



WINTERS BEATEN BY CROSS PLAINS

SEE PAGE 8

75¢



Volume 26, Issue 49

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The Winters ENTERPRISE

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Thursday, November 3, 2016

Briefly
Friday Night Lights

The Winters Blizzards will take on the Baird Bears in Baird at 7:30 p.m. Friday. The Blizzards are looking to improve their rankings following the 28-7 loss to Cross Plains on Friday, Oct. 27.

Pasture deadlines are here

Producers who have native and improved grasses have only a few days left to report 2017 acreages before the Tuesday, November 15, 2016, deadline. Some producers who reported in past years have not yet filed a report for 2017. Filing this report is a requirement to qualify for programs such as the Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP), ARC/PLC annual farm program and NAP. Reports filed after the deadline will require late file fees.

The final day to purchase coverage for improved and native grasses through the 2017 Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) is Dec. 1, improved and native grasses. There are still quite a few producers who have not purchased coverage. NAP Coverage cannot be obtained after the deadline.

Call the Runnels County Farm Service Agency at 325-365-5757 for appointment so we can prepare files for your visit.

Veterans Day Ceremony Nov. 11

The 6th Annual Veterans Day Ceremony and Parade sponsored by VFW Post 9196 and the American Legion Post 8 will be Friday, November 11 on the Runnels County Courthouse Square at the memorial at 10 a.m. The parade gets underway at 11 a.m. Call the Runnels County Veteran's Service Office at 325-365-3612 to sign up for the parade. Each entry in the parade will be announced as they pass the memorial. Citizens and supporters are encouraged to line Hutchings Avenue to show their respect for the veterans and the sacrifices they have made for freedom. Lunch will be served at St. Mary's Star of the Sea Catholic Church following the parade. The lunch is open to veterans from all over Runnels County at no cost.

The last drop

Fall weather will return to Runnels County this week in the form of cooler weather and precipitation according to the National Weather Service in San Angelo.

There is a 60 percent chance of rain today, reducing to a 20 percent chance tonight. A 20 percent chance of rain continues Friday, with rain in the forecast all weekend.

Cooler temperatures are in the forecast by game time Friday with a high that day of only 73 and a low around 55. Cooler weather will prevail over the weekend with highs in the low 70s and lows in the mid 50s.

There was no rainfall recorded in Runnels County last week.

So far this year, Ballinger has received 23.93 inches of rainfall, with 29.31 inches reported in Wingate and 29.39 inches received in San Angelo.

Rowena man dies from gunshot wound

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

ROWENA - A Rowena man died early Wednesday, Oct. 26 following shooting that occurred at his home some time after midnight, Sheriff Bill Baird of the Runnels County

Sheriff's Office reported.

David Fuentes, 26, died of an apparent gunshot wound to the abdomen, Baird reported.

The incident was reported by Ballinger Memorial Hospital where Fuentes was taken by private vehicle sometime after midnight, reports indicate.

He was transported via air ambulance to Shannon Medical

Center where he died after 1 a.m. Baird said.

An autopsy was ordered by a justice of the peace in Tom Green County. The results of the autopsy were not available at press time.

Baird said Fuentes was reportedly at home with his girlfriend "cleaning his gun when he somehow shot himself."

"This case remains under investigation at this time and we cannot speculate as to what happened here," Baird said.

The gun has been sent to the Department of Public Safety Crime Lab. Baird said results from the autopsy and the DPS reports "may take weeks."

FUENTES, 2



David Fuentes

MARCHING ONWARD



The Pride of West Texas Winters High School Band earned Division 1 ratings at the Region 6 UIL Marching Band Contest held Oct. 22 in San Angelo.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Blizzard Marching Band takes superior rating at UIL

SPECIAL TO THE
WINTERS ENTERPRISE

SAN ANGELO - The Pride of West Texas Winters High School Band earned a superior rating in the Region 6 UIL Marching Band Contest held October 22 at San Angelo Stadium.

The band began working on their marching show entitled "The 80's Rock" on August 1. The show is an original work by Luke McMillan writ-

ten in the style of popular music from the 1980's.

After giving what band directors Phil and Karen Mooney called "their absolute best performance of the year," the 90 member band received a Division 1, superior rating, the highest rating possible.

"The three judges were very complementary to the band," said Assistant Band Director Karen Mooney. Some comments from their criti-

cism sheets included "Very pretty tone quality leading to a nice band sound," "Good trombone solo," "Very good marching fundamentals shown today," and "A well-executed show."

Another judge commented, "Good job today, a very musical presentation," and another said "Great Color Guard."

"This band has worked very hard

BAND, 8

Winters Council considering Senior Center policies

Usage guidelines to be determined

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

A sub-committee was appointed Monday night during the Winters City Council meeting which will work with members of a senior citizens committee to determine usage guidelines for the Winters Senior Activity Center.



Lisa Yates

Winters Mayor Lisa Yates and Councilman Rene Wolfenden were appointed to a committee to look at policies and procedures for the center located on Wood Street. Yates said that they were looking at the guidelines used at the Rose Park Senior Citizen Center in Abilene.

"We will take input from anyone and will then make a recommendation to council and go forward with usage guidelines," Yates said.

The building, which has been used for the Senior Meals Program for years, was temporarily closed when seniors who had been holding activities there, turned in their keys to the building. The Senior Meal Program ended Oct. 1 after county commissioners voted to end funding for the program.

During Monday's meeting, Mayor Lisa Yates explained that the locks had to be changed for liability reasons.

"The locks were changed to secure the building and the contents," Yates said following the meeting.

During the meeting, Yates said that the city will pay the utilities including water, gas, electric, sewer and trash and that a \$2,000 donation from Runnels County for utility costs had been accepted.

John Long, chairman of the Friends of Seniors of Winters, spoke during the meeting and stressed how important the building is to the senior citizens of Winters.

"A senior center is a type of community center where older adults can congregate

COUNCIL, 6

Pastor Al Brakke installed as new pastor at St. John's

SPECIAL TO THE
WINTERS ENTERPRISE

The new pastor of St. John's Lutheran Church in Winters was officially installed on Sunday, Oct. 23 prior to the Octoberfest celebration.

The installation of Pastor Allen L. Brakke was held during the regular Sunday service. Pastor Brakke had been called by the congregational vote on June 26, 2016, to serve as their spiritual leader of St. John's. Pastor Brakke and his wife Jo, arrived

later that week and began serving the spiritual needs of the congregation and community. Pastor Bryce Formwalt, director of Mission Growth for the LCMC Texas District preached and presided over the installation.

Since Pastor Brakke's arrival, he has become active in serving not only the spiritual needs of St. John's but has also become active in the Winters Ministerial Alliance, spearheaded the continuation of the Meals-on-Wheels Program, joined

PASTOR, 2



JOE GERHART | CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Pastor Al Brakke, left, was officially installed as the spiritual leader of St. John's Lutheran Church of Winters by Pastor Bryce Formwalt, director of Mission Growth for the LCMC Texas District.

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FUNERALS AND OBITUARIES

David Joe Fuentes Jr.

David Joe Fuentes Jr., 26, of Rowena passed away Wednesday, October 26, 2016 at Shannon Medical Center in San Angelo. He was born October 19, 1990 to David and Maria (Medina) Fuentes, Sr. in San Angelo, Texas.

Rosary and visitation was held on Saturday, October 29 at Lange Funeral Home in Ballinger. Services were held on Sunday, October 30 at the First Baptist Church in Ballinger. Burial followed at the Latin American Cemetery. Arrangements are with Lange Funeral Home in Ballinger. Guests may register online at ballingerfuneralhome.com.

Winters Enterprise, November 3, 2016

Coleman teen killed in crash

BY CELINDA HAWKINS
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A 15-year-old teen from Coleman was killed Wednesday Oct. 26 in a crash that occurred on U.S. Highway 67 in Valera, the Department of Public Safety reported.

Devon Aaron Jeter, 15, of Coleman was riding a 2004 Yamaha motorcycle when he was struck by a 2015 Toyota Tundra driven by Don Orel Seals, 43 of San Angelo.

According to the DPS, Seals was traveling west on U.S. 67, when Jeter, who was traveling south on 1st Street in Valera, attempted to cross the intersection.

The DPS reported that Jeter failed to yield the right of way and was struck by the truck. The accident occurred at 5:34 p.m.

Seals and his passenger John Phillip Henry, 54, of San Angelo, were treated and released at the scene. Both were wearing seat belts.

The accident remains under investigation

The Market Perspective
A confluence of cycles

Believers in fundamentals dislike the notion of cycles disrupting the normal course of events. But cycles are a normal event, and we may well be on the cusp of several cycle tops at the same time.

Sixty years ago, the stock market topped on August 2, 1956. The markets have made a similar top some sixty years later on August 15.

This market is probably the second strongest bull since the 1929 bull market. And it is about eight years old going back to 2007-08. Prior to that we had market tops in 2000 and 1992. Five years prior to that the markets topped and corrected in October, 1987. And October eerily looms as a market known for reversals though time is about up for October this month.

With such a long and strong market the bulls are not giving up easily.

But signs of change abound. Interest rates are moving up. Since July the five-year note has risen from .9 to 1.325%. Other maturities exhibit similar increases. Bank and insurance stocks are rising on the prospects of higher rates.

The Commodity Research Bureau index has jumped
ELAM, 5



Dennis Elam

ASU-SBDC to host training event

SAN ANGELO-The Angelo State University Small Business Development Center will host the training event Human Resources (HR) Update, at 6 p.m. Tuesday November 8 at the center. The title of the event is "State of the Law: Trends, Observations and Cases" and the cost is \$20 per person. John Mark Hogg, partner at Jackson Walker L.L.P., will cover a brief review of laws that apply to the small business owners. Please register in advance for this event so that there will be adequate seating and handouts for everyone. To find out more about this program or to register, please call the ASU-SBDC at (325) 942-2098 or register online at www.sbdcenter.org.

Immunization clinics

Texas Department of State Health Services immunization clinic for children with Medicaid, no insurance or underinsured and adults with no insurance will be held in Winters from 10 a.m. to noon and from 1:30 to 3 p.m. today at the Professional Building, 110 South Main, Suite 108. For your convenience, please use the rear entrance (Grant Street). The clinic in Ballinger will be from 10 a.m. to noon and 1:30 to 3 p.m. Tuesday, November 15 at 600 Strong Ave. Please bring the child's immunization records. If the child has Medicaid, please bring the card.

Chicken Spaghetti Luncheon

BALLINGER - A Chicken Spaghetti Luncheon will be held from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 8 at the First Baptist Church Family Life Center in Ballinger. The event is sponsored by the Ballinger Memorial Hospital Auxiliary. Dine in, drive through or delivery is available. Meals are \$8 each. For more information or to purchase a ticket call 325-977-1999 or 325-365-6375.

CASA volunteers wanted

The Children's Advocacy Center of Tom Green County, Inc. CASA (Court

COMMUNITY NEWS

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4	5
6 Daylight Saving Time Ends	7	8 Election Day	9	10	11 Veterans Day Remembrance Day (CA)	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	November Thanksgiving Community Calendar 2016		

Appointed Special Advocates) is seeking volunteers. Currently CASA serves 60 percent of the children in foster care. To sign up, call 325-653-4673 or email mblue@cactomgreen.org. CASA serves Tom Green, Runnels, Concho, Crockett, Coke, Irion, Reagan, Sutton, Sterling and Schleicher counties.

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

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

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

For more information call 903-474-4740.

Runnels County Alzheimer's Support Group
The monthly Runnels County Alzheimer's Support Group will be held at Central Texas Nursing and Rehabilitation Center from 6:30-7:30 p.m. on the second Tuesday of the month from. All concerned citizens are invited to share in discussion and education about the disease process and caregiver perspective.

There is no charge for this public service sponsored by the National Alzheimer's Association.

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

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

Wingate Masonic Lodge meetings
The Wingate Masonic Lodge 1042 A.F. & A.M., meets at 6:30 p.m. on the fourth Monday of the month, at the Wingate Masonic Lodge in Wilmeth. For further information contact Brandon Poehls at 325-786-2125.

TRUNK OR TREAT IN WINTERS



The McCook family attended the Trunk or Treat event in Winters on Sunday, Oct. 30.

LINDA ARISPE | ENTERPRISE PHOTO

FUENTES

CONTINUED FROM 1

"This is requiring further investigation and that is all I can say at this time," Baird said.

Fuentes, the son of David and Maria Fuentes of Rowena, worked in construction after graduating high school. He had three children.

Services were held Sunday, Oct. 30, at Lange Funeral Home in Ballinger.

PASTOR

CONTINUED FROM 1

the local Lion's Club and become involved with the athletic department of Winters High School.

According to Congregational President Allen Andrae, Pastor Brakke's high energy has brought to St. John's a new and exciting time within our congregation.

"We have seen a great increase in worship attendance, inspirational messages, an increase in Sunday school attendance, new exiting Bible Study classes, confirmation and First Communion classes," Andrae said.

Along with his wife Jo's assistance, Pastor Brakke teaches a Wednesday evening class on Luther's Small Catechism along with a Sunday morning adult Bible Study program.

"We have families who are now becoming new members of St. John's and a great increase in our own personal spiritual growth," Andrae said. "His involvement in community needs also shows his dedication in serving the Lord, and concern not just for the congregation but also the serving of needs to members of our community."

Sunday excitement was completed by the congregational annual Oktoberfest meal, and fundraising auction. All proceeds raised from the both the live and silent auction are used for the congregational outreach ministry program.

