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'Tis the season...

Hello readers and welcome to the December issue of North Texas Farm and Ranch magazine.

While winter, and the cold harsh winds it tends to bring, is not my favorite time of year, it is made more bearable by the warmth of the holiday season. From Thanksgiving to Christmas, I enjoy the kindness of the human spirit and the anticipation of holiday traditions.

For my family, this will be our first Christmas in our new home, so we have been waiting patiently for the moment we could hang the stockings and place the angel atop the tree. My husband can't wait to light a fire, and the kids are ready to throw Christmas lights on the house, trees and anything else they can find. I'm sure not even the dogs will be safe from twinkling lights.

North Texas also brings time-honored traditions for families and friends to partake in each season. Check out our calendar for local events to help get you in the holiday spirit. If you're needing a perfect gift for your loved one, our Christmas Gift Guide is here to help.

Lacey's Pantry provides the perfect sweet treat to take to those Christmas gatherings, or try out the delicious pecan pie recipe from The Garden Guy. He also shares background information on this important North Texas crop.

Turn the pages for stories on campfire cooking, the heartbreaking part of being a rancher, a reassuring phone call, the Cinch Roping Fiesta in San Angelo, two movies recently filmed in the Lone Star State, information on the Winecup, importance of small town rodeos, discussion on supplementing cattle during the cold months and so much more. Visit our website at www.NTFRonline.com where you can subscribe to an online edition. To subscribe by mail call 940-872-5922 and make sure to like our Facebook page and follow us on Instagram and Twitter.

Wishing you all the best this December.

Dani Blackburn, editor



ON THE COVER

Larry Fowler, sheriff of Parker County, began his 54-year law enforcement career as a deputy with Tarrant County before making the move to officer for the City of Weatherford. Since that time he has served in numerous roles, including more than two decades with the U.S. Marshal Service, before returning to his roots in Parker County and running as sheriff in 2004. He also survived an organ transplant two and a half years ago at the age of 79, making him the oldest person to ever receive a double lung transplant. (Photo by Dani Blackburn)

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Are you searching for that perfect gift for the loved ones in your life? Turn to page 50 for the 2019 NTFR Christmas Gift Guide, featuring gifts for the farm, for him, for her and for home.

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PROFILE Page 40

Larry Fowler

Meet Larry Fowler, sheriff of Parker County who has seen a successful 54-year career in law enforcement, including time as a U.S. Marshal. At 79, he also became the oldest double lung transplant recipient.

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NTFR Magazine @NTFRMagazine · Sep 23

Rodeo fans and folks who follow the western sports have probably taken notice of the continued growth of youth focused events. As would be expected in a family-oriented sport, a lot of focus has been placed on the future. ntfronline.com/?p=8608



As would be expected in a family-oriented sport like rodeo, a lot of focus has been placed on the future. Phillip Kitts brought us more in the September issue of NTFR.

FACEBOOK WALL



North Texas Farm & Ranch

Published by Hootsuite [?] · September 24 at 2:45 PM ·

Country Music Hall of Famer and Grand Ole Opry member Ray Price undoubtedly left his mark on country music. His sound and Texas Dance Hall shuffle beat is still evident in Honky Tonks and Dance Halls throughout the country to this day. <http://ntfronline.com/?p=8639>



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MEANWHILE BACK AT THE RANCH

By Rayford Pullen | rcpullen@yahoo.com

Here we are, when fall ends and winter begins. Short days and long nights, feeding cattle and cold weather is what this time of year means to me, along with families gathering to celebrate the birth of Christ and cherishing our family and friends, which is what makes life good. Let's enjoy.

This old world seems to get a little "squirrel" every day, but living in the country, or at least in rural America, provides a little insulation from all this nonsense, thank goodness.

I just stop and imagine what all those folks would think or do if they walked into the grocery store and the shelves were bare. That would surely make folks stop and think what is really important in this ole world.

Winter means supplementing our cattle with hay, protein and/or energy depending on our personal resources such as standing forages, cool season grasses and most importantly the condition of our cattle and their current stage of production.

In my opinion, if cattle are in decent shape, we need to make sure they get about eight-tenths to a pound of protein per day to maintain themselves.

While we don't mind if our cattle lose some condition, in this case weight if they are in good condition, during the winter months, they must still not be allowed to reach the point where they cannot take care of their calves, or at the detriment of a gestating calf.

If you're feeding some sort of protein and/or energy cube, every other day feeding is more beneficial to your cattle than feeding every day because of the larger amount eaten at one setting results in better utilization by the ruminant.

To provide eight-tenths to a pound of protein per day, you can feed the following amounts every other day when feeding cubes:

- 20 percent cubes- feed eight to 10 pounds

- 23 percent cubes-feed seven to eight pounds

- 38 percent cubes- feed four to five pounds

Cattle in poor condition will need the 20 percent or 23 percent protein cubes because these will contain energy in the form of grain i.e. corn, grain sorghum, etc.



From our outfit, Carla and Rayford Pullen, Cliff Norman and James Lawrence, to yours, we want to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year. (Photo courtesy Metro Creative)

Cubes fed in piles rather than strung out across the pasture also results in cattle having more equal access to the feed.

You cannot starve a profit out of your cattle; if they are not healthy, they cannot work for you.

Liquid and tub protein supplements are fed free choice and cattle will eat what they want or at least need.

Some are high energy and some aren't. Make sure they maintain acceptable condition since that is the tale-tale sign you are providing what they need.

On our place we feed both liquid and cubes depending, once again, on the cattle condition and needs.

All get liquid but some get liquid and cubes depending on what we think they need. Stay on top of what's going on and make changes, if necessary, accordingly.

On a lighter side, Ms. Jones told her fourth graders a 9-11 documentary film would be shown the next day that contains some bad words they or their parent might find offensive

so attendance wasn't required.

Raising her hand, lil Ms. Crosby asked if the bad words were "rodeo words" or "shipping cattle words." Ms. Jones said she didn't know what those words were and that she hadn't seen the film before.

During the showing, the "S" word was spoken and lil Ms. Crosby leaned over and whispered "that is a rodeo word" to her teacher; when the "GD" word was said, she leaned over and told Ms. Jones "that is a shipping cattle word."

Sometimes the teacher becomes the student and this is a true story that happened this fall. Thank God for country girls.

From our outfit, Carla and Rayford Pullen, Cliff Norman and James Lawrence, to yours, we want to wish every one a very Merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year.

May the struggles of 2019 become just a memory as we now enter 2020, a year we older folks talked about as youngsters that was so far in the distant future we just couldn't imagine it ever arriving during our life time. It has! 🍷

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Brett Swope, TX - "I am very happy with my calf catcher as it is a very good product. Have processed a number of calves that I would have never been able to get to because of their protective mothers."

Terry Hinton, MS - "I like my calf catcher very well. It saves lives and doctor bills. Planning to purchase a second calf catcher yet this year."

AG *elsewhere* COLORADO

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Looking forward to another year. Here's to 2020! 🍷

RANCH, Rodeo & Randomness

By Pepper Stewart



DOES TODAY'S LOCAL RODEO STILL DRAW A CROWD?

In December Las Vegas, Nev., turns into a rodeo town when the National Finals Rodeo kicks off.

There are many equine and rodeo events in Las Vegas during the year, but nothing like what happens in December from endless shopping to daily events. Then in the evening it's live NFR rodeo action, followed by endless after parties. The town is packed with fans of the western way of life.

How is your local hometown rodeo standing the test of time? Many small-town rodeo arenas are for sale, overgrown and are becoming part of folklore history. Think back to the days before technology took over, maybe the 70's or '80's, when you waited all year long for the summer rodeo to come to town.

The town's folk from surrounding towns would all join in and pack the stands, sitting on the edge of their seat with every ride.

Local hometown rodeos are struggling, and it's up to you, the rodeo fans, to change that.

Visit with your local rodeo committee and see what you can do to help.

For those who attend the hometown rodeo, do your part to visit and shop at the local businesses that sponsor the rodeo.

The times have changed; tech-



A crowd watches a competitor at the Jim Bowie Days Rodeo this past summer. (Photo by Jordan Neal)

nology has changed us.

The options for entertainment are endless and watching live rodeo action is no longer as exciting as it once was.

Take a look at the Mesquite Championship Rodeo. When was the last time you were there? At

one time that was the place to be, packed arena full of rodeo fans, and now at times it often looks like a ghost town.

We no longer have patience and have become a busy world staring at our phone, seeking instant gratification in the ever-growing

technology addicted society.

It's up to you, the rodeo fan, to keep the legacy alive. The approach may change, but the end result is the same.

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LAND MARKET REPORT

OCTOBER 2019 RURAL LAND SALES

Below is a synopsis of land transaction for the month of October 2019 in five of our North Texas counties. Land sales are picking up briskly for the fall selling season in most areas of North Texas. Some properties that have become “stale” by being over priced on the market for too long are beginning to see the light and reduce their asking prices. A notable change for October was the average land size for farm and ranch sales was 116.3254 acres – much higher than we normally see in this area.

There are a lot of buyers looking for 20 to 100 acre recreational properties in the area, as well as a good demand for large properties, both with and without homes on them. As always, small tracts of 10 acres or less, are always in demand for rural residential use.

Land sales should continue at a brisk pace through the end of the year and into Q1 of 2020, but expect a slow down as the elections get closer. It seems to slow things down more and more every two years now.

In the past, land buyers have always tried to get a piece of the mineral rights so they might have some kind of inclusion on any possible oil or gas production that might occur on their property in the future. Today, land owners have a much more real threat from alternative sources. 

COOKE COUNTY

AREA	ACRES	PRICE/ACRE	SELL TO LIST PRICE	DAYS ON MARKET
MUENSTER	12.84	\$6,191.59	100%	1
GAINESVILLE	85	\$5,142.92	93.01%	18
GAINESVILLE	79	\$5,771.76	93.09%	122
GAINESVILLE	102.03	\$4,819.05	89.41%	28
GAINESVILLE	130	\$5,198.46	94.52%	570
GAINESVILLE	165.59	\$5,378.37	77.45%	178

DENTON COUNTY

AREA	ACRES	PRICE/ACRE	SELL TO LIST PRICE	DAYS ON MARKET
SANGER	371.672	\$3,660.94	91.94%	16

MONTAGUE COUNTY

AREA	ACRES	PRICE/ACRE	SELL TO LIST PRICE	DAYS ON MARKET
BOWIE	17.92	\$4,474.89	81%	4
BOWIE	15.03	\$7,385.23	98.47%	30
SUNSET	20.25	\$7,500.00	100%	10
FORESTBURG	54.643	\$5,535.93	93.36%	145

WISE COUNTY

AREA	ACRES	PRICE/ACRE	SELL TO LIST PRICE	DAYS ON MARKET
ALVORD	14.5	\$7,103.45	79.37%	2,817
BOYD	10.01	\$14,985.01	94.34%	3
BOYD	10.01	\$15,384.62	96.86%	39
BOYD	17.32	\$10,103.93	100%	5
ALVORD	219	\$6,684.93	100%	14

WPRA

leaves a Stamp on Waco



By Phillip Kitts

The fall brings to close the rodeo season for many rodeo associations around the nation.

As the season closes, most of these associations gear up for their year-end finals and crowning perspective champions in each event.

One of the most influential rodeo associations recently took their year-end finals to the city of Waco for four days of extremely intense competition with big money on the line and an impressive list of cash and prizes.

