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JANUARY 2021

**Volunteers Cook Tasty Meals  
for Rodeo Contestants**

**PAGE 21**

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# rolling across texas

## Jody Nix Celebrates 60 Years of Music



By Tumbleweed  
Smith

to dance to my music. If that floor isn't full, then I'm not doing my job."

Jody Nix lives on a farm near Big Spring that has been in his family nearly 100 years. His grandmother bought him a set of drums when he was 4. His father was Hoyle Nix, who had a popular western swing band. Jody started playing drums for his dad in 1960 when he was 8. Hoyle's drummer got sick and he asked Jody to help out for a gig at the American Legion in Brownfield. Two weeks later the drummer quit and Jody got the job.

"I was a full-time musician and going to school every day," says Jody. "I'd go play somewhere with the band, get home about 3 a.m., take a nap and go to school. Next day, same thing. We played five nights a week. I got to play with my dad 25 years."

Jody started playing fiddle when he was 11. "I got my first full size fiddle for Christmas, 1963. My brother Larry taught me to play. New Year's Eve I was still drumming, but daddy called me up to play FADED LOVE in front of the whole crowd. That was the first time I played fiddle in public, New Year's Eve 1963."

He played it at The Stampede, a legendary dance hall Hoyle built in 1954. When Hoyle died in 1985, Jody took over. "It was either let everything go or try it. I didn't want to let it go."

Faron Young, Ernest Tubb and other top ranked musicians asked Jody to be in their bands, but Jody stuck to his roots. He knew about the music side of things, but not the business side. But he learned.

"I WAS BORN to play music. Country Music. Western Swing. It moves me, moves my soul. If I hear those fiddles start playing with a good steel guitar and good rhythm section my ears perk up. That's what I'm known for: a driving Texas dance beat. I want those people

"Praise God it has worked," says Jody. "The longer I did it the easier it got. Here it is 35 years later and I'm still going and have people wanting us a year and a half away." He has played in Nashville, Las Vegas, Branson and Washington D.C., but he says most of his income comes from Texas. He and his band make 120 appearances a year and get invited back a lot.

"I just celebrated playing the Bob Wills Day in Turkey, Texas my 45th year," he says. "I've played at the Stamford Rodeo 35 years straight."

Jody plays left-handed, even though his fiddle is made for a right-handed player. "I don't know of many left-handed fiddle players except the one I was named after, Joe Holly. He played for Bob Wills. They called him Jody."

Jody has produced 11 albums, composed songs, is on satellite radio in strong rotation and played country swing for 60 years.

One of his highlights was playing for the inauguration of George H.W. Bush in 1989. Another was playing drums for Bob Wills



Jody Nix at The Stampede in Big Spring, Texas.

when he was 4 and again at 21. Another was when Gene Autry handed him a Western Wrangler award at the National Cowboy Hall of Fame. He has won several honors, is in numerous music halls of fame and is the current Man of the Year in Big Spring, recognized by the Chamber of Commerce at its annual banquet.

"It is an honor beyond measure to have that title," says Jody. ♦

Contact Tumbleweed Smith via email by writing to [ts@tumbleweedsmith.com](mailto:ts@tumbleweedsmith.com).





Clusters of greenbrier berries hang on the vines well into winter spreading the food availability for small birds over a longer period of time. Photos by Ricky Linex.

## Greenbrier: *Beauty is in the Eye of the Beholder*



By Ricky Linex

Wildlife Biologist, USDA  
Natural Resources  
Conservation Service.

**IT REQUIRES A GOOD** quote to help explain this title and J. Kenfield Morley provides this, “I can complain because rose bushes have thorns, or rejoice because thorn bushes have roses. It’s all how you look at it.”

Most people who have experience with greenbrier only see the thorns. Sheep and goat raisers curse the vines for entangling the wool or mohair of young animals sometimes leading to their death; cattle ranchers see loss of grass for their animals while recreational landowners hate walking through the scratching vines. They all fail to notice the value of this native plant. It’s all how you look at it.

There are 10 species of greenbrier found across all regions of Texas with exception of the High Plains and Trans Pecos regions. The most common specie across its range in Texas is Saw greenbrier, *Smilax bona-nox*. A common trait



New greenbrier growth in early summer provides high quality browse for deer and livestock.

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New vigorous growth of shoots of greenbrier enable this plant to rapidly spread across pastures but at this stage of growth provides nutritious forage.



Greenbrier often forms impenetrable thickets for man or beast.



The climbing vines of greenbrier uses fences, shrubs and tree branches as ladders to climb up for access to sunlight.

of all greenbriers is the extensive vines, usually revealing a 4-angled cross sectional shape. The vines may crawl along the ground or use available brush to climb over and into adjacent shrubs and trees. Climbing is aided by the curling tendrils that grab onto other plants and support growth of the vines. The root system is extensive with knotty lateral runners and swollen potato-like roots. This far-reaching root system makes control by chopping down the vines a useless endeavor.

Not all species of greenbrier are armed with spines but most show stout spines on parts of the stems and prickles on the leaves. The leaves are deciduous but may remain green on the vines well into the early part of winter in the south third of Texas. Leaf shape is highly variable from rounded to triangular and may have a pointed or blunt tip while the bases may be rounded or heart-shaped and may even show lobes. Leaf color is bright green, sometimes appearing even

shiny. Holding a leaf in your hand will allow you to see five to sometimes nine veins curving outward from the base.

Small inconspicuous flowers form from April to June in rounded, umbrella-like clusters. Fruits mature from September to November in rounded clusters of several berries, each single-seeded berry about one fourth inch in diameter. The berries are black, often shiny or covered with a whitish bloom. Some of the berries remain on the vines well into late winter. These berries are readily eaten by a number of different songbirds, but its use by quail is unknown. In the Big Country area between 1991 and 1993 I evaluated

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## Reading the Landscape



This wintertime photo from the Big Bend region shows a grass that produces seeds that are smooth and hard making them appear to be an excellent food choice for all species of seed eating birds. Seeds can be seen both on the seed heads and on the soil surface. Is this a native grass, is it an annual or perennial? Is it a desirable grass for livestock? See page 28 for Ricky's answer.



seeds found in the crops of hunter harvested Bobwhite quail and did not find any seeds of greenbrier. The thicket-forming tangled mass of vines offers cover for quail and numerous songbirds who like to flitter among the vines. The true value of a plant is greater than the value of its seed as food.



Greenbrier vigorously resprouts following wildfire or prescribed burns providing tender nutritious growth for several months.

An unappreciated use of greenbrier lies in the quality of the browse, especially of the new tender growth in spring and any-time during wet growing seasons when new growth is produced. The crude protein value of mature leaves in January has been tested at 9-10% with that of new spring growth at 28% and new leaf and twig growth following a summer rain a staggering 31%. When you consider the amount of forage that is available from greenbrier thickets the browsing of new leaves and stem tips produces an amazing amount of high quality and palatable browse. Following a wildfire or prescribed burn greenbrier resprouts vigorously from the remaining stems providing tender forage relished by white-tailed deer and all classes of livestock.

The fresh, tender new growth of the stem tips is quite a treat; the taste is mild with a crispness that makes it a nice addition to a salad or just picked off the stem and eaten in the field for a mid-morning snack. Whether greenbrier is good or bad, it's all how you look at it.

Contact Ricky Linx via email at [rlinx@charter.net](mailto:rlinx@charter.net) ◇

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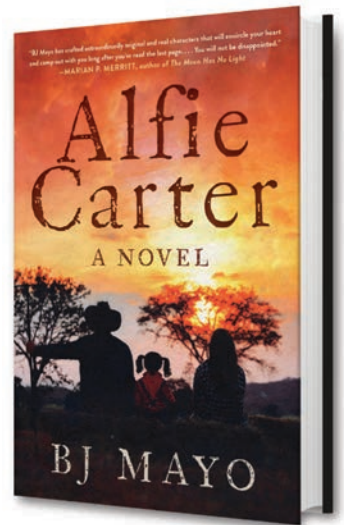




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## Debut Novel Draws on Real Life Experiences in Africa



**A PERSONAL EXPERIENCE** while working in Africa has led a West Texas man to write a story built on that experience, his debut novel titled “Alfie Carter.” B.J. “Bob” Mayo, who lives near San Angelo, worked for 43 years in the oil exploration and production industry in various parts of the world, including Angola on the west coast of Africa, where portions of his novel take place. Mayo worked a 28/28 rotation and tended to three offshore platforms approximately 45 miles offshore from Cabinda, Angola. He became closely acquainted with many of his employees from the country. Many of these individuals experienced first-hand, the severity of the conflict of an extended civil war within the country for many years.

