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*"The Fisherman's Guide,
News You Can Use"
"Lines To Get Hooked On"*

2 Sections

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Free

Vol. 18

September, 2016

No. 205



**BIG-BASS
SPLASH**
Presented By
Sealy Outdoors
Benefiting: St Jude Children's Research Hospital

\$520,000
Guaranteed In Cash & Prizes

CELEBRATING 30 YRS

By Don Hampton

What better way to celebrate a tournament anniversary than by offering anglers bigger and better payouts!

This is exactly what Sealy Outdoors is doing for their 30th Annual Big Bass Splash on Lake Fork to be held on September 16, 17, and 18 with host marina being Lake Fork Marina. This is truly going to be a fantastic tournament where amateurs can win better than the pros! In this year's tournament there is \$520,000 guaranteed in cash and prizes going to the anglers. There will be 15 places paid each hour with 1st in each hour receiving a check for \$3,000 and 15th in each hour receiving a check for \$250.

With the slot on Lake Fork being between 16" and 24" I'd be looking for some 2+ pound bass to be winning a big check. The heaviest bass under the slot during the three day tournament will win an extra check for \$5,000 and any angler that brings the first 2.5-pound bass to the scales will win an additional check for \$5,000.

The heaviest bass caught during the course of the tournament will not only receive a check for \$3,000 for the hour but also will be rewarded with the grand prize of a 2016 Triton 19TRX powered by Mercury, equipped with Minn Kota, Lowrance, Navionics and Power Pole, a 2016 Dodge Ram Truck, plus

(See 30th Annual Sealy....Continued on Page 7-A)



On August 2nd the 60th Texas game warden cadet class graduated at the Texas State Capitol. The cadet class includes 41 game warden cadets and five state park police officers. (See Story on Page 4-A)



Bill Moore from Rockwall, TX., didn't mind the 101 degree weather, he was just happy to be on the lake fishing again. He was rewarded on July 23rd when he caught this monster weighing 14.08-lbs. and measuring almost 30". C.P.R.



**Happy Birthday
To Us!!!**

"17 Years Young!" On September 1, 1999 our first edition of promoting Lake Fork and the businesses were in the racks. Since that time it has been our great pleasure promoting the best reservoir in the United States. We would like to thank all of our writers, readers, friends and advertisers for continuing to help us grow! We look forward to many more years to come!

"Bubba's vocabulary may be improving but he'll never win an Oscar for his acting!"**By Don Hampton**

When speaking to Bubba one needs to pay close attention and listen very closely. If you are ever going to put in print and quote what Bubba has to say, the first step is turning off your spell check.

Some of Bubba's favorite words cannot be found in Webster's Dictionary, or at least not the way he pronounces them. And, as we all know, that is just stuff you have to accept with Bubba.

His and Bubbette's favorite word is fer. This particular word is used quite often in both of their vocabularies. I can only assume this is how it is spelt because of the way they pronounce it.

I believe it all began long ago when Bubba had long hair (or should I say "had hair"), everything then was "Fer Out". If it was raining, that would be "Fer Out". If Bubba hit his thumb with a hammer,... well, that would be "Fer Out" too (just pronounced a little stronger with a couple of added words.)

Bubba grew out of the "Fer Out" stage in life, but he kept the "Fer", maybe "Fer Good Measure" – but anyway now it has multiple meanings.

This word is most important in Bubba and Bubbette's life when it is combined with numbers. They both love 2 fer 1. It doesn't matter if they need the items or not. If it is 2 fer 1, you can bet they will be having a couple! That just means one of whatever it might be is free and they both love "free stuff"!!

Let a restaurant advertise chicken fried steaks 2 fer 1. Bubba will have his camping stuff set up

in the parking lot waiting fer them to open. He wouldn't care how fer he had to drive and ferda more, he wouldn't care! The only thing in his world that could beat out good vittles would be "Fishing Stuff 2 Fer 1"! Then Bubba would have a bunch of stuff and he'd be giving Bubbette excuses and reasons, 2 fer 1. Bubba would say, "Well Sugar dumplin', I need it fer this and fer that!"

Now thanks to the fishing industry Bubba has been extending his vocabulary and in some cases has even become bilingual! In this case, you can't help but laugh because he even puts the ethnic accent on the words.