To understand the impressive resume of the Women's Professional Rodeo Association and its influential place in the sport of rodeo, one must be aware of some interesting facts. The WPRA is the nation's oldest women's sports organization. Its beginnings go all the way back to 1948 when 38 women took a stand

and pushed to make their impact on the sport of rodeo. This group of cowgirls felt there was a need to add some femininity and grace to the rough and rumble sport of rodeo.

As can be expected, their vision was not well received by the rodeo community; however, this did not stop the beginning of what is now a powerhouse association in western sports.

The WPRA now records more than 3,000 members and sanctions more than 1,500 events with an annual payout of more than \$5 million.

The WPRA growth during the years has developed into much more than barrel racing at rodeos. The association now hosts multiple events to include team roping, breakaway roping, tie down roping, and of course its flagship event of barrel racing.

Throughout the year the women of the WPRA run the highways and byways of the United States, just like their male counterparts. Their end game is no different in the fact that they all set their sights on competing at the WPRA finals as well as the Wrangler National Finals Rodeo with the goal of big money and trophy buckles.

This year the impact of the WPRA finals is fueling by the growth of the breakaway event. Breakaway roping is comparable to the tie down roping event with a twist.

In breakaway roping the competitor's rope is attached to the saddle horn with a small piece of string.

The competitor nods for their calf and then proceeds to run it down and rope it. When the calf hits the end of the rope, the thin piece of string is broken, sending the rope into the air

which signifies time to stop. It is not uncommon to see breakaway time in the low two-second range.

The breakaway momentum is being fueled by specific rodeos like the RFD-TV American and several other large pro rodeos adding the event to their schedule.

In addition, the World Champions Rodeo Alliance association is now offering massive payouts to winning breakaway ropers.

This one fraction of growth within women's rodeo is now providing these female athletes with another avenue to spotlight their talents and earn good money doing it.

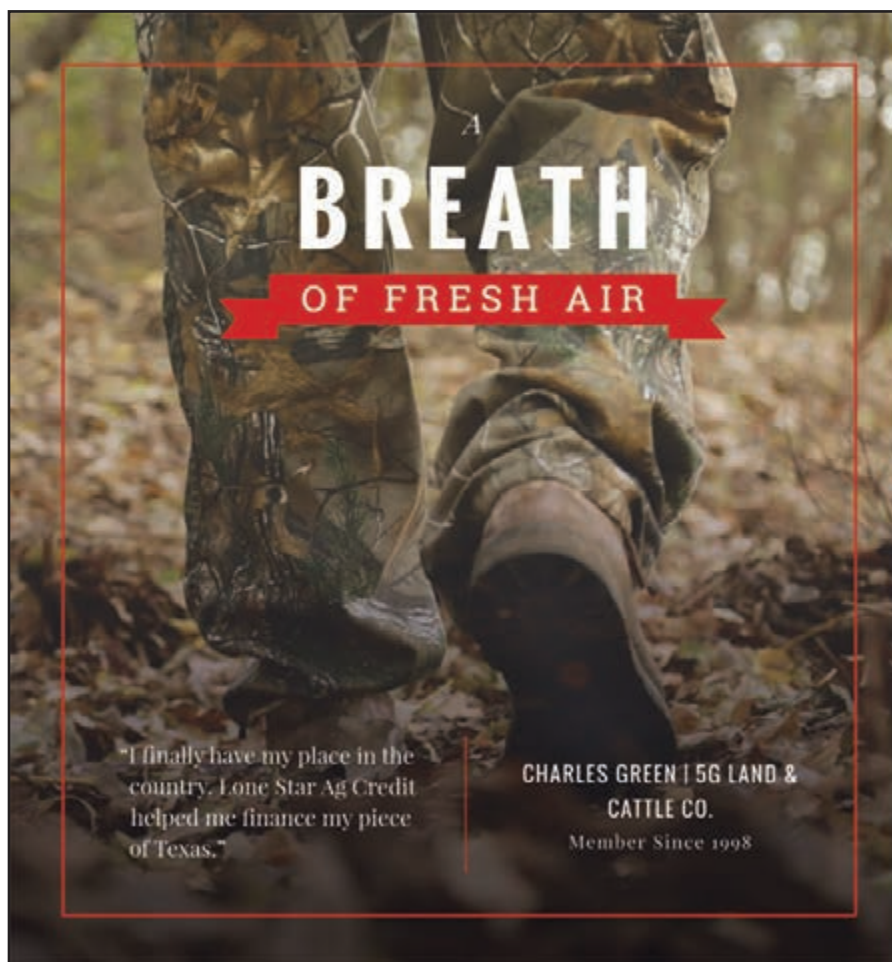
In the last week of October, the WPRA superstars took over the Extraco Event Center in Waco to put it all on the line.

The list of competitors who made their appearance at this year's WPRA finals was a spotlight of the top barrel racers in the world. In the WPRA junior division superstars like London Gorham and Montana "Gracie" Gambino brought in the future superstar edge.

Other notable names that made their appearance in the roping portion of the finals were Jackie Crawford, who is a multi-time
See WPRA on page 22



Gracie Gambino during the all-female rodeo. (Photo courtesy Phillip Kitts, Avid Visual Imagery Rodeo Photography)



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WPRA

Continued from page 21

All-Around Cowgirl and has made an infinite impression on the roping world, and Whitney DeSalvo, who not only competes with the WPRA but also with the men of the PRCA.

During four days of competition the arenas that just weeks before hosted the Heart of Texas pro rodeo were buzzing with activity.

In breakaway roping, the World Champion buckle was earned by Kelsie Chance. In team roping on the header side Beverly Robbins claimed the hardware of a World Champion, while on the other side heeler and PRCA regular who has become a force to be reckoned with in both associations, Whitney DeSalvo took the top spot.

Once again Jackie Crawford laid claim to the All-Around title, adding to her impressive collection of all-around buckles.

In the barrel racing the top spot in the average was claimed by Alex Lang aboard Angels On The Moon. Her accumulation of 47.223 over three runs placed her on the top spot.

This world title was heavily overshadowed by Tiller Murray who laid claimed to the new arena record with a smoking run of 15.534 in the short round of the WPRA Card Holder race.

This arena record quickly became the talk of the weekend since the arena record was broken twice less than two weeks prior during the Heart of Texas Pro Rodeo.

During the WPRA finals the record was again broken two times, once by Brittany Pozzi Tonozzi then again by Murray.

A massive highlight to the weekend was the all girls rodeo performance on Saturday night. During this performance the crowd was not only treated to breakaway, team roping, and tie down runs, but they also witnessed



Gracie Gambino wins the World in women's tie down.



Arena record barrel run by Tiller Murray. (Photos courtesy Phillip Kitts, Avid Visual Imagery Rodeo Photography)

a list of the top junior barrel racers in the nation.


During each of these events fans were afforded the opportunity to “pick a team.”

Individuals in each event were assigned to a team and competed in the effort of gaining their team the most points.

All of this coordinated in the chance of competitors to be entered in a drawing to win a spectacular list of prizes.

This list of prizes was topped off with a brand-new trailer that would be delivered to the winning individual.

During four days, thousands of dollars were awarded and champions were crowned; however, the weekend was much more than just awards and money.

During the weekend the core roots of rodeo life and family were emphasized with familiar faces being reunited and sharing a weekend of fellowship. 



London Gorham in the junior barrel racing. (Photo courtesy Phillip Kitts, Avid Visual Imagery Rodeo Photography)

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Christmas

1990

By Barry Whitworth, DVM / Area Food/Animal Quality and Health Specialist for Eastern Oklahoma

It was Christmas Eve. I was closely monitoring the clock, counting down the minutes until I could head home. The boss had talked about closing the clinic down early, and I was ready. My wife and new nine-month-old daughter were waiting for me to get off work so we could begin our holiday celebrations.

In the midst of my Yuletide daydreaming, I heard the sound of the boss drive up to the clinic. He motioned for me to get in and silence filled the truck for a moment. Finally, the boss broke the quiet, "Barry, I think it's time for you to get on down the road." When he said, "Get on down the road," he was not talking about a farm call. He was firing me on Christmas Eve.

As I stepped out of the pickup and walked back in the clinic, my mind was racing with the reality of being jobless. I should have seen this coming. In fact, in the eight months I had worked there, my boss and I had never been on the same page. I had actively been searching for another job, a fact that I never hid from him. I left that day with a sense of defeat heavy in my chest. I prided myself on being an excellent employee. In my whole life I had never lost a job. I was accustomed to getting pay raises and praise from my employers. Instead, that day I was getting a pink slip to take home to my family for Christmas.

As I began my drive home, fears, doubts and anxieties began to make themselves at home in my mind. A sea of questions began to rush in: "Would I ever get another job? What would potential employers think when they found out I had been fired? Was I cut out to be a veterinarian after all?" My confidence was wounded, and



I felt inadequate. The classmates I had studied and trained with during the past four years seemed to be breezing through their first year with no hiccups; yet, I had met many obstacles during my first job. Deep down inside, I felt like an embarrassment to my alma mater.

I rounded the corner and the small trailer we had called home during the past eight months was in site. The truck rolled to a stop, and I paused a moment to collect my thoughts before heading inside to break the news to my wife. The holiday scents and sounds greeted me as I opened the door. My wife had been preparing all day for our first Christmas with our new baby. She turned to welcome me home with a cheerful face, but she knew instantly that I did not bring good news. Tears began to flow when I told her I had lost my job. Together we began to wonder how we would make it. It was not just the two of us anymore. We had our baby girl to worry about too. How would we take care of her? What if she got sick? In reality, neither my parents or my in-laws would then or now ever let their

granddaughter go without, but in the moment the fears were very real. We sat contemplating the future full of worry, and the joys of Christmas Eve seemed to drift somewhere far away.

Following our family's Christmas celebrations, I returned to the clinic to turn in my equipment and pick up my final check. My employer and I parted as best we could, and then I "headed down the road" to somewhere I did not know.

One morning as I sat at home updating my résumé, the phone rang. I stopped working and answered the phone. The person calling was Bill Booth. He said, "I was wondering if you would bleed some pigs for some of the kids in the local 4H and FFA program." Shocked that he had not heard the news, I politely informed Bill that I no longer worked for the veterinary clinic and gave him the number to get ahold of my previous employer. I am not sure if the next words out of Bill's mouth were said simply because he felt sorry for me or out of compassion, but they are words I will never forget. "I did not ask

another veterinarian to bleed the pigs. I asked if you would." I was grateful at the thought of making a little money since I had none coming in, but the impact of his call was of greater value to me. At that moment in my career, those words reassured me of my abilities and worth. Someone still believed that I was capable. Someone still believed that I had what it took to be a veterinarian.

Over the course of my almost 30 years in veterinary medicine, I have worked for many clients, and I have bled hundreds of pigs. None were as memorable or as important to me as the ones I did that day so early in my career. Bill's willingness to reach out and ask me to care for his animals re-instilled in me the confidence that had been wounded and shaken. I am forever grateful for the kindness he showed me.

Bill passed away a few years ago. Upon his death, I relayed to his family how much his giving me that pig bleeding job had meant to me as a young struggling veterinarian. I told them one of my biggest regrets was that I never properly thanked him for extending such kindness to me when I needed it the most. Over the years, I have had many wonderful clients who have touched my life and given me the opportunity to make a living doing what I love. You, too, have stories like mine, stories of a time when someone reached out in kindness to pick you up when you were down. My hope for you is that this holiday season you would take the time to thank those special people in your life and as well be an encouragement to someone in need.