One particular employee, O.J. as he was known to the American, related to Mayo his role in the seemingly never-ending Cabinda War that left multitudes dead in its wake and thousands of children homeless and orphaned. O.J. said he had been forced as a teen to fight in the war and had seen untold atrocities. It was a harrowing and scarring experience.

In “Alfie Carter,” protagonist Jackaleena N’Denga, leaves Angola after her village is wiped out during the Cabinda War, including all of her family. Jackalina is taken in at a missionary compound—“Benguela by the Sea”—on the coast and eventually stows away on a mercy ship making its yearly rounds. Jackaleena travels across the Atlantic to New York City and is intercepted by customs agents in New York City. She ultimately is placed in a foster home in Texas.

In a parallel narrative, Mayo tells the story of Alfie Carter, a Texas detective whose life has taken a turn for the worse, who has become estranged from his wife after losing a child and who is questioning his own existence. When she arrives in Texas, Jackaleena is introduced to Alfie Carter and both of their lives are drastically changed at that intersection.

Author Mayo, in meeting O.J.’s family in Africa, encountered O.J.’s daughter Jackaleena when she was very small. “She immediately began to scream when O.J. first introduced her to me,” Mayo said. “I believe I may have been the first person from America she had ever seen.” This real life Jackaleena thus became a model for his character, Jackaleena N’Denga. In the novel, Mayo said. O.J.’s stories of horror and hardship during the war formed some of the background of Jackaleena N’Denga’s predicament in Angola.

Mayo said that in his book, “There’s a lot of memories of Africa when I worked there, the people I worked with, their culture, basically everything about it.”

Mayo is working on several additional books including one he’s calling the “Sparrows of Montenegro,” a western he will soon send off to an editor. The story is set in the 1870 timeframe in Mexico and Texas and includes several historical references you will recognize—San Angelo, Fort Concho, the Concho River and Twin Buttes in Tom

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Newly published fiction author B.J. Mayo lives on a farm near San Angelo, Texas.

Green County, Texas, and Mushaway Peak, a conspicuous hillock situated on the upland divide between the upper Colorado and Brazos rivers southeast of Gail in Borden County. In "Sparrows of Montenegro" Mayo explores the "Día de los Muertos" culture of Mexico in some detail. "I have a great love of the Mexican people, their culture, their strong work ethic and great devotion to family. I have many Hispanic friends in Texas that I have met over the years and retain close relationships with today," Mayo said.

Another novel he has in the works, "Two Step," is a modern day western set in Minnesota, Montana and ultimately Arizona and "will be a good read."

With as many as 26 more novels outlined, 65-year-old Mayo plans to take advantage of his full forthcoming retirement from the oil industry. He mentioned plans for a non-fiction biographical narrative about his farrier, or "horse-shoer," as well as a pictorial work on the Navajo Nation. "I love that country up there," he said. "I spent nearly seventeen months working with Navajo employees in the Four Corners area."

Some of Mayo's influences include Larry McMurtry, whom he calls an outstanding author. "In 'Lonesome Dove', 'Comanche Moon' and those types of books, he delivers a set of characters that you will not ever forget," Mayo said he likes Baxter Black as an author as well as all works by Elmer Kelton and James Alexander Thom. Red Stegall is also considered a favorite. "These are truly the best in their genre. I certainly would not compare myself to those kinds of people, but I certainly admire their work and hope to aspire to something along that line."

B.J. Mayo worked 43 years in the energy industry in the U.S. in Texas, New Mexico, Colorado, Alabama and Louisiana, among other states and has spent time in Bangladesh and Australia as well as Western Africa. Since retiring with a major oil industry firm he has been kept extremely busy as an independent consultant in oil production and sees retirement from that role in the not-so-distant future.

Mayo lives on his farm 20 miles from San Angelo, Texas with his wife Diann. She is the caretaker of their farm while he is away and is a retired registered nurse. They raise Dorper sheep.

The official publish date for "Alfie Carter" is January 12, 2021. The book can be preordered before that date or purchased from book sellers afterward, including from Simon & Schuster, <https://simonandschuster.com/Alfie-Carter/BJ-Mayo/9781510764255>) It is also available at Amazon.com, Wal-Mart (Walmart.com), Barnes & Noble(BarnesandNoble.com), Skyhorse Publishing, Bookshop(Bookshop.org) and Books a Million (BooksAMillion.com). All of these sources are linked on the Simon & Schuster website.

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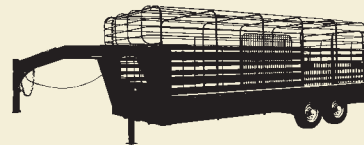
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## GOAT TIPS

*From A Rabbit Twister*

By Fred Homeyer

Have a question about goats or goat raising? If so, please send me a note via the following address: (If I don't know the answer I will find it for you): Ranch & Rural Living, P.O. Box 2678, San Angelo, TX 76902, fax 325/453-2863. If you have access to a computer and the internet, you may send your questions to [ancreek@yahoo.com](mailto:ancreek@yahoo.com), or call me directly.



# Treating Foot Rot

*Reprinted from the October 1998 issue of Ranch & Rural Living*

A MAN WROTE ME asking for advice, saying he was having a problem with foot rot in his goats. "I keep their hooves trimmed and am using Koppertox and penicillin, but it only seems to help for a couple of days and then they are limping around again."

The following was my answer to him. Perhaps the advice could be of use to someone new at raising goats.

Have you considered that your goats may be foundered? That is, they have sore feet from eating too much grain at one time. They get fever and inflammation in their hooves and it is very painful for them. Once a goat is foundered there is little that you can do. However, an old timer once told me that he would put a foundered horse in a stall with about 6 inches of ice cubes all over the floor of the stall. He first covered the bottom of the stall with ice and it cooled the horse's feet, reduced the fever and gave the animal some relief. If you have a source of cheap ice, you might give this a try.

For goats with true foot rot, I would trim their hooves very close, being careful not to make their feet bleed. I would then clean as much of the black and green stuff out of their hooves as possible and spray Furox (nitrofurazone) directly on the bottom of their hooves. I have been fortunate to only have had a couple of goats with foot rot, and the procedure described above cured both of them.

Another product you might try for foot rot is Dr. Naylor's Feet Medicine. You can purchase this from an animal health catalog or from an animal health store. I have not personally tried this medication but I know people who have used it on their goats and have had considerable success with it.

The procedure you asked about, Koppertox on the feet and penicillin shots for 7 days may also work. I have given my goats penicillin at the rate of 3cc per 100 pounds of body weight and tend to give the shots subcutaneously rather than in the muscle. For best results with this consult your veterinarian. I would certainly check with the vet and make sure you are treating the condition that you think you are treating. I always consult with my vet anytime I medicate one of my goats as a good bit of medication used on goats is not listed for use on goats on the label of that particular medication. This means the medicine should be administered under the supervision of a vet.

Until next time . . . ♦



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**Editor's Note:** Following is similar advice from the late Coni Ross of Blanco, Texas:

## Hoof Rot Can Mean Big Trouble

Hoof rot can be treated. Keep in mind, the bacteria that causes it can only live 10 days without a host, so if you can get your goats cleared up, and get them on fresh pasture, you will have this problem solved.

First: Prepare a place to isolate the animals for at least 10 days on dry ground.

Second: Vaccinate for hoof rot. There are cattle and sheep vaccines available and both will work, in my experience. If using the cattle vaccine, give half the label dose given SQ [subcutaneously].

Trim the hooves off short, and remove all pockets of dirt, even if the animals hooves must be quicked. This removes gross, infective material from the hoof.

I had a group of 100 head of average size does that developed foot rot. I scrubbed the feet of infected goats in this group with a stiff brush and pure chlorine bleach (not Clorox—it is not pure chlorine). I gave 10cc penicillin SQ, vaccinated them, and left them penned in a dry lot with grass hay, mineral and salt. On day two, I started them on a sulfa drug in their water at a rate of 1 gram (1,000mg) per goat. In summer a goat will drink at least 1.5 gallons/day minimum, non lactating. I put 100 gallons of water in the trough and 100 grams of sulfa drug (Albon or Sulmet will do).

I turned off the float to the trough to prevent dilution of the drug. After all water was consumed, I turned the float back on. The goats were treated for nine more days at 750 mg/day/goat. Each goat that was limping had the offending foot treated with Koppertox every day until the limping ceased. Hoof trimming was done as needed during the 10-day period.