Bubba doesn't do too bad when he tells you about his Shimano reels. The accent isn't too pronounced, but when he starts telling you about his Gamakatsu hooks and his Yamamoto Senko, try to keep a straight face if you can!

Every time he tells me of a big bass he caught on "Yamamoto Senko with a Gamakatsu hook" I lose it. Instead of a fishing story it sounds more as if he is trying out for the lead role in the "Last Samurai"!!

Bubba's most imperial impression is when he ties on a Strike King. I really do believe he thinks at that time he is "Your Majesty"! I'm not even going to go in on how he sounds when he ties on a Yellow Magic because it is not of this world!

Bubba does better when he is talking about his Terminator Lures. He does a pretty good imitation of Arnold Schwarzenegger. If he misses a fish on one of these, his last words are always, "I'll be back!"

Bubba is good at putting his feelings into his words. When he speaks of his Lockhart Lures, he adds passion because he thinks it is spelled h-e-a-r-t, and his feelings on this lure should come from that direction. When he refers to his Rebel lures, he sounds like a "Rebel without a Cause"! Remember the old song "Norman"? Well, when he is tying on one of these lures, he is always singing that song!

One redeeming grace to Bubba's character, what he has to say he says with meaning and conviction and isn't misunderstood, even when he is laying down the "Why Fer!"

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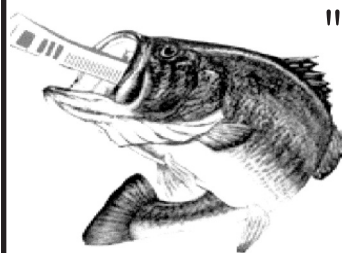
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TPWD Graduates 46 Texas Game Wardens and State Park Police Officers

After seven months of rigorous training, the 60th Texas game warden cadet class graduated recently at the Texas State Capitol. The cadet class includes 41 game warden cadets and five state park police officers.

This is the second cadet class with state park police officers training and graduating alongside state game wardens after the two academies were combined last year.

Following their preparation at the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Game Warden Training Center in Hamilton County, the newly-commissioned peace officers were recognized during a special ceremony at the Texas State Capitol.

"You are joining a select group of men and women who put their lives on the line each and every day to protect our state's lands, waters, borders, fish, game, environment, property and our lives," said TPWD Executive Director Carter Smith. "The people of Texas will expect you to be pillars of strength and leadership, resolute in character and virtue, fair beyond reproach and unfailing in response in times of disaster and duress. And, when you are called for help, day or night, week-day or weekend, irrespective of the need or the cause or the caller for help, you will go and you will go dutifully."

The graduates will begin their new careers sta-

tioned in counties and state parks throughout the state.

The duties of a Texas game warden include the enforcement of all state laws, but primarily hunting, fishing and water safety regulations. As fully commissioned peace officers, they respond to emergencies, assist other law enforcement agencies and work to educate the public about conservation issues.

State park police, also commissioned peace officers, provide law enforcement services to the visitors and users of state parks and help enforce laws within their local jurisdictions.

"We have tremendous confidence in the men and women commissioned and believe they will serve the people of Texas with great distinction," said Texas State Parks Director Brent Leisure. "These new officers have proven themselves worthy and prepared for the demands they will face."

All graduates met the state-mandated requirements for peace officer certification, including criminal and constitutional law, firearms, self-defense, use of force, defensive driving, arrest, search and seizure, ethics and first aid.

The new wardens and park police are joining the 493 game wardens and 170 park police officers currently in the field and will help enforce TPWD regulations and carry the department's high stan-

dards to every corner of the state.

These are the new game wardens and park police, their hometowns and the counties or parks in which they will be stationed:

60th Cadet Class

Texas Game Wardens

--Albert A. Alvarez -- McKinney, TX -- Starr County

--Benjamin J. Andrews -- Johnson City, NY -- Jim Wells County

--Stephen R. Boultinghouse -- Fort Davis, TX -- Jeff Davis County

--Kord M. Bradshaw -- Garrison, TX -- Zapata County

--John M. Braesicke -- Georgetown, TX -- Duval County

--Graydon L. Cass -- Reno, TX -- Reeves County

--Daniel Castañeda -- Pasadena, TX -- Jim Hogg County

--Anthony W. Cimini -- Wichita Falls, TX -- Reeves County

--Dillan W. Conley -- Tuscola, TX -- Mitchell County

--Jacob Copeland -- Boling, TX -- Maverick County

--Aidan W. Dietz -- San Marcos, TX -- Starr County

(Continued on Next Page)