The **Winters Enterprise**
Since 1886
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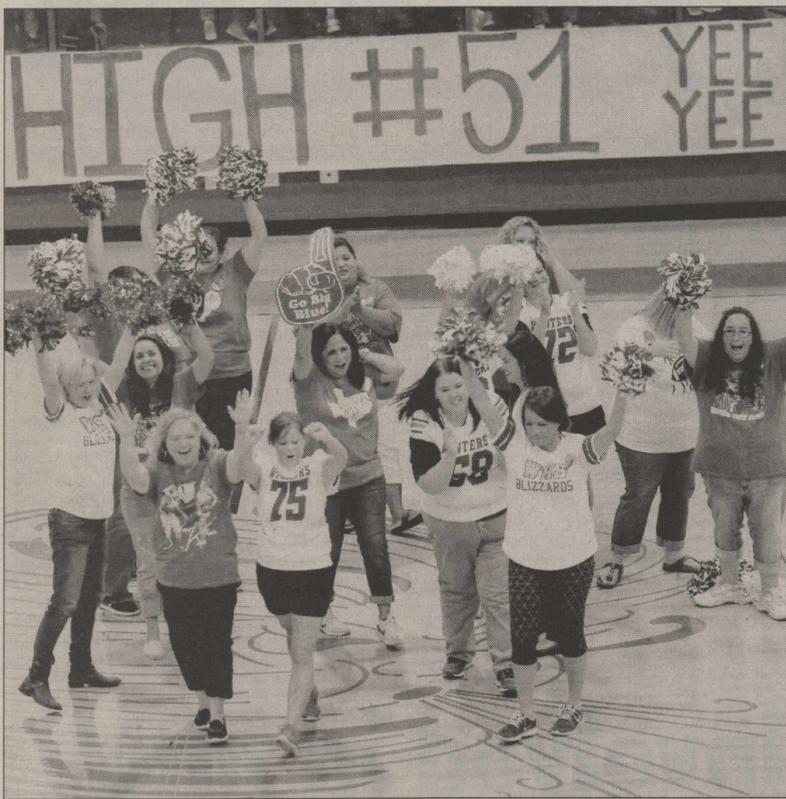
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BLIZZARDS MOMS SHOW SPIRIT AT PEP RALLY



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The mothers of seniors at Winters High School took to the floor during the pep rally Friday, Oct. 28, 2016 to cheer on the Blizzards.

BREAKFAST AND LUNCH MENUS NOV. 4-10

Breakfast

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

Monday
Biscuit & sausage or cereal, pineapple, fruit juice, choice of milk, jelly, gravy.

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

Wednesday
Breakfast pizza or cereal, egg pop, mixed

fruit, choice of milk.

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

Lunch

Friday
Cheeseburger or hot dog, baked chips, lettuce/tomato, carrots, grapes, choice of milk.

Monday
Chef salad or chicken sandwich or mac-n-cheese, black eyed peas, salad, carrot sticks, mandarin oranges, rice krispy, choice of milk.

Tuesday
Chef salad or nachos or quesadilla, rice, zesty cucumbers, lettuce/tomato, peaches, choice of milk.

Wednesday
Chef salad or lasagna or mini corn dogs, Texas toast, Italian green beans, salad, carrot sticks, apples, choice of milk.

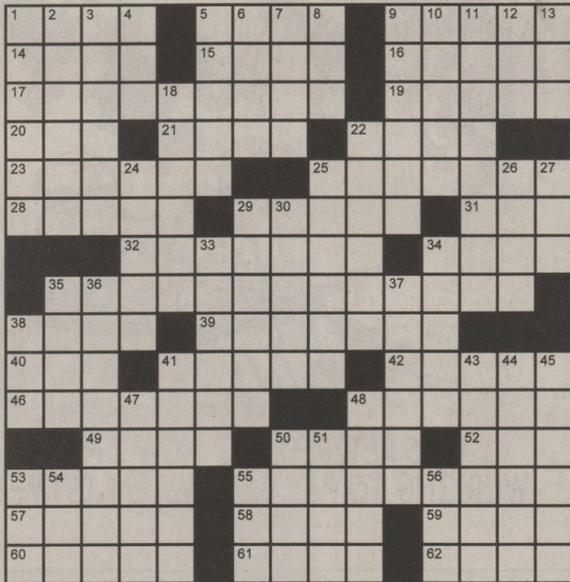
Thursday
Chef salad or Salisbury steak or chicken tenders, mashed potatoes, salad, carrot sticks, sidekick, raisins, dinner roll, choice of milk.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

In November

Across

- 1 Is inquisitive
- 5 Gymnast's feat
- 9 ___ Kea
- 14 Locks in a barn?
- 15 Ms. McEntire
- 16 "Otherwise..."
- 17 Passed, as storm clouds
- 19 Gnatlike insect
- 20 Depressed
- 21 Send forth
- 22 Bring on
- 23 Einstein, e.g.
- 25 Central Swiss city
- 28 Back in
- 29 Monroe's successor
- 31 Bright light
- 32 Antiquated
- 34 Delight
- 35 Statement about truth by Pliny the Elder
- 38 "Garfield" dog
- 39 Convenience
- 40 Vet
- 41 Bat an eye?
- 42 Hot blood
- 46 Melancholy
- 48 Everett of "Citizen Kane"
- 49 Hop, skip or jump
- 50 Rigatoni relative
- 52 Circus lifesaver
- 53 Spooks
- 55 Motel sign
- 57 To be specific
- 58 Kind of column
- 59 Afternoon show
- 60 Coolidge's veep
- 61 Go well together
- 62 Legal heading



Down

- 1 Spy novelist Eric
- 2 Strauss opera
- 3 Be positive
- 4 Use a Singer
- 5 "Ethan ___"
- 6 ___ Strauss jeans
- 7 "Yeah, sure"
- 8 Hole goal
- 9 Makes like
- 10 Burning
- 11 Submarine
- 12 Holiday quaff
- 13 Gulped down
- 18 Orange oil

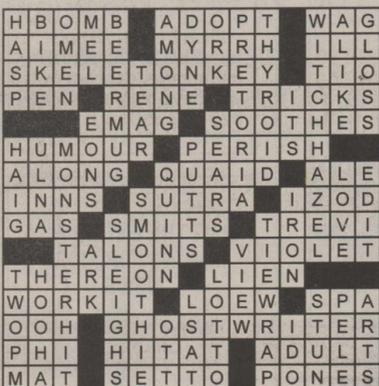
22 Arm bones

- 24 Stand
- 25 Keen
- 26 Convent group
- 27 Pull the plug on
- 29 Minute
- 30 Scuba user
- 33 Forensic facility
- 34 Foam prefix
- 35 Favorite
- 36 Good panorama
- 37 Emphatic, in a way
- 38 "To Spring," e.g.
- 41 Breakthroughs
- 43 Yogurt brand

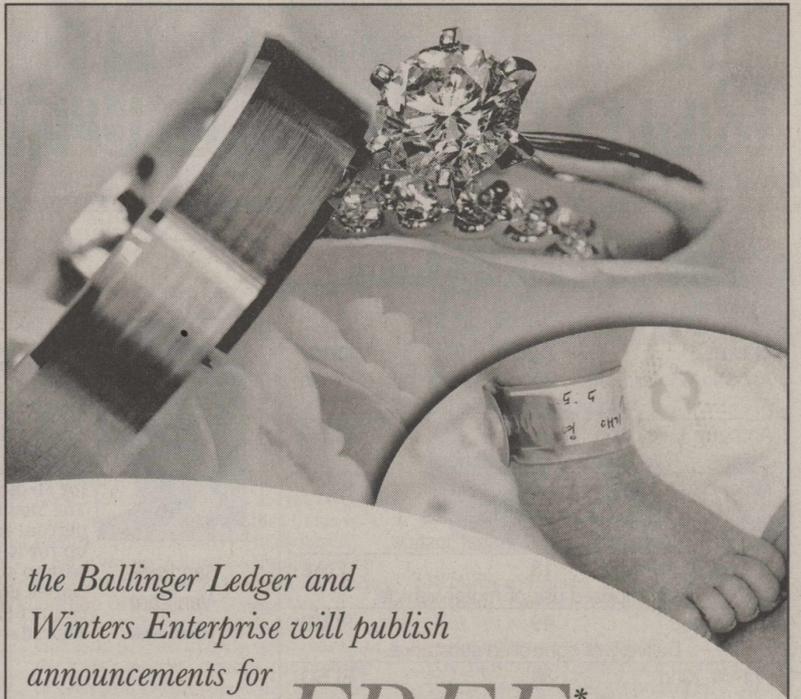
44 Like many garages

- 45 Key in again
- 47 Ninnies
- 48 Hiding place
- 50 Court defense
- 51 Currier's partner
- 53 "Ice Age" sloth
- 54 Handheld
- 55 Nancy, in Nancy
- 56 "Do ___ say"

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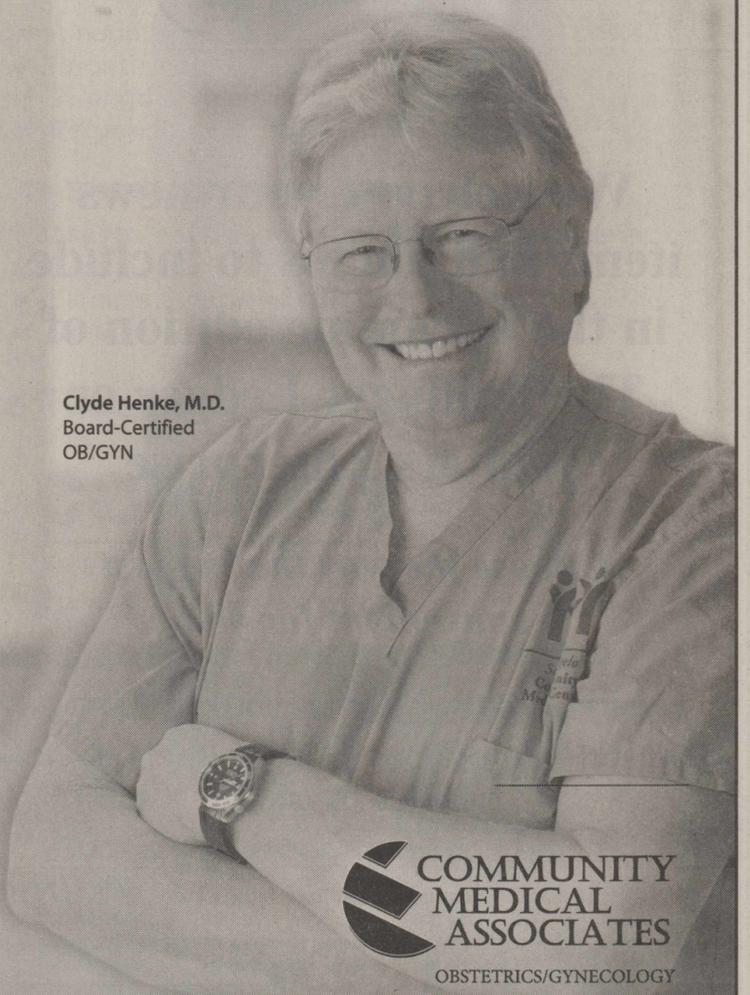
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Runnels County ROLL-UP

4 Winters Enterprise

Thursday, November 3, 2016

Runnels County Jail Record

November 3, 2016

Name	Age	Agency
Antonio Gonzales Jr.	32	Coke
Assault, family violence.		
Anthony J. Pearson	21	RCSO
Burglary of habitation.		
Fedencia Quiroga	49	RCSO
Sent two years to Texas Department of Criminal Justice.		
Gabriel A. Ramirez	18	Coke
Unauthorized use of motor vehicle.		
Joe Lozano	49	RCSO
Delivery of controlled substance.		
April N. King	34	RCSO
Theft of property.		
Tony Rios Jr.	42	Menard
Manufacture and delivery of controlled substance.		
Thaddeus Lenhart	26	Menard
Possession of controlled substance.		
Jason Lee Guthrey	40	Menard
Possession of controlled substance, possession of drug paraphernalia.		
Pete A. Aguirre	37	Coke
DWI, second.		
Elizabeth A. Carrillo	35	BPD
Aggravated assault with deadly weapon.		
Hank Bradshaw	54	WPD
DWI.		
Rosendo Ovalles	59	RCSO
MTR, failure to register.		
Joelda Esquivel	26	WPD
MTR, forgery of financial institute.		
Jared M. Gomez	24	DPS
Assault, bodily injury family member.		
Lorne M. Roach	32	WPD
Theft, criminal mischief.		
Kevin E. Tate	28	Coleman
MTR, possession of controlled substance.		
Anthony C. Torres	33	RCSO
Parole violation.		
Joshua Vidaurri	33	WPD
Public intoxication.		
Jeremy L. Overby	29	Game Warden
Possession of marijuana.		
Lydia A. Cevallos	18	DPS
Warrant, Austin, graffiti.		

VETERANS CORNER



Sandra G. Van Zant

By taking a few simple steps, retirees can make sure they have their TRICARE benefits after they turn 65 years old. Beneficiaries should receive a postcard from the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) four months before their 65th birthday. Beneficiaries have to register in DEERS to get TRICARE coverage after reaching age 65. Beneficiaries must have Medicare Part A and Part B to be eligible for TRICARE for Life (TFL). TFL is Medicare "wrap-around" coverage for TRICARE beneficiaries who are entitled to Medicare Part A and have Medicare Part B. The Medicare initial enrollment period is seven months. If a beneficiary misses their initial enrollment period, their next chance to sign up for Medicare Part B is during the general enrollment period, January 1 through March 31. The Medicare coverage will begin July 1st. The monthly premium for Part B may go up 10 percent for each 12-month period that a beneficiary could have had Part B, but didn't sign up for it. Also, there will be a lapse in your TRICARE coverage until Part B is effective. Be sure to sign up for Part B no later than two months before your 65th birthday. If beneficiaries do not receive a postcard they should call 1-800-538-9552. For more information, contact Sandra Van Zant at the Veterans Service Office at 602 Strong Ave. on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., or call 325-365-3612.

— Sandra G. Van Zant, Veterans County Service Officer

Man involved in fatal crash arrested

Charges unrelated to accident

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

The Winters man who was involved in a fatal crash on U.S. Highway 83 on Friday, Oct. 21, has been arrested on unrelated charges.

Rosendo Ovalles, 60, of Winters, is currently in the Runnels County Jail on a motion to revoke charge for failure to register as a sex offender with bond set at \$40,000 according to jail officials.

Ovalles was northbound on U.S. 83 in a 2011 Chevrolet Malibu when he reportedly struck a Toyota 4-Runner driven by Eddie Clint Johnson, Jr. 25, of



Rosendo Ovalles

Ballinger. Summer Deserea Newton, 23, a passenger in Johnson's vehicle, was pronounced dead at the scene of the accident that occurred six miles north of Ballinger at 8:06 p.m.

Johnson was transported to Shannon Medical Center in San Angelo with serious incapacitating injuries according to the



Texas Department of Public Safety

report.

The report did not indicate if Ovalles was injured in the crash. However, troopers are investigating whether alcohol was involved in the crash.

Johnson's vehicle was sent into the southbound lane where it was struck by a 2011 Chevrolet Traverse driven by Kristen Marie Dennis, 28, of Mertzon. Dennis and passenger Tyson Dennis, 3, also of Mertzon, were treated and released from

Shannon Medical Center in San Angelo.

Sgt. Frederick Biddle, spokesman for the DPS, said that in a fatal crash, blood is taken from all drivers involved. So far, no results have been released.