The goats were kept penned for 14 days, and the vaccination

—CONTINUED ON PAGE 20—





# New Operator of Former Rancher's Lamb Speaks at TSGRA Meeting

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Jan. 28–29, 2021**— American Sheep Industry Assoc. Annual Convention—virtual convention. \$25 registration fee. FMI: [www.sheepusa.org](http://www.sheepusa.org)

**July 15–17, 2021** TSGRA 106th Annual Convention – Y.O. Ranch Hotel, Ker-ville, Texas.



Considering the difficulties of groups meeting during what has been called a virus pandemic, the Texas Sheep and Goat Raisers Association's annual winter meeting was well attended. This and award photos by Gary Cutrer.

## TSGRA WINTER HIGHLIGHTS

The TSGRA Winter Meeting held December 5, 2020, at Bentwood Country Club in San Angelo was well attended both in-person and virtually. The meeting offered several updates for those in the sheep and goat industry. Jeff Hasbrouck, whose family purchased the former Ranchers' Lamb of Texas plant in August, told the attendees that they were hoping to do a trial run the last week of December and be ready to open for business on January 1 officially. The facility's fabrication part is not expected to be in full operation until February or March of 2021.

Keynote speaker for the event was Congressman-elect August Pfluger. Congressman-elect Pfluger did a great job updating the attendees about current issues while re-affirming his commitment to support his constituents in District 11. Pfluger vowed to help protect rural America from over-regulation, noting in particular that things like food security and energy security mean national security.

Before attending the TSGRA Winter Meeting, Pfluger spoke with G.T. Thompson, R-PA, an incoming ranking member

on the House Ag Committee. Thompson asked Pfluger to relay to the TSGRA members a few significant issues he intends to focus on, the first of which is to learn from the lessons of the pandemic when it comes to making the food supply chain more resilient. Also, the assault on private property is real.

"G.T. Thompson understands that," Pfluger said. "He also asked me to help him understand the predator problems." Pfluger's response to that plea was, "Have you ever been up in a helicopter hunting coyotes and hogs?" "I intend to make sure that happens," he told participants.

The Pfluger family has been involved in ranching and with the TSGRA for many generations.

Colonel Pfluger is a 20-year veteran of the U.S. Air Force, a decorated F-22 combat pilot. Pfluger served in the White House as a member of President Donald Trump's National Security Council, entrusted with advising the President on a host of foreign and domestic threats to our national security. After graduating from the U.S. Air Force Academy, he served his nation in uniform for nearly two decades flying combat missions. Pfluger holds three master's degrees, including an International Business and Policy degree from Georgetown University.

Last year the TSGRA became the first organization to endorse Pfluger in his political campaign. We are proud to support Congressman-elect Pfluger as he transitions to a representative, and we look forward to cheering him on from his home state.

## TSGRA AWARD RECIPIENTS

### 2020 Earwood Award Winner

The Earwood Award, TSGRA's most prestigious and coveted award, was established by the family and friends of the late Fred Earwood of Sonora in 1969 to honor those whose loyalty and dedication to the sheep and goat industry

exemplify land and livestock values.

The award is a bronze figure of sheep titled 'The Money Makers' sculpted by the late Don Bowen, of Coke County.

This year's recipient is Allen E. Turner. Allen was born in Coleman, Texas. He graduated from Mozelle High School (now Panther Creek High School) in 1951. He has a bachelor of science degree and a master's degree from Texas A&M University.

Before working for the Extension Service, Allen was employed by Shirley Livestock Commission as a salesman and order buyer. He served in the Extension Service from 1957-1988, as an Assistant County Agent in Wichita, Taylor County Agent, Menard County Agent, Runnels County Agent, Tom Green County Agent, and District Agent based at the AgriLife Center in San Angelo.



**By Victoria Valliant Powers**  
TSGRA Executive Secretary



The coveted Earwood Award is presented to recipient Allen E. Turner, right, of Coleman by TSGRA President Jim Perry.

Allen retired from the Extension Service in 1988 with 34 years of service. After a couple of years of retirement, Allen went back to work at the First Coleman National Bank (now Coleman InterBank) from 1990 to 2014. He retired from banking and went back to ranching full time. Allen says it is his privilege to have worked for 54 years and ranched until the present.

Allen is a past president of the Texas Sheep and Goat Raisers' Association. He has also received the TSGRA County Agent of the Year Award and the Superior Service Award from the Texas Agriculture Extension Service. He is a member and deacon of the Gouldbusk Baptist



Church.

Allen and Nan, his wife of 63 years, have four children: Melissa Faubion and her husband Cliff, Lanny Turner and his wife Cherri, Janelle Turner, and Raenese Byrom and her husband, Randy. They also have seven grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

#### 2020 Dietert Award Winner

Clarence and Doris Dietert of Boerne, Texas, were lifelong members of the Texas Sheep and Goat Raisers' Association and their Auxiliary. They attended all meetings and contributed in every way possible for as long as they could. They believed in the work of the Association and what the organization was trying to accomplish. In 2005, the Awards Committee of the Texas Sheep and Goat Raisers' decided to establish an award in honor of the Dieterts. The persons or person to be selected for the award each year must have consistently given unselfishly of their time and effort for the betterment of the industry with no thought of recognition or receiving anything in return.

This year's recipient of the Dietert Award is Fred L. Speck, Jr., M.D. Fred attended High School in Rocksprings, Texas, where he graduated as valedictorian in 1970. He attended Texas A&M University and graduated summa cum laude. After A&M, Fred attended the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston, graduating in 1977. He completed his internship in Internal Medicine at UTMB in 1978 and a residency in dermatology at the University of Oklahoma in 1981. Since 1981, he has been a private practice dermatologist in Kerrville, Texas.

Dr. Speck is a board-certified fellow of the American Academy of Dermatology, a member of the Texas Dermatologic Society, the Kerr-Brandera Medical Society, the Texas Medical Association, the American Medical Association, and the Alpha Omega Alpha Medical Honor Society. He is also a member of the UTMB President's Cabinet and the UTMB Development Board. On February 27, 2012, he was honored at the Sid Peterson Regional Health Care Center Staff meeting for being on active staff for over 30 years.

In addition to full-time medical practice, Dr. Speck is active in the ranching industry. He is a fifth-generation Texas rancher. Fred has developed a top-quality herd of registered Angora goats. He has participated in the Haby, Lockhart, Ross, Speck Sale for 26 years.

Dr. Speck has judged Angora goats at numerous major agriculture fairs in England, Canada, Australia and the United States. He is a 4-H Club mentor and has coached youth wool and mohair judging teams that have gone to state and nationals.

For over 30 years, Dr. Speck has been involved with the Hill Country District Junior Livestock Show as a director. In 1999 he became superintendent of the Angora goat show. Today it is the largest youth Angora goat show in the world with more scholarship money than the other major shows, including San Antonio.

In his spare time, he coaches youth basketball, soccer, and Special-Ed soccer teams. He and his wife Linda have three children and two grandchildren.



The prestigious Dietert Award is presented to recipient Fred Speck, left, of Kerrville by former TSGRA President Jason Bannowsky.



Robert Buchholz of Eldorado, right, receives the Young Ranchers Award with a plaque from TSGRA First Vice President Curry Campbell.

#### 2020 Young Rancher—Robert Buchholz

Robert Buchholz from Eldorado, Texas, is the oldest son of Mary and Bob Buchholz. He graduated from Tarleton State University in 2015 with an animal industries degree. Like his father, he then attended the TCU Ranch Management Program in Fort Worth before heading back home to help out with the family ranching operations in Schleicher, Crockett, Sutton and Menard counties.

Raising goats is in Robert's blood. Robert pursued that passion by acquiring his own commercial herd of Boer/Spanish goats, an accomplishment of which his grandfathers, Joe David Ross and the late Douglas Buchholz, are incredibly proud.

#### Other 2020 award recipients were:

Trapper of the Year—Jill House; County Extension Agent of the Year—

Emily Grant; County Extension Agent, Family and Community Health, of the Year—Dr. Whitney Whitworth, PhD.; Agriculture Science Teacher of the Year—Michael Collins of Idalou; Outstanding News Media Award—Kendal Hemphill; TSGRA



Winning Trapper of the Year is Jill House, at right, accepting a plaque from Vice President Campbell.



Winning County Extension Agent of the year is Emily Grant, left, accepting a plaque from former President Bannowsky.



Winning County Extension Agent, Family and Community Health, of the year is Dr. Whitney Whitworth, left, accepting a plaque from former President Bannowsky.