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 --Mark Perez -- Olney, TX -- Kinney County
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 --Juan A. Rosendo -- Brownsville, TX -- Maverick County
 --Forrest C. Schmidt -- College Station, TX -- Grimes County
 --Britton A. Stuckey -- Slaton, TX -- Scurry/Garza County
 --Brandon L. Thacker -- Alto, TX -- Polk County
 --Marcus T. Whitworth -- Kyle, TX -- Webb County
 --Kevin R. Winters Jr. -- San Antonio, TX -- Webb County
 --William K. Yoder -- Loving, TX -- Pecos County
 --Mathew Zitterich -- Red Oak, TX -- Presidio County
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 --Dustin A. Bowers -- Henrietta, TX -- Lake Arrowhead State Park
 --Landon G. Cook -- Throckmorton, TX --

Abilene State Park
 --Jeremy D. Gann -- Woodway, TX -- Mother Neff State Park
 --James R. Hestilow -- Del Rio, TX -- Seminole Canyon State Park
 --Jeremy J. Velazquez -- Rio Hondo, TX -- Lake Casa Blanca State Park

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By David Ozio

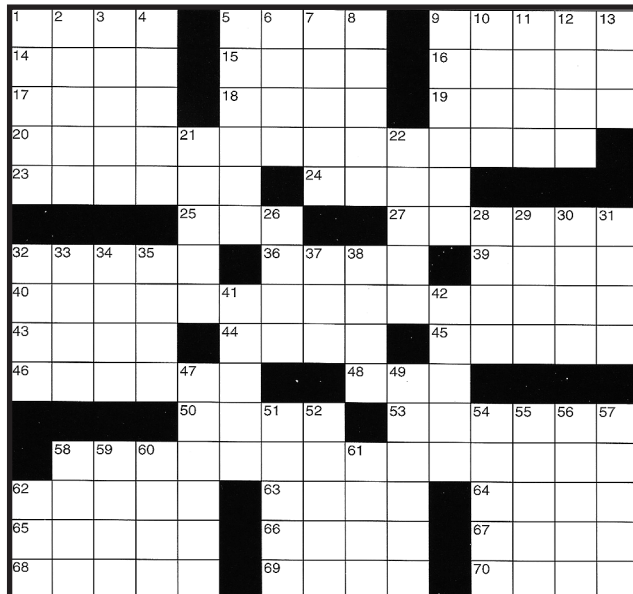
"It has been an interesting summer here on Lake Fork and the bass have responded in much different ways than past years when the air temps soar. We have seen the surface water temps rise to the 93 degree mark in late June, back down to the 80 degree mark in July, back up to the 94 degree area in early August and back to the 82 degree mark in middle August. You talk about adjusting to the conditions for each trip, all guides have had to jump through hoops to be consistent on a day to day basis. The great news is that things should start to settle down in September as the first wave of cold fronts bring cooler temps. The bass mind set will start them moving back to the creeks to get ready for the fall foodfest.

With the days growing shorter, certain patterns should take hold this month and I would be focusing on the shallow bite on a day to day basis. Backs of creeks will be the starting point if you are looking for consistent action. Shad will start to migrate to these areas of the lake and schooling activity will start to take place as the water begins to cool. Top water baits, squarebills, Texas rigged worms and shaky heads will lead the attack especially early and late. The lake is currently one foot low and shallow water vegetation is taking root all over the lake. New grass growth, reeds and alligator grass (that's what I call the thick leafy vegetation) lines most all coves and creek banks. Bass love this new aquatic growth as it provides shade and protection from the summer sun and cover to ambush baitfish. If it is a cloudy day, the yellow magic might be the call for the entire day along this vegetation. A sunny day would probably require the Texas rig or shaky head fished in the same shallow areas. Water clarity will determine the color of the plastics needed, dark hues for heavily stained water and translucent colors for the much clearer water.

