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Standard-Times

weekend

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Pioneer potluck

Scarcity led to innovative recipes on the Texas Plains

Caprock Chronicles
Chuck Lanehart
USA TODAY NETWORK

Noted Texas writer and folklorist J. Frank Dobie (1888-1964) spent many nights around campfires enjoying meals of wild game. He offered a witty recipe for jackrabbit stew. “Put plenty of water in a pot. Put in a brick. Put in a dressed jackrabbit. Boil four hours. Remove jackrabbit. Eat brick.”

Texas Plains pioneers often relied on wild game for sustenance. Bison, the primary source of protein for Native Americans of the plains for centuries, also sustained early Anglo settlers. “The meat of the buffalo . . . had a much better taste than beef and was more easily digested,” remembered Panhandle pioneer Olive King Dixon. When wood could not be found on the treeless plains, meat was cooked over a fire of dried bison dung. But by 1880, bison had been hunted to near extinction.

To preserve meat, Native Americans and Plainsmen salted, smoked and dried wild game as “jerky,” edible for

TOP: Jackrabbit Bourguignon is similar to delicacies consumed by Texas plains pioneers. ABOVE: a woman using a typical 1800's woodburning cast-iron stove. BOTTOM: pioneers cooking at a campfire in the late 1800s. PHOTO PROVIDED BY CHUCK LANEHART, MEATEATER WEBSITE; THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

months without refrigeration. Methods of cooking evolved from campfires and Dutch ovens to open hearths and cast-iron wood stoves, which revolutionized home cooking and heating in the 1800s. Luxuries like cast-iron stoves were not common on the Texas frontier.

Texas Plains settlers eventually pushed many of the wolves, wildcats and coyotes off the Great Plains, creating an overabundance of the carnivores' staple diet, the black-tailed jackrabbit.

With little fear of predators, the creatures became a nuisance, devouring crops like alfalfa, young cotton plants and vegetables. Jackrabbits competed with cattle, sheep and goats for available forage on the grassy plains. Farmers and ranchers found it difficult to protect produce and livestock from the fast-breeding hares.

In 1917, the Texas Legislature proposed a law offering statewide bounties for jackrabbit pelts, but the bill was vetoed.

A year later, the state department of agriculture encouraged citizens to eat jackrabbits to control the pests. The agency listed five recipes, including canned jackrabbit, potted jackrabbit, jackrabbit sausage, jackrabbit chili

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8 eateries get perfect scores

Rosanna Fraire
San Angelo Standard-Times
USA TODAY NETWORK – TEXAS

The San Angelo/Tom Green County Health Department regularly monitors restaurants and food establishments for compliance with state food safety requirements.

Frequent inspections are essential in preventing the spread of foodborne illnesses through contamination and improper handling, storage and sanitation.

Scores for retail food establishments, food stores, mobile food units and school and daycare establishments inspected the week of Feb. 1-7 are listed below.

Disclaimer: On any given day, an establishment may have fewer or more violations than noted in its most recent inspection. An inspection conducted on any given day may not be representative of the overall, long-term conditions at the establishment. A few more recent, follow-up inspections may not be included here.

The Standard-Times obtained the information through an open records request.

Environmental Health Division inspectors fill out one page of these inspection reports. Other Texas health divisions, such as in Taylor and Wichita counties, fill out multiple pages with details, providing more

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Note to readers

Due to the upcoming Presidents Day holiday, there will be no mail delivery on Monday, Feb. 16. Instead of receiving your Feb. 16 paper on Monday, you'll receive it in the mail on Tuesday, Feb. 17.

Report: Kids are betting on sports

Nick Penzenstadler and Carlie Procell
USA TODAY

Seventy-five dollars is all Sam needed for his next round of sports bets on his BetMGM app.

Well – it wasn't officially his. He was 17 years old, and the legal gambling age in his home state of Arizona is 21. Sam used his mom's ID behind her back to

create the account where he'd bet on basketball and football games.

Except she found him out and reported him to the company.

BetMGM opened an investigation and found Sam had deposited \$75 into the account with two ApplePay accounts. Investigators tracked his iPhone 13 to his home, but also the local high school where Sam had placed his bets.

They banned the account and wrote up a report for state authorities.

But as soon as he was 21, Sam was back at it. Gambling on the apps again.

He's just one of thousands of underage bettors caught annually by legalized sportsbooks like DraftKings and FanDuel. They collectively bet

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