Winning a Special Achievement Award is Dr. William Edmiston, DVM, at left, accepting a plaque from Vice President Campbell.

Special Achievement Award—Wayne Geistweidt; TSGRA Special Achievement Award—Dr. William Edmiston, DVM.

**Happy New Year from the TSGRA!**

*Until next time —Victoria Powers* ◇





**By Jim Perry**  
TSGRA President

## New Year—Hoping Worst is Behind Us

**THE NEW YEAR** is here, full of hope and promise—and, a vaccine?

It is hard to believe where we are today, compared to this time last year, but I feel hopeful that the worst is behind us, and we can all look forward through a positive lens.

I was excited about the response to the winter meeting in San Angelo. We had a good crowd, physically and virtually. I want to thank CAPRA Food for donating the lamb we ate for lunch; we always appreciate their generosity. Thanks also to Jeff and Jay Hasbrouck for the update they gave on the opening of Double J Lamb, Inc. - Texas.

We are very grateful to our keynote speaker August Pfluger for taking time out to come and speak to us. He is the Representative of District 11 and is someone who understands the issues our industry faces. He knows ranching, defends private property rights, and fights for the agriculture and oil & gas industries. He is on our side, and we look forward to working with him.

Special awards were presented at the winter meeting this year, and I want to congratulate all of the well-deserving recipients. Two award winners I would like to give special recognition to are Allen Turner and Dr. Fred Speck. Besides being great men and ranchers, these two gentlemen have dedicated their lives to teaching others. They have given selflessly to educate and help those around them to the advancement of agriculture. Their teachings and legacies will span generations, and we are honored to have members like them.

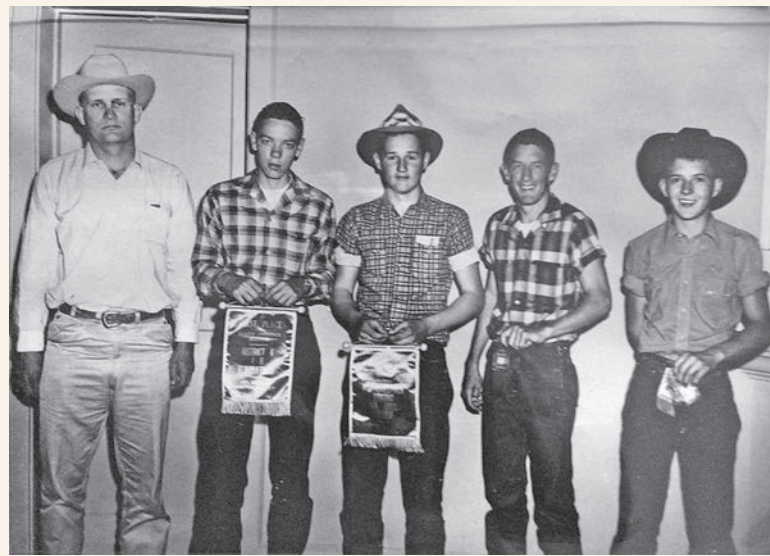
I think we all agree that predators top the list of challenges a rancher faces today. This being said, it is no wonder that one of the topics that seemed to pique everyone's interest at the winter meeting was the discussion of the use of thermal imaging drones to spot predators, specifically coyotes. Coyotes are an ever-evolving challenge. While helicopters and trappers are invaluable, coyotes are becoming educated to the sound of the helicopter; they are hiding, lying down, or denning up when they hear them coming, as well as not answering when the trappers sound the sirens. Hopefully, the use of drone technology for locating coyotes combined with other beneficial tools can be used to further aid us in this battle.

I can't help but notice a silver lining in watching the changing landscape created by the coronavirus pandemic. One thing we have all learned from COVID-19, whether we wanted to or not, is the power of Zoom. Working remotely has allowed people to move out of big cities into more rural areas, sparking a renewed interest in the agriculture industry.

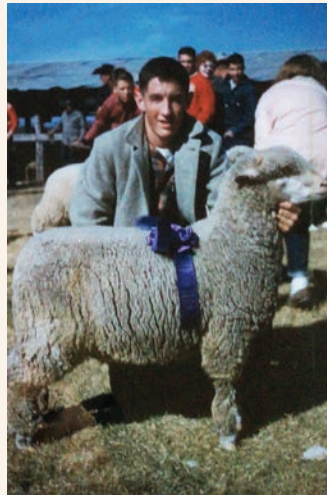
We have many successful ranchers in our industry today that split their time between ranching and a full-time career. I hope that this exodus of people from cities to the country will bring folks new and old back to the ag industry, and it will show them they too can have a full-time career and have success ranching. Ultimately this creates an excellent opportunity for ag-related groups to tell our story and promote the growth of our organization's numbers.

Before closing, the Texas Sheep and Goat Raiser's officers and staff want to extend our sincerest condolences to the families of Joe York and Norman Rousselot. Both of these great men left a lasting legacy in our industry.

Once again, I wish you all a very blessed, healthy, and prosperous 2021! Until next time . . . —Jim ♦



Hayden Haby, left, poses with his students, from left, Edward Davis, Carroll Smith, Mike Tatum and Epp Epperson. In 1959 these members comprising the Edwards County 4-H senior livestock judging team placed first in the Extension District 6 contests held in Alpine. The team was first in sheep judging, first in swine judging and first in beef cattle. Mike Tatum was the high individual of the entire contest.



In 1959, Mike Tatum, at left, showed the grand champion animal of the show, a fat lamb. Mike is the son of Helen Nail and J.E. Tatum. Above, Phyllis Sweeten showed the Champion Angora Doe. She is the daughter of Johnnie Johnson and Brooks Sweeten. James E. Epperson, Jr., showed the Champion Angora Buck.

## Our First 10 Years in Edwards County



**By Doris Haby**

**IN EARLY MARCH** 1957, the Hayden Haby's moved to Edwards County. We would live in the house where I had lived as a child near my Uncle Brooks Sweeten. We would have a few acres of land immediately behind the elementary school. This land was deeded to my mother by my Sweeten grandparents for a place to build a home when I started to school. I never dreamed I would ever live in this house again.

The Vocational Agriculture teacher in Rocksprings was named J. E. "Spud" Tatum. Hayden knew Spud from his Ag teaching days at Dripping Springs since they were in the same District. These two men would work to gather professionally twenty years and never have one cross word between them! Both would be a positive influence on the young lives they touched. Both men received the Texas Sheep and Goat Raiser's Association award for outstanding service to the sheep and goat industry.

The stock show season was near its end as we settled in 1957. Edwards County would enter shows that were new to us. The Hill Country Show was special. At that time only the counties that touched Kerr County entered the show. However, the Angora goat show included many other counties. The kids liked this show because you were there for more than one day and you met kids from many neighboring schools. Next came San Antonio, Houston, San Angelo, and some entered the Dallas Fair. We had our Edwards County





Marylee Wittenburg at 9 years of age exhibited the grand champion mohair fleece in the Sonora Wool & Mohair Show. "A fifth grade pupil, Marylee's winning fleece came from a spring kid doe," the newspaper caption at the time read. "She has had only one year's work on her Angora goat project."



In 1963, Jimmie Ruth Wittenburg was named Gold Star Girl at the 4-H awards banquet in Fort Stockton. Here she is with her parents Ruth and James Wittenburg. James would serve as the TSGRA president from 1994-95 and years later his namesake, Jimmie Ruth, would serve as the first female president of the organization. "He would have been so proud!," Doris Haby wrote. "My husband would have been equally proud of his 4-Her!" Jimmie Ruth was premier exhibitor with her Rambouillets and won the Leonard Richardson trophy at the San Angelo show in 1965.



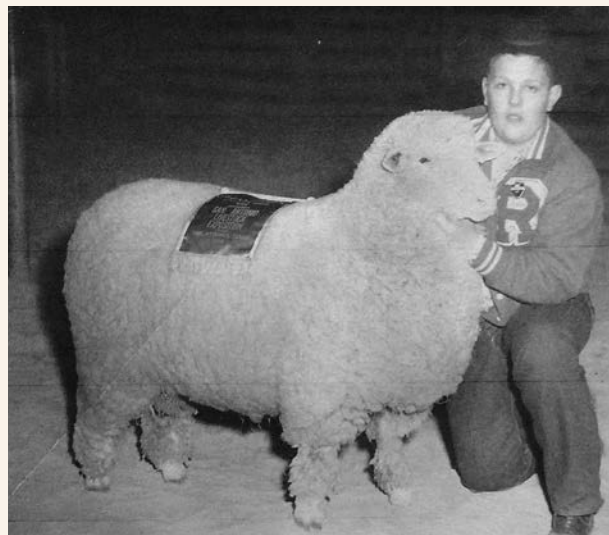
In 1952 or 1953 James E. Epperson capably organized the first Edwards County Livestock Show.