Once you reach the midday time frame, I would start looking to the deeper areas of the lake, humps, ridges, road beds and pond dams



for the larger bass. The football jig is hard to beat during this time of the year and the 3/4oz Talon Custom football jig is the best choice for the job. Add a Talon Repo Craw trailer and your ready to tackle the heavy weights of the lake. As of lately, I have found that setting the boat on the shallowest part of the structure and casting out to the deep areas has produced more bites than the reverse scenario. The Carolina rig will also be a "go to" presentation for the same application. I would use a long leader with a 3/0 hook and a Talon Custom Big 10 inch Swamp Wiggler Worm. When you get a bite on one of these, your partner better be headed for the net. Redbug, Watermelon Red or



CLUES ACROSS

1. Military quarters
5. Organist
9. The intrigue
14. "____ and out!"
15. Mollusk genus
16. _____ Walker, "The Color Purple"
17. _____schino cherry
18. Entranceway
19. Move sideways
20. Spartan sch.
23. Chemical compound
24. Push forcefully
25. Old World, new
27. Winged fruit
32. Capital of Bangladesh
36. Wood sorrels
39. Old Irish alphabet
40. Clinton school
43. Friends (French)
44. A domed or vaulted recess
45. Green regions of desert
46. A long, noosed rope trap
48. Sino-Soviet block (abbr.)
50. Mailman's cereal brand?
53. Containerful
58. New Haven's college
62. Alan _____, U.S. folklorist
63. Spirited self-assurance
64. Small integers
65. Past (archaic)
66. Passage
67. A unit of area
68. Baked goods
69. Lairs
70. Spoken

CLUES DOWN

1. Punctuation mark
2. To be of help
3. Doctors' manual
4. Prague (var.)
5. Australian parakeet
6. Buffalo
7. Descendants
8. Thicket (archaic)
9. Melon with a yellowish rind
10. Alight (var.)
11. To wait
12. Liberal rights organization
13. Filmed "Malcolm X"
21. Refers to end of small intestine
22. Torquato _____, Italian poet 1544-1595
26. Chicken's home
28. Sunfish
29. Grows older
30. Anger
31. Research labs
32. Reg. gram
33. Biblical Hamath
34. Ruler
35. Northeast China city
37. Nervous system (abbr.)
38. Expert flyers
41. Armadillo
42. About lobe
47. Celestial points
49. Smells
51. Samuel Jackson _____, U.S. golfer
52. Diacritical mark
54. Muscle
55. Ranch (Spanish)
56. Many wombs
57. Caused cell destruction
58. A Hindu exercise
59. Amuck (var.)
60. Lovers' street?
61. Futile
62. _____tose, a sugar in milk

Answers on Page 21-A



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(See Cooler Weather....
Continued on Page 20-A)

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30th Annual Sealy Outdoors (Continued from 1-A)

an additional \$7,000 in cash. The second heaviest bass of the tournament will be rewarded with a 2016 Triton 18TRX powered by Mercury, equipped with Minn Kota, Lowrance, Navionics and Power Pole, a 2016 Dodge Ram Truck, plus an additional \$2,000 in cash. The third heaviest bass of the tournament will be rewarded with a 2016 Triton 18TRX powered by Mercury, equipped with Minn Kota, Lowrance, Navionics and Power Pole, plus an additional \$1,000 in cash.

Fourth heaviest of the tournament will win an additional \$8,000 and fifth an additional \$6,000.

Lake Fork is a great reservoir to fish and with the prizes and monies Sealy Outdoors is offering there is even more incentive to come and help Bob celebrate his 30th Annual Big Bass Splash on Lake Fork. Also the tournament benefits St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

If you are not able to fish the tournament, come and enjoy the festivities. There will

be vendors displaying their merchandise and it is definitely entertainment you do not want to miss.

For more information on the tournament and where you might enter to avoid the lines see their ad on Page 24-A, or visit their website at www.sealyoutdoors.com or call their office Monday thru Friday 9 am to 5 pm at 888-698-2591.

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"The Moon Report" Fork's September Crappie

By Terri Moon

We're finally on the downhill side of summer and the fall fishing is just around the corner. Now that's something to get excited about!

The last couple of weeks we've had some awesome cloud cover – cooling temperatures – to some very comfortable levels! We've had enough rainfall to keep lake levels close to normal and best of all the fishing has really picked up! We still are having to move around a lot. We might just get a few at each spot; but, if you hit enough spots, you'll end up with a really nice mess of fish.

