patience to deal with this old school type of shooting.

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Choosing your deer rifle is personal

BY PHIL RIDDLE
CENTRAL TEXAS OUTDOORS

If someone outside the hunting fraternity were to ask, "what is the best caliber for a deer hunting rifle?" he would perhaps get a different answer from each person he surveyed.

What that means is, choosing a rifle is about personal preference and getting the right too for the job.

In Texas, the two most popular weapons for taking down trophy bucks are the 30-06 and the 30-30.

"The 30-06 is an excellent one-size-fits-all rifle," said one hunter. "In a good bolt-action rifle you can hunt just about anything in North America with it. The ammo is available everywhere and comes in a wide selection of bullets weights and types."

Almost the same can be said about the quintessential Texas carbine.



"The 30-30 has probably killed more deer than any other single caliber," said an online poster at the Field and Stream Web site. "It is a wonderful short range rifle whose rounds are affected little by twigs and branches."

Like the 30-06, ammunition is available every where in a wide

range of loads.

In Texas' hill country or in thick brush, Lone Star State hunters generally prefer a rifle with relatively short barrel, like the 30-30 or a .308 since shots are usually taken at relatively short range.

However, for 100-200 yard

targets, a .270 or a 7 mm could be added to the choices, keeping in mind the ammo choice is almost as important as picking a gun.

The .270 caliber rifle has a reputation for long distance accuracy, but is a little heavier to carry than a .308, but both in the hands of a skilled shooter are more

than powerful enough to down a whitetail. A 7 mm has certain advantages, including more knock-down power at the muzzle.

Whichever deer rifle is selected, ammunitions is a key decision, as well. Brad Fitzpatrick, a writer for petersonshunting.com says choosing the right bullet gives hunters a better chance for success.

"One thing's for sure, though, certain cartridges make your job as a long range hunter a whole lot easier," Fitzpatrick wrote. "What you're really looking for are those flat-shooting, hard-hitting cartridges that have a proven track record for delivering when a trophy is on the line. Fast magnum cartridges have always been favored when hunting at long range, but velocity isn't the only consideration you've got to make. It's mostly shooter preference, especially when it comes to recoil and reloading for maximize cartridge performance."

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VENISON

Continued from 9

It is never a good idea to hang a deer outside for extended periods in temperatures warmer than 40 degrees. If it is warm outside, it would be wise to remove the skin, quarter the animal and store the meat in coolers, if a refrigerator is not available.

Chilled properly, venison can be stored for several days in a cooler before butchering. Plastic bottles filled with frozen water work exceptionally for well keeping meat cool and clean. When the ice thaws, the bottle keeps the water inside and prevents it from soaking into the meat. Coolers should be stored in the shade and ice bottles swapped out daily.

When butchering meat at home, be sure to give yourself plenty of time to complete the job, and try to do it in a cool place. Keep an ice chest nearby to keep de-boned meat cool and away from flies.

Back straps can be diced into 1/2 inch thick cuts for frying steaks. The same goes for the rear hams, or you can make them into roasts. Smaller trimmings off the front shoulders, neck and ribs can be used in stews and soups, or they can be ground up for hamburger or mixed with pork for some fine eating sausage.

When wrapping venison for the freezer, be sure to use a good quality freezer paper to prevent the meat from freezer burn. My wife usually double wraps our venison just to be on safe side.

Each package is dated and labeled as steaks, back strap or stew meat. That eliminates the guessing game when we get the itch for some venison on the table.

There are a wide variety of ways to prepare venison steaks. I prefer mine fried, but not before it marinates for a day or two.

One of my favorite marinades is a combination of milk, eggs and sugar. Place enough milk in a bowl to cover the steaks. Add two eggs, mix thoroughly with a fork, add two generous scoops of sugar and mix again. Place the steaks in the marinade, cover with foil or plastic wrap and place in the refrigerator overnight.

Roll the steaks in flour before placing in hot grease. I like to season the flour with pepper and garlic salt. Crushed pepper makes a nice addition if you are in the mood something spicy. Once the steaks are cooked, you can use the remnants in frying pan to mix with milk and flour to make a thick and rich gravy topping.

Let's eat!

Source: Southernfood.com

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White-tailed deer hunting

Keep it safe and trouble-free

BY RUBEN CANTU-RODRIGUEZ
CENTRAL TEXAS OUTDOORS

With the arrival of the upcoming deer season many hunters are anxious to get out and try their new equipment, get the most out of their lease or bag the trophy buck that got away last year. However, there are a few steps to consider if you want to have a safe, trouble-free and responsible hunt.

A hunting license allows hunters to harvest three bucks and two does per season, but there are counties that are one or two bucks only, says Runnels County Game Warden Lane Pinckney.

"Hunters need to plan their season carefully if they want to harvest their three bucks. Runnels County is a two-buck county, which means that you can harvest two bucks here but the third one needs to be harvested in some other place that is either one, two or a three-buck county," he said.