From my family to yours, may you have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. 🐾

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10 TRUTHS ABOUT BEEF

By the Noble Research Foundation

Beef is tasty anyway you fix it: sizzled on the grill, roasted in the oven or dried for jerky. Here are some facts about our favorite protein and the industry that produces it.

1 – The journey of bringing beef to the table represents the most unique and complex life cycle of any food. The process takes about two to three years.

2 – There were 93.5 million cattle in the United States as of Jan. 1, 2017. About a third of them were beef cows. The rest include calves, beef bulls and dairy cattle.

3 – The average number of cows in a herd is 40.

4 – To be considered lean, a three-ounce cooked serving of beef must have less than 10 grams of total fat, 4.5 grams of saturated fat, and 95 milligrams of cholesterol. This qualifies more than 60 percent of beef cuts (when cooked with visible fat trimmed) found in the supermarket.

5 – An estimated 30 to 40 percent of all food in the U.S. is wasted each year. That's about \$2,500 down the drain for the average American family, but meat, including beef, is one of the least-wasted food categories, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

6 – Nearly 160 cattle producers


in 33 different states have been recognized through the Environmental Stewardship Award Program since 1991. Winners are selected by a group of university, conservation organization and federal and state agency representatives who consider management of water, wildlife, vegetation, air and soil along with leadership abilities and overall business sustainability.

7 – Texas, Nebraska, Kansas, California and Oklahoma raise the most cattle in the U.S.

8 – Rangelands cover about 30 percent of the U.S. and are found in all 50 states. Rangelands across the Great Plains were developed

under grazing pressure, which is why grazing cattle is important for the health of this ecosystem.

9 – Beef provides 10 essential nutrients including protein, vitamins B6 and B12, selenium, zinc, niacin, phosphorus, choline, iron and riboflavin.

10 – A cooked three-ounce lean beef burger patty averages around 154 calories while providing nearly half the recommended daily value of protein (about 25 grams). Expect to consume more calories for the same amount of protein with options like peanut butter (six tablespoons for 564 calories) or quinoa (three cups for 665 calories). 

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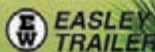
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World champion Cody Ohl was presented a commemorative plaque honoring his retirement and contributions to San Angelo. (Photo by Krista Lucas)

Cinch Roping Fiesta

By Krista Lucas

Every year, roping fans descend on the southwest town of San Angelo, Texas, to watch some of the best ropers in the country compete at the Cinch Roping Fiesta at the Spur Arena.

The weekend hosts an invitational calf roping, match roping and steer roping competition, and there is plenty of shopping and mouth-watering steak to go with it.

The Roping Fiesta has been conducted the last full weekend of October for the past 66 years.

This year, the invitational calf roping had 40 cowboys rope three rounds, with the top 12 advancing to the short go.

This was the first year the winnings will count toward the 2020 Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association world standings.

In the first round, Blane Cox tied his calf in 9.4 seconds to take first place, with Lane Livingston,

Caleb Smidt and Shane Hanchey rounding out the top four.

Rookie cowboy and 2019 National High School Rodeo Association champion calf roper Shad Mayfield won the second round with a time of 9.3 seconds, and Ty Harris, Quade Hiatt and Clint Singleton placed second through fourth.

Smidt won the third round, tying the fastest time of the day at 8.1 seconds. Adam Gray, Zack Johnbloed and Taylor Santos finished in the money.

Mayfield went on to the short go in second place overall, and after winning the short go of 12, he walked away with the invitational championship.

This was Mayfield's first year to be invited to the annual roping fiesta, and the 19-year-old cowboy is on a roll headed into his first Wrangler National Finals Rodeo in December.

During the match, reining

world champion calf roper Smidt of Bellville, Texas, went head-to-head with 2005 all around world champion Ryan Jarrett of Comanche, Okla.

Each cowboy roped 12 head, with the fastest total time walking away with \$20,000, a custom buckle and bragging rights.

Jarrett led most of the way, ahead of Smidt by six seconds at the halfway point.

A turn of events would happen on the 10th calf, when Jarrett missed and had to chase the calf down the long arena to throw a second loop.

The match lead had not changed hands after the 10th round since Fred Whitfield broke a barrier in 1998.

Smidt continued to stay calm, cool and collected and came out victorious, roping 12 head in 148.1 seconds ahead of Jarrett's 152.3 seconds.

Smidt also won the fastest time


bonus from roping a calf in 8.1 seconds in the third round.

Cody Ohl, six-time world champion, was presented a special award during the roping for his contributions to the Roping Fiesta. Ohl has roped in the jackpot numerous times during the past two or three decades and was a fan favorite in the match roping.

He has since announced his retirement, and several of the younger ropers competing noted that their idol growing up was Ohl.

The weekend wrapped up on Sunday with a PRCA steer roping competition. Visit www.sanangelorodeo.com for full results.

Every roping fan should make plans to visit San Angelo the last weekend of October at least once.

With some of the most competitive roping and the best steaks around, fans will not leave disappointed. 



All Choked Up

EQUINE ESOPHAGEAL OBSTRUCTIONS

By Garrett Metcalf, DVM

Horses that experience an esophageal obstruction can be a quite frightening and confusing situation at times for horse owners, especially if it is witnessed when it occurs. Horses do not technically choke per se in comparison to a human choke that causes airway obstruction, but rather have a bolus of feed or other objects that become lodged in the esophagus at various levels. In other words, standard emergency procedures in humans like the Heimlich maneuver will not correct an esophageal obstruction, but there are several techniques to correct these obstructions in horses. Additionally there can be complications that can develop secondary to the choke that may put the horses' life in danger.

Anatomy

The equine stomach is composed of several layers of tissue that are rather elastic to accommodate feed material to pass from the pharynx to the stomach which is no short trip at about four to five feet in length. There are two muscles that make up the esophagus with the proximal 2/3 striated muscle and the last 1/3 smooth muscle. The esophagus passes down the left side of neck, dips down to pass into the chest, back up over the heart, through the diaphragm and into the stomach. There are several areas that obstructions occur where the esophagus changes direction and also passes through more narrow regions like at the entrance of the chest and the diaphragm. The beginning of the esophagus is directly above the opening of the trachea putting the airway at risk of feed material or contents enter-



Although choke or esophageal obstructions can be a serious problem and rather concerning to owners, it is a rather simple problem the majority of the time. (Courtesy photo)

ing it during a choke episode.

Causes and Predisposing Factors

Choke is the most common disorder that affects the esophagus

in horses. Besides the obvious cause of choke from large bulky material that is not able to pass down the esophagus, there are occasionally other causes of choke.

Treats, apples, hay, grain, foreign material such as wire, rope or other objects have been culprits of causing choke in horses. Injuries to the esophagus such as direct blows to the neck or lacerations can cause scarring or restrictions of the esophagus putting the horse at risk of choking.

Other predisposing factors are poor dentition or bad teeth which often comes with age. Dental conditions such as poor dental occlusion from a wave or missing teeth can predispose to choke. Older horses with dental issues often cannot properly grind hay or grain to appropriate size to be swallowed necessitating special diets that will reduce the risk of choke.

Dehydrated hay pellets or cubed hay can be a risk factor of choke if not rehydrated before feeding to horses. It's not uncommon to have young horses choke due to competition with other horses for their meals or gluttony like behavior over feed.

Clinical Signs

Horses that are experiencing esophageal obstruction can have various clinical signs but there are hallmark ones that are rarely mistaken for other conditions. The number one thing is feed material and fluid/saliva coming out both nostrils.

Sometimes the onset of choke is witnessed by owners making it rather easy to diagnose the problem. Depending on the temperament, age and whether the horse has experienced choke before, horses can display signs of panic like behavior of thrashing, rolling and pawing that mimics signs of colic.



Often horses will cough because of the close anatomical location of the esophagus to the trachea leading to some amounts of feed material or saliva entering the wind pipe. Horses will attempt to swallow multiple times or even display a gag like reflex or retching motion by flexing and stiffening of the neck briefly. Occasionally a bolus of feed can be seen in the neck but often the obstructions occur at the base of the neck or further down the esophagus where it cannot be visualized.

Diagnosis and Treatment

Diagnosis is often made by history from the owner and clinical signs the horse is displaying. Sometimes further diagnostic tools are needed for more complicated cases like foreign bodies, esophageal injuries or chokes that cannot be resolved with standard treatments. These tools include flexible endoscopes that can be passed down the esophagus, radiographs or barium swallow studies.

Treatment is to clear the obstruction by passing a nasogastric stomach tube into the esophagus with the goal to dislodge the obstruction under heavy sedation with a combination of gentle manipulations of the tube combined with pumping water to flush it out. Occasionally long instruments can be used to remove obstructions that are accessible at the more proximal aspect of the esophagus.

Even surgery is sometimes necessary to access certain times of obstructions like wire or other sharp jagged items. Medical treatment has been used to treat more mild times of choke with combination of sedation and other drugs to relax the esophagus allowing the obstruction to disperse and be passed down into the stomach on its own while muzzling the horse or removing all shavings and feed material from the stall to keep them from ingesting more material.

Do's and Don'ts

If it is suspected that a horse

is choked it is not wise to elevate the horse's head to help pass the choke. This puts the horse at risk of more feed material and saliva entering the trachea and lungs, leading to aspiration pneumonia which can be life threatening.


Don't wait for a prolonged period of time (hours) to contact a veterinarian if you suspect a choked horse. It is okay to wait it out for a little while because occasionally the choke may pass on its own, especially if the horse can be calmed and kept from eating. By waiting for greater than three or more hours the horse may become dehydrated and also the obstruction can cause irritation or damage to the lining of the esophagus over time.

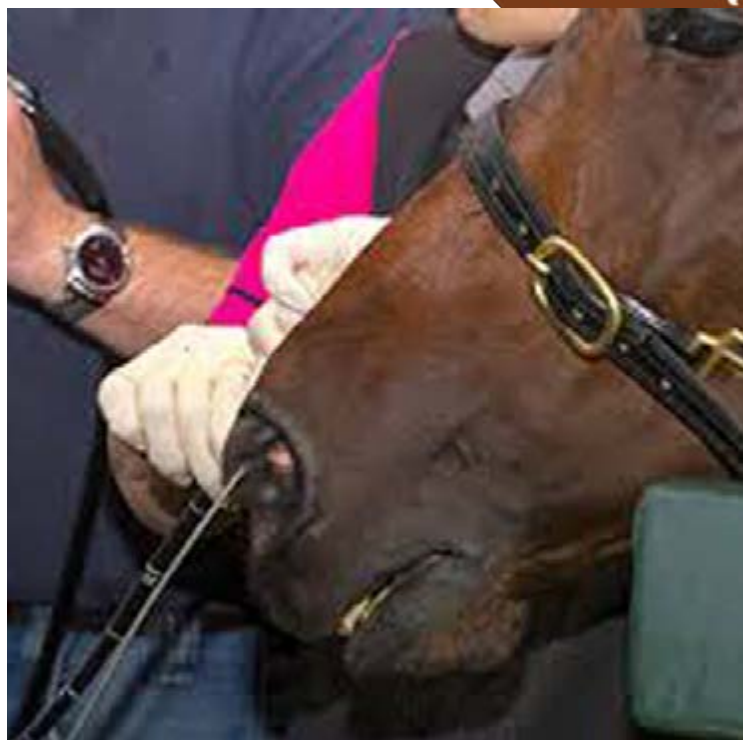
Massaging the neck rarely yields any success of trying to help resolve a choke but as long as the horse's head is not elevated it will not hurt to try.