Probably the worst thing you can do to a brush pile is to sit on it all day and pull every fish out of it. I believe you have to leave some fish to attract more fish. Also, when fishing the bridge, it doesn't pay off too well if you just tie up to one pillar and sit there all day. You have to keep moving from pillar to pillar. Some will hold more fish than others. Keep a close eye on that depth finder. It will show you how deep the fish are moving through and target that depth.



Right now we are checking 14 to 24 ft. depths. The fish can be anywhere from 8 to 20 ft. depending on light conditions, water clarity and weather conditions. So change up your depths and vary your presentation. Some days they want it moving and some days they want it dead still. So, if what you're doing isn't working, don't be afraid to change it up. Even just a jig color change can make a difference. Right now the bait colors producing for us have been Lake Fork Tackle's Paddletail Baby Shad in black/chartreuse, electric chicken and bluegill.

It's hard to believe this month will be my one year anniversary with my MinnKota Ulterra Trolling Motor! All I can say is "I can't imagine my life without it now!" I espe-

cially enjoy it when I get to fish by myself! I can push the anchor button and fish out of the back of the boat if I want! Best of all, the auto "stow/deploy" button – "PRICELESS"!!

Big thanks to my brush pile helpers – Clint, Ron & Cody. It's a lot of hard work but we've managed to put out 36 piles this past month and working on more – so, I'll be ready for the fall fishing!

If you all are headed to the Lake Fork area, be sure and stop by Lake Fork Marina – BIG changes have been happening there! They have doubled the size of the store beautifully and can accommodate all your fishing needs.

My best to you all and hope you get in on Fork's great fall fishing!

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"Lake Dudes" Videos Use Humor To Stop Invading Giant Salvinia

Government agencies are often tasked with informing people about pressing issues. Yet information has a hard time competing for attention. People like entertainment. Enter the "Lake Dudes," animated characters created to catch the attention of boaters, hoping to stop the spread of an invasive water weed that threatens to take over Texas lakes.

"Hey bra, what's shakin' lakini"? - Whoa, what happened to you!? - Giant salvinia, dude." So goes the dialogue in one of the five animated shorts. In the video called Fu Manchu, one of the two dudes, who represent lakes, grows a mustache of giant salvinia that spreads all over him, to the horror of his friend.

The Lake Dudes are one small, yet creative part of a much broader, statewide effort, made possible through a record funding increase in state dollars to fight aquatic invaders in lakes and along rivers. In 2015, the Texas Legislative appropriated \$6.3 million to Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for the 2016-2017 biennium to manage aquatic invasive species, an increase from \$1.1 million in the previous two-year funding cycle.

Most of the funding is going for management actions to control the various problem species, but thanks to the increase, this marks the first time since 2011 that TPWD has been able to fund a giant salvinia awareness campaign, which also uses contributions from the Sabine River Authority and Brazos River Authority. The campaign reminds boaters to "Clean, Drain and Dry" their boats, trailers, and gear before traveling from one lake or river to another, since boats are the main way aquatic invasive species are spread. It includes online and radio ads, billboards, gas station advertising, emails, social media and the Lake Dudes animations.

Giant salvinia, a non-native plant first found in Texas in 1997, is a free-floating fern that can double in size in just a few days and can form mats on the water up to 3 feet thick. It can take over an entire cove at a lake in a matter of weeks, choking out all aquatic life below its thick mats and making boating, swimming or fishing impossible.

The Lake Dudes concept originated from Tom Grodek, art director with Sherry Matthews Advocacy Marketing, which TPWD hired to help with

the awareness campaign. Grodek felt so passionately about the concept that he worked many hours in his spare time, donating time to the cause in order to work out the kinks and polish the videos for release. Grodek also does the voice of Brody, one of the dudes.

"We wanted to use humor and peer pressure to break through, grab attention and encourage people to not be "that guy" who ruins the fun for everyone at the lake," said Nicole Goodman, TPWD marketing specialist, explaining the thinking behind the Lake Dudes.

The concept appears to be working. From early summer through Aug. 23, the five Lake Dudes animations generated 863,479 video views, reaching an estimated 1,206,742 people. Party on, dudes.

The public can learn more about giant salvinia, and watch the Lake Dudes videos, at <http://texas-invasives.org/giantsalvinia>. News media can access video, photos, audio files, maps showing the spread of giant salvinia in Texas lakes, and other story resources on the TPWD website.



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Toyota ShareLunker Season Begins October 1

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department will begin accepting entries into the Toyota ShareLunker program October 1, 2016.