Tagging the deer is the first thing to do after killing a deer, even before field-dressing the animal.

Following the right tagging procedure is also key for a trouble-free season. Hunters need to fill out the information on the tag, tag the deer and also fill out the log in the back of the hunting license. Information includes the date, county and the property where the deer was harvested.

"Hunters need to keep the tag and proof of sex, the deer can be processed up to quarters and even consumed in the campsite, but the hunter needs to keep proof of sex until the deer reaches final destination," Pinckney said.

Final destination is defined by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department as the permanent residence of the person who takes the deer; permanent residence of the person who receives the deer, or a cold storage or processing facility.

Keeping the head is a good idea, Pinck-

ney says, because is the best way to determine the sex of the harvested deer.

There are several precautions to be taken prior to hunting season that will help any hunter to have a safer, more enjoyable and trouble-free experience. Pinckney said that it is always advisable to set up blinds and feeders in a safe manner.

"It is not illegal to set up blinds along a fence line, but remember that you can not shoot at the neighbor's property, be con-

scious about the trajectory of the bullet," he said.

Other considerations to keep in mind include that deer hunting in Texas is legal with any centerfire cartridge, and that early season is for bowhunters only.

"During the white-tailed deer general season it is legal to hunt with any legal means (archery, muzzleloaders, rifle), but the early and late seasons have special limitations," Pinckney said.

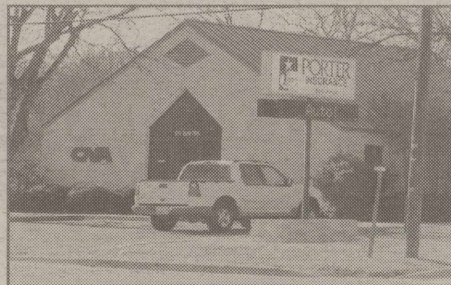


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BY RUBEN-CANTU RODRIGUEZ
CENTRAL TEXAS OUTDOORS

BALLINGER — Looking for the perfect bullet in deer hunting is not an easy task. The topic has been long discussed in many forums, and there is not an absolute answer for every shooter. Some advocate for smaller calibers to minimize tissue damage, while others prefer a bullet that makes the deer drop-dead right on the spot.

Truth is that with a wide array of calibers, bullet tips, bullet construction and weights, as well as many other options available in the market, hunters have a lot of research to do before finding the right bullet to fit their game and hunting style.

“Finding the right bullet for your

hunting can be a little challenging for some hunters, there are many factors you need to consider such as entry and exit wound, if you are hunting for meat and want to minimize meat damage, and you also have to consider shot placement, all of these and more are key to a successful deer hunting,” said Wagner Byler, owner of Ammo and Camo, an outdoors depot in Ballinger, Texas.

In Texas it is legal to hunt with any centerfire cartridge and in the past the smallest caliber considered by hunters was .243 Winchester. However such trend has been rapidly changing, and nowadays it is not uncommon to find hunters

SEE **ROUNDS**, 17



BY RUBEN CANTU-RODRIGUEZ

Some of the options available in the market for deer hunting are left to right: 30-30 Win. 150 gr. Power Point; .308 Win. MatchKing 168 gr. BTHP; 30-30 Win. 150 gr. soft point; 25-06 Rem. 85 gr. Ballistic Silver Tip; .270 Win. 130 gr. soft point; 30-30 Win. 150 gr. Fusion; 5.56 NATO 55 gr. full metal jacket; and .243 Win. 100 gr. Core Lokt.

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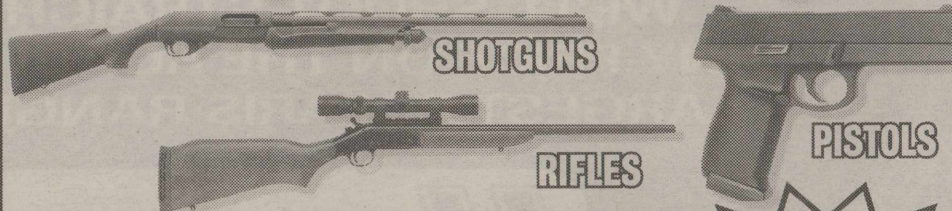
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ROUNDS

Continued from 16

taking deer with 5.56 NATO or .223 Remington ammo.

"Depending on shot placement you may not need too much expansion, even full metal jacketed bullets can do the job if you take the right shot," Byler said.

"Smaller calibers such as .223 Remington are not necessarily underpowered for deer hunting, you can find a wide variety of bullet-weights and different kinds of projectiles to suit your needs," he added.

The .223 Remington round was primarily designed as a military cartridge, but due to its popularity in the U.S. it has evolved into a broad range of options, ranging from 40 grain full metal jacket bullets to 80 grain bullets with ballistic tips, hollow points, soft points and more.