Recommendations are to put the horse in a stall with no shavings, food or water. If you don't have a stall put the horse in a dry lot or even a trailer with bedding. Keep the horse calm and allow the horse to relax to have a chance of the choke to resolve on its own.

Keep the horse's head low to the ground. This allows the feed and saliva coming from the esophagus not to enter the trachea. Call your veterinarian for advice and to assure the diagnosis is a choke.


Although choke or esophageal obstructions can be a serious problem and rather concerning to owners, it is a rather simple problem the majority of the time.

Complications can arise such as esophageal damage or aspiration pneumonia, especially if treatment is delayed for too long or if the clinical signs are misunderstood for some other problem leading to mistakes mentioned before. Remember to contact your veterinarian if you suspect a choke in your horse to get proper advice and to see if further treatment is warranted. 



Horses do not technically choke per se in comparison to a human choke that causes airway obstruction, but rather have a bolus of feed or other objects that become lodged in the esophagus at various levels. (Courtesy photo)

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WHEN A CITY GIRL *goes country*

By Annette Bridges

This is one of those really hard days.

I've lived with my husband on his family's cattle ranch for 39. Honestly, most of those years ranching was not my primary focus. I helped my husband when he needed me to, particularly driving a tractor when picking up hay bales.

The rest of it, well, it simply hasn't received my full attention. That's because I was busy doing my own things like working on my master's degree, teaching kindergarten, eventually homeschooling our daughter, caring for various ill and aging family members, along with many other projects and passions.

Since the passing last year of my mom and our 17-year old dachshund, I've been more actively engaged in ranching with my husband and consequently much more involved and aware of what cattle ranching means and requires.

Today is definitely one of the toughest days yet. Today was the day when it became necessary to take our almost eight-year-old rather crippled bull to the sale barn. I feel heartbroken and sad. My husband said it well when he lamented during our ride, "I feel like I'm betraying him."

I understand those feelings. I felt those when we were faced with helping our beloved dachshund cross her rainbow bridge.

I've read many ranchers opt for a new bull every two to four years. A few keep their bulls 10 to 12, but eight years was the number described as the average among



(Left) Annette's bull, back in his prime. (Right) The most recent, and last, photo Annette has of her bull. (Photos courtesy Annette Bridges)

ranchers. I've read the many reasons for swapping out for a new bull and those for hanging on to an older mature one – all sensible in the scheme of ranching.

Watching our gentle old bull loading up for probably his last trailer ride was like a dagger being thrust into my heart. I could not stop the tears from flowing. I know this decision was a hard one for my husband, and I wanted to be a supportive and understanding rancher's wife to him, but I can't stop my feelings.

I've walked through a lot of grief in the past five years. Besides

my dear mom and dog last year, I've lost two brothers, step-dad and friends. Grief is tough and it's not easy for anyone. We probably all wish we never had to face the loss of loved ones.

As I struggled with my feelings through last year's most difficult season of grief, I will never forget what a friend said to me. She said, "When you love well, you need to grieve well."

I didn't at first fully understand her words. I honestly wasn't sure I wanted to. I felt like they were telling me I had to embrace my sadness when at the time all I

wanted to do was run away and avoid feelings that simply seemed unbearable.

I have learned the best way, dare I say the fastest way, to walk through grief is precisely that. Through it, feeling all the feelings.

So today I feel very sad. It is perfectly normal and natural to feel sad to say goodbye to our bull. He's been part of our animal family for a long time, and he's done his job faithfully and consistently. Well done, Mr. Bull, well done. You will be remembered and honored as one of our best.®

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JESSES JEWELZ

Happy December, happy end of 2019 and happy early new year. As I'm Writing this, it's getting pretty chilly outside and I'm kind of hoping it sticks around. I'm ready to wear all of the fur jackets. I have some really cute options and so many ways to wear them. Leopard, serape and mustard, three of my favorite things. Grab these entire outfits off the website now, or mix and match how you please. Let's bring in the new year in style. Thank you for following along with me all year. Cheers!

Find all this and more at www.jessesjewelz.com. (Photo credit: Susanna Claire Photography)

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~JJ~

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LACEY'S PANTRY

By Lacey Newlin



Peppermint Hot Chocolate Cookies

Time: 1 hour 10 minutes • Serves: 48

Ingredients

Cookies

12 oz. semi-sweet baking chocolate, broken into pieces or chopped
 1/2 cup (113g) unsalted butter, 1 Tbsp pieces
 1 1/2 cups (213g) all-purpose flour
 1/4 cup (21g) unsweetened cocoa powder
 1 1/2 tsp baking powder
 1/2 tsp salt
 1 1/4 cups (280g) packed light brown sugar
 3 large eggs
 1 tsp peppermint extract
 1 tsp vanilla extract
 24 large marshmallows

Icing

2 cups powdered sugar
 1/4 cup (21g) cocoa powder
 4 Tbsp (56g) unsalted butter, small pieces
 1/4 cup half and half
 1/4 tsp peppermint extract

Instructions

For the cookies: Add chocolate and butter to a medium microwave safe mixing bowl. Heat in microwave in 30 second intervals, stirring well between intervals until melted and smooth, set aside to cool slightly.

Meanwhile add flour to a medium mixing bowl, sift in cocoa powder and add baking powder and salt. Whisk mixture to combine. Set aside.

In the bowl of an electric stand mixer fitted with the paddle attachment, blend together brown sugar, eggs, peppermint extract and vanilla. Mix in chocolate mixture.

With mixer set on low speed slowly add in flour mixture and mix just until combined.

Cover bowl and chill 1 hour or until firm enough to handle (I actually divided the dough into two containers and it chills faster). Preheat



oven to 325 degrees during the last 15 minutes of chilling.

Scoop dough out about 1 lightly heaping tablespoon at a time. Shape into a ball then transfer to a baking sheet lined with parchment paper or a silicone baking mat, spacing cookies 2-inches apart (keep remaining dough chilled).

Bake in preheated oven until slightly underbaked, about 9 minutes. Meanwhile cut marshmallows into halves using kitchen scissors.

Remove cookies from oven and add 1 marshmallow half to each cookie placing the cut side downward.

Return to oven and bake about 2 - 3 minutes longer until marshmallows have begun to melt.

Remove from oven and gently press down on marshmallows to flatten slightly. Cool on

pan several minutes then transfer cookies to wire racks and set wire racks over a baking sheet.

For the icing: Sift powdered sugar and cocoa into a medium mixing bowl, set aside.

Heat butter and cream over medium heat and cook, stirring frequently until butter has melted and mixture reaches a simmer. Remove from heat, pour in powdered sugar and cocoa powder and whisk until smooth.

Mix in peppermint extract. If mixture is too thick, thin it with a little hot water, if it's too thin thicken with a little more sifted powdered sugar.

Immediately spoon icing over cookies (or alternately drizzle from a resealable bag with a cut corner) and sprinkle each cookie with crushed peppermint after adding icing because the icing will start to set quickly. ®



SHERIFF LARRY FOWLER

LARRY FOWLER

"It's"

Parker County Sheriff Larry Fowler stands in front of the building named in his honor in 2017, the Sheriff Larry Fowler Law Enforcement Center.
(Photo by Dani Blackburn)



The role of sheriff dates back to the ninth century in England, making it the oldest continuing, non-military law enforcement entity in history. The sheriff's office emerged in the United States in 1776 when Pennsylvania and New Jersey adopted the Office of Sheriff in their constitution, leading to a time in the old west when the badge and a cowboy hat could be found patrolling towns across the country, searching for cattle thieves, collecting taxes, maintaining jails, and breaking up saloon brawls.

The role of the sheriff evolved as populations exploded and other law enforcement agencies were developed, but some parts of the job remain the same. Some sheriffs, such as Parker County Sheriff Larry Fowler, with his broad stature and western attire, could step back in time and be right in place with the very first sheriffs who graced our great country. Instead, he serves as sheriff in a modern age, with a goal of preserving the past and protecting the farmers, ranchers and others living in rural areas. He has served in multiple roles during his 54-year law enforcement career, including working as a United States Marshal, before returning to his roots in Parker County to become sheriff in 2005. He has continued to serve even through an organ transplant that crowned him the oldest living double lung transplant recipient.

Fowler was born in Parker County, the oldest of two children to Oscar and Mary Fowler, and was raised by his grandparents, Dock and Ida Durrett. At 17-years-old, Fowler joined the United States Navy for four years.

"I was a bit of a reckless youngster, and the U.S. Navy straightened me out in a hurry,"

See FOWLER page 42

FOWLER:

a labor of love"



Fowler

Continued from page 41

recalled Fowler. "I enjoyed every minute of my Navy time."

When Fowler was finished with his Navy career and completed his time in the Reserves in 1961, he was working for the Engineering Department surveying crew and was asked to go to work in the jail.

"Since it was the middle of winter and cold out on that road, I thought perhaps that might be a good deal," laughed Fowler. "But instead of going to the jail, they made me a deputy sheriff and that is where I started, in Tarrant County. I had never really considered law enforcement before; it was just a door that opened. I stayed there for a while, and then I came back to my hometown of Weatherford and joined the police department here in 1965."

It is where Fowler remained until March 1971, when as a lieutenant on the force, he was accepted by the United States Marshal Service.

"I was very excited; it was like a dream come true," recalled Fowler.

The young Marshal was stationed in Fort Worth but traveled the country extensively during his 24-year career. His adventures took him around the world, including to Guam, London, Dallas, Baltimore, Washington, Miami, Los Angeles, San Francisco and Michigan.

Wounded Knee Operation

During his career with the U.S. Marshals, Fowler was a part of the Wounded Knee Operation in South Dakota on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in 1973.

In the late 1960s, Indians formed the American Indian Movement after feeling fed up with what they considered mistreatment by the government across many years. The group began protesting across the country. One of those protests included Wounded Knee, following the murder of an Oglala Lakota man, and the protest escalated into a standoff with federal authorities.

Fowler was one of 100 Marshals assigned to the operation, but after it became a shooting war, other federal agencies were brought in.

"We were stretched pretty thin," recalled Fowler. "We had a 15 mile-perimeter around this village of Wounded Knee, and they had gone down there and taken over the village and kidnapped some of the postal workers because there was a post office and a trading



Larry Fowler stands in front of the sign for the Oglala Sioux. (Photo courtesy Larry Fowler)

post down there, and later on they burned it down. It was wild."

The Marshals and other federal agents were up against 600. The opposition lost a few lives, while one Marshal from Nebraska was shot in the chest and paralyzed for life. The Indians would construct walls around the buildings with dirt behind them so the United States agencies could not shoot behind them, and torches were soaked in diesel fuel for the purpose of burning buildings down.

"It got pretty bad up there," said Fowler. "After a while, you got a bad attitude because this is really going on. Terrible."

Fowler still has the American flag he took down from over one of their bunkers as it was flying upside down, and a letter from the Director of the United States Marshal Service after the ordeal was finished.

Bureau of Indian Affairs Building Takeover

Prior to Wounded Knee, the Native Americans conducted a protest from Nov. 3 to Nov. 9, 1972, when a group of around 500 Indians with the AMI took over the BIA building in Washington, D.C., just blocks from the White House.