Further charges are pending results of the blood work, Biddle said. All of the persons involved in the accident were wearing seatbelts. The accident remains under investigation.

GOT NEWS

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

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By Ace Reid



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Winters Enterprise

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

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

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

VISIT THE ENTERPRISE ONLINE FOR MORE NEWS

www.wintersenterprise.com

Deer hunting season opens Saturday

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE

AUSTIN - Texas deer opens statewide Saturday and all indicators point to excellent prospects, according to wildlife biologists with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD).

The Texas deer hunting season started Saturday, Oct. 1, for bowhunting and Saturday Nov. 5 for the general gun season. The general season runs through Jan. 1, 2017 in North Texas and Jan. 15, 2017 in South Texas. A late youth-only season is also slated for Jan. 2-15, 2017. For additional late season deer hunting opportunities and county specific regulations, consult the 2016-17 Outdoor Annual of hunting and fishing regulations.

"It's been quite a while since I remember a time when we've experienced great back-to-back years of good rains across most if not all of the state," offered Alan Cain, TPWD whitetail deer program leader. "Because Texas is such a large state we don't always see good habitat conditions that stretch from Amarillo to Brownsville or El Paso to Houston, but 2016 has been an unusual year in that the vast majority of the state has received good rains and surprisingly, temperatures have remained relatively mild."

Ideal weather conditions this year have helped produce a smorgasbord of lush green forbs and woody browse plants which comprise the majority of a deer's diet, Cain went on to add. "These favorable range conditions will put deer in top body condition this year and antler quality should be above average."

Although good for the deer, ideal habitat conditions could make hunting tough at



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED | SLOW COACH RANCH

the onset of the archery season. Cain said most deer are still in a summer pattern, which means minimal movement, especially in South Texas where the rut is still a couple of months away. Bowhunters might consider focusing their efforts along heavily traveled game trails or near acorn producing trees.

Unfortunately, in some parts of East Texas, too much rain this year may wash out much of the early archery season as traditional prime river bottom hotspots may be tough to access. Those bottom-land hardwood habitats along portions of major river drainages (Brazos, Trinity, Sabine, Colorado and Neches) that are still recovering from floodwaters will likely lack

DEER, 6

Early voting sets records in county, state and nation

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

Early voters have gone to the polls en masse across the country for 2016 election and Texas is leading the nation in a substantial increase in early voting compared to the last presidential election in 2012.

As of Tuesday, 1,181 voters had cast ballots in Runnels County, which is a just under 18 percent of the 6,681 registered voters in the county.

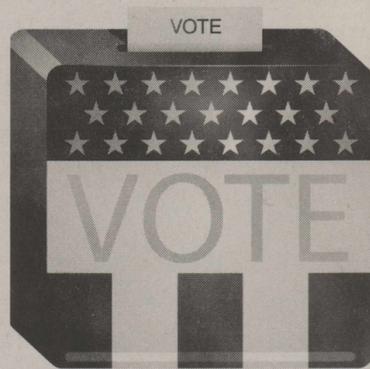
"Usually during early voting, we get between 100 and 150 votes the first week," said County Clerk Julia Miller. "This is record turn out since I've been here."

Early voting in Runnels County continues through Friday at the Runnels County Election Office at 600 Strong Ave.

Early voting Texas stands out for a changing pattern in early voting: In 15 of the state's largest counties, the number of early voters this year is 42.6 percent higher than at the same point in the 2012 election.

The numbers from 2012 election in Runnels County were not available at press time.

Early voting ends Friday in Texas and election day is expected to be historic in terms of the number of voters who will be going to the polls to determine whether



Republican Donald Trump or Democrat Hillary Clinton will become the next president.

The polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. in Runnels County and there will be voting locales for all 10 precincts.

"If you wait until election day, you may plan on waiting in line a while at the polls," Miller said.

Several races are on the ballot in Ballinger for seats on the Ballinger City Commission, the Board of Trustees for the Ballinger Independent School District and the Ballinger Memorial Hospital District. There are not races in Winters.

VOTING LOCATIONS

Precinct 1 Ballinger Courthouse Annex 600 Strong Avenue Ballinger	Precinct 4 Winters Tax Office 143 West Dale St. Winters	300 Crosson Ave. Ballinger
Precinct 2 Elm Creek Grain, LLC 302 Hutchings Avenue Ballinger	Precinct 5 Winters Tax Office 143 West Dale St. Winters	Precinct 8 Ballinger City Hall 700 Railroad Ave, Ballinger
Precinct 3 Winters Housing Authority 300 North Grant St. Winters	Precinct 6 Winters Tax Office 143 West Dale St. Winters	Precinct 9 Miles City Hall 110 Robinson St. Miles
	Precinct 7 Ballinger Community Center	Precinct 10 Rowena Fire Dept. 504 Mary St. Rowena

ELAM

CONTINUED FROM 2

from 155 to 190 since February. Crude oil has doubled from the mid 20s to a triple top at 50. Yes it is pulling back a bit but that is all I expect here. Gold has pulled back to its 200 day moving average at 1269. And it has been one of the best performers of the year. In similar fashion, silver is down from \$21 to its 200 day MA now trading at 17.64.

After a big move from \$2.00 to \$3.40, natural gas has corrected back to near \$2.60.

So we have rising interest rates and rising commodity prices. It then follows that stocks peaked on August 15 and have slowly pulled back. So far the Dow Industrials have refused to break 18,000 but the market is incredibly quiet in a narrow trading range, as we go into the election.

Energy stock prices for both Permian Basin and Eagle Ford Producers have risen in strong fashion.

This is another confirming puzzle piece that commodity prices have seen their lows.

Now here is something most investors have probably not noticed.

Exxon-Mobil is not producing more cash than it is spending. One can examine the cash flow statement to see the evidence of this. For the quarter ended June 30, 2016, XOM did produce \$4.5 B from operations. But XOM spent \$3.1 B on investments and another \$1.775 B on financing. The current quarterly dividend requires cash of some \$3,176,000,000. I wrote out the entire number for emphasis. And for the last three quarters XOM has had to borrow heavily to help make that dividend payment. XOM has borrowed about \$10 B over the last three quarters to help make the dividend payments of about that same number.

Something has to give here. Yes, Exxon Mobil is one of the largest companies in the world with huge mineral reserves. But eventually cash from operations has to catch up with cash

required for investing and financing.

Our bottom line is that we are very cautious on the stock market here. Tech and banking are holding it up while broader measures of stocks in bullish mode have fallen hard since the August highs. Rising rates are rarely good for stocks, coupled with rising commodity prices a shift appears on the horizon. Finally Real estate investment trusts and Utilities are also down which is a further signal of higher rates ahead.

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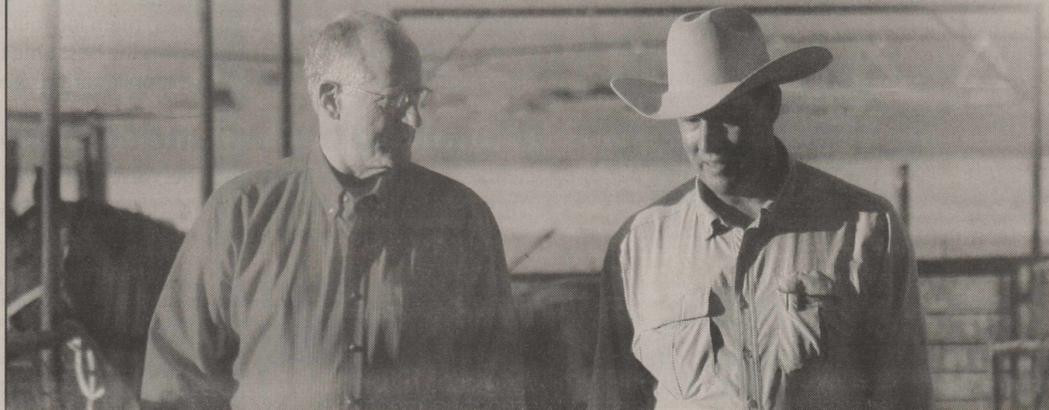
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FILE PHOTO

St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Rowena will host the 94th Annual Fall Festival titled "A Harvest of Blessings" with activities scheduled throughout the day including the mid-day meal from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. which includes traditional German sausage, turkey and dressing and all the trimmings.

'A Harvest of Blessings' at 94th Annual Fall Festival

STAFF REPORT

ROWENA - Parishioners of St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Rowena, will be celebrating "A Harvest of Blessings" as they host their 94th Annual Fall Festival on Sunday, November 13.

The event began in 1922 as a celebration of Armistice Day and a fund raiser to build a new, larger church (built in 1924) to accommodate the growing parish.

To keep a portion of the original patriotic theme, a flag raising ceremony led by Rowena VFW Post #2126 beginning at 10:30 a.m. will signal the beginning of the day's activities followed by a balloon release to honor all veterans, POW-MIA's, and those in the armed forces deployed throughout the world.

A mid-day meal is scheduled to be held from 11 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. It will feature turkey, dressing, Rowena style German sausage and all the trimmings. Parishioners will be preparing four and a half tons of sausage to be served and also sold uncooked at \$5 per pound while the supply lasts! Adult plates and plates-to-go will be \$10; children's (10 years and under) \$5. Plates-to-go can be obtained

at either a drive through or walk up window.

Games for all ages will be held from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. A live auction of items donated by merchants, parishioners and friends will begin at 1 p.m. with a cotton auction set for 2 p.m. A country store will be open throughout the day featuring hand-made items, baked and canned goods, plants and home décor.

A Sausage Sandwich Supper will be served starting at 4:30 p.m. The sandwich plus tea will be \$4.

For those who need extra help, handicapped parking will be available as well as a shuttle to assist those who need help getting from the parking lot to the hall. Assistance will also be available inside the hall. All activities will be held in the parish hall and on church grounds.

Mass for festival workers or anyone else who would like to attend will be held at 5 p.m. on Saturday, November 12 at St. Joseph Church with Sunday Mass scheduled for 9:30 a.m.

St. Joseph parishioners extend a warm welcome and invite everyone to come to help them celebrate and thank God for "A Harvest of Blessings."

DEER

CONTINUED FROM 5

near-term browse and forb production, but acorn production can still make these productive places to hunt if hunters can access them.

Texas boasts a whitetail deer population in excess of 4 million and those numbers are expected to climb across much of the state due to high fawn production and survival this year. Parts of East Texas that have experienced extended flooding conditions may be the exception. Hunters play a key role in habitat management by helping to maintain deer numbers within the amount of food supplies the land can sustain. Wildlife biologists have conducted extensive deer habitat research over time and recommend deer harvest based on their findings.

The Edwards Plateau, commonly referred to as the Texas Hill Country, supports the highest deer population in the state with a 2015 estimate of 2.27 million deer and the greatest deer densities at 117 deer per 1,000 acres. Cain estimated 2016 numbers will have increased from last year due to higher fawn crops.

"Despite the excellent range conditions in the Hill Country this year, deer populations left unchecked can do serious damage to the native habitat that supports all wildlife," he noted. "By managing for lean times and keeping numbers in check, we can help ensure the long term health and sustainability of



METRO CREATIVE PHOTO

our state's natural resources. We encourage hunters to take advantage of the harvest bag limits in their hunting area."

New this season is the opening of a white-tailed deer general and special archery-only seasons in 14 additional Panhandle counties and additional areas added for mandatory chronic wasting disease (CWD) testing of hunter killed white-tailed deer and mule deer. For details visit the CWD informational page online.

As a reminder to hunters check out the "My Texas Hunt Harvest" mobile app that allows Texas hunters to voluntarily report and track their harvested game from a smartphone or tablet. Hunters can log harvest for all resident game species, including white-tailed deer. The information collected will help TPWD biologists assess annual harvest and manage healthy

game populations across Texas. Hunters should note that electronic reporting using the app does not fulfill tagging requirements for any game required to be tagged or requirements for the completion of the harvest log on the back of the hunting license as it applies to white-tailed deer.

The app is available at the App Store for iOS devices and Google Play for Android devices. Harvest can also be reported online at <https://apps.tpwd.state.tx.us/whs/>.

For more hunting season information, check out the Texas Parks & Wildlife magazine's new Hunting Guide. It's a free, go-to source for species information and hunting tips. This special feature is exclusive to the Texas Parks & Wildlife magazine mobile app, which can be downloaded (also for free) to your Android or Apple devices.

COUNCIL

CONTINUED FROM 1

to fulfill many of their social, physical, emotional, and intellectual needs," Long said.

Long presented the expenses of the building, which came to \$197.90 for expenses for supplies and he said that with the activities in the building daily, like Canasta, potluck dinners and others, for which each participant pays \$1, the group

takes in \$276 a month.

Long said that if the city took care of the utilities and trash, that volunteers from the Friends group would clean and provide supplies to the building.

"Then there should be no problem with the center being reopened," Long said.

Yates said the council wants to make sure that the usage guidelines are fair for the whole community.

"We don't want to exclude anyone," Yates said.

A meeting between the subcommittee and the seniors group is pending.

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CITATION BY PUBLICATION THE STATE OF TEXAS

TO: MARCUS LEE MANLEY, Respondent, Greeting:

NOTICE TO RESPONDENT. You have been sued. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 A.M. on the Monday next following the expiration of 20 days after you were served this citation and petition, a default judgement may be taken against you.

The petition of **KENNETH E. MANLEY**, petitioner, was filed, in the 119TH DISTRICT COURT of Runnels County, Texas on the 21st day of July, 2016, against **MARCUS LEE MANLEY**, Respondent, numbered 864 and styled

By: **LESIA JOHNSON**, Deputy

ITIO: DESTINY MANLEY AND

ADVERTISEMENT AND INVITATION FOR BIDS

Runnels County, Texas (hereinafter called the OWNER) will receive Bids for **WATER FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS, TCDBGP CONTRACT No. 7215449**, until **4:00PM (local time), Monday, November 21, 2016** in person at the Runnels County Courthouse, 613 Hutchings Avenue, Ballinger, TX 76821, or by mail to the Runnels County Judge, 613 Hutchings Avenue, Room 103, Ballinger, TX 76821. All Bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at: **4:00PM (local time), Monday, November 21, 2016.**

Consideration for award of the Bid will be made at **10:00 AM (local time), Tuesday, November 22, 2016**, at the Runnels County Commissioners Court meeting, Runnels County Courthouse.

Bids are invited upon the several items and quantities of materials as follows:

BASE BID: Furnish and install 6,200LF of 2-in water line, 3,150LF of 4-in water line, valves, flush valves, 60 meter replacements, miscellaneous fittings and appurtenances.