Ammunition manufacturers these days offer bullets suited for match shooters, with ultra-low drag, ballistic polymer tips and boat tails; dangerous game slugs designed for deep penetration; expanding soft points, and hollow points with a tough copper clad steel jacket and high antimony lead alloy core; military grade full metal jacket bullets; lead bullets, InterBond or

CoreLokt projectiles, and even monolithic solid copper or brass bullets among other options for different applications.

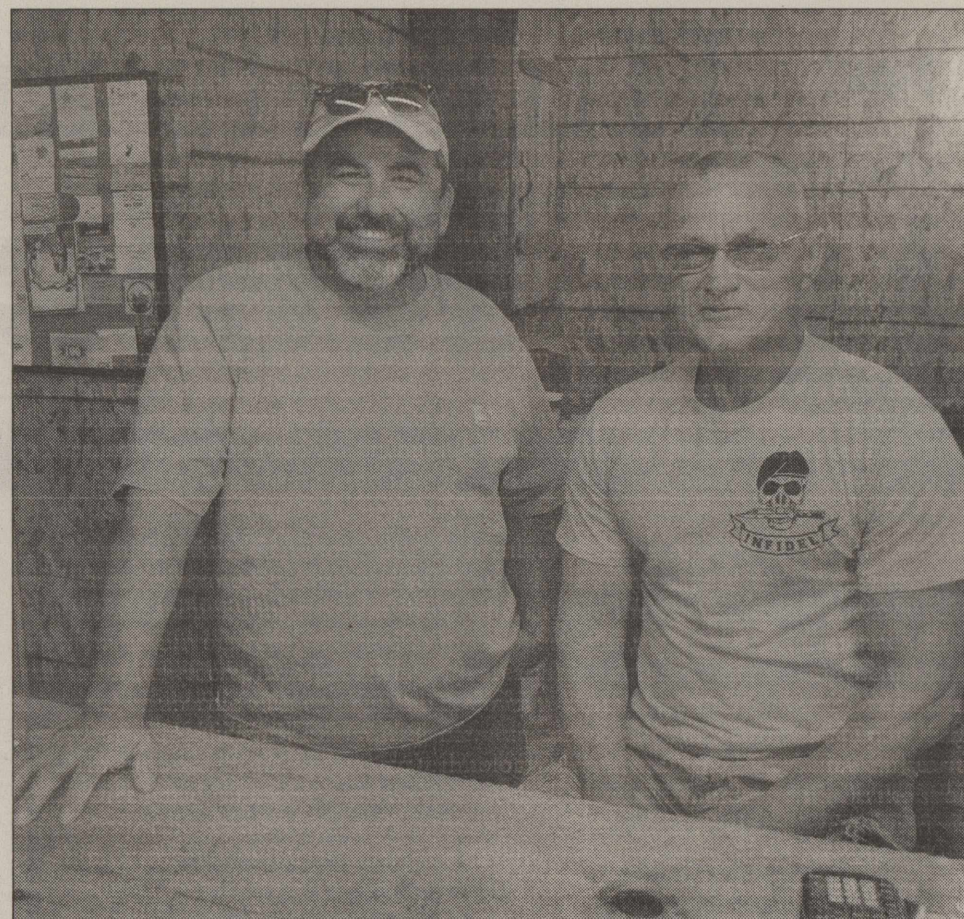
Each one of these bullets is available in a wide variety of calibers ranging from 22 (.224) all the way up to 50 BMG (.500). Bullet weights and other options such as velocity add more variables to the formula.

"We are always willing to help the customers with the kind of ammunition they will be needing," said Byler, "if they are unsure of what kind of bullets they need, they can ask and most gun or outdoor stores have knowledgeable staff who is always willing to help."

The geography of the lease is also important in determining the kind of bullet, says Ben Borrego, an avid bow and rifle hunter.