"I got a call to come to Washington as part of a special ops group," explained Fowler. "We always kept our gear with us, so I caught a flight from Boston down to D.C., and the Indians had taken over the BIA building. They had run everybody out of there and taken it over, barricading the doors. They got up on the roof and stacked typewriters and calculators, anything they could throw off on people, so they called us in."

The Marshals were stationed at Fort Belfair where they worked on an operation with helicopters to fly over and fast rope down on the roof in order to remove the Indians from the building. However, President Richard M. Nixon was in the middle of achieving re-election and sought a peaceful end to the protest. The occupants agreed to leave with promises from the White House it would examine eligibility of Indians for governmental services, adequacy of governmental service delivery, quality speed and effectiveness of federal programs, Indian self-government and congressional implementation of necessary Indian legislation, but not before they caused an estimated \$700,000 in damages and the loss and destruction of many

See FOWLER page 44

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Sheriff Larry Fowler with his wife, Gail. (Photo by Dani Blackburn)



Fowler

records.

Guam

Fowler was sent to Guam in the year 1974 in another memorable operation.

"There were several hundred Vietnamese being kept at Camp Pendleton in California. They were refugees, and they wanted to go back to Vietnam, so the state department requested the U.S. Marshals because when somebody doesn't know who has jurisdiction, guess what? The U.S. Marshals get it," explained Fowler.

The Marshals were tasked with moving the refugees from Camp Pendleton to Guam in the Mariana Islands.

"There was a ship in the harbor that had a bunch of rocket holes in it. They had escaped from Vietnam in it and were shot at. They wanted to fix this ship so all of these Vietnamese could go back to Vietnam in it. We sat about doing

"I remember standing in the intersection of Florence and Normandie where Reginald Denny got hit in the head with a brick ... I was looking around at all this devastation, and I thought 'This is America. How does this happen?'" - Fowler

that and every day, I took around 100 to 150 Vietnamese to work on that ship, and the U.S. Navy helped them," said Fowler.

It took around a month for the ship to be repaired, and during that time, riots were breaking out in the camp where the refugees were being housed, along with some communist infiltration.

"It was quite an ordeal," said Fowler. "When we loaded them on the ship, we knew there were a bunch of communist sympathiz-

ers in the bunch, and when they pulled away from the pier they ran a Vietcong flag up on the fantail. We weren't just real happy about that because we worked to get them what they wanted."

Rodney King Riots

On April 29, 1992, a trial jury acquitted four officers of the Los Angeles Police Department for using excessive force in the arrest of African-American Rodney King. The arrest had been videotaped and widely broadcast

on televisions across the country, causing a series of riots and civil disturbances.

The reaction to the verdict was particularly violent as thousands rioted during a six-day period, causing more than 50 deaths and 2,000 injuries, while thousands of arrests were made for arson and looting.

Fowler was among the Marshals called in to help the LAPD during the turmoil.

"The LAPD was having big troubles, so there were 100 of us with special operations who flew out to work with the police department during the riots, and boy was that an eye opener. I remember standing in the intersection of Florence and Normandie where Reginald Denny got hit in the head with a brick, and everything was burned down. It was about two or three in the morning, and I was looking around at all this
See FOWLER page 46



Larry Fowler (middle) worked narcotics during his time with the U.S. Marshal Service.



Larry Fowler (left) During Wounded Knee as part of the U.S. Marshal Service.



Sheriff Larry Fowler holds the flag from Wounded Knee while standing in his office in Weatherford, Texas.



Larry Fowler in front of the church during Wounded Knee. (Photos courtesy Larry Fowler)



Fowler

Continued from page 44

devastation, and I thought ‘This is America. How does this happen?’ That was my thought process,” recalled Fowler.

The special operatives were tasked with moving in groups of four with long guns, following LAPD officers as the units enforced the curfew.

When the units would stop, the Marshals would create a fan around them, watching the roof tops.

“It was a rather unique experience,” said Fowler.

The U.S. Marshals Service requires mandatory retirement at the age of 57, so Fowler retired June 5, 1995, on his 57th birthday. Fowler said as he recalls, that was a Friday, and on Monday, he went to work as Executive Director of the Parker County Crime Commission, where he stayed for one year.

He then went to work as Chief Deputy of the Sheriff’s Office for the former sheriff, for around 18 months. He was offered the job as Assistant Warden at a prison facility, an opportunity for better pay while remaining in the justice realm. In 2000, a vacancy opened in the Parker County District Attorney’s Office, and Fowler made the move to investigator for the next four years.

In 2004, Fowler made the decision to run for Parker County Sheriff.

“I ran for sheriff because Parker County is my home. It’s a labor of love. I love this county and I owe everything to it,” explained Fowler.

Running for sheriff was a thought that had crossed Fowler’s mind after he got his start in law enforcement. Now, he has been in the business for 54 years and served as sheriff since 2005. A double lung transplant couldn’t even stop his career in law en-

“If you think about what was fixing to happen to you and what was going to be the outcome, because you were going to die, and it was over. I am most grateful. Somebody had their hand on my shoulder.”

- Fowler

forcement. Problems with his lungs began seven years ago, when Fowler was diagnosed with pulmonary fibrosis.

“Around two and a half years ago I was having difficulty, my lungs were ruined because I had pulmonary fibrosis. It got to where I was even using oxygen to be able to get to the office and conduct business. Then for about two weeks I couldn’t get here; I was sinking fast,” said Fowler.

The sheriff had been going through transplant testing for his lungs at the UT Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas for around a year.

“It got down to where they gauge who is the worst off, and if all of your testing looking for other things has been negative and you are okay to go, they put you on a list. Then the fun begins. They call a primary and a secondary when they have donor organs, and whoever is the worst off is the recipient,” explained Fowler.

The first call came in the middle of the night. Fowler and his wife of 30 years, Gail, tore out for Dallas. Fowler was put in a room where they stayed for several hours before they were informed he was not the one receiving the lungs that night.

Around two weeks later, a second call came, and this time Fowler was taken all the way down to the outside of the pre-op

room, but again, someone else received the lungs and Fowler was sent back home.

The third time also was not the charm for Fowler. This time around, he was totally prepped and taken to pre-op and put in the operating room, strapped to the table, and doctors were preparing to put him to sleep when they discovered the lungs were too small.

A week and a half after that, yet another call came.

“I went over there, and they got me ready, and boy did it work,” said Fowler. “That’s the way it is done, and today the only issue I have that I am aware of is part of the anti-rejection medication you have to take the rest of your life makes my legs kind of weak. That is my only complaint. Here I am, with brand new lungs, and to my knowledge at 79, I have been told I am the oldest person to ever get a double lung transplant.”

The sheriff was given the opportunity to thank the donor family, an opportunity he seized after his surgery.

“You don’t know who the donor is, but there is a mechanism to find out. You write a letter to the transplant office in Dallas, and they will forward the letter on to the donor family,” said the now 81-year-old sheriff. “Then they have the option of whether to write it or not, and it took me two months to decide what to say.

I sent it, and I never heard back. I don’t question that, I just wanted to say thank you because without that, you and I would not be sitting here talking.”

The sheriff didn’t stay down for long, returning to the office just three short weeks after surgery.

“I didn’t stay out of work for as long as they wanted me to, because in three weeks I was back here in the office,” laughed Fowler. “I wasn’t doing a lot, but I was here. The surgery was painful, and you talk about sore, but I really kind of breezed through it. If you think about what was fixing to happen to you and what was going to be the outcome, because you were going to die, and it was over. I am most grateful. Somebody had their hand on my shoulder.”

Stepping away from law enforcement after such a long, successful career and major surgery never crossed this sheriff’s mind. He was ready to get back to work, to a job that requires quite a bit from the one who occupies its seat.

Parker County includes a land-mass of 910 square miles. Within those 910 square miles, there are several city police departments. However, those departments amount to 52.5 square miles comprised of cities, leaving 857 square miles to the sheriff’s office. Inside those 857 square miles is a population of 90,000 people.

For Parker County, the population is growing at a rate of around 4,500 people a year. Sheriff departments across North Texas are tasked with covering a wide range of square miles and the farmers, ranchers and residents who live within those borders.

“Without a local sheriff’s department, farmers and ranchers would be in a world of hurt because we work closely with the Texas Cattle Raiser Association



investigators. They are a big help to us, whether it is stolen stock trailers, stolen saddles, tack, they help us with all of that," explained Fowler.

There are steps farmers and ranchers can take to help out their local law enforcement agency.

"Pay attention," urged Fowler. "If something you suspect is not right involving livestock, give us a call because we don't mind. A lot of times if you get on something early enough, you can make it where it is not quite so bad in the end results, so we encourage phone calls. I keep a big brand book and we try to keep it current with earmarks and brands. We also have access to the Cattle Raiser brand information. We have a lot to do with livestock around here."

One of the things Fowler is most proud of is the recently opened Children's Advocacy Center of Parker County, a nonprofit

the sheriff played a big part in getting started.

"It is something that is badly needed here, and there are two investigators who are assigned to work those cases that come through the center. It is sad to say there is quite a number," said Fowler.

Overall, Fowler hopes by helping the county and urging its residents to help one another, it can be a small step in preserving country living.

"Unless you have lived it, you don't really know. Neighbors took care of neighbors," recalled the sheriff. "It seems to be not that way anymore. To some degree it is, but not like it used to be where I was raised on the farm. We didn't have electricity until 1948, so I remember when an ice box did not mean a refrigerator. It meant an ice box. Those were kinder days, life was considerably different and I miss them."®



Parker County Sheriff Larry Fowler. (Photo by Dani Blackburn)

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Cowboy Christmas GIFT GUIDE FOR THE FARM/RANCH



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Cowboy Christmas GIFT GUIDE FOR HIM



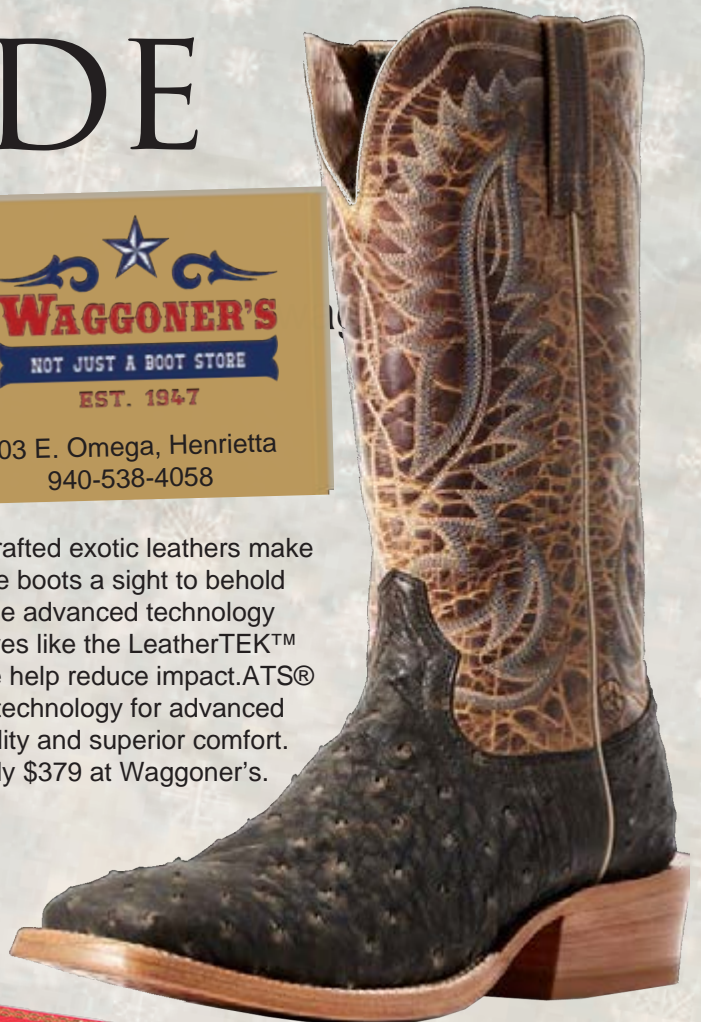
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Cowboy Christmas GIFT GUIDE FOR HER