Contract Documents, including Drawings and Technical Specifications, are on file at the office of Runnels County and **Burgess & Niple, Inc., 1030 Andrews Highway, Suite 211, Midland, Texas 79701, Phone No. 432-689-8909.** Copies of the Contract Documents may be obtained for \$150.00 per set from Burgess & Niple, no refunds will be given. Digital plans may be obtained for free from www.civcastusa.com.

A certified check or bank draft, payable to the order of the OWNER, negotiable U.S. Government bond (at par value) or a satisfactory Bid Bond executed by the Bidder and an acceptable Surety in an amount equal to five percent (5%) of the total Bid shall be submitted with each Bid.

Attention is called to the fact that not less than the federally determined prevailing (Davis-Bacon) wage rate, as issued by the Texas Department of Agriculture, and as set forth in the Contract Documents, must be paid on the project, and the Contractor must ensure that employees and applicants for employment are not discriminated against because of their race, color, religion, sex, or national origin on the entire project.

Attention is also called to General Condition 148 "Restrictions on Public Buildings and Public Works Projects." The Bidder certifies by the submission of its bid that the Contractor, Subcontractors, and materials used on this project are not of a foreign country included on the USTR list.

The Prime Contractor will review the equal employment opportunity section under the General Contract Conditions - Part I and will take affirmative action to meet minority and female participation goals in each task. The OWNER reserves the right to reject any or all Bids or to waive any informalities in the Bidding.

If the Bid is not awarded at the previously mentioned meeting of the Runnels County Commissioners Court on **November 22, 2016** then the Bids may be held by the OWNER for a period not to exceed sixty (60) days from the date of the opening for the purpose of reviewing the Bids and investigating the qualifications of Bidders.

All contractors/subcontractors that are debarred, suspended or otherwise excluded from or ineligible for participation on federal assistance programs may not undertake any activity in part or in full under this project.

Date: November 3, 2016 By: Barry Hilliard
County Judge
Runnels County

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Winters beaten by Cross Plains



Mikey Diaz and Andrew Sanchez tackle a Cross Plains runner during the game Friday, Oct. 28. The Blizzards lost 28-7.

STAFF REPORT

The Cross Plains Buffaloes topped the host Winters Blizzards by a count of 28-7 in Friday's league outing.

With the win, Cross Plains upgrades its record to 6-3 on the season. The Buffaloes host Miles to confront the Bulldogs in a 2A-2 Region II District 6 outing on Friday, November 4. The Bulldogs go into the outing with a record of 5-4. Miles lost 47-6 in their recent league outing against Albany.

With the loss, Winters moves to 2-7 on the season. The Blizzards travel to Baird to confront the Bears in a 2A-2 Region II District 6 outing on Friday, November 4. The Bears go into the outing with a record of 5-4. Baird won 40-20 in their recent league outing against Bronte (Bronte, TX)

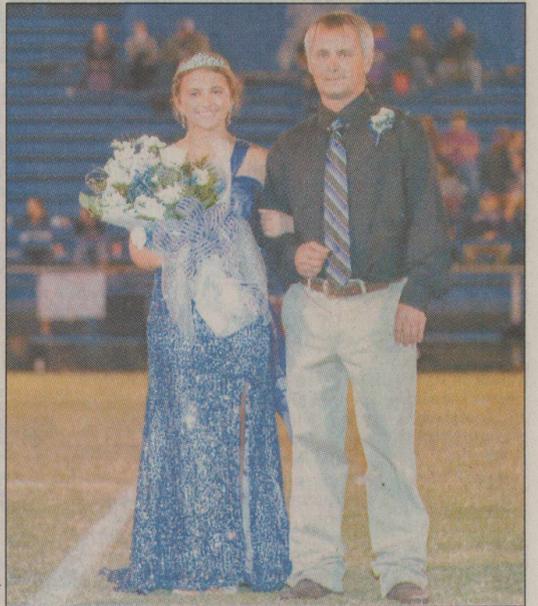
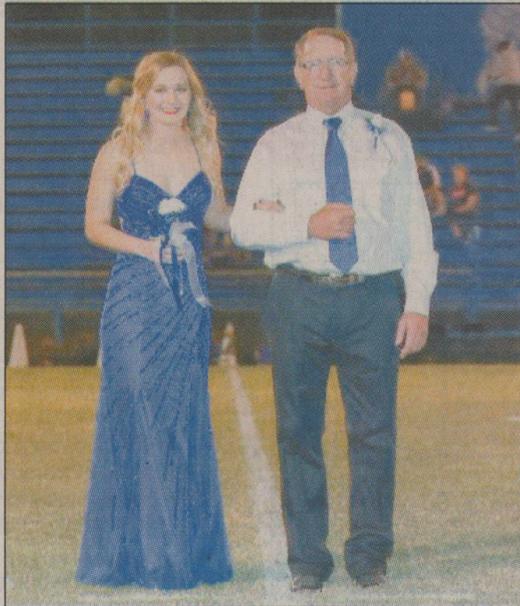
MaxPreps contributed to this story.



JOE GERHART | CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS
A.J. Smith cut up the field for a nice yardage gain during the game against the Cross Plains Buffaloes on Friday, Oct. 28, 2016.



Winters Blizzards Football Sweetheart



JOE GERHART | CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS
The Winters Blizzard Football Sweetheart candidates were presented Oct. 28, 2016. **ABOVE, LEFT:** Christy Kruse was presented by her father Rodger Kruse. **ABOVE, RIGHT:** K'Lee Lindley was crowned Football Sweetheart for 2016, She is pictured here with her father Bob Lindley. **LEFT, TOP:** Justine Alvarado was presented by Jeremy Alvarado. **LEFT:** Brooklyn Gallaway was presented by Ashton Hadlock.

BAND

CONTINUED FROM 1

from day one to reach the level of performance required to earn the top rating," said Winters Band Director Phil Mooney. "Mrs. Mooney and I are very proud to be the band directors for such a fine group of musicians."

The Pride of West Texas Winters High School Band's next performance will be March 1, 2017 in Ballinger where they will compete in the UIL Concert and Sight-Reading Contest.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Seniors from the Winters High School Band proudly show off their trophy from the Region 6 UIL Marching Contest held Oct. 22 in San Angelo. Pictured from left to right are Sam Woodall, A.J. Smith, Drey Patton, Brooklyn Gallaway, Sean Mooney, Marcus Mostad and Efran Rodriguez. Not pictured are Desiree Wilson, Justine Alvarado and Bryce Lanphear.



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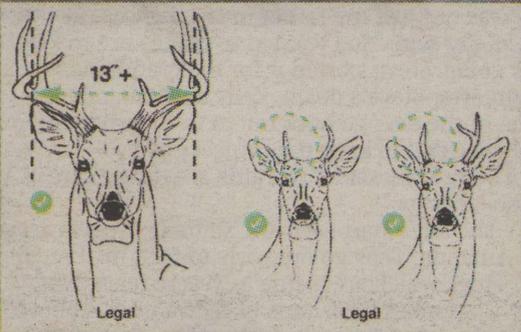
**SLOW COACH RANCH
DEER BREEDING**

SEE PAGE 2



BUCK RESTRICTIONS

SEE PAGE 7



**WHITETAIL
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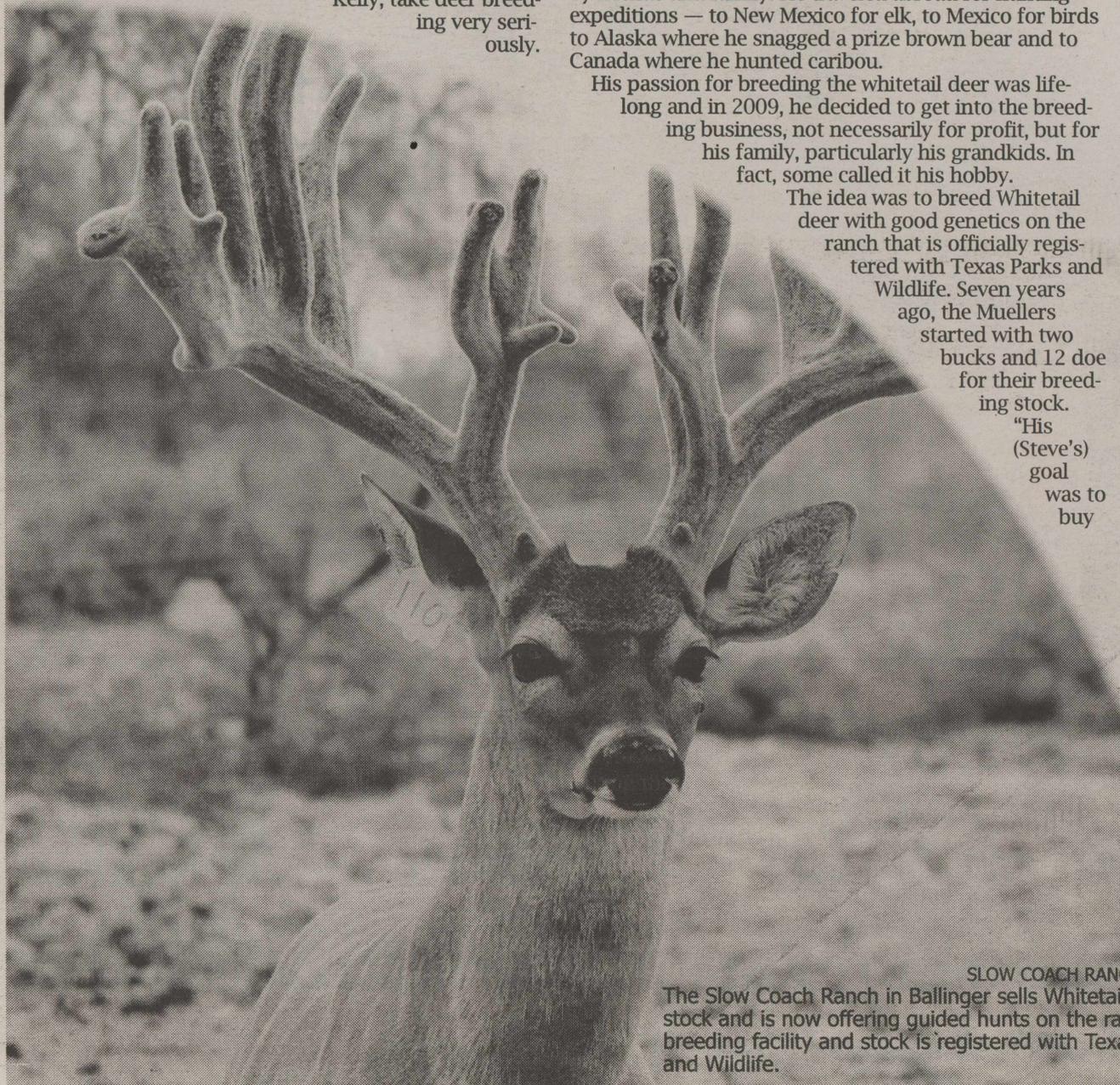
Carrying on a dream

Deer breeding and hunting is a family affair at Slow Coach Ranch

BY CELINDA HAWKINS
MANAGING EDITOR
BALLINGER LEDGER
chawkins@ballingerledger.com

BALLINGER — Working on a deer-breeding ranch is a job that is 24/7 and one that the owners of Slow Coach Ranch, located in Ballinger, know all too well.

Tammie Mueller, her daughters Angela Mueller and Amanda King and her husband Kelly, take deer breeding very seriously.



SLOW COACH RANCH PHOTO
The Slow Coach Ranch in Ballinger sells Whitetail deer stock and is now offering guided hunts on the ranch. The breeding facility and stock is registered with Texas Parks and Wildlife.

As of this year, the ranch is offering guided hunts and will be selling breeding stock to other breeders like themselves.

The Slow Coach Ranch is a 750-acre high fenced “managed game facility.” Steve Mueller, who died in 2012, was an avid hunter and outdoors man who wanted to introduce youth, particularly his kids and grandkids to the outdoors.

Steve’s passion for hunting was known far and wide by friends and family. He traveled abroad for hunting expeditions — to New Mexico for elk, to Mexico for birds to Alaska where he snagged a prize brown bear and to Canada where he hunted caribou.

His passion for breeding the whitetail deer was lifelong and in 2009, he decided to get into the breeding business, not necessarily for profit, but for his family, particularly his grandkids. In fact, some called it his hobby.

The idea was to breed Whitetail deer with good genetics on the ranch that is officially registered with Texas Parks and Wildlife. Seven years ago, the Muellers started with two bucks and 12 doe for their breeding stock.

“His (Steve’s) goal was to buy



CELINDA HAWKINS | GATEHOUSE MEDIA PHOTO
Tammie Mueller and daughters Angela Mueller (not pictured) and Amanda King go out and feed the breeding deer at the 20-acre fenced pens daily.

deer to breed and turn loose on the property so they could breed better native deer,” Tammie Mueller said.

When Steve died, Kelly King, his son-in-law and Amanda’s husband, became the manager of the ranch and was determined to carry on his legacy and dream.

“He could not fathom throwing away the work my dad began,” Amanda said.

Kelly worked many long hours after Steve’s death to carry on the breeding business, coming home from his job at the family-owned Sweetwater Steel and working to the wee hours of the morning making sure the deer were fed, watered and cared for.

“Steve was not just my father-in-law, he was my best friend,” Kelly said. “So I wanted to make sure to keep things going. Steve started it for the grandkids.”

Right after Steve’s death, Kelly and Amanda let some of the deer go back out in to the wild. Then they decided to keep the project going.

Today Kelly said, “The girls are taking care of most things.”

The days start early for Tammie, Angela and Amanda. They go out early to feed the breeding stock which are inside a 20-acre fenced area.

“It takes three tons of feed a week to keep them fed,” Angela said, adding that it adds up to about 12 tons a month.

Throughout the day, Tammie, Amanda and Angela tend to the stock, hopping in to

LOCAL

RANCH

CONTINUED FROM 2

the utility vehicle and touring the 20-acre fence line and hand feeding the deer both in the pens and those that are technically in the wild.

"I love them," Angela said as she tossed bread crumbs into the pens and along the pathway for the wild deer.

And they are all about good nutrition too and they buy all of the feed locally from vendors like AC Nutrition in Winters and Ballinger Feed and Seed.

Currently, Tammie and the girls are working to move the pens for the breeding stock so that the deer can enjoy better forage. Plus, during rutting season they have to make sure the breeding bucks' antlers are trimmed as a safety precaution.