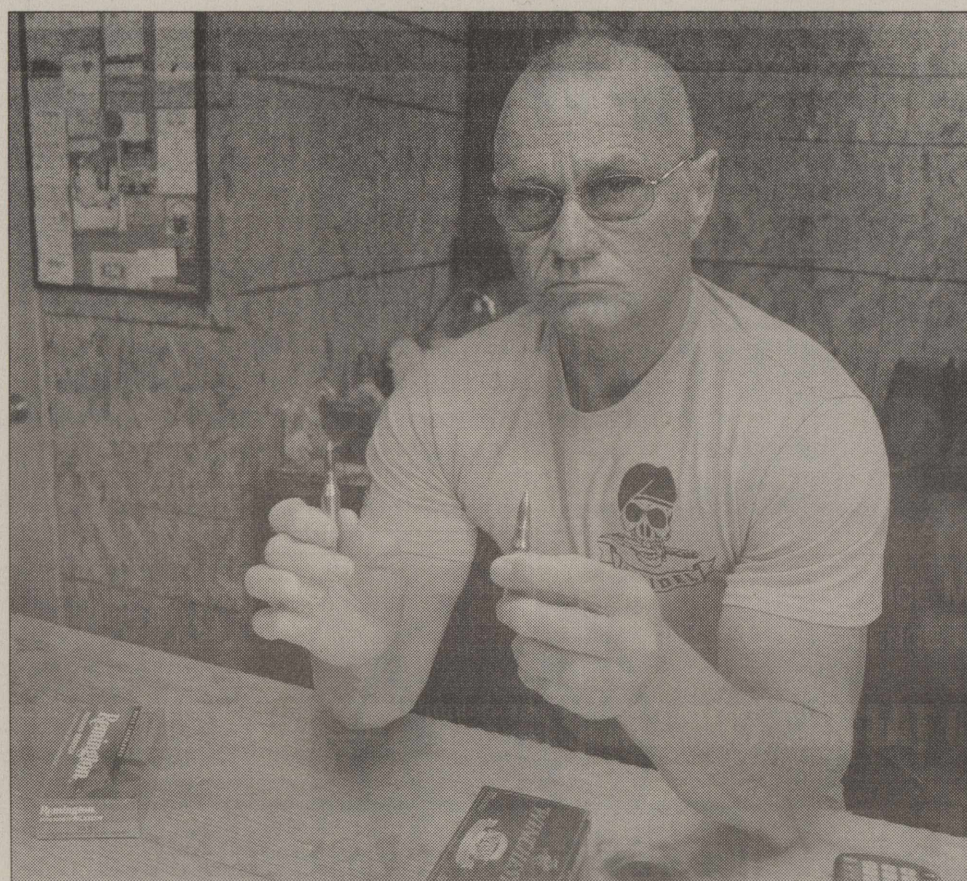
"In this brushy country you hardly ever take a shot over 80 or 100 yards, if you see a deer and the shot is not there it is better not to take the shot, just let it go and later on you can bag that buck you were looking for," Borrego said.

Besides the obvious advantages of a quick and humane kill, such as less suffering of the game and avoiding tracking a wounded animal for a long time, hunters hunting for the meat find that a stress-free rapid kill is also beneficial to meat taste.



BY RUBEN CANTU-RODRIGUEZ

Wagner Byler, owner of Ammo and Camo and deer hunting enthusiast Ben Borrego.



BY RUBEN CANTU-RODRIGUEZ

Wagner Byler explains the difference between a ballistic silver tip round, which is better suited for long distance shots, and a ballistic tip hollow point, made for penetration and rapid expansion in thin-skinned game.

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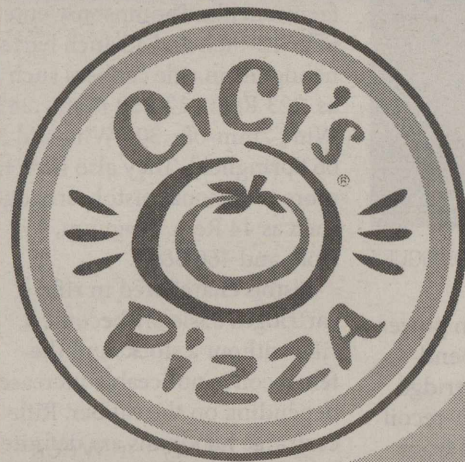
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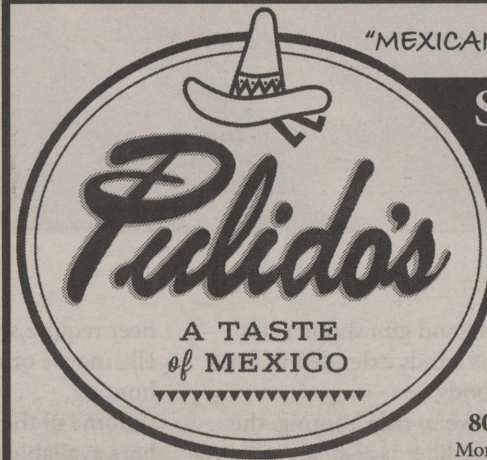
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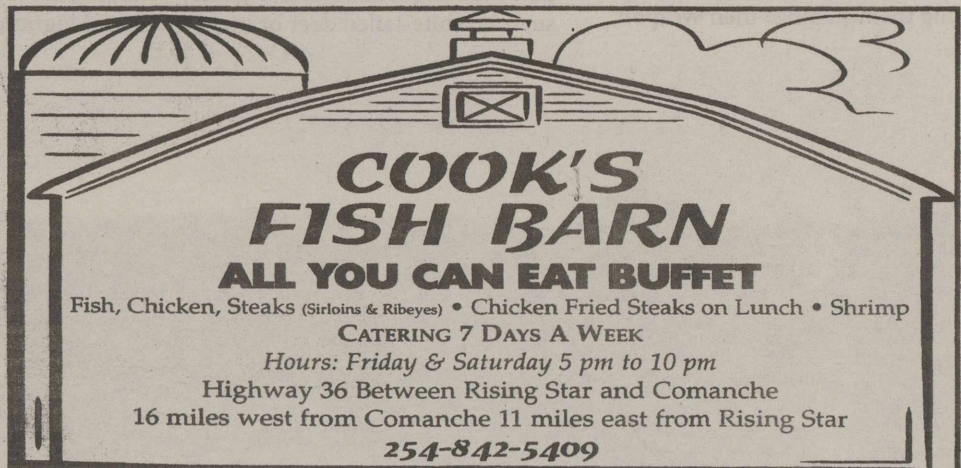
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Handgun hunting

Do you have what it takes?