Mike Dunbar with his Champion Junior Bag of Wool at Sonora Wool and Mohair Show in 1966.



In 1961 Jimmy Rudasill won top honors at the new San Angelo Fat Stock Show Angora division. The son of Myra (Finney) and James Rudasill, Jimmy showed the Grand Champion of the Hill Country District Show in 1962 where contestants show their best animal against all other breed champions. Jimmy would continue to dominate the show ring with his Angoras until his graduation in 1964.



Carl Hyde shows a Champion Columbia Ram in 1959 at the San Antonio Livestock Show. He is the son of Pearl (Wheeler) and Sidney Hyde. Carl later became assistant associate extension agent in Ellis County and would later be the well liked extension agent in Kinney County.

show the Saturday before they loaded up to go to Kerrville.

At the start of my husband's job in Edwards County the District 6 Extension Office was in Fort Stockton. The two District Directors were Roberta Johnson and Ray Seigmund. Roberta came and helped us get projects started for girls. Both Roberta and Ray were outstanding agents!

As an ag teacher the projects were terminal, going to slaughter, therefore he preferred being a County Agent where a portion of your job was working with breeding animals. Perhaps he could bring a specialist to help with their breeding program if that was what the rancher chose.

When I attended the San Angelo Livestock Show while I lived in Fort Davis, the Rambouillet show was two full days long. There was an adult

show and a junior show. In the junior show there were two premier awards for the first and second place winners, a large sterling silver tray and a sterling silver bowl. These were hard to win. Families competed with each other, top breeders kids showed, and there were a lot of lend lease programs with good animals involved.

If you won one of these prizes you got to keep it permanently. Lots of people attended the Rambouillet show. Several Rocksprings families had good Rambouillet flocks and another showed champion Columbias.

Rocksprings was considered the "Angora Capital of the World" in 1958. All the ranchers had Angoras and facilities to take care of them. The America Angora Breed Association headquarters have been in Rocksprings since 1926. Our local Angora show began to grow and grow.

Rocksprings did not have the only high school in Edwards County. Nueces Canyon High School is barely in Edwards County and has kids from primarily Real County, but also Edwards County and a few from Uvalde County. Most of the kids show their stock in the Real County Show.

In 1958 four men made a tour to look at area show barns. They were Fred L. Speck Sr., Brooks Sweeten, James Leo Greer and Hayden Haby. At this time they were showing all the animals outside and in 1958 the weather was so bad they had to postpone the show. The Texas Angora Goat Raiser's Association was held at this venue annually also. However, it would be 1968 before we had the first show barn!

This was a wonderful time in my life. My children were just reaching 4-H age and had started showing Angora goats. ♦



# Opinions—Everybody's Got One

**THE OTHER DAY** Bob was sharing a story with some hunters at the ranch. I began to listen in because I had never ever heard this!

Several years ago Bob was in the hospital in Angelo. He had a very unusual eye infection that looked mighty bad. To complicate things a little more, I was in the hospital in Sonora. Bob and I both wanted him to stay in Sonora because we have the best hospital with the best doctors, nurses and facilities in the state of Texas. All of you folks who live

in a small community will understand what I'm talking about. You know and adore each and every one who works in the hospital and they know you. They take personal care of all their patients.

However, Bob's situation was so unusual he had to go to San Angelo for specific care for those eyes.

He was telling the hunters that he had a psychologist come into his room every night about 1:30 a.m. to "see how he was doing."

Bob was saying, "This was one weird dude who woke me up at 1:30 to talk about my feelings. You know.... 'How does that make you feel?'"

As I was listening, I was laughing so hard I could hardly stand it.

"First of all," Bob continued, "About the third night he woke me up, I explained to him in a way that he would understand that he better get out of my room and not ever come back."

Can you just see a strange feller leaning over Bob's bed with a flashlight in his eyes trying to get Bob—or any other man as far as that goes—to talk about his feelings? Ba-ha-ha-ha-ha.

Now I know I'm from a different generation than a lot of you, but I think I can safely say that there are not too many ranch folks our age that would or could talk to a stranger about, "How does that make you feel?" We just deal with "it."

Maybe that's not healthy; maybe that's not the "in" way to deal with problems, but that's just what we country folks do. We get up in the morning, put our pants on and get out, tackling the world. I think—no, I know—we all have issues or problems, but we don't feel the need to discuss them and air our problems out for the entire world to see. Just deal with it, dude!

As Bob was talking to the hunters, I tried to visualize Bob and myself together talking to a psychologist about our marriage. I laughed more that night than I have in a very long time. This was right after the election so I really needed a good laugh!

Now, don't start any rumors... we did NOT go to a marriage counselor. We have never ever had a discussion about "how something made you feel!" We'll be there about the same time that David and Peggy Wilson, or Elsie and Allen Belk, or Mary Jo and Mike Jernigan start talking about getting their feelings in line.

First of all, I'm pretty sure that none of those men (including Bob) could even hear that dang psychologist asking those questions!

Keep on keeping on, and take this or any other opinion of mine for what it's worth. We will keep on keeping on because that's what we all do with little to no complaining...

God Bless the rancher and God Bless America! ◇



By Nancy Brockman



## 2020 Sheep, Goat Market Really Strong

By Benny Cox

Producers Livestock Auction  
San Angelo, Texas

**MAN, WHAT A WAY** to end 2020—with the sheep and goat markets really doing well here in Texas. The ethnic market has surpassed all expectations with unbelievable prices on goats and especially on hair sheep lambs. As I have said all through the summer and fall months, the ethnic market has been great despite all this virus mess.

There is a time and place for everything or so I have been told. With range conditions not being as good as we would prefer, this may be a good year to give your sheep and goats additional nutrition to assure of a good sized kid or lamb to take to market. At \$3.00 a pound your animals will pay for lots of feed.

Also, I cannot over stress the importance of your varmint control efforts both through support and what you do yourself.

We at Producers Livestock Auction wish you all a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

During the four week period up to mid December, woolled lambs weighing 80 to

110 pounds brought from \$1.70 to \$2.55 per pound, mostly \$2.00-\$2.20 while wool lambs weighing 50 to 80 pounds sold for \$2.20 to \$3.46, mostly \$2.40 to \$2.80.

Hair sheep slaughter lambs weighing 80 to 100 pounds brought \$1.80 to \$3.30, mostly \$2.25 to \$2.60, and 45 to 80 pounders fetched \$2.60 to \$3.70 but mostly \$2.90 to \$3.20.

Slaughter ewes on the fleshy side were selling from \$.70 to \$1.34 per pound, mostly \$.90 to \$1.15, the thinner ewes bringing \$.60 to \$1.00.

Kid goats weighing 50 to 60 pounds brought \$2.70 to \$3.82 per pound, and 30 to 50 pounders \$3.20 to \$4.16.

Slaughter nannies in good flesh got \$1.30 to \$2.08 per pound but mostly \$1.50 to \$1.70, thinner nannies \$1.20 to \$1.50.