"Antlers also have to be removed for sale or transport," Amanda explained.

The bottom line is that the deer at the Slow Coach Ranch have excellent genetics and that comes from good nutrition, having a safe place to live and thrive, good medical care and no artificial growth hormones.

"There is not a time of year that they don't require good care," Tammie said.

Plus, they have to adhere to state law, as prescribed by Texas Parks and Wildlife. Runnels County Game Warden Lane Pinckney comes unannounced to make sure their stock are properly tagged and tattooed.

"I have to make sure that their inventory records match what is actually in the pens — the number of bucks, does and fawns and that all the deer are tagged with the state assigned number," Pinckney said. "Everything is always in good order."

Plus now, they have to test the deer for chronic waste disease, which



CELINDA HAWKINS | GATEHOUSE MEDIA PHOTO

Pictured is Steve Mueller with a buck on the Slow Coach Ranch.

RANCH, 4



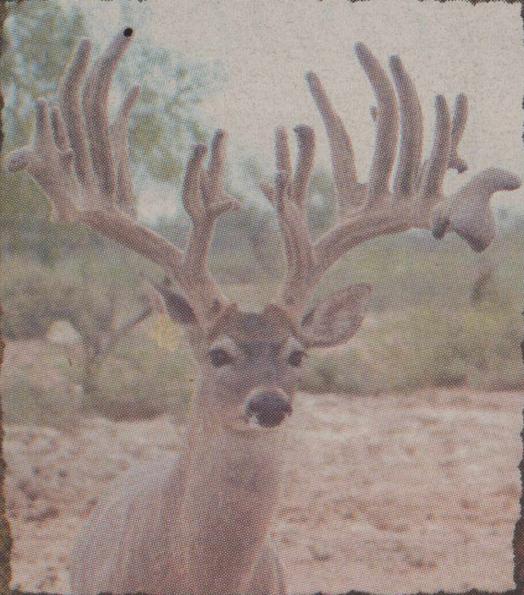
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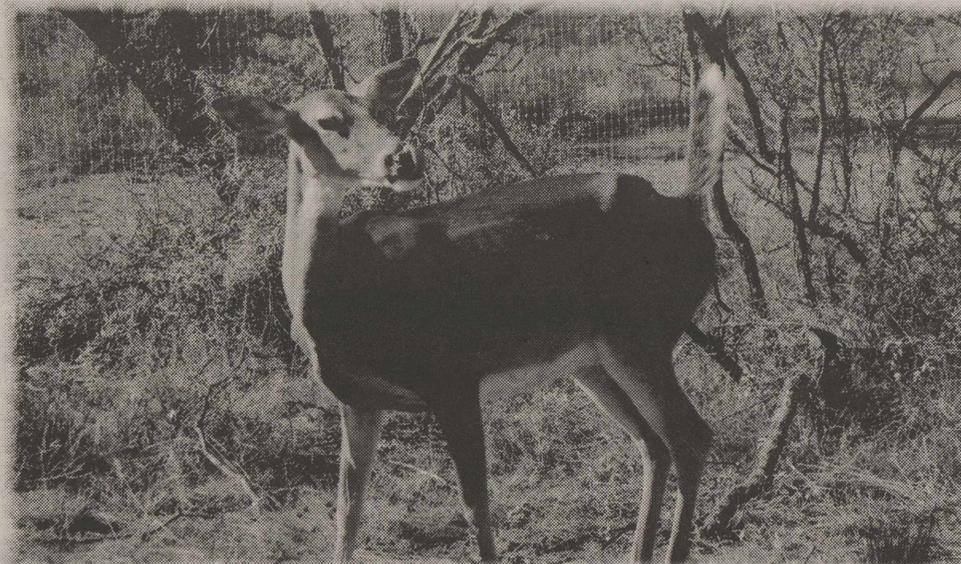
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SLOW COACH RANCH PHOTOS

Breeding deer are raised on 750 acres on the Slow Coach Ranch in Ballinger. The ranch was started by Steve Mueller, who was an avid hunter and outdoorsman. Mueller's wife Tammie and daughters Angela Mueller and Amanda King now run the operation he started before his death in 2012. Amanda's husband Kelly King is the ranch manager.



RANCH

CONTINUED FROM 3

is now a state requirement. And, they have a game biologist who takes DNA tests which are sent to Texas A&M to maintain the pedigree of the 200 bucks, does and fawns that are inside the 20 acres of breeding pens.

"I want to know that I am doing what the law requires me to do," Tammie said. This year, they are booking hunts on the ranch for the first time. They have lodging for hunters who are allowed to hunt on the 700 acres of the ranch. They are offering a variety of two-day hunting packages this season.

They are also selling some breeding stock. "This year we are allowed to harvest 20 bucks and 25 doe this season," Amanda said. The hunting this year and the sale of some breeding stock will allow the family to continue the operation.

"It is expensive," Kelly said. But overall, as was Steve's wish, the Slow Coach Ranch is running smoothly and offers a hunting and outdoor experience for family, friends and hunters and breeders.

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LOCAL

GSM DEER PROJECT UNDER WAY

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

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

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

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

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

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

The participating processors are:

- Perk's Processing in Brownwood
- M&M Processing in Zephyr
- Lone Star Taxidermy and Processing in Owens
- Santa Anna Custom Processing.

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

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

Some of this year's prizes include:

- Browning Xbolt 6.5 Creedmoor w/ Leupold VX-1 3-9 X 40 Scope* sponsored by Weakley Watson Sporting Goods and Ranch Pro Real Estate
- A family Aoudad/Hog hunt at Wheeler Ranch in Medina sponsored by Wheeler Ranch
- A \$500 Shopping Spree to Weakley Watson sponsored by an anonymous Deer Project supporter



SLOW COACH RANCH PHOTO

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

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

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

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

"If this year comes even close to last year then we will

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

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



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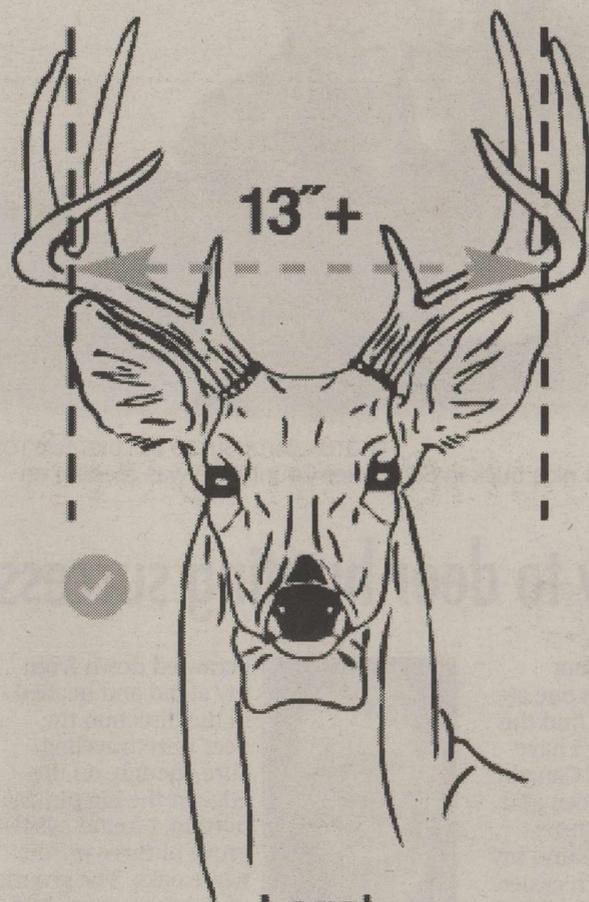
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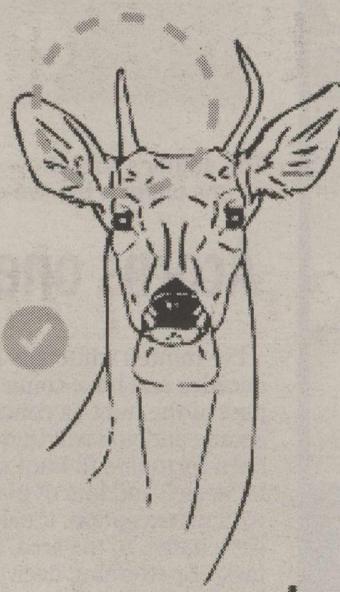
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Changes to buck restrictions



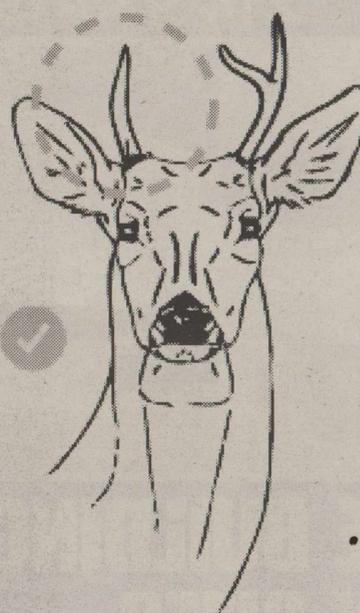
Legal

At least 13 inch inside spread.



Legal

At least one unbranched antler.



Illegal

Meets no criteria.

BY CALEB MCCAIG
STEPHENVILLE EMPIRE-TRIBUNE
cmccaig@empiretribune.com

With November finally upon us, deer hunters around the state of Texas are rejoicing as the general season begins and the hunt for a trophy buck or some family time awaits hunters of all ages.

In Erath County, general Whitetail deer season opens on Saturday and runs all the way through Jan. 1.

Erath County, a North Zone county, has a bag limit of four deer, no more than two bucks and no more than two antlerless across all seasons throughout the year.

Local hunters may be unaware of a change to buck restrictions this year as well.

According to Erath County game warden Zachary Havens, the change is to the special late season which begins on Jan. 2 after the general season ends.

"We do have one slight adjustment on our late season which many know as the spike and doe season," said Havens. "Our county restrictions allow hunters to harvest two bucks total and of those two, only one can have both antlers branching. If they're branching

on both sides then it has to have at least a 13-inch spread. If you take a deer that fits those restrictions then you're allowed to take one more buck, but it must have at least one unbranched antler. In times past, the late season was restricted to spikes only, but the change now allows hunters to also take a buck with one unbranched antler."

In addition to the change in Erath County, Havens expects hunters will have plenty of opportunities to harvest deer this season.

"It should be a good season, I think," he said. "With the rainfall we've had over the last year or so, everything is looking healthy. There's been some good antler growth and I think it will be a good year for hunters."

As the public prepares for their next outing, whether you're going hunting in Erath County or anywhere else in the state, there are several tips Havens urges hunters to remember.

"First thing that comes to mind is to remember your hunting license. Either someone will forget it or they will have not even purchased one, but if you harvest a deer you must have one with you," Havens said.

"You must have the license to tag a deer, even if it's on managed property. Also, be safe in regard to where you point your muzzle and going up and down deer stands. Accidental discharges are a possibility and can happen going up into a stand, removing from a truck or crossing a fence."

While accidents are always a possibility in any scenario with firearms out in the field, one great way to prepare yourself and family for the situations they may find themselves in is to take the mandatory Hunter Education course. The course is mandatory for every hunter born on or after Sept. 2, 1971. The minimum age for certification is 9 years old and the cost for the course is \$15.

"The overall chance of accidents occurring is growing as the amount of hunters we have out in the field increases," Havens said. "But we've seen the number of actual accidents that have occurred decrease as more and more hunters have become certified in hunter safety. It's a good trend to be following."

For more information, or if you have questions pertaining to your county, contact your local game warden or check out the Texas Parks and Wildlife website.

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OUTDOORS WITH LUKE CLAYTON AND FRIENDS



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY LUKE CLAYTON

The author's son, Drew, took this nice buck in Schleicher County. He was feeding on acorns under a big live oak.

Acorns one key to deer hunting success

I've hunted whitetails for over four decades and have come to believe one aspect of the hunt as concrete fact: find the acorns and you will find the deer. I have been fortunate to hunt deer from Canada to Mexico and lots of places between and, without exception, if oaks with acorns were native to the area, I always found my task of patterning deer to be much easier.

Being a native Texan, I grew up hunting deer around corn feeders. I learned many years ago that when the acorns begin hitting the ground, deer abandon corn feeders quickly for their preferred natural food. I remember well a hunt in eastern Texas several years ago. We had 500 acres of prime hardwood bottoms with adjacent pine covered hillsides leased from a timber company.

The deer fed on the acorns, browse and mushrooms that grew in the low land and bedded in the thick pine plantations in early fall; they were extremely easy to pattern. Acorns begin dropping in this area of Texas around mid September, just before the opener of bow season. I had my tree stand hung in a tall pine situated on the edge of a major trail leading from the bedding area in the pines to where the deer were feeding. My corn feeder had been throwing corn since mid summer and deer sign was everywhere but none of it was really fresh. After watching this trail for a couple of hunts, I noticed the deer had changed their travel route and were entering the big pin oak bottom from a little point of pines on a ridge that provided cover and a more direct route to the bottoms. After the morning hunt,



Luke
Clayton

I crawled down from my stand and headed in the direction the deer were traveling. Sure enough, on the edge of the big pin oak bottom, I found a little grove of three or four white oaks. The ground under these trees had been pawed by deer that had been feeding there on a very regular basis. Nearby, I found a big communal scrape that

looked and smelled like every buck in the county had been working it. Rubs were everywhere and I found a series of smaller scrapes nearby. During midday, I quietly moved my tree stand and hung it on the downwind side of the little grove of oaks. There, just after sunrise the next morning, I arrowed a fat eight pointer and watched a possession of smaller bucks, does and yearlings eating acorns under the white oaks.

Deer love to eat acorns from all species of oak but they most definitely have their favorites. The grove of white oaks where I killed the eight pointer was situated on the edge of a big pin oak bottom. The ground was literally covered with pin oak acorns throughout much of the area but if there are white oak acorns on the ground, you can bet your best hunting boots that white oak acorns is what they will be eating. Later in the season, I

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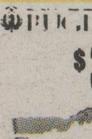
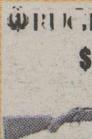


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LOCAL

Texas Bob White Quail Brigade

Turning lumps of coal into diamonds

BY WINSTON LAGERGREN
SOMERVELL COUNTY
SPECIAL TO THE BULLETIN
news@brownwoodbulletin.com

Can a six-ounce bird convert teenagers from a lump of coal into a diamond? Well, Bob White Quail have been doing just that for 24 years via the Texas Bob White Quail Brigade, a leadership and team development camp with the objective of turning out Ambassadors of Conservation.