Anyone legally catching a 13-pound or bigger largemouth bass from Texas waters, public or pri-

vate, between October 1 and April 30 may submit the fish to the Toyota ShareLunker program by calling program manager at (903) 681-0550 or paging him at (888) 784-0600 and leaving a phone number including area code. Fish will be

picked up by TPWD personnel within 12 hours.

Toyota became the new program sponsor effective September 1, 2009. The current season marks the 27th year of the program. To date 565 fish have been entered into the program. Those fish have come from 65 different public reservoirs and more than a dozen private lakes.

ShareLunker entries are used in a selective breeding program at the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center (TFFC) in Athens. Some of the offspring from these fish are stocked back into the water body from which they were caught. Other ShareLunker offspring are stocked in public waters around the state in an attempt to increase the overall size and growth rate of largemouth bass in Texas.

Anglers entering fish into the Toyota ShareLunker program will receive a free replica of their fish, a certificate and ShareLunker clothing and be recognized at a banquet at the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center in Athens in June 2017. In addition, if a Texas angler catches the largest entry of the year, that person will receive a lifetime fishing license.

For complete information and rules of the ShareLunker program, tips on caring for big bass and a recap of last year's season, see www.tpwd.state.tx.us/sharelunker. The site also includes a searchable database of all fish entered into the program along with pictures where available.

The Toyota ShareLunker Program is made possible by a grant to the Texas Parks & Wildlife Foundation from Gulf States Toyota. Toyota is a long-time supporter of the Foundation and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, providing major funding for a wide variety of education, fish, parks and wildlife projects.

Official ShareLunker Rules

The program is limited to largemouth bass weighing 13 pounds or more. Fish must be weighed on certified or legal-for-trade scales. Certified scales are scales that have been certified as accurate by the Texas Department of Agriculture, the International Game Fish Association (IGFA) or a commercial scales calibration company.

The program is normally in effect from October 1 through April 30. The fish must be legally caught in Texas waters.

A Texas Parks and Wildlife Department employee will be solely responsible for accepting a fish into the program based on the expectation that the fish will be able to survive and spawn.

Possession of the fish must be transferred to a designated Texas Parks and Wildlife Department representative within 12 hours after capture. The angler must sign a release absolving all sponsors, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department employees of any liability resulting from the loss or death of their
(See Toyota ShareLunker.....Continued on 14-A)

Texas Trails Bassmasters of Lake Fork

33rd Semi-Annual Open Tournament

Oct. 22, 2016 * Lake Fork, Texas

Oak Ridge Marina * 2919 W. St. Hwy. 154



Guaranteed Pay-Out Based on 100 Entries
Drawings will be held after weigh-in for door prizes

903-878-2529

1st Place	\$1,040.00
2nd Place	\$780.00
3rd Place	\$520.00
4th Place	\$260.00
5th thru 10th Place	\$100.00



There will be a big bass pot ~ \$10 per person entry
Big Bass will pay Three (3) places. (Based on 100 entries)



1st Place	\$500.00
2nd Place	\$300.00
3rd Place	\$200.00

1. Entry fee is \$40.00 - late entry is \$45.00.
2. Early entries must be postmarked by Oct. 15, 2016.
3. All entry fees must be paid before 6 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 22, 2016.
4. Check in time: Friday, Oct. 21, 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. and Saturday, Oct. 22, 5 a.m. to 6 a.m. at Oakridge Marina.
5. To qualify, contestants must check in at tournament headquarters before fishing.
6. Fishing hours will be 6:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. (official clock at sign-in station). NO FISHING from midnight till start time.
7. Fishing will be done on Lake Fork only (trailer allowed).
8. Contestants must fish from a boat. No bank fishing or leaving the boat to land a fish.
9. Life jackets must be worn any time their outboard motor is running.
10. All state, federal, and local laws must be obeyed or contestant and fish may be disqualified. No slot fish may be brought to weigh-in.
11. No one may have more than five (5) fish in their possession at any time. Only one (1) may be 24" or greater.
12. Largemouth bass 12" to 16" or 24" or greater in length may be weighed. No fish under 12" or between 16" and 24" will be weighed (or state law limits at the time of the tournament).
13. All fish must be caught on artificial bait by casting. (No trolling with gas engine). Pork trailer may be used.
14. Weigh-