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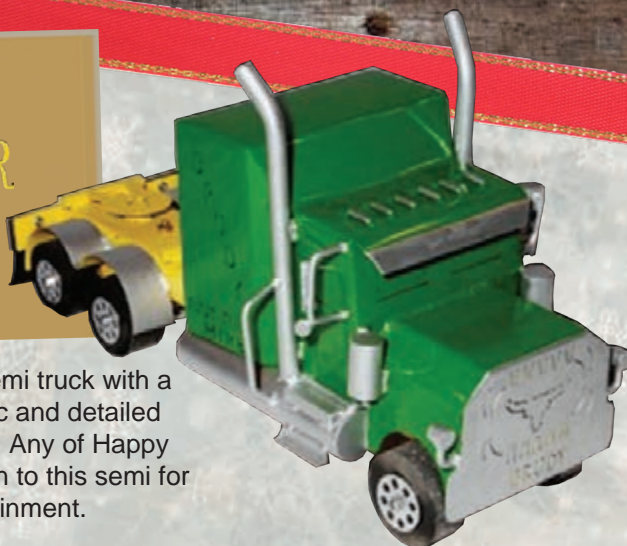
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Cowboy Christmas

GIFT GUIDE

FOR THE KIDS



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Cowboy Christmas

GIFT GUIDE

FOR THE HOME



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473.07 ACRES | CLAY COUNTY



MESQUITE HILL HUNTING RANCH

\$2,450/Ac

This is a prime turn-key hunting and fishing property located in Clay County, northwest of Petrolia. It primarily densely wooded with mesquite, scattered open areas and a heavily wooded creek bisecting the property. It has rolling elevation changes offering great views. There are 6 ponds, 3 of them were recently built with a max depth of 25 feet, 1 to 3 acres and were stocked with bass, catfish and crappie. There are 12 blind and feeder set ups that will convey with the property. Electricity is available.

175 ACRES | CLAY COUNTY



BYMOND WICHITA RIVER RANCH

\$2,550/Ac

This is a great hunting property with Wichita River frontage, located a short 15 minute drive from Wichita Falls. The land has asphalt road frontage with access to public water and electricity. There is 60 acres of farmland along the road frontage, with the balance being heavily wooded. Bear Creek and other seasonal creek traverse the tract, it also has approximately 1,500' of frontage on the Wichita River. The Bymond offers ample hunting and recreational opportunity.

100 ACRES | CLAY COUNTY



NEW LISTING

STANFIELD RANCH

\$2,750/Ac

The Stanfield Ranch is about half wooded and half farmland. The east half along Zachary Lane is farmland. The west half is primarily wooded with mesquites, a few scattered oaks, with rolling to sloping terrain and great views. There are two stock ponds and a seasonal creek. The Little Wichita River is approximately 1 mile south and the Red River is approximately 2 miles east. For the most part this ranch is surrounded by large acreage neighbors. Electricity is available and well water appears available.

326 ACRES | BAYLOR COUNTY



NEW LISTING

FARR RANCH

\$1,995/Ac

Great combo ranch, primarily native mesquite pasture, 80 acres of farmland, level to rolling topo with various overlooks and steep embankments offering many scenic vantage points, 4 stock ponds, some with fish, Coal Creek and a seasonal creek. There is a 30x50 insulated workshop with 300 sf of finished space, 2 large sliding doors and carports on either end of the shop, a 30x60 metal equipment shed and steel livestock corrals, boundary is fenced and interior is cross fenced.

150 ACRES | JACK COUNTY



NEW LISTING

MCBEE RANCH

\$2,950/Ac

150 acres located in northern Jack County. It is heavily wooded with primarily oaks, some mesquites and scattered open areas. It has gently rolling to steep sloping topography, with a large ridge along its western portion offering tremendous views. Surface water consist of 1 stock pond. Access is off FM 2190 and a private deeded all weather road. Electricity is available on the property and well water is available. Various size tracts available.

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- Bell Scott River Ranch - 1,319 Acre - Clay Co - \$2,100/Acre
- McBee Tract 10 - 25 Acres - Jack Co - \$4,950/Acre
- Sisk Road Wetlands - 80.56 Acres - Archer Co - \$1,850/Acre
- Duck Bill River Farm - 475.03 Acres - Wichita Co - \$2,250/Acre
- Kincaid Hunting Farm - 250.72 Acres - Wichita Co - \$1,975/Acre
- Lost Creek - 206.74 Acres - Young Co - \$2,375/Acre

MORE DETAILS AVAILABLE AT TURNERCOUNTRYPROPERTIES.COM



On the Road with Dave Alexander



Howdy Texas Music Fans. It's been said that imitation is the greatest form of flattery. It seems the latest musical craze that is sweeping the country these days are "Tribute Bands." It turns out that if you're looking for great music, your best bet is to find someone who's recreating it.

Nashville has jumped the track so far that if you are looking for good music and you're over 12 years old, you'll need to turn the clock backwards a few decades.

The good news is, here in north Texas, we can still find really good country music.

Lisa Layne has been performing Patsy Cline shows all over America for more than 25 years. Back in 1993 she won the role to play Patsy in the first National Tour of "Closer Walk with Patsy Cline." She also performed that

role at the Ernest Tubb Theater in Nashville before moving to Branson and performing "Always Patsy Cline" where the show was named "Best Show in Branson" in 2010 and 2011, and Lisa was named the "Top Female Vocalist." Backed by a full band, this show will make you believe Patsy Cline is on the stage.

Lisa also was the voice of Vince Vance and the Valiants and sang "All I Want for Christmas is You", the fifth most requested song at Christmas of all time.

Now is your chance to experience this great entertainer without leaving town. Lisa will be performing her "Tribute to Patsy Cline" at the First Star Bank Performing Arts Center on the North Central Texas College campus in Gainesville on January 25. You can get your tickets now at lionoftexas.com.[®]

Dave's upcoming shows:

December 6

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Our bellies are full as we go to bed that night to dream of the weekend's fun.

Red Steagall's ranch rodeo is where many friends from competing ranches come together. Real working cowboys, rolling up in their ranch rigs are ready for the three-day event ahead. Dirty and chapped hands shake as the group of cowboys greet each other for another year of friendly competition.

The events take way, like fighting momma cows against cowboys in the wild cow milking. The crowd erupts when someone gets to jumping as the rope from one horse flips someone's feet straight up in the air from a miscalculation on the movement of roping the cattle.

A display of good men, trying to break the previous team's record in timed events. Crowd watchers get slapped in the face by old arena dirt as broncs pass by the box seats in the arena, making for interesting pictures.

Outside there are tepees and chuckwagons set up like you're stepping back to simpler times. People in dress from the pioneer days as onlookers gather around each camp, curious about pioneer cutlery and more. Cast iron cookware embedded in the ground beneath ash for cobblers and breads as it lights up the air with smells so pure you could cry. It always rains during Steagall's and if it doesn't, it'll rain the night before, letting you know the events are about to take way or at the end, as a closing ceremony. 



FANTASY OF LIGHTS

CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL

Dec. 7th

Free cocoa & Christmas goodies at The Bowie News before the parade 5-6:45 p.m.

Christmas movies will be the theme for the parade.

Contact Cindy at:
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Retelling Stories in Texas

By Mandi Dietz

Texas, and specifically Parker County, recently became the backdrop for two films, *Twelve Mighty Orphans* and *The Chosen*.

The Lone Star State is the gift that keeps giving, from vast, diverse landscape, historic cowboy culture and genuine people to football and a resilient and determined spirit—two aspects behind the inspiring true story, *Twelve Mighty Orphans*, a reality-turned book and soon movie starring Texas-born Luke Wilson, Robert Duvall and Martin Sheen.

October through November, filming of TMO brought bright lights nearly each night and masses of crew crowding to the Texas Pythian Home in Weatherford. The excitement wrapped by Thanksgiving, and as the dust settles, we wait for the highly anticipated flick showcasing a legendary Texas story plus local setting and community members cast as actors and extras.

Little more than a decade ago, sports author and Texan, Jim Dent, published the book, *Twelve Mighty Orphans*, telling Amer-



Capernaum Village. (Photo courtesy Capernaumvillage.com)

ica about Fort Worth's Masonic Home Mighty Mites, a group of underprivileged boys who overcame unimaginable odds during the Great Depression, dominating the high school football scene and making multiple trips to the state championship.

In 1995, the Masonic Home won the Class 1A State Football Championship. Ten years later, due to a lack of funds, the school closed and merged with Fort Worth Independent School

District.

The historic Masonic Children's Home site now houses Dallas-based Uplift Mighty Preparatory, a free public charter school, serving pre-k through 12th-grade students. The school's chapel became the Bell Tower Chapel & Garden, a privately owned, popular wedding venue today.

Meanwhile, movie magic happening at the Capernaum Village in Poolville transformed Texas into the Holy Land for a multi-se-

ries television show, *The Chosen*, about the life of Jesus Christ.

Created, directed and co-written by Christian filmmaker Dallas Jenkins, who grew up in the Dallas/Fort Worth area, the *Chosen* triumphed over the red tape of Hollywood by raising more than \$10 million via Crowdfunding and 15,000 investors, a historical feat for the film/TV industry.

Jenkins' father, Jerry, also an author, is known best for his religious series of novels, *Left Behind*, which later adapted into films.

Capernaum Village offers live Biblical productions, retreats, group tours and an event space.

Some popular annual walk-through experiences include the Star of Bethlehem December 20 and 21, 2019; Passover April 3, 4, 10 and 11, 2020; and Apocalypse in October.

Wrapping up 2019, we kick off the new year with excitement and inspiration, looking forward to sharing the stories told in Texas and thankfulness for this great state that keeps on giving in so many ways. ☺



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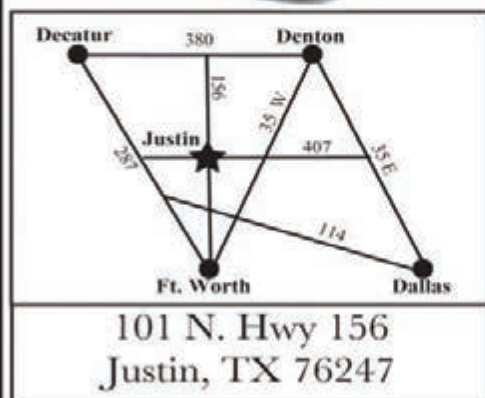
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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

How to Build Raised Beds and Container Gardens

NOV. 23 • ARDMORE, OK

Noble Research Institute Small-Scale Demonstration Area, 2510 Sam Noble Pkwy., Ardmore, OK 73401. How to Build Raised Beds and Container Gardens from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Nov. 23 at the Noble Research Institute Small-Scale Demonstration Area. \$25 registration fee, includes lunch. Come learn about the many kit and homemade garden bed/container options available and the pros and cons associated with each. You will have the opportunity to learn by participating in the construction of a novel raised garden bed and container garden ideal for use in a backyard setting. Must register online by Nov. 18 at www.noble.org/events.