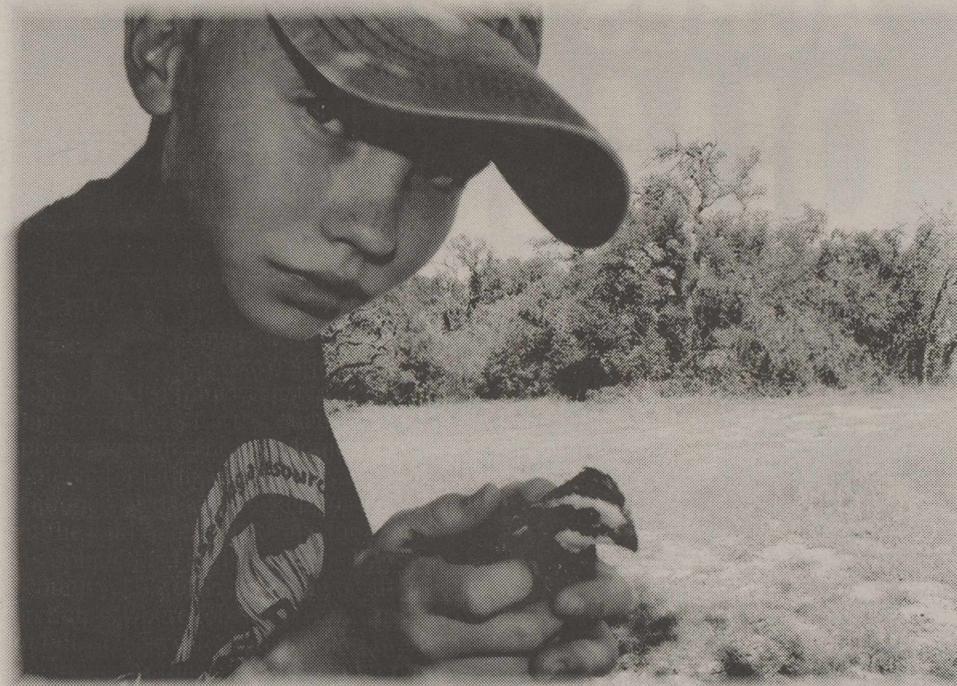
Long days starting at 5 a.m., the heat of the rolling plains of Texas, marching, classroom work, debating skills ("Quail Politics"), writing and speaking skills, presentations, anatomy, habitat studies, taxidermy, plant ID, radio telemetry, "ropes and cans," the "human knot" and

the "board walk".....they're some of the "pressure and heat" needed to convert a lump of coal into a motivated conservation diamond. A modern day Aldo Leopold, as it were.

Cadets fresh out of the Texas Brigades feel exhausted, happy, and relieved on their trip home from the 10-day camp packed into five days. I went to the Bobwhite Brigade in Coleman County, and I can say for myself and any other person who has experienced the Brigades, you will become educated, confident and most of all, motivated to evangelize proper wildlife management.

Texas Bob White Quail Brigade was born in 1993, an idea of Dr. Dale Rollins, extension wildlife specialist with Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service. It is an

QUAIL, 14



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

ACORNS

CONTINUED FROM 8

watched the deer herd in the area turn their attention to the pin oaks.

Just last seasons, I was bow hunting a ranch in central Texas. Feeding (baiting) deer in this area is a common procedure, everybody does it. In late summer and well into September, bucks and does were hitting the feeders with regularity. My hunt was scheduled for the first week of October last year. In telephone conversation with the ranch owner in early September, he told me he was watching several Pope and Young class buck hitting the feeders on a daily basis. He had my ground blinds about 20 yards from a couple of these feeders and arrowing a big buck should be as easy as waiting for the big deer to get hungry.

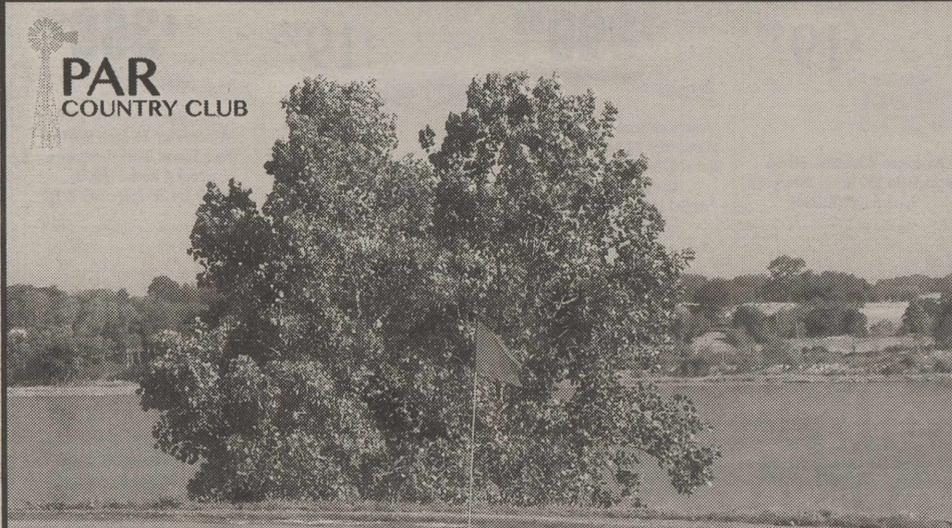
This ranch in the "Hill Country" is covered with live oaks. Guess when they begin dropping their acorns? You got it, very often in late September, JUST before the opener of bow season! Since I had only a couple of days to hunt, my rancher buddy wisely moved the ground blind to the edge of a point of live oaks that led out of some heavy cedars where the deer bedded and loafed before they moved out of cover to feed. I settled into the ground blind the first morning of the hunt and

was within bow range of several smaller bucks and does. That evening, about thirty minutes before dark, I took a nice old heavy horned eight pointer that was obviously past his prime.

Being mobile during early bow season when the acorns begin dropping is of paramount importance. When hunting over a feeder that deer are frequenting regularly, getting within bow range is pretty much a given but when hunting isolated oaks with early maturing acorns, it's necessary to be mobile in order to set up within 30 yards of where the deer are feeding. I often use a lightweight ladder stand that's quick and easy to move. Sometimes, my first attempt at patterning the deer requires a bit of "tweaking". When I see deer feeding under particular oaks within sight of my stand, I wait until mid day, ease back in to the area, and quietly move my stand within bow range of heaviest deer activity.

Regardless which part of the country you do your hunting, there will be oaks that drop their acorns early. Trees on the northern or eastern side of clearings with branches that are exposed to the south and southwest often begin dropping mature acorns a few days before trees back in the more heavy cover. Find these trees early in bow season and you are well on your way to filling your tag. Oak trees on the edge of fertilized hay meadows often

ACORNS, 14



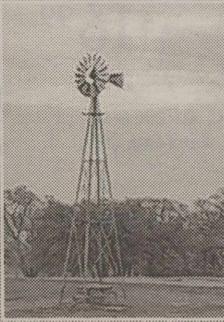
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HUNTING TIPS

Trends for whitetails

Deer harvests are down in many areas, and the latest data from QDMA's Whitetail Report shows some states' buck harvests have decreased by as much as 40 percent over the past decade.

The report notes one of the biggest issues facing hunters in the Midwest is a significantly reduced deer harvest.

"Harvest declines of this magnitude are extremely noticeable by hunters, and state wildlife agencies are bearing the brunt of their frustrations. Unfortunately, communication between the agencies and hunters is not at a productive level in many states," Kip Adams of QDMA said. "Even though I'm an optimist, I'm not naive to the current challenges and threats facing whitetails and our hunting brethren."

'COMPLEX PROBLEMS'

The report noted these whitetail trends dovetail with other problems facing the hunting industry, from hunter access and recruitment to retention issues.

"These are complex problems, and private land access programs, mentored youth programs and adult apprentice hunting programs are steps toward solving them," Adams said. "Other challenges are newer, like proposals to legalize the sale of venison and create commercial hunting licenses. This concept has been discussed in professional circles for the past few years, and the first legislative bill allowing this was proposed in 2014. The bill



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failed last year, but it's already back on the table in 2015."

MORE DETAILS

The report notes the antlered buck harvest (those 1.5 years or older) in 2013-14 was steady in the Northeast, though the overall buck harvest in

Southeastern and Midwestern states declined approximately 4 percent. The report points out 20 of 37 states (54 percent) in the Midwest, Northeast and Southeast shot fewer antlered bucks in 2013 than in 2012.

In total, the Midwest, Northeast and Southeast regions tagged over 2.7 million

bucks. Texas led the charge ahead of every other state, harvesting 330,535 antlered bucks — more than half as many bucks killed in the entire Northeast.

BEST STATES TO HUNT

The Whitetail Report found

Texas (330,535), Michigan (203,057), Wisconsin (143,738), Georgia (137,025) and Pennsylvania (134,280) at the top of the list. The top five for buck harvest per square mile, per the report: South Carolina (3.8), Michigan (3.6), Maryland (3.3), West Virginia (3.1) and Pennsylvania (3.0).



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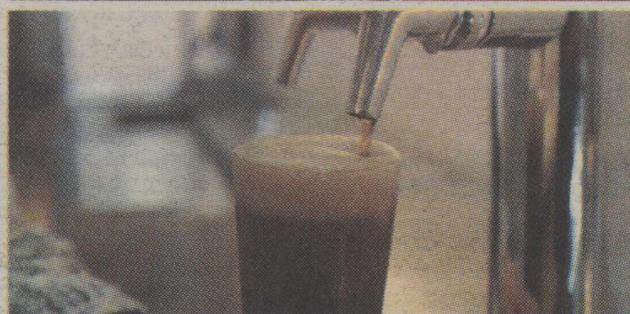
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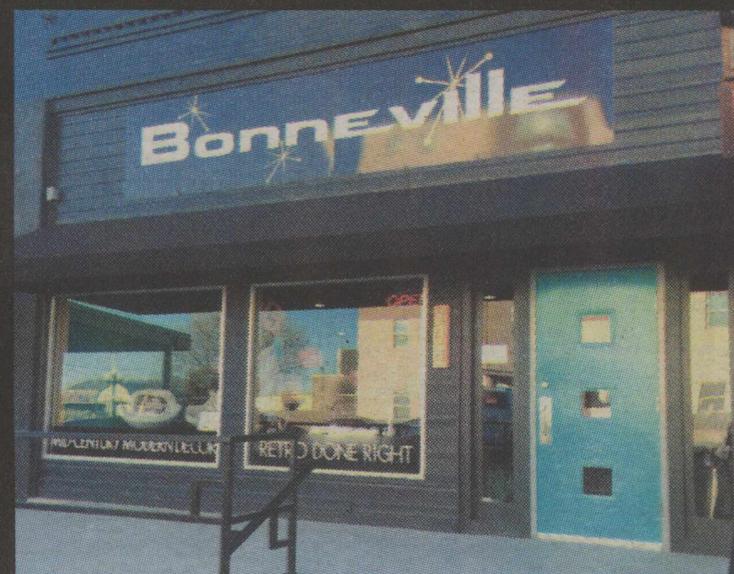
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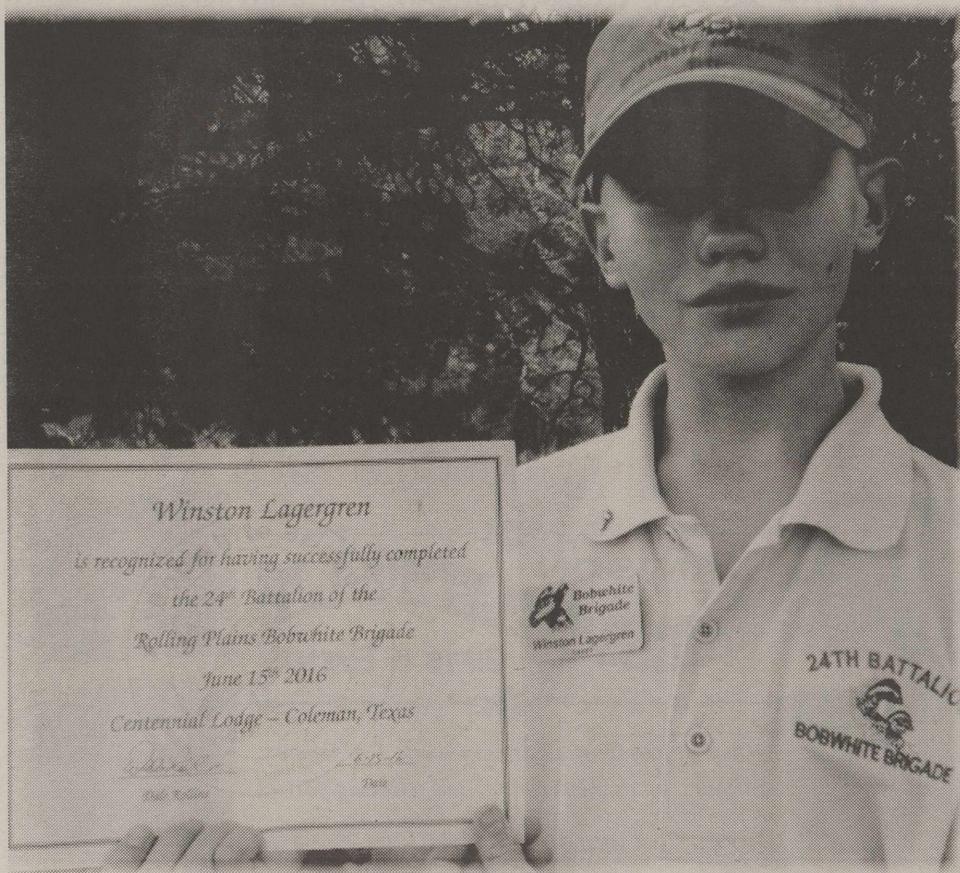
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QUAIL

CONTINUED FROM 10

award-winning program that has been duplicated within Texas. The other Texas Brigades include: Buckskin, Waterfowl, Bass, Costal and Ranch. It is used as a model in other states. "Imitation is the sincerest form of flattery."

If cadets want to return to the Brigades as an assistant covey leader (herd leader, or school leader), they must complete ten projects before Nov. 1, and complete a book of accomplishments. One-hundred percent of the cadets say they want to come back. However, only 10 percent return after competing, post camp, doing

projects, research and educational presentations.