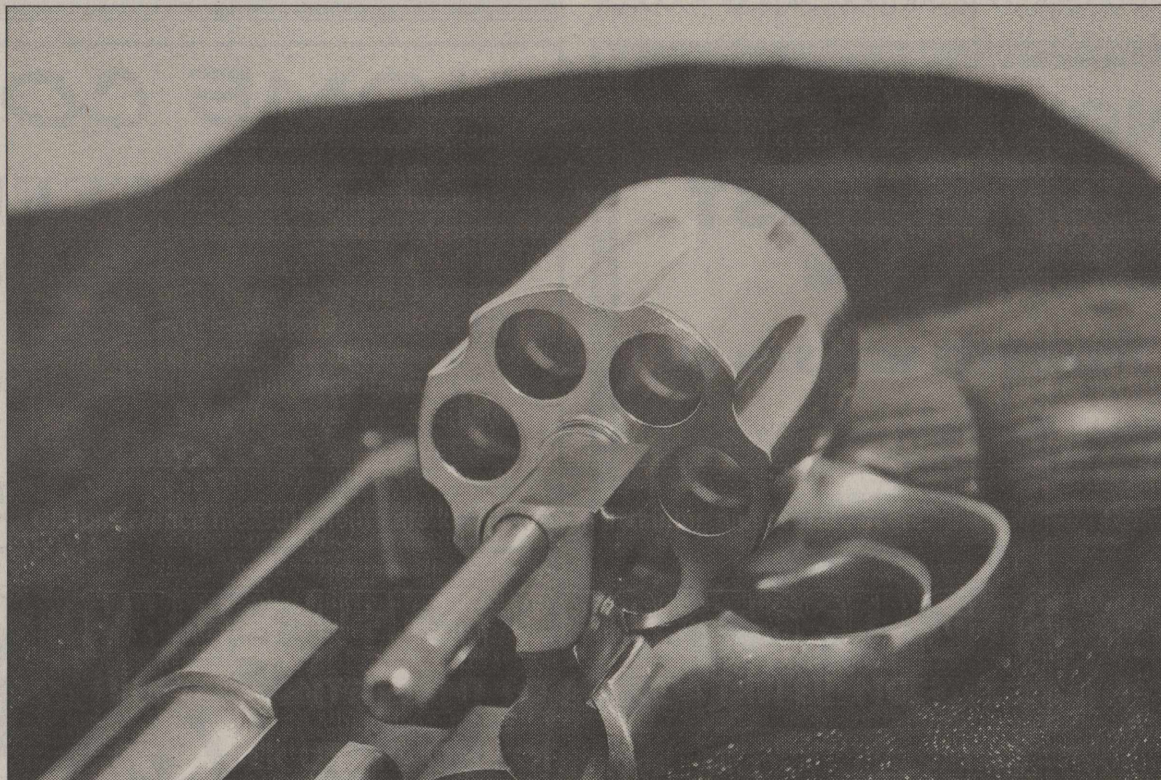
BY RUBEN CANTU-RODRIGUEZ
CENTRAL TEXAS OUTDOORS

Handgun hunting has evolved over the years into a challenging sport, where a — generally speaking — less accurate lighter gun is used to take down game at shorter distances. As a general rule this form of hunting is closer to bow-hunting, where hunters have to get closer to their trophy to get an accurate and deadly shot.

This type of hunting often requires a skilled shooter and stalking technique, and very rarely is done with game over 100 yards. Most of the time it is done at 50 yards or less.

Advantages of handgun hunting include the obvious smaller size and reduced weight, which are highly valuable if you are taking a long walk in the brush or up in the mountains. Even the bulkier large caliber handguns — with some exceptions being ultra-light rifles — are lighter and easier to carry than a long gun.

With handgun shooting the use of a tree branch, stand or gun rest has an increasingly vital role. Long gun shooters have two hands, shoulder and cheek helping them stabilize their weapon,



BY RUBEN CANTU-RODRIGUEZ

while a hand gun shooter has only his hands extended in front of his body.

Just like in rifle hunting, the proper caliber is also key in handgun shooting. Thin-skinned game such as white-tailed deer or mule

deer require smaller caliber than elk, moose or dangerous game hunting.