Replacement nannies sold for \$2.20 to \$2.60 per pound. Slaughter billies went for \$1.80 to \$2.44 per pound, mostly \$2.00 to \$2.20. ◇



## Reid's Ram-blings

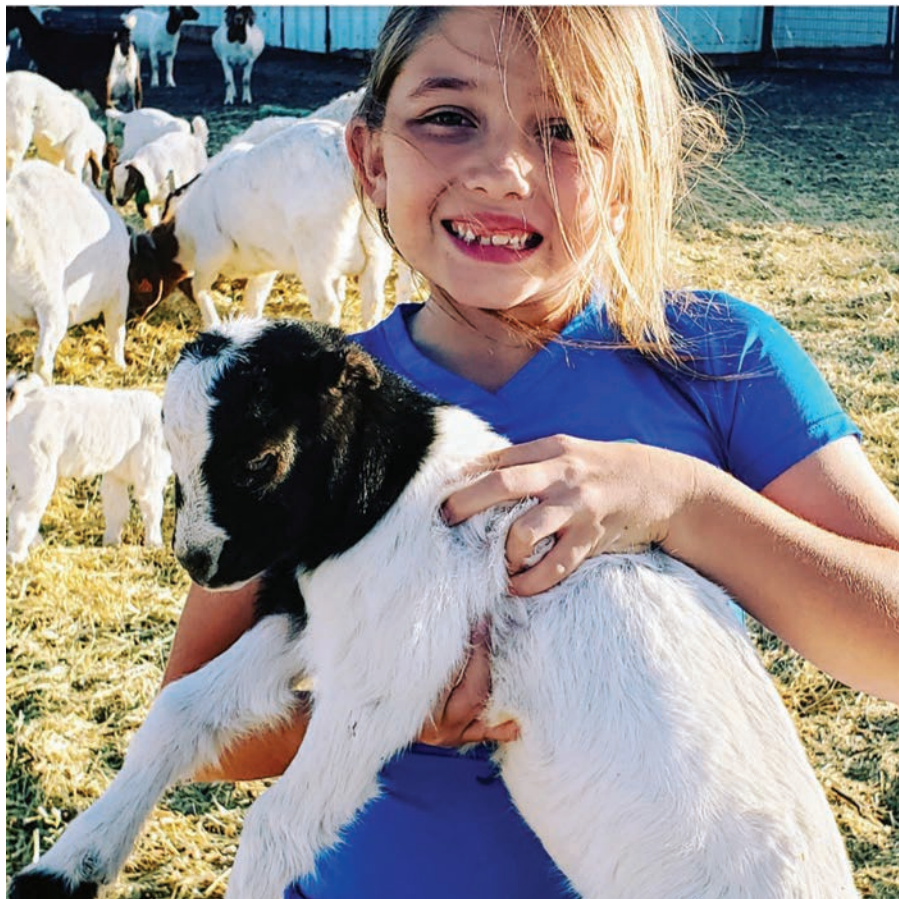


Photo by Jana Sanchez of Sanderson, Texas, was an entry in the 2020 Ranch & Rural Living Photo Contest.



By Reid Redden

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension  
Sheep and Goat Specialist

continue in 2021 is the weather. Much of the sheep and goat producing region of Texas is dealing with mild to severe drought conditions. If your pastures have any forage remaining, it is either low in supply or low in quality. For the region as a whole, this was not a bad parasite year with the dry conditions, but drought may also mean hungry predators, especially this winter.

I commonly get the question “What is the best sheep and goat supplement?” or “What protein level should I feed?” I don’t particularly care for these comments as to answer them I usually have to play the card I least like to... “It depends” The better questions you should probably be asking is “How much supplementation do my animals need?” and “What is the most economical feed resource?”

Stage of production, body condition, and feed supply are the main factors that affect how much supplement may be needed. Feed cost, feed nutritive value, and cost of delivery (easy to forget) are the main factors that determine the most economical supplemental feed. I recommend that you contact your local county extension office, nutritionist, and/or veterinarian for assistance.

While I always encourage you to pursue the most economical means regarding supplementing, it should also be noted that many of our livestock are pregnant and in the latter stages of gestation. Inaction now, while you are waiting for an opportunity to save a nickel on feed costs may cost you quite a few dollars later.

In closing, there is no doubt that our future is going to be quite different from our past. For some of us, there have been tremendous hardship through these trying times. But don’t be afraid to break away from the flock and appreciate that change, albeit uncomfortable, might just result in something good.

To provide feedback on this article or request topics for future articles, contact me at [reid.redden@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:reid.redden@ag.tamu.edu) or 325-657-7324. For general questions about sheep and goats, contact your local Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service county office. If they can’t answer your question, they have access to someone who can. ◇

# What is Normal?

**I COMMONLY HEAR** the statement, “When things get back to normal...” To be honest, I doubt that 2021 and beyond will ever resemble normal. I believe that we are embarking on a new era that has a different normal. And potentially a new era that keep changing so fast that we don’t settle into a normal.

Constant change is hard for most people. We all like to think that we are independent thinkers but more often than not, we are like sheep and prefer the safety of the flock. The world is complex and daunting. It is often easier to make decisions based on general consumer perception verses independent technical research.

Let’s stop and think about what normal we want back and what part of the new normal we want to keep. To do this, I suggest that you write down 3 things that you want to go back to normal and 3 things that are new to your life that you plan to keep.

I don’t know know about you, but I found it easier to come up with three things I plan to keep than 3 things I want back. Yet,

### I WANT BACK:

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

### I PLAN TO KEEP:

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_

I did not expect this because we tend to think of 2020 as having been chaotic and unwanted. I suspect it is because we fear change and uncertainty.

Markets don’t like change or uncertainty either. Here in Texas, the market is dominated by the ethnic-consumer demand, which thankfully is more diverse and less reliant on a few major entities.

In early March, when everything was first shut down, the markets weakened a little. Fortunately, it did not take long to rebound, especially for lightweight lambs and goats. The ethnic market was free of major market disruptions and experienced what appeared to be a growth in demand. As such, each month in 2020 the market was stronger than it was for the same month in 2019.

One aspect of 2020 that most livestock producers in West Texas don’t want to



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repeated. As the goats quit limping, they were moved to an intermediate pen. Every goat that limped after the second vaccination was boosted again, hooves scrubbed with chlorine bleach again, and given an extra 1 gram of sulfa drug.

As you move goats to the intermediate area, either inspect hooves, or run them through a foot bath made with 1 cup chlorine per 10 gallons of water. This will help prevent contamination of the intermediate area.

By the end of 10 days, all but five older does had quit limping. Treatment continued on that five head and a few that had relapsed. Some of the goats ended up having been boosted five to six times before the hoof cleared up. One doe had so much tissue between the digits that I cut the tissue out, cauterized it, treated the area with Furazolidone ointment and, and wrapped with vet wrap for two days. Sulfa drug at 750 mg/day was continued in the water.

As goats in the intermediate pen quit limping entirely, I moved them to the pasture, and gradually got all of them cleared up. Most were well in 14 days. A few, including the five old chronics, took as long as a month to cure.

I kept them on that high, dry pasture for the remainder of the summer. They were boosted one more time before winter. All remained well after that—even the five old chronics.

The key is to keep them dry, and keep them vaccinated. ◇

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Dressed for a rodeo performance, the Reeves twins sample grandmother Jo Carr's goodies and pronounce them delicious.



There's always lots of hugs and ample helpings of home-cooked meats, pasta and potatoes awaiting cowboys and cowgirls from across the country.

Photos by Joyce Baker.



Pies from scratch remind participants of a little taste of home – just like their moms and aunts make on special occasions.

# Rodeo Cooks Comfort Contestants With Hearty Fare, Helpings of Kindness

By Dee Lackey

**T**he life of a rodeo cowboy is not all bright lights and big paydays. It's often notching a "no time," driving long roads with too little sleep, missing your family and eating quick stop burritos. However, a handful of semi-retired and self-employed San Angelo women are trying to even the odds and level the playing field during the San Angelo Stock Show and Rodeo's three-week run.

And they're doing it one home-cooked meal and grandmotherly hug at a time.

Heading up this dedicated group of kitchen wranglers is JoAnn Carr, longtime SASSRA board member. She is ably assisted by her sister Joyce Baker, daughter Courtney Reeves and husband Blake, Dacy Walker, Tomasine Spieker and dedicated dish washer Kay Decuri.

Their kitchen and dining area are located in the newly constructed Fiesta Building located near the Housley Communications Cattle Barn. It's easily dwarfed by the rotund Foster Communications Coliseum and high-flying carnival rides.

"We are so excited to have a fully-equipped, commercial kitchen which replaces our second-hand ovens and electric roasters," said Ms. Carr. "The sparkling, stainless steel stove, refrigerator, freezer, reconstructed restrooms and new flooring afford us the ability to be much more efficient and sanitary."

"San Angelo's Rodeo Association has really exceeded our expectations in rebuilding and furnishing this area for us, and we're rearin' to go and begin cooking."

And the results will seem almost heav-

en sent: chicken and dressing, meat loaf and mashed potatoes, pork roast, brisket, chili and spaghetti. There will be a salad bar with jalapeno ranch dressing that's earned its own bragging rights, and home-made desserts that would please even the most discerning relative.

Helping for at least 20 years, Ms. Carr remembers becoming involved when her daughter was a rodeo ambassador.

"Back in the day, contestants were given vouchers for a complimentary burrito and hot dog," she said. "Then we started preparing meals to feed a few of the cowboys for the two-week rodeo schedule."

"We worked out of a tent with electricity borrowed from the cattle barn. Harriet Upton and Cindy Bragg also helped in those days," she continued.





Plenty of good-natured conversations filled the area as rodeo competitors enjoy hearty food and catching up with fellow contestants. Photo by Joyce Baker.