The itinerary for the Brigades seems impossible to follow and be on time. A myriad of projects/studies as well as KP duty and "roost inspection", has EVERY cadet and volunteer working from 5:30 a.m. to as late as 2 a.m. the next day. The Brigades pushes teenagers to expand their limits, and makes them work harder and dig deeper, to find that spark that will ignite their ability to go on. I feel this program pushed and stretched me to an entirely new level that can be applied to any challenge I might face in the future.

More information on the Texas Brigades can be found at <http://www.texasbrigades.com>

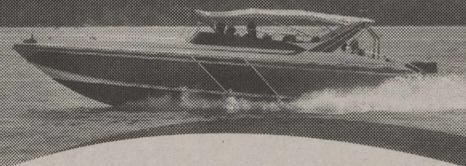
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ACORNS

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bear heavier acorn crops that their counterparts back in the woods and conversely, drop mature acorns earlier. Hunting these isolated "hot spots" can be a bit tricky. Deer tend to stage pretty close to these spots at night and during early afternoon. I like to get into my stand well before first light and early in the afternoon to avoid spooking deer that are waiting to move out to feed. Wind direction is also a very real problem when hunting these "tight" spots. A few years ago, I began setting two stands within bow range of where the deer are feeding. One upwind of the predominant wind direction and one downwind. This is a good technique when you are hunting a "proven" area that annually attracts deer. When setting corn feeders, I always try to locate a spot around acorn bearing oaks; when the acorns play out, the corn will still be there to attract deer within bow range.

As I am writing this in mid August, my

mind is on a little spot in the woods about a mile from my house. Annually, the little grove of oaks on my place pulls deer and wild hogs in from surrounding farms and ranches. The trees are located about a hundred yards back inside the wood line, with a slough nearby that serves as a natural travel route. I will carry my binoculars and scour the branches closely and located the trees with the heaviest acorn crop. There always seems to be one or two trees in a grove that bear more acorns than the others. These are the trees where I will place my stands. Even here in the Lone Star State where baiting is common procedure, there's no need for corn here. I have watched this little spot for the past few years and when the acorns begin to drop in mid September, the ground is pawed clean by deer. Chances are very good there are places just like this in your neck of the woods- Now, go find them! I can guarantee your hunting success will improve when you become a student of the oaks!

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OUTDOORS WITH LUKE CLAYTON AND FRIENDS

Quail season off to a boom

Gator, a German Shorthair Pointer with a nose like a radar and body conditioned to run, threw his head high in the air as he cast for scent downwind of a little grove of Sumac bushes. Then he got really 'birdy.' His nose went to the ground, he took a couple of quick steps forward then he locked into a point that plainly stated: "Hey, boys, there are quail in that tangle of brush." Dot, another equally well trained and conditioned Shorthair got the scent also but she didn't rush in ahead of Gator, she backed him politely, keeping a yard or so behind.

Sandie, a pointing lab was on point, but not so rigidly as her teammates. Labs are retrievers without equal but some exceptional dogs such as Sandie serve double duty by pointing upland birds. Scott Hutchinson, my friend that is the wildlife manager at the W.B. Ranch near Whitney, motioned that he was about to signal Sandie in for the flush. With a dash, the yellow lab was in the midst of the cover and the covey of quail in the air.

This was my first quail hunt of the year and the upper, or improved cylinder barrel of my little 20 gauge over/under blasted a string of No. 8 shot well behind one of the quail. I had shot too soon, without



Luke Clayton

taking time to remember to track the bird, push the barrel just in front of him, and then pull the trigger. The lower barrel, choked modified, did the trick at about 35 yards and I had my first quail of the season in the bag. Scott's shotgun spoke twice and we had a total of three birds in the bag from our first covey of the day.

Wet weather back in the spring and summer created near ideal nesting conditions for the quail hatch and numbers are high. The W.B. Ranch is a commercial hunting operation and flight conditioned birds are stocked to supplement the wild quail. Scott says the ranch hosts upland bird hunters from all over the country. "We offer morning or afternoon hunts, where folks can show up and hunt but we also offer lodging and meals at the lodge for those that have a bit more time to stay." said Scott.

CLAYTON, 17

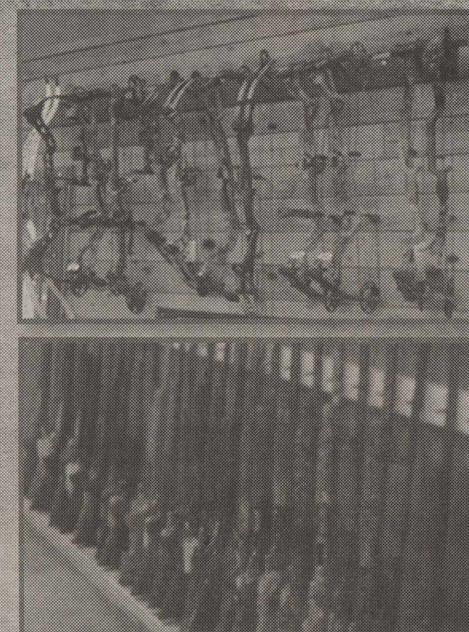


PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY LUKE CLAYTON

It's important to keep working bird dogs well hydrated. Hutchinson keeps buckets filled with water for his dogs. Here Sandie, his pointing lab, is getting a bit too hydrated!

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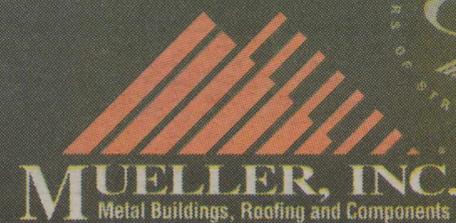


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OUTDOORS WITH LUKE CLAYTON AND FRIENDS

CLAYTON

CONTINUED FROM 15

Locating good spots to hunt quail has become increasingly more difficult during the past three decades. Back in the sixties and early seventies, there were huntable numbers of quail across most of Texas. I can remember some pretty good quail hunting in Eastern Texas where I was raised. Today, one would be hard pressed to locate a single covey in many areas. Some blame this decrease in numbers on fire ants attacking newly hatched quail or, the eggs before the young birds hatch. Most biologists state it's loss of habitat because of modern farming practices such as cultivating right up to the fence lines, without leaving 'hedge rows' that offer cover for ground nesting birds such as quail. Regardless the reason for the decline in quail numbers, the fact remains that unless one leases a large tract of land in an area of the state with high quail numbers, or finds a good operation such as the W.B. Ranch to hunt, finding a spot to hunt is challenging.

Cost is another big factor to consider when deciding where and how one wishes to hunt quail.

The cost for yearly quail leases in Texas has increased with the demand. The cost of fuel getting to and from a lease situated several hundred miles from home has also skyrocketed. Tack on vet bills and training for bird dogs and it's easy to see how keeping a quail lease these days easily equates to several thousand dollars per year. For most of

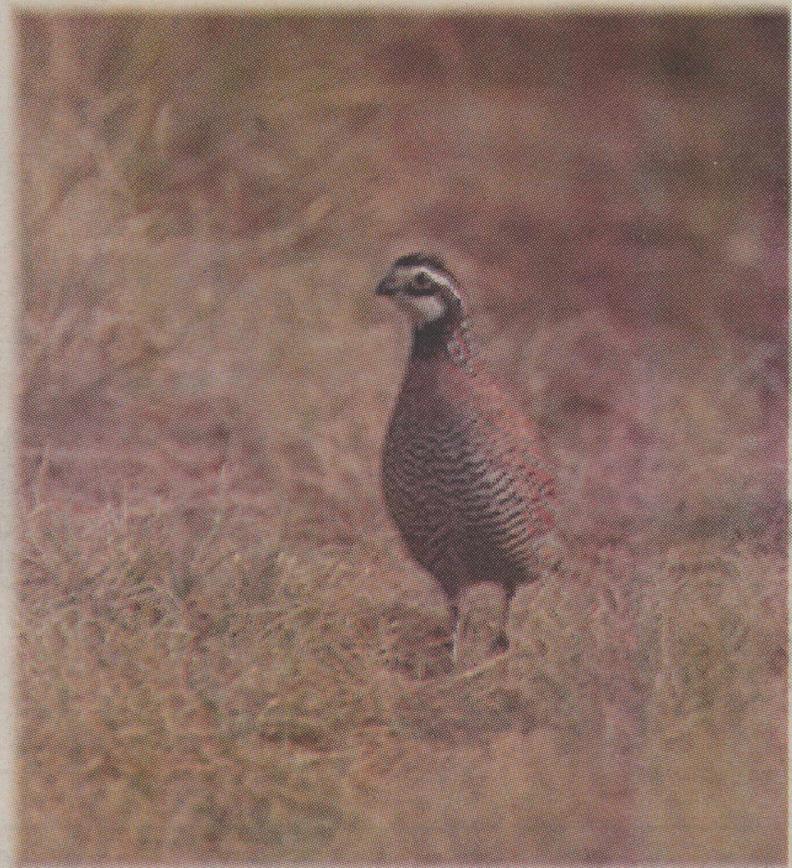
us, this is just not practical. Thanks goodness for ranches such as the W.B. that provide great quail shooting that is, compared to the alternative of leasing, a bargain.

I used to keep and train my own bird dogs and found the experience greatly rewarding, albeit a bit costly. Many folks today continue to keep pointers and setters, but opt for ranches such as the W.B. to work their dogs. "We allow hunters to bring their own dogs and hunt with them if they choose, but we also keep a kennel of well trained pointers and setters. When our clients factor in all the things that make for a quality quail hunt, most choose to let us handle our dogs so that all they have to do is enjoy shooting. We work with them regularly and, as any quail hunter knows, experience on birds is the best teacher for bird dogs. Our dogs come from champion blood lines and have the opportunity of being on quail frequently. Our clients like to come, watch the dogs work and concentrate on shooting rather than handling dogs. I can certainly relate." Scott continued.

I can remember many 'do it yourself' quail hunts when I hunted with my own dogs. On many occasions, I spent more time screaming at the dogs to WOAHH, than I did actually hunting quail!

A quail hunt at the W.B. Ranch can best be appreciated after such experiences! To schedule your quail or Brazos River duck hunt at the W.B. Ranch, call 800-WBRANCH or go online www.wbranch.com

Check out Luke Clayton's Outdoors show at www.catfishradio.com



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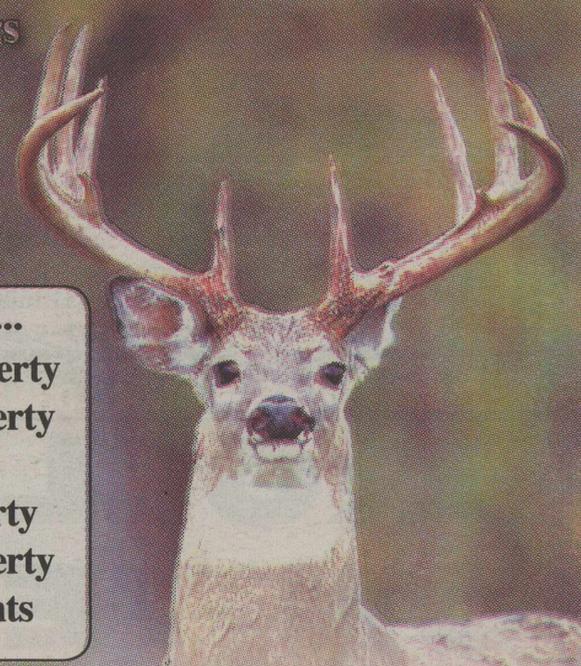
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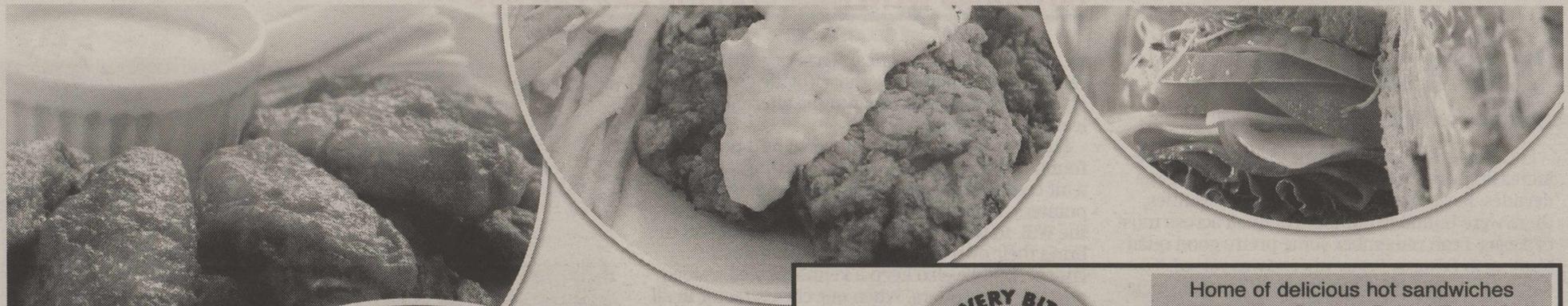
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HUNTING TIPS

How to use a trail camera

Over the past several years, trail cameras have changed the game for hunters — especially those willing to embrace high tech in an effort to more effectively track a buck.

Many of the early models had one feature that often did more damage than good: To take nighttime pictures, they would often flash or feature a red photo light that would spook game in the dead of night. The goal is to see but not be seen, and some cutting-edge new cameras do an excellent job fitting the bill.