Some of the options and calibers available in pistol cartridge hunting are .357 Magnum, .44 Rem. Magnum, 50 AE and oth-

ers. Energy and takedown power in these calibers vary depending on the load of the cartridge and bullet weight. The felt-recoil in these handguns ranges from tolerable to mild and could be a deterrent for some shooters in

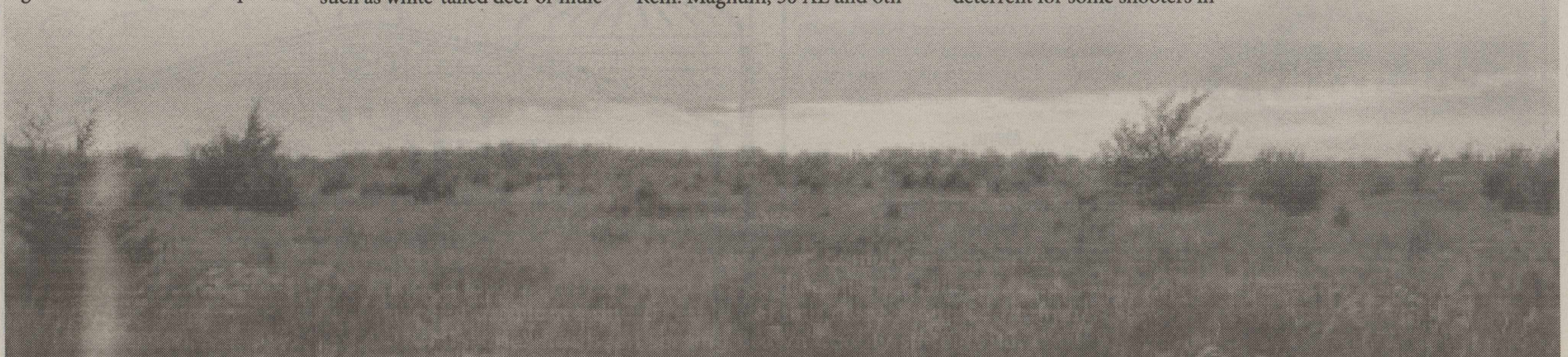
heavier calibers.

These handguns can be found, depending on the cartridge, in revolvers, single-shot guns, or even semiautomatic guns. Most modern pistols have the option to mount a scope with minimum to no modifications to the gun.

Something to consider when mounting a scope on a handgun is to have a proper caliber, recoil resistant scope. The increased felt-recoil in a small gun can destroy the optics and internals of some scopes.

Some gun manufacturers and custom shops also offer rifle-cartridge handguns. Gun manufacturers like Thompson/Center offer 12-inch and 15-inch barrel handguns in rifle calibers such as .223 Rem., 22-250 Rem., .243 Win., 7mm-08, .308 Win, and 30-06 Springfield. They also have the more traditional pistol cartridges such as 44 Rem. Magnum, 45 Colt, and 460 S&W.

Pistols chambered in rifle cartridges basically become a rifle without a stock, and the felt-recoil is noticeably increased, depending on the caliber. Rifle cartridge handguns are definitely not recommended for the unseasoned shooter.



Don't leave home without ...

Top 10 necessities for an out-of-state hunt

BY TONY SMOTHERMAN
CENTRAL TEXAS OUTDOORS

Preparation is everything. Soon I will be hitting the road to begin filming the second season of "Travelin' Hunter," airing at 9:30 p.m. EDT Sundays on the Sportsman Channel. I plan all summer long for the kickoff of the fall hunting season, and even with months of preparation, I sometimes hit bumps in the road that throw me for a loop. But instead of walking around slinging things, I do my best to stay calm, and move on without letting it ruin my hunt of a lifetime.

For example, last summer I headed to California to hunt wild hogs with my CVA muzzleloader.

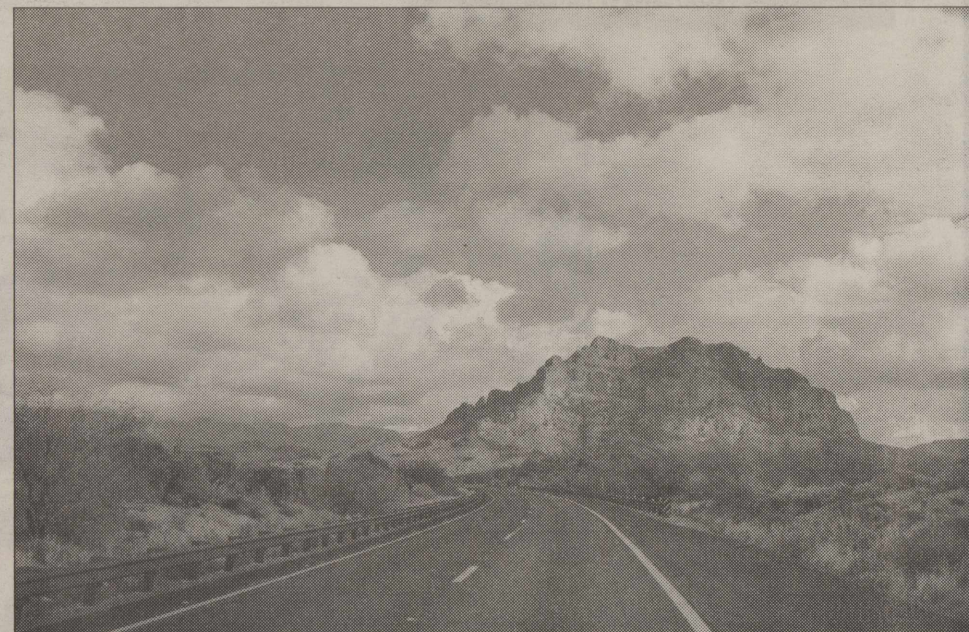
I shot it all summer long with a certain type of powder that this gun really loved and, thinking that since I was going to be in the good old US of A and that I could