MSU Burns Fantasy of Lights

NOV. 28-DEC. 28 • WICHITA FALLS

MSU, 3410 Taft Blvd, Wichita Falls, Texas 76308. Open daily at 6 p.m. The MSU - Burns Fantasy of Lights is one of the largest holiday displays of its kind. Its purpose is to provide a festive holiday atmosphere on campus, to serve as an outreach to the community and to be a focal point for holiday activities in North Texas. The displays are owned and operated by Midwestern State University for the benefit and enjoyment of the Wichita Falls community and surrounding area. It is filled with individual displays that showcase themes or characters from well-known children's stories, fairy tales and holiday themes. Fantasy of Lights is a nonprofit enterprise that relies exclusively on the generous donations and volunteerism of the MSU and Wichita Falls communities. www.msutexas.edu/fantasy.

The Nutcracker Ballet

NOV. 30 • WICHITA FALLS

Memorial Auditorium, 1300 7th Street, Wichita Falls, TX 76301. The annual production of the Wichita Falls Ballet Theatre "the Nutcracker" takes the stage at 7 p.m. Dec. 6, 1 p.m. Dec 7 and 7 p.m. Dec. 7. With one of the biggest casts yet, this year's performance is sure to be just what you need to kick off your family's holiday season. Get your tickets through the MPEC box office online or by calling (940) 716-5500. Visit <https://wichitafallsballettheatre.org/event/the-nutcracker-friday-evening/> or <http://wfmpec.com/event/the-nutcracker-4/>.

It's Christmas Market

NOV. 30 • FORT WORTH

Will Rogers Memorial Center, 3401 W. Lancaster Ave. From 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., join a festive, holiday experience complete with vendors, holiday music, 1000s of unique items perfect for gifts and delicious food. 817-392-7469.

Christmas on the Square

DEC. 7 • WEATHERFORD

Downtown Weatherford, TX. Christmas on the Square takes place the first Saturday in December. The annual Christmas parade kicks off the festivities at 10 a.m. Take advantage of the great shopping and special treats available in the downtown stores. Vendors and stores will offer special prices and sales, so you can stock up on Holiday gifts while you enjoy the festive atmosphere. There are lots of fun, family-friendly activities for all to enjoy. Take a minute to sit back and enjoy the live entertainment stages. weatherford-chamber.com/chamber-events/christmas-on-the-square.html

HOW TO GET WILD GAME FROM FIELD TO TABLE DEC. 12



Christmas Stroll and Lights Parade

DEC. 5 • GRAHAM

Downtown Graham, TX. Grab your mittens and head out to Graham. Stroll will begin at 5 p.m. and the events wrap up at 8 p.m. Evening also will include a Wassail competition, entertainment on the gazebo and the annual Hot Chocolicious competition, along with lighted parade. Visit <https://chamber.grahamtexas.net/events/details/2019-christmas-stroll-parade-1204> or call 940-549-3355 for more information on this annual holiday event.

Denton Holiday Lighting Festival

DEC. 6 • DENTON

Downtown Denton, TX. Come for a festive evening on the Denton square from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m. on Dec. 6 for this annual holiday event. There will be plenty of live local music, food, family fun and joyful holiday spirit for this one-of-a-kind community event. The event is free with some food and activities available for purchase, all that is asked is that guests bring a toy for the annual toy drive benefitting Elves Shelves. www.dentonholidaylighting.com

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Annual Fantasy of Lights

DEC. 7 • BOWIE

Downtown Bowie. Bowie lights up in December to open the holiday season. Festivities start in the morning with Pancakes with Santa at the City of Bowie Fire Hall, to Elf n Magic crafts to the lighted parade at dark in downtown Bowie. www.cityofbowietx.com.

Annual Christmas in Nocona

DEC. 7 • NOCONA

Downtown Nocona. Nocona decorates the downtown area for Christmas and the holiday festivities begin - complete with an appearance by Santa, a Christmas parade, family activities, a fish fry and downtown carolers. www.nocona.org/commerce.

A December to Remember Drawing

DEC. 9 • FORT WORTH

Reata, 310 Houston St., Fort Worth, Texas 76102. "A December to Remember" drawing dinner and Michael Martin Murphy. An evening in Fort Worth on Dec. 16, 2019 that includes dinner for two at Joe T Garcia's and two tickets to Michael Martin Murphy's Cowboy Christmas at Bass Hall with a meet and greet after the show. Tickets on sale now, \$25 each or five for \$100. All proceeds benefit Parker County Meals on Wheels. You do not have to be present to win and the prizes are transferable. Drawing will be 3 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 9 at the PCCOA Center in Weatherford. Call 817-596-4640 for information or visit <https://www.pcco.org/a-affle-to-remember-dinner-for-2-and-tickets-to-michael-martin-murphys-cowboy-christmas/>.

Managing Taxes for Agricultural Producers

DEC. 10 • ARDMORE, OK

Noble Research Institute Kruse Auditorium, 2510 Sam Noble Pkwy., Ardmore, OK 73401. Managing Taxes for Agricultural Producers from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Dec. 10 at the Noble Research Institute Kruse Auditorium. No registration fee. The Internal Revenue Services continues to interpret and publish guidance and regulations pertaining to the tax legislation passed by Congress in December 2017. Some changes will become effective for the 2019 tax year. Join us to learn more details. Tax professionals will be available to answer questions. Guests must register for the event by Dec. 3 at www.noble.org/events. For more information, visit the Noble Institute online or call 580-223-5810.

How to Get Wild Game from Field to Table

DEC. 12 • ARDMORE, OK

Noble Research Institute Pavilion, 2510 Sam Noble Pkwy., Ardmore, OK 73401. How to Get your Wild Game from Field to Table, 1:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. on Dec. 12. \$25 registration fee, includes dinner. Your fellow outdoorsmen, Noble Research Institute consultants, will demonstrate proper post-harvest animal and meat handling for popular species of large and small game. The workshop will conclude with a presentation of favorite recipes in a wild-beast feast. Come prepared to taste what nature provides and share your own stories and recipes with fellow hunters. Must register online by Dec. 5 at www.noble.org/events. Visit the Noble online for more information and upcoming events.

DOWNTOWN SANGER HOLIDAY STROLL DEC. 14



Downtown Sanger Holiday Stroll

DEC. 14 • SANGER

Downtown Sanger, TX. The Sanger Area Chamber of Commerce presents the Downtown Sanger Holiday Stroll from 4-8 p.m. on Dec. 14. The event will include wineries, breweries, food, live music, Santa Claus, crafts for kids and a parade with Santa Claus' arrival. Sponsored by Sugar Ridge Winery. Stroll in and out of the downtown businesses, sampling different wines and/or brews all while tasting food samples, shopping local, and enjoying the holiday activities. Tickets \$20 online, Sanger Chamber of Commerce Facebook or \$25 each at the gate. Visit <https://www.facebook.com/events/710216739481712/> or go to www.sangertexas.com.

38th Annual Candlelight Tour of Homes

DEC. 14 • WEATHERFORD

Weatherford, TX. The Parker County Heritage Society presents its 38th Home Tour from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Dec. 14. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$12 for children 12 and under and seniors 65 plus. Tickets can be purchased at the Doss Heritage and Culture Center at 1400 Texas Drive and the Weatherford Chamber of Commerce at 410 Fort Worth Highway. Online ticket sales will be available soon. Tickets purchased online can be picked up at the Doss Center on tour day. For a list of locations and more information, visit https://www.parkercountyheritagesociety.com/content.aspx?page_id=4002&club_id=62524&item_id=1076201.

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Grazing North Texas

By Tony Dean

Trailing winecup is a perennial native forb that is not only beautiful but also good grazing for livestock. (Photos courtesy Tony Dean)

Winecup

Grazing Value of This Plant

Winecup

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10



Winecup is readily eaten by all classes of livestock.

It's easy for us to take for granted the multiple forbs that are growing throughout our North Texas grazing lands. They play an important part in the health of our soils and of our livestock, and we should be aware of how they fit in our grazing environment.

Winecup is one of the forbs that many of us can recognize. There are both annual and perennial species, and there are four of these that grow in North Texas. Of significant numbers in our area is Trailing winecup, which is a perennial.

This low-growing plant originates from a turnip-shaped root and has vine-like hairy stems that grow both spreading, and sometimes weakly ascending, up to two feet long. It can grow in a variety of soils, but needs a well-drained site and can grow in full sun to partial shade.

The flowers are solitary, cup-shaped, and composed of five beautiful wine-colored petals that transition to light pink at the base of each petal. The flowers can be up to two inches in diameter, blooming from February to June, depending upon environmental conditions.

From a grazing standpoint, winecup is readily eaten by all

classes of livestock, and forage value for deer is excellent. Crude protein has been tested at 18 percent in January during the new growth period, and 13 percent during the later spring months. Energy values are moderate to high.

The flowers are not only beautiful but also are visited by many species of butterflies, and are often pollinated by bees.

Due to its growth early in the year, winecup can sometimes be heavily grazed at the beginning of spring because many other plants are still dormant. A correct stocking rate along with rotational grazing will usually assure that it can remain in a healthy pasture.

Forbs can become too dominant in some pastures during wet years, and we are tempted to spray herbicides to reduce the competition with grasses. Reduction of the forbs can grow more grass, but in doing that, we give up the

value of the beneficial forbs like winecup.

For medicinal purposes, crushed dried roots were inhaled for head colds, and aching limbs were exposed to the smoke to reduce pain. Roots were boiled, then the tea drunk for pain.

Ferdinand Lindheimer, the naturalist who identified winecup while in South Texas, is often called the father of Texas botany because of his work as the first permanent-resident plant collector of Texas.

Lindheimer was educated in Germany and became a teacher. He later became active in German politics, and his political affiliations alienated his family and placed him at risk. He immigrated to the United States as a political refugee.

In 1836, aroused by reports of the Texas Revolution, he traveled to New Orleans and ended up in Texas where he enlisted in the

army and served until 1837. He then served as a botanist in St. Louis and later worked nine years collecting specimens in Texas.

He settled in New Braunfels and was granted land on the banks of the Comal River. Lindheimer ran a school for gifted children and attempted to establish a botanical garden.

He also was publisher of a newspaper, served as the first Justice of the Peace of Comal County and continued to work as a naturalist.

During his career, he is credited with the discovery of several hundred plant species, and his name is used to designate 48 species and subspecies of plants. He died in 1879 and is buried in New Braunfels. His house is now a museum.

Lindheimer was collecting plants in South Texas on a cold winter day when he encountered a Comanche. The Comanche was wearing only a loin cloth, while Lindheimer was bundled up with nothing but his face showing. He asked the Comanche if he was cold.

In turn, the Comanche asked if Lindheimer's face was cold. Lindheimer said, "No." The Comanche then said, "I am all face." ®

Confessions of a Hunter

By Andy Anderson

Campfire and Camp Cooking

The campfire is only second in important things to have when hunting; the first being your rifle or bow. Some of the fondest memories I have as a kid are around the campfire, cooking meals, talking and sharing stories, the gossiping of men and tall tails of those bucks that got away.