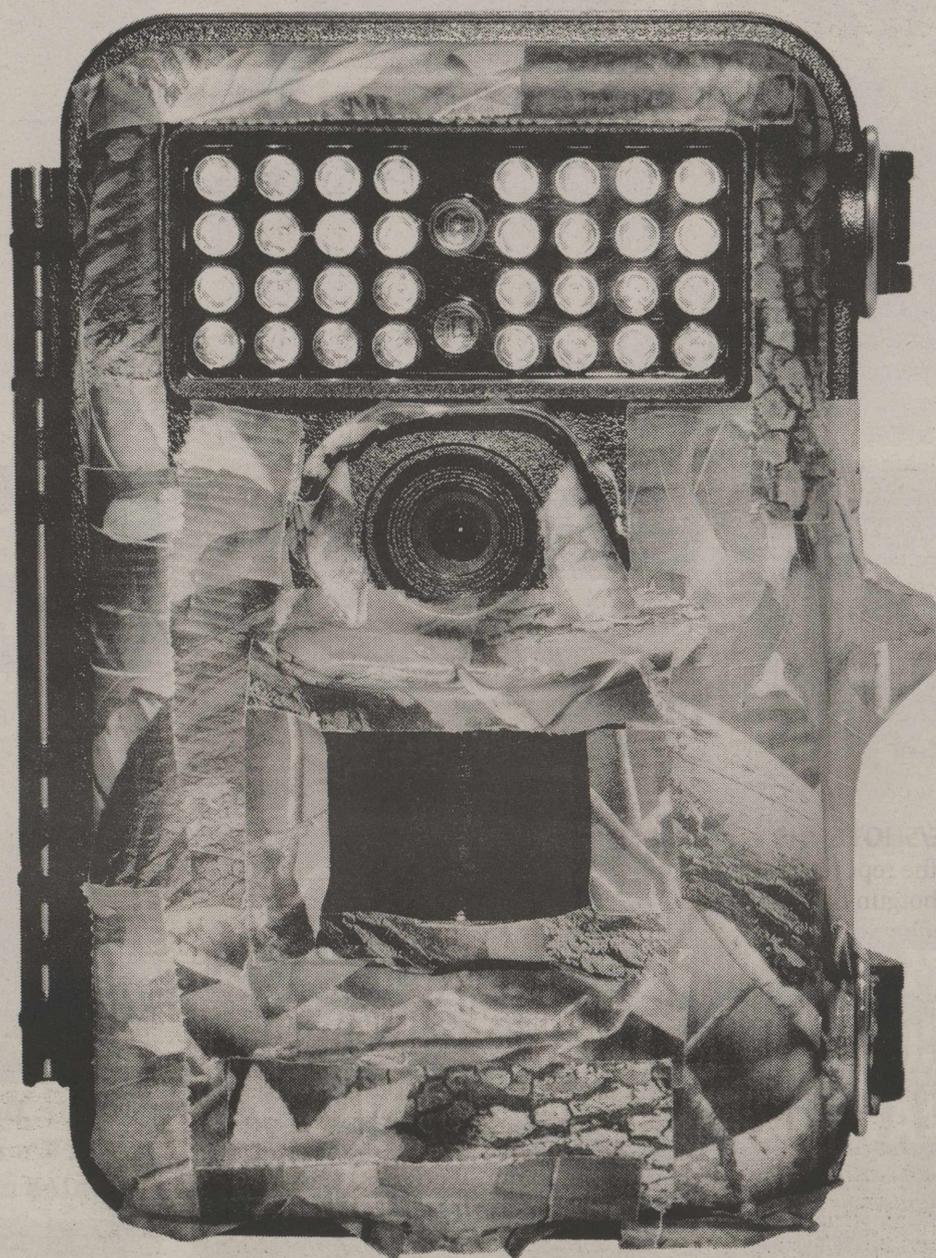
Many new models now use black-flash technology and dark LEDs, which are capable of taking a viewable image in the dark without a detectable flash that will scare away the deer.

KEEP A CONSTANT CONNECTION

If the budget isn't much of an issue, there are models such as the SpyPoint Mini-Live 4G 10MP Cellular Trail Camera that can take a whole lot of the guesswork (and actual work) out of hunting. Priced anywhere from \$500 to \$1,000, these types of devices are top of the line in regards to technology and features. This model features black infrared LEDs that won't spook deer, but the best feature is the built-in cellular connection capable of streaming video to a cell phone from anywhere. These top-tier models also feature 10+ megapixel cameras, and the ability to stream 1080p video.

MID-TIER OPTIONS THAT WON'T SPOOK DEER

Field and Stream recommends a handful of affordable trail cameras they've tested and found to do a solid job of capturing the scene without scaring away the game. The recommendations land in the \$150-\$250 range, and all feature discreet flash mechanisms. Their list of options includes the Bushnell Trophy Cam HD Max (MSRP \$250), which records HD video and a sensor that automatically adjusts; the Eyecon Black Widow (MSRP \$150) which uses a barely-perceptible InvisiFlash and a backlit LCD screen; and the Moultrie Outfitter No-Glow C-50 (MSRP \$200), which records video with sound and uses a motion-trigger at night.



HUNTING TIPS

Which weapon to use?

Depending on where you're hunting, the weapon of choice can vary greatly. Hunters find different success levels with bows and rifles, and certain areas seem to be better suited for certain weapons.

Findings from the latest QDMA Whitetail Report identified the states with the highest percentage of deer harvests with bows, rifle/shotguns and muzzle-loaders. To boil it down simply: Rifles and shotguns are more popular in the South, while bow hunting remains a very popular alternative in the Northeast. Looking at nationwide statistics, firearm (rifle/shotgun) hunters took 65 percent of all deer, bows took 21 percent and muzzleloader hunters took 12 percent of the total deer harvest.

"More hunters take advantage of bows and muzzleloaders today, and that's great for the future of hunting. More seasons to go afield helps even 'occasional' hunters stay engaged, and it greatly enhances the opportunities to mentor youth and new hunters," the report notes. "Finally, expanded opportunities help retain aging hunters, and every hunter is critically important to our wildlife management system."

RIFLE/SHOTGUNS

According to the report, the top five states for rifle/shotgun hunting based on percentage of harvest is South Carolina (89 percent), Maine (87 percent), Alabama (86 percent), Minnesota (85 percent) and South Dakota (85 percent). Firearms obviously remain the prevalent weapon of choice for hunters, but other options are gaining ground.

BOW HUNTERS

For bow hunters, the northeast

proved the most popular hunting grounds. The top states for bow hunting success include New Jersey (56 percent), Ohio (45 percent), Massachusetts (43 percent), Illinois (39 percent) and Rhode Island (37 percent).

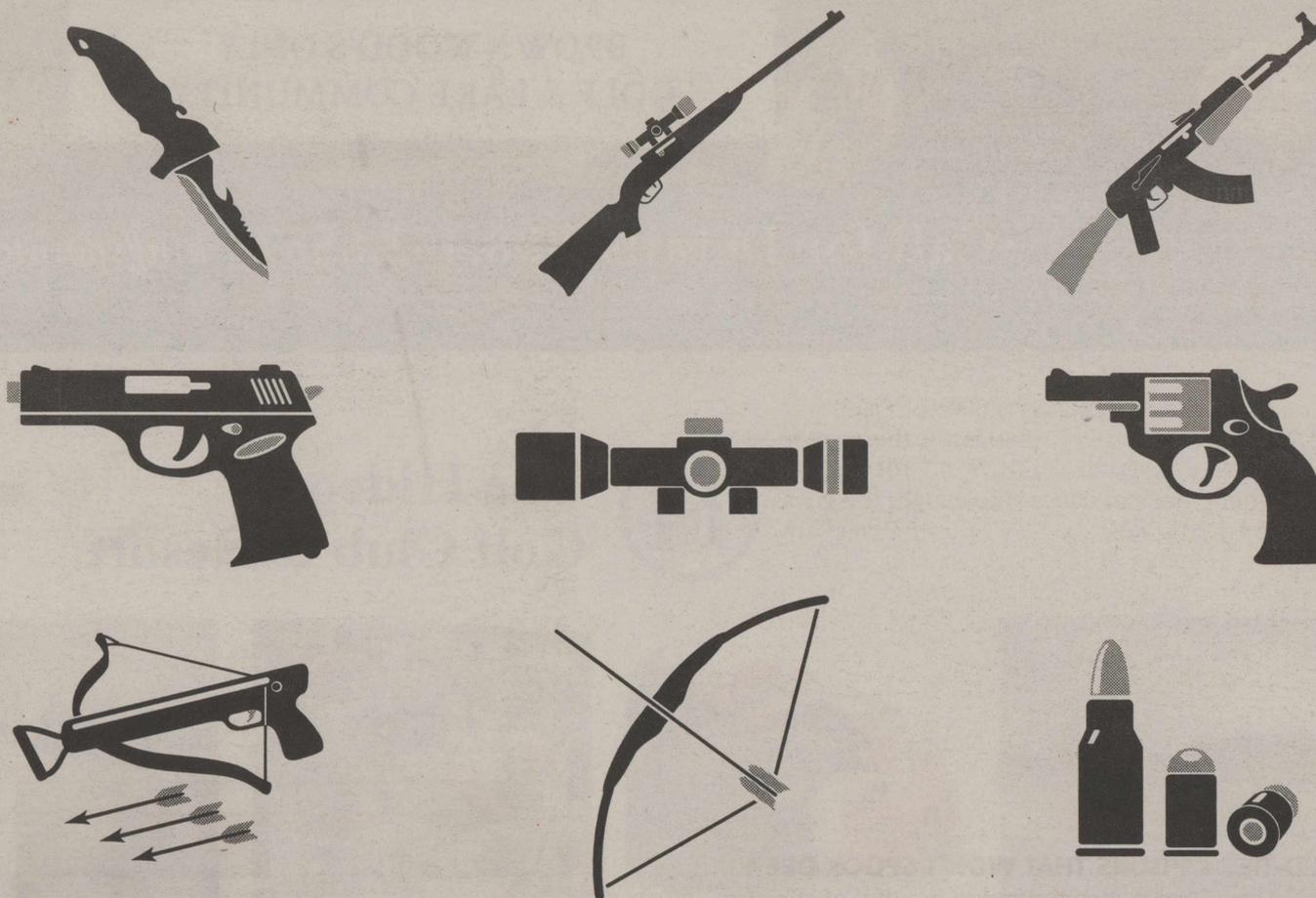
It's interesting to note bow hunters

in New Jersey actually outnumbered the percentage of hunters with firearms, the only nation in the state that can make that claim.

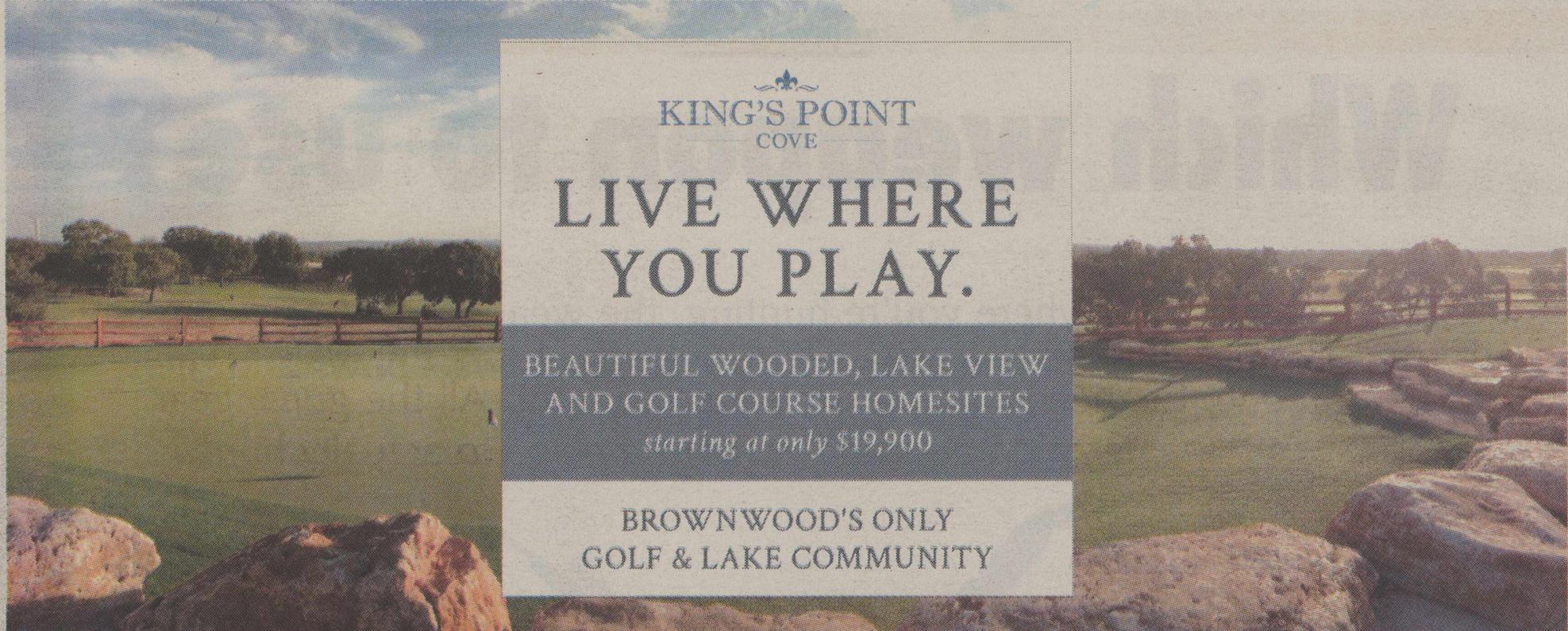
MUZZLELOADERS

Data surrounding interest and suc-

cess in using muzzleloaders varied across the nation, making for an interesting mix. The report found Rhode Island (39 percent) led the top five, followed by Tennessee (24 percent), Massachusetts (22 percent), Mississippi (22 percent) and Pennsylvania (22 percent).



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HUNTING TIPS

Asking permission to hunt

One of the biggest issues facing hunters these days is a simple one: the need for accessible land to hunt. All the guns, gear and cameras do no good without a place to actually hunt.

The need for accessible land was found to be one of the biggest issues facing hunters at the 2014 North American, according to the QDMA Whitetail Report.

PRIVATE PROPERTY

In many states, the vast majority of hunting occurs on private property. Those numbers can get extremely high in states like Alabama, Texas, Iowa, Kansas and Nebraska, where more than 95 percent of property is privately owned. The most obvious solution? Ask landowners for permission to use their land to hunt. Here are some tips for those discussions to go smoothly and successfully.

BEST SHOT AT ACCESS

- **Ask permission early and politely.** Reach out to the landowner well in advance of hunting season, and be sure to make a good impression. Be extremely polite and professional in making the request. If you'll be hunting with your child, bring him along so the landowner can get to know you and your family.

- **Offer to help manage the land.** If you're looking for



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access to hunt on a prime piece of property, your request might carry more weight if you offer to lend a hand in taking care of the property. Let them know you'd be willing to invest some time in the property yourself, by doing tasks such as cutting wood, planting

trees, picking up trash, mending fences or marking boundary lines. If nothing else, make a note that you'll keep an eye out on the property to ensure no one else is using it without permission. Making yourself useful can go a long way toward gaining permission.

- **Offer to get insurance, and leave them your information.** Have your contact information ready before you arrive (i.e. business card) so the landowner can reach you if any questions arise. Also, make a point to let the owner know you'd be willing to purchase hunting land liability

insurance, so he can rest assured there will be no liability if an accident does happen on the property. For just a few cents an acre, it could make all the difference in opening up a prime hunting spot.

— Tips provided by QDMA.



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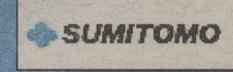
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