get that particular powder at any good hunting store, I did not worry about getting it ordered in ahead of time.

I'm sure you already know where I'm going with this. Yep, there was none of this particular powder to be found anywhere. Plan B came into full effect, and I ended up having to purchase a powder that my gun did not like quite so much and make it work.

To help you fight the gremlins this fall, I have prepared a list of the top 10 things I never leave home without.

1) The first thing that you should pack in your travel bag before doing anything is your hunting license. You can forget or lose about anything while on the road and be able to purchase it somewhere along the way, but not your hunting license. Some states do, however, allow you to get a duplicate license online for a nominal fee ... if you have an Internet connection, a computer and a printer.



Picket Post Mountain, Superior, Ariz.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

2) A sharp skinning knife is high on the priority list for the sheer fact that

once you get the game on the ground, you have a way to get it in the cooler for the trip back to your freezer.

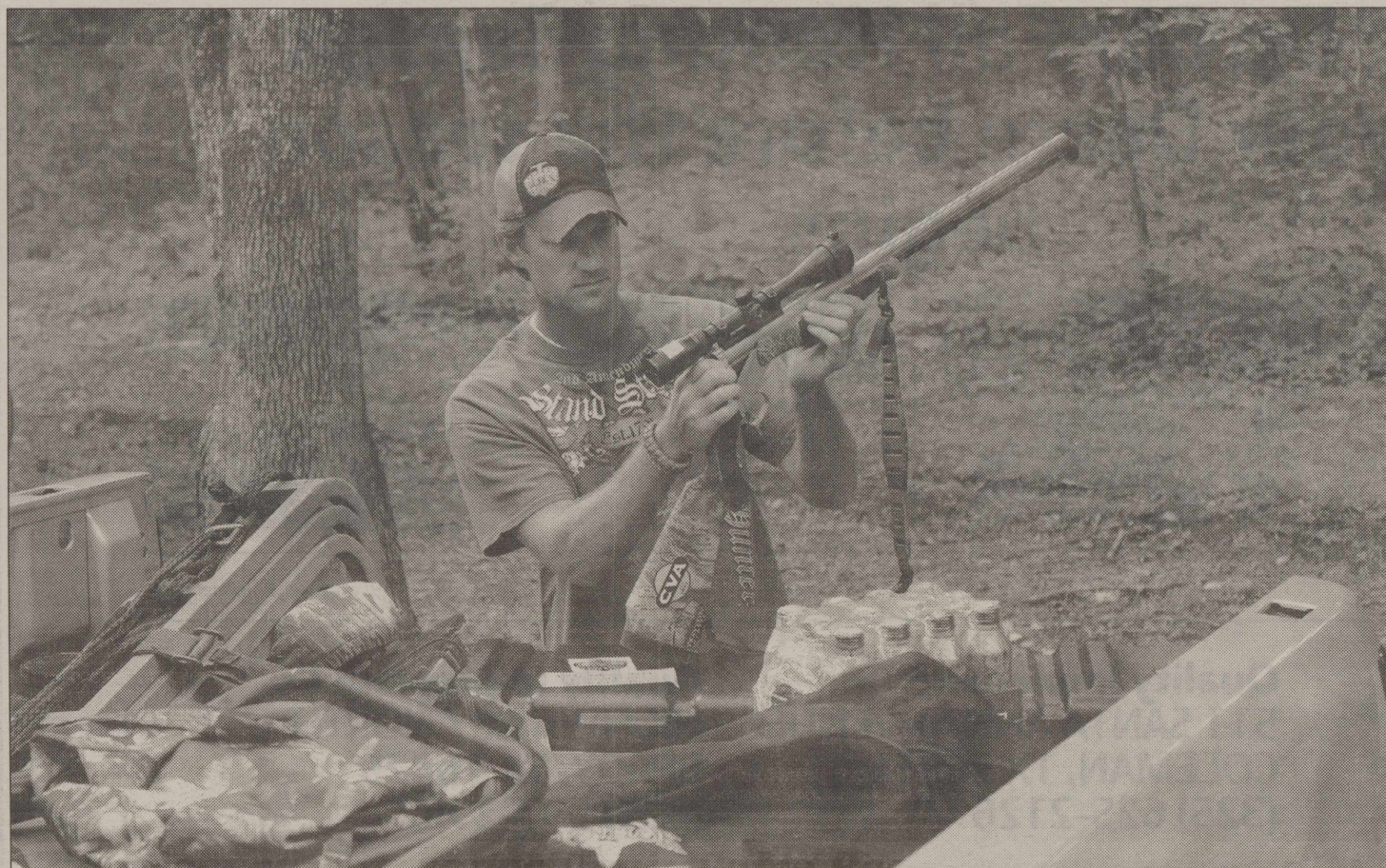
3) If you are limited on space, in the case of a pack-in-horseback-type of trip, always carry two scopes that will fit your gun with quick detach rings. This comes in handy if you take a fall and bang up your scope. Yes, this will knock some fun and time off the trip, but if you have an extra scope handy you will lose a few hours to resight but not be sidelined the entire hunt.