I was about 10, maybe 11 years old as I accompanied my dad on a hunt one year. I remember it being really cold and because of Dad's work, we were only going to have this one weekend to go hunt.

Dad had an old Jeep wagon, she wasn't pretty, but man she would run. I learned later on in life of the serious modifications he made to it, like putting a Chevrolet 350 in it. That thing could and would go anywhere, and her name was Pearl.

We came onto the property early that afternoon. We didn't have a tent as we slept in the back of Pearl, but we unloaded everything else. Dad sent me around to gather rocks for the fire pit as he set up camp. I finished up the fire pit as dad's friends arrived to join us, mostly co-workers of his.

We loaded Pearl and took off into the woods, we came up to a big creek, with walls straight down and straight up. The creek had to be 15-20-foot-deep and cut right through the middle of the property. No one really hunted the other side because it was so hard to access. Not today!

I will never forget as dad reached to the floorboard, sliding her into 4-wheel drive, feeling the jump in excitement as if Pearl was a hound dog ready to get to turned loose. Dad eased her over



Some of the fondest memories Andy Anderson has as a kid is around the campfire, cooking meals, talking and sharing stories, the gossiping of men and tall tails of those bucks that got away. (Photo courtesy Andy Anderson)

the edge, you could feel the front tires drop off the edge and see the front view drop down to the floor of the creek.

Before I knew it, we were nearly vertical as dad yelled at me to hold on! Hold on to what I thought, there was nothing to hold on to! So, I just gripped to seat as best I could, leaned back and held on.

About that time dad put his foot into Pearl, her big block 350 came to life, Pearl was screaming as we hit the other side of the creek. The walls of the creek were taller than I could see, it looked as if we were driving right into a dirt wall. With a hard hit and bounce,

Pearl groaned as her tire gripped the earth and we were now looking at the sky. As the tires ripped the earth out from under us, the dirt hitting under my seat and the horizon came back into view, Pearl climbed out of that creek like a spider from a hole.

Dad looked down at me with a big'ol grin and said "Let's go get us a buck now!" We drove deep into the woods, found a place to set up. We parked Pearl and headed into the woods on foot.

We hunted all evening, didn't see a thing and got back to Pearl just as the light faded away and the dark took over.

The head lamps from Pearl


were dim and yellowish in color, we really couldn't see far. Dad smiled at me and said "Watch this." With the flip of a switch, the dark succumbed to light. It was like daylight, brighter than daylight. Dad had installed airplane landing lights on Pearl's front bumper. It was amazing how far we could see now.

As we approached camp, I could see the glow of the fire, men moving around and their shadows casted about the trees and tents. As we took our places around the fire, Dad reflected with his friends on how we took Pearl across the creek, you could tell he was proud of the accomplishment.

I sat there around the fire enjoying the warmth, staring into the burning flames and the hypnotizing glow of the red coals. Dad wrapped some cubed potatoes, beef and onion with some seasoning in aluminum foil and set on the grill.

It wasn't long before dinner was ready, I opened my foil pack, the steam filled the air and the smell was wonderful.

As I ate every bite of my dinner, I listened to Dad and his friends swap stories, tell jokes and laugh. I think those were some of the best meals I ever had, and certainly an educational experience unmatched by any school.

Camp fires and camp cooking are an essential part of every outdoor experience. With all the fancy cooking methods, pellet grills, campers with heat and air-conditioning, the camp fire will always stand the test of time and be a part of every outdoor experience. 



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THE GARDEN GUY

By Norman Winter | Horticulturist, Author, Speaker

Pecans Legendary in the South

California has its almonds and Florida its citrus, but from Thanksgiving through Christmas the pecan, the legendary horticultural crop of the South, is king. Indeed, it is legendary. As facts show, it was a crop eaten by Native American Indians long before explorers or settlers arrived.

Oddly, 1541 became a banner year in the history of the pecan thanks to men who took the time to write about their journeys. The first credit might best be given to Cabeza de Vaca because his exploration began earlier in 1529.

Unfortunately for him but great for pecan-lore is the fact Indians captured him on the coast of Texas. He, along with three others, survived the ordeal and was held captive until 1535. In his memoirs titled *Relaciones*, he reported the Native American Indians took him to a place called the 'river of nuts' that is now known as the Guadalupe River. Here he said the Indians survived on the nuts for two months with little else to eat.

About the same time, Hernando Desoto was discovering the wonderful taste of pecans in what was to become Mississippi. According to the late Fred Brison's book titled *Pecan Culture*, the pecan industry is indebted to Jean Penicaut for recording the origin of the name.

Penicaut, a ship carpenter, was one of six who escaped the Natchez massacre in 1729. He reported the natives of Natchez and Indian village on the Mississippi River had three kinds of walnut trees.

He described one kind as having nuts as big as the fist, from which bread for their soup was made and the second kind as having nuts scarcely bigger than the thumb, which were the best of all and which were

See PECANS page 74



From Thanksgiving through Christmas the pecan, the legendary horticultural crop of the South, is king. (Photos courtesy Norman Winter)

Pecans

Continued from page 73

called pecans. The third was not described.

This importance to Native American Indians has led the United States Department of Agriculture to name almost all of their new releases after tribes such as Sioux, Choctaw, Kiowa, Caddo, etc.

The Frenchman DeCourset observed our first President, George Washington, in 1782, saying he always had these nuts and was constantly eating them. Washington did write in his diary in 1794 of planting several poccon or Illinois nuts.

Note the botanical name of the pecan is *Carya illinoensis*.

The pecan is native along the Mississippi River from the Illinois-Iowa border west through parts of Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas. The eastern border stretches from Illinois through Kentucky, Tennessee, Arkansas, Mississippi and Louisiana. Many will probably find it odd that the largest pecan producing state, Georgia, and Alabama, also known for pecans and pecan pies, are not in the native pecan range.

Equally fascinating is the fact some of the largest orchards and highest production per acre farms are located near El Paso, Texas, outside the native range as well as Las Cruces, N.M., and Arizona.

The 2019 pecan crop was estimated at 266 million pounds in June with the top five producing states as New Mexico, 85; Georgia, 62; Texas, 36; Arizona, 30 and Oklahoma, 28. Other estimates have New Mexico and Georgia slightly higher.

Whether you have a small grove or just a tree in the landscape, taking care of those nuts once they hit the ground is important. The quality of the fallen fruit won't improve, so protecting the nuts the trees were able to produce

Simply Superb Pecan Pie

Ingredients

- 3 eggs, beaten
- 6 tablespoons, melted butter or margarine
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 cup pecans, pieces or halves
- ½ cup dark corn syrup
- 1 unbaked 9-inch pie crust
- 1 teaspoon vanilla

Instructions

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Beat eggs thoroughly with sugar, corn syrup, vanilla and melted butter or margarine. Add pecans. Pour into unbaked 9-inch pie shell. Bake for 45 minutes to 1 hour, or until knife inserted halfway between outside and center comes out clean.




is important.

Pecans last a long time, particularly when frozen. They can hold their freshness for up to two years. Store them in airtight containers in the freezer. This will prevent them from absorbing other food odors. They can be stored shelled or not.

Home gardeners should also know nuts in the shell will retain top quality longer than shelled pecans. Large pecan pieces or halves store longer than tiny pieces. Thaw the pecans before using.

If you keep them cold, your pecans will last for weeks after thawing. You can even refreeze them once or twice if you have kept them cold.

Whether you are thinking three trees or a picturesque orchard along the Red River, contact your Texas AgriLife Extension Agent for information on best practices and varieties.

To dazzle your guests this holiday season with a pecan pie worthy of the blue ribbon try this recipe. 



Pecans all sacked up. (Photos courtesy Norman Winter)



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PARTING SHOT



Listen while the coyote howls...

You feel like you can do anything when you have music playing in your ear. Like you're engulfed in adrenaline with every beat. Unstoppable with anything you face. This wasn't the case for myself. Just looking for a cheap thrill in the middle of a thick tree'd area in very rural Oklahoma, I quickly spot a yote looking at some cattle to snack on as I forged for stuff. I had just walked a couple miles away from basecamp. I always see animals when I'm out - nosedly never followed a coyote before like I had other insects and animals, especially not on foot with no way to protect myself. I was all alone with nothing but my dog and a flimsy stick that made me look like Queen of the Moos or a cow shepherd, if that's even a thing. I followed, pupils dilated, as the coyote pressed on, unaware of my presence. He wandered too close to a calf that was off by itself. Not sure of his intentions, I sprung towards the wild dog with my stick in hand and scared all parties involved. Momma cow saw us and belined in our direction with a devilish look in her eyes. Like the planets when technology goes haywire, in a straight line we started running. The coyote, the calf, my dog and I and the momma - one after one running away from one another but all in the same direction. My four-legged sidekick and I both jumped the same fence after the yote, like we all entered the same hurdle competition. (Photo and description by Jelly Cocanougher) 

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DUBLIN

TAKE A STEP BACK IN TIME

Huge, gorgeous Live Oak trees A little bit of History with limestone rock structure, built in 1800s. Was a stop for the Stage Coach back in the day. A huge rock system & windmill adds to the character of this property from the era Wildlife in abundance, good grasses for grazing....etc. So much ambiance!

Debbie Moran-
\$450,000



LIPAN

This amazing 150-acre property is a horse trainer's dream. An incredible 3 bedroom two and half bath home with vaulted tongue-and-groove ceilings, a floor-to-ceiling stone fire place and 60 ft. sunroom. Excellent fencing and plenty of water with 7 tanks on the property. Full training facility with plenty of room for cattle. Barn has a two-story apartment, 11 stalls and 2 stud stalls, hay storage, tack room and wash rack.

Bobby Norris - \$1,595,000



NOCONA, TX

Income Producing Property. This unique Western Village sits on the highest point in Montague County, it boasts a Fudge Factory, Boutique and Trading Post. 2 br, 2 bath barndominium 84x36, with 4-12 stalls with auto water and feed room. Separate guest cottage with bathroom. Tiny home, 4 RV park hook ups, 2 water wells, 2 ponds, 3 septic's. All under 2 years old. Seller is highly motivated.

Bobby Norris- \$385,000



POOLVILLE, TX

Fantastic view and location to build you a home on. Total 17 acres (7 acre tract & 10 acres tract) each tract has a well. The 10 acres has well, septic, 3 carport, very clean 2016- 38 foot travel trailer with 2 slid-outs. Also a John Deere model 4555 tractor can be bought separate. Need to look at the property.

Pete Rehm- \$245,000



BRIDGEPORT

105 acres of rolling coastal pastures dotted with scattered Oak trees and 4 tanks. Fenced and cross fenced for cattle with tree lines for shade and natural habitat for deer, turkey, quail and dove. Several building sites for a home, surrounded by some of the most beautiful country Wise County has to offer. Sandy Loam soil, established coastal Bermuda. Priced to sell quickly.

Gabe Webster
\$679,000



LIPAN

One of a kind Corporate Retreat or family ranch less than an hour West of Downtown Fort Worth. This custom home has all the upgrades including an outdoor kitchen with rock fireplace and heated saltwater pool with waterfall and spa. Excellent hunting and fishing from 3 stock tanks. Beautiful lake site where buck and turkey creek join. New fences, cross fenced into 3 pastures. Automatic gate, barn and holding pens.

Bobby Bowden- \$1,259,800



Larry Porter
817-597-8699



Gabe Webster
817-204-3452



Tri Goldthwaite
817-266-5501



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