A shiny, commercial kitchen has replaced traditional ovens and sinks during the recent upgrade to the Stock Show and Rodeo Association's Fiesta Building.



Delicious desserts await contestants and other VIP's such as judges and members of the media. Photo by Joyce Baker.



Jo Carr's twin grandsons get pressed into service, learning valuable lessons of what it means to help others. Photo by Joyce Baker.

Eight years ago, JoAnn stepped forward to coordinate the meal preparations. "I sat down with marketing head Tom Thompson and we came up with a \$2,500 food budget.

"We are very frugal in our shopping habits, and most days we prepare for 125." Average attendance is 80-100 and leftovers are used creatively.

"But all of that shopping, prepping and cooking pays off when you see these young guys and gals sitting down and enjoying a hot meal like their momma would make," she added.

"You know, for the contestant who doesn't score well or busts the barrier, our meal and a little conversation are all they may get before heading on to the next rodeo," Ms. Baker pointed out. "A few bring their young families along, and we take care of the whole bunch."

A small corner of the dining area doubles as a play area for those with toddlers

or very young children. Durable toys, books and blankets lay in wait for the next youngsters.

While checking her grocery supply list, Jo Ann noted, "We happily feed the media folks, judges, secretaries and rodeo committee members, too. Also, our new porch area allows for outdoor dining when the weather is cooperative."

Meals are served at lunch and at an early supper. Grab-and-go bars, fruit and snacks are always available and even a post-performing contestant probably won't leave hungry.

Repeat "customers" are frequent diners once they know the drill.

"We feed several guys from as far away as North Dakota and Nebraska plus a lot from Oklahoma and Texas," Joyce said, "and we're very fond of those from Decatur and Stephenville who we've gotten to know."

During a bout with cancer, JoAnn added that her daughter Courtney and family rose to the challenge even pressing twin grandsons into action.

Steeped in almost nine decades of rich tradition, San Angelo's 89th version of the Stock Show and Rodeo is normally held during February. At press time the rodeo was rescheduled to April 9-24, 2021.

The stock show events will remain in February but with no public observers other than exhibitors' families allowed for it, due to COVID-19 precautions.

Ranking among the Top Ten PRCA rodeos in the nation, San Angelo's event modestly began in 1932. A devastating fire forced the cancellation of an event in 1943. Then in 1953 a spring tornado levelled the fairground buildings.

Despite severe drought of the 1950s, plans were being initiated for the construction of a \$1 million coliseum which opened to rave reviews in 1959.





Joyce Baker, Kay Decuir and Jo Carr pose in the previous kitchen area getting ready to dish up hearty fare and hugs for rodeo competitors. Photo by Jerry Lackey.

The latter decades of the 20th century brought capable leadership and big-name entertainers, and by 1981 the Rodeo Association had cut its ties with the Chamber of Commerce and became its own entity.

By the late 1990s a one-half cent sales tax passage opened the way for upgrades and a \$4.8 million Spur Arena project. Also, the establishment of the Stock Show and Rodeo's Association Foundation has provided a means to channel numerous scholarships to 4-H and FFA youth who are pursuing higher education.

Consistently growing and evolving into a three-week long extravaganza, the many activities draw 6,000 exhibitors and more than 1,100 contestants. The Association and its 60 committees will put more than 1,000 volunteers into action coordinating activities all across the busy fairgrounds.

And a vital element of this big show will be a happy, handful of women committed to cowboy hospitality at its best.

"We can't help but be relieved when our current year is done," JoAnn added. "Then we start thinking how we can top ourselves and kick our service up a bit in the New Year—plus we can't wait to see the competitors and check on their progress."

A delicious, hearty meal and a hug are waiting! ◇



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# Walking to Chicago

*The 1893 Pedestrian Journey from Galveston to Chicago*

By Mike Cox

Some newspapers referred to what Mrs. Lucille Rodney had undertaken that summer of 1893 as a “pedestrian journey” but the only thing pedestrian about it was her mode of travel.

The 23-year-old had set out to walk from Galveston to Chicago to take in that city’s World’s Fair, a colossal event formally known as the Columbian Exposition. If she made it to the Windy City in 76 days, she would win a \$5,000 prize offered by Chicago’s Elite Athletic Club. If she did not, she at least got to keep the money she made along the way selling souvenir photographs of herself.

“The plucky little Texan,” as one newspaper labeled her, left the Island City on May 16. Husband, G.B. Rodney and W.W. Holiday, an athletic club representative. However, the men took turns between walking with her and

pacing her in a horse-drawn buggy—the 19th century equivalent of a chase car.

In addition to the requirement that she complete the journey before August 1, the athletic club stipulated that she carry 38 pounds of baggage as far as Dallas (after that it could be carried in the buggy) and count the number of cross ties as she made her way to the fair.

Her departure was ignored by the Galveston News, but when she reached Dallas, the Dallas Morning News interviewed her. “Oh, the dreadful [railroad] trestles,” she said. “I don’t like them.” On the upside, as they passed through open country, farm families often provided them meals.

Despite the pleasures of country cooking, by the time the entourage reached St. Louis,

Mrs. Rodney had dropped from 125 pounds to 106 pounds. Her husband said he had lost 33 pounds and Holliday reported he’d shed 25 pounds.

Another athletic club stipulation was that the lady walker had to check in with the ticket agent of each depot she reached. After showing up at St. Louis’ Union Station at 9:40 a.m. on July 15, Mrs. Rodney and her fellow travelers spent the night before leaving before dawn the next day.

If she succeeded in making it to Chicago, Mrs. Rodney declared, she would next hike from New York to San Francisco. “If you do,” her husband said, “you will go without me.”

When Mrs. Rodney reached Decatur, Illinois at 5 p.m. on July 21 several thousand people greeted her at the depot. Others had joined her outside of town and escorted her the rest of the way in. As the trio moved up the track toward the station, as the Chicago

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Inter Ocean reported the following day, "So dense was the crowd on the railroad track that it was difficult for the woman to proceed to the station." When someone stood in front of her and refused to let her pass, Mrs. Rodney's husband slugged the man in the jaw, dropping him to the roadbed. Police arrested Rodney but he was later released, apparently with no charges having been filed.

Mrs. Rodney made it to Chicago about 10 a.m. on July 27, some 60 hours before her deadline. She said she could have made the walk even faster, but she lost one day to illness and 10 days to bad weather.

"There was no end of sport on the trip and I enjoyed it," she told reporters. "I used to carry an umbrella, but one day I was walking a very bad [train] trestle bridge and the umbrella acted as a parachute and came near carrying me over, so I just closed it and threw it as far...as I could."

She averaged 23 miles a day on her "tramp," a word that contemporary newspapers used to describe the 1,346-mile journey from the Gulf of Mexico to Lake Superior.

After the party reached Chicago, her name disappeared from the newspapers. What became of Lucille, her husband and Holiday remains a mystery. About all that's known of her is that she was originally from Manchester, Iowa.

The Galveston News, then one of the better newspapers in Texas, made no contemporary mention of the trip and never ran an article on her at any time after 1893. A Howard Rodney died in the devastating 1900 Galveston hurricane, but whether he was related to G.B. and Lucille is not known.

It's possible the walk was nothing more than a publicity stunt, the trio's real mode of travel being by train or buggy. Indeed, on July 16, 1893, one Chicago newspaper noted, "This appears to be a bid for some cheap advertising. Mrs. Rodney, her task, and the wager are strangers here."

On the other hand, reports from the various newspapers that covered the trek offered details that seemed authentic, including pointing out that she had worn out eight pair of \$5 "English walking shoes" along the way. ♦



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Photo by Madolyn Nasworthy of Menard, Texas, was an entry in the 2016 Ranch & Rural Living Photo Contest.

## Work Hard; Enjoy Life

And now for some unsolicited advice: Work hard, earn money, achieve—yes. But take time to find balance in your life. Hard work and study reward our pocketbooks and brains, but spending time with friends and family rewards our heart. Life is meant to be thoroughly lived.

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Powell, James, 36 W. Beauregard, Ste. 301, San Angelo, TX 76903 (Ph. 325/653-1688); David Neal, Mgr. (325/651-2826)

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## down the road

To submit a calendar item call (325)655-4434.

**NOTE:** The following events are listed as submitted. The event date may have been or might be altered to conform with restrictions caused to the Corona Virus pandemic. Please check with the organizers of the event for the last word.