4) If room is not a problem, such as the case for a whitetail lodge-type hunt, always carry two guns that have the same fit and feel to them. If one fails, you will be able to step right into another one and not miss a beat.

5) A top-end cooler will be in high demand if and when you are able to punch your tag.

6) Now this one might just be for me, but I always pack an extra set of hunting boots. There have been so many times that I try to cross a creek and seem to find the only deep spot in it and come back to camp with wet toes. There is nothing worse than being on a spot-and-stalk hunt while hearing my boots make a squishing sound every step.

7) This little tool is a must whether you are up in the high country or on a



BY TONY SMOTHERMAN

Tony Smotherman checks his firearm one last time before loading it in the truck and hitting the road. Having at least a mental checklist will prevent you from leaving something at home.

SEE HOME, 23

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DIGITAL DRAWING:

Public hunt drawing system goes paperless

BY STEVE LIGHTFOOT
FOR CENTRAL TEXAS OUTDOORS

Effective with this summer's applications, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's popular public hunt drawings will be online only.

The Public Hunt Drawing System offers affordable hunting experiences in more than two dozen different hunt categories,

including eight specifically for youth. Hunts are offered on TPWD-managed lands as well as specially leased private properties.

The old process involved mailing an application booklet to hunters, who would thumb through the catalog and select which hunts to apply for and then clip out a paper application form, fill it out and mail it

back with the application fees to TPWD. Department staff would have to sort through the application forms, enter the information manually into a computer database and account for the funds, and, once the drawings took place, mail out a notification letter to selected hunters, who would then have to mail back the permit fee for the drawn hunt and wait for TPWD

to process it and mail back the permit.

"It was like we were conducting business with a rotary phone and a manual typewriter — not very efficient or cost-effective," says Linda Campbell, TPWD public hunting program director.

Beginning this summer, applications will be accepted online only; no "Applications for Draw-

ings on Public Hunting Lands" booklets or application forms were printed and mailed out.

With the new paperless system, hunters can browse the drawn hunt catalog by category and location using interactive maps, then complete the application and pay online. Selected applicants will be notified by email and can accept permits and pay any fees online.

HOME

Continued from 21

whitetail stand: a hands-free head lamp. A lot of the mechanical things that we do on a hunt will be in the dark, such as getting ready at the truck in the mornings, walking out with a handful of gear in the evenings, or field dressing your animal. A hands-free light is crucial to not losing a finger. And don't forget extra batteries!

8) This little goody is one that some not-so-technical hunters like myself

might not feel the need to keep in their pack, but companies like Bushnell have built some that even my dad can operate with ease. I'm referring to a GPS unit. These little tools are priceless in the right situation and are well worth the time it takes to get comfortable using them.

9) As aging humans, what is the first thing to start going bad on our body? Our eyesight. And if you cannot see the critters you are going after, you are not going to be able to knock 'em down with that trusty rifle of yours. So, a pair of binoculars should never leave your pack.

I like to keep two pairs at my Base Camp, one pair of 8x's for hunting the thicker areas of the country and 1 pair of 10x's for the more open areas.

10) Lastly, you might have to think on this for a moment, as it does not pertain

to the actual hunt but is a key piece of the puzzle in terms of getting you to and from your hunting spot: a spare tire and four-way lug wrench. Nothing worse than being stranded on the side of the road with a flat.



BY TONY SMOTHERMAN

Loading your truck with just the essentials can sometimes mean having a lot more gear than you thought.

401 West Commerce • Brownwood • 643-9727



TRANS TEXAS TIRE

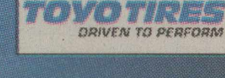
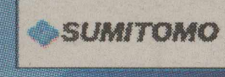
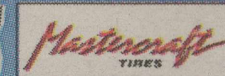
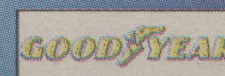
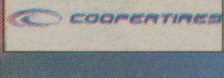
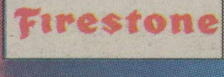
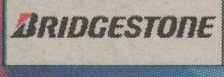
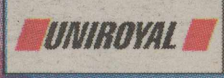
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