January 6-16, 2021—TX  
Sand Hills Stock Show & Rodeo, the quality of the steers and lambs shown in Odessa rivals any show in the state. FMI: sandhillsrodeo@cableone.net; Website: sandhillssr.com

January 15—February 6, 2021—TX  
CANCELLED—Fort Worth Stock Show & Rodeo. FMI: fwssr.com

February 4-21, 2021—TX  
San Angelo Livestock Show, preserving the western way of life and promoting agricultural education. Show has been closed to public. Only stock show participants and their families allowed on fairgrounds due to COVID-19 restrictions. FMI: sanangelorodeo.com; (325)653-7785

February 11-28, 2021 - TX  
San Antonio Stock Show & Rodeo is one of the largest, most prestigious single events in the city of San Antonio. FMI: (210) 225-5851; Email: info@sarodeo.com; Website: sarodeo.com

March 2-21, 2021 - TX  
Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo promotes agriculture by hosting an annual, family-friendly experience. FMI: (832)667-1000; Email: questions@rodeo-houston.com; Website: rodeohouston.com

March 13-27, 2021 - TX  
Rodeo Austin, keeping our heritage alive! Since 1938, Rodeo Austin has expanded from a small stock show to one of Austin's premier events. FMI: rodeoaustin.com

April 9-24, 2021—TX  
San Angelo Rodeo and Carnival, fairgrounds. The annual PRCA rodeo and carnival attraction has been rescheduled to these dates.

## HOOVES & HORNS

BY A.W. ERWIN



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# Finewool and Clippings



A LITTLE GIRL said, “Grandpa, can you make a sound like a frog?”

“A sound like a frog? Well, sure Grandpa can make a sound like a frog.”

The girl said, “Grandpa, will you please, please make a sound like a frog?”

“I suppose so,” he said, but perplexed, he asked her, “Sweetheart, why do you want me to make a sound like a frog?”

The little girl replied, “Because Daddy said when you croak, he’s going to buy me a pony.”

◇ ◇ ◇

Pasture Philosopher: “I’ve just about mastered the art of family planning. That’s having your children the proper number of years apart to keep you just on the edge of financial disaster.”

◇ ◇ ◇

A magazine reporter is traveling through a rainforest, in search of a fabled cannibalistic tribe. He falls into a trap, goes unconscious and wakes up tied to a stake with a fire burning slowly underneath him.

He cries out for help, and is answered by what is obviously one of the tribesmen, who informs him that he is going to be served as dinner to the tribe’s head man or chief.

“But you don’t understand!” he cries, “You can’t do this to me! I’m an editor for the New Yorker magazine!”

“Ah,” replies the tribesman, “Good news for you then. Soon you will be editor . . . in-chief!”

◇ ◇ ◇

A snobby man lacking in tact or humanity eyed a shabbily dressed man at a party and said to him, “The way you’re dressed, you look poor!”

“Well,” responded the man, “I’ll have you know I’ve got an outfit for every day of the week.”

“Do you, really?” the snob replied.

The man said, “Yes. It’s this one! So get used to it.”

◇ ◇ ◇

Paula, a mother was anxiously awaiting her daughter Janet’s plane to land. Janet had just come back from abroad trying to find adventure during her gap year. As Janet was exiting the plane, Paula noticed a man directly behind her daughter dressed in feathers with exotic markings all over his body and carrying a shrunken head. Janet introduced this man as her new husband. Paula gasped out loud in disbelief and disappointment and screamed, ‘I said for you to marry a rich Doctor .... a rich Doctor!’

◇ ◇ ◇

Three retirees, each with a hearing loss, were playing golf one fine March day. One remarked to the other, ‘Windy, isn’t it?’ ‘No,’ the second man replied, ‘it’s Thursday.’ The third man chimed in, ‘So am I. Let’s have a beer.’

◇ ◇ ◇

A rather drunk man stumbles into a library, goes up to the librarian and loudly says, “I’ll have a cheeseburger and fries, please.”

The ill tempered librarian responds, “Sir, you know you’re in a library, right?”

The man says, “Oh, sorry. [in a whisper] I’ll have a cheeseburger and fries, please.”

◇ ◇ ◇

Pasture Philosopher: “It’s been such a joy being home with my wife all this time during the virus pandemic. In the span of 8 months, we’ve caught up on all the things I’ve done wrong for the past 30 years!”

◇ ◇ ◇

The entire North American sales force of a national brand of dog food was gathered together for their national sales convention at Miami Beach. In the great auditorium the marketing director was giving a performance that any revival preacher would have been proud of. Using the old pattern of call and response, he was really working up the spirits of his sales team.

“Who’s got the greatest dog food in North America?” the marketing director asked.

“We have!” the audience replied.

“And who’s got the greatest advertising campaigns?”

“We have!”

“Who’s got the most attractive packages?”

“We have!”

“Who’s got the biggest distribution network?”

“WE HAVE!”

“Okay. So why aren’t we selling more of the product?”

One bold voice from the crowd replied: “Because the darned dogs don’t like it.”

◇ ◇ ◇

A guy bought his wife a beautiful diamond ring for Christmas.

After hearing about this extravagant gift, a friend of his said, “I thought she wanted one of those sporty four-wheel-drive vehicles.”

“She did,” he replied. “But where the heck am I going to find a fake Jeep?” ◇

## From Page 6, Answer to Reading the Landscape



This grass is Plains bristlegrass, a native perennial grass. Plains bristlegrass is one of seventeen species of bristlegrass to be found within Texas. Seven are annual species while twelve of the seventeen are native to our state. The majority of these provide good forage value for livestock and produce seeds usable by game and song birds. Plains bristlegrass grows in the western two-thirds of the state, being all vegetational regions west of the Blackland Prairies and Coastal Prairies and is most commonly seen in sandy soils. Seeds are commercially available and should be considered for adding to range seeding mixes. All species of bristlegrass will be readily grazed upon by livestock and are often over-grazed and may be removed from the landscape due to the heavy grazing. —RL



## Texas Ag Journal—News Briefs

### Permian Global Access Pipeline Project Cancelled

A new pipeline project planned to move natural gas from fields in West Texas and southern New Mexico to the Louisiana coast for export has more than likely been cancelled, according to press reports. The website Naturalgasintel.com reports that the Permian Global Access Pipeline (PGAP) had been under the microscope by the company Tellurian for months as the industry coped with declining outlook and prices for liquefied natural gas (LNG) exports brought on in part by Covid-19.

In a recent letter to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, PGAP officials asked to withdraw the pipeline project from the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) pre-filing review process.

The pipeline route as planned would have crossed many Texas counties and affect ranchers' and landowners' properties.

### Cattle Production in Cyclical Decline

Decreasing beef cow numbers over the next five years implies that beef production is also projected to decrease over the first half of the next cattle cycle. Beef production is projected to slightly increase by 700-million-pounds in 2021. The largest projected increase in the next five years is projected for 2021, according to Beef magazine. After 2021, beef production is projected to slowly trend downward.

The market effects of the COVID-19 scare increased the backlog of heavy slaughter cattle lowering the 2020 annual average slaughter steer price, and should again lower the 2021 annual slaughter steer price. Decreasing beef production is projected to increase slaughter steer prices from 2022 through 2025.

### Aussie Wool Ends the Year Slightly Lower After Weeks of Relative Improvement

The Australian wool market ended the 2020 calendar year with a soft finish the second week of December, the final auction selling opportunity before their annual three-week Christmas recess, according to a market report from the Australian Wool Exchange. Australia's national offering that week increased to 44,835 bales, 6,430 more bales than was offered in the previous week. The larger selection attracted solid demand; the market however, could not maintain the improved prices achieved in the previous few weeks. In mid December trading prices fell across all merino (finewool) fleece types and descriptions, generally between 30 and 70 cents AUS.

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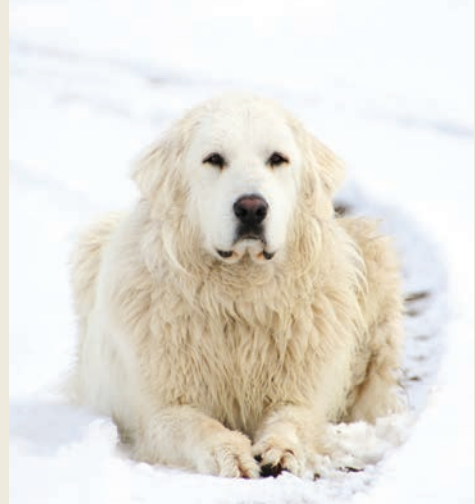
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Michelle Bunyard, Fallon, Nevada—2016 Photo Contest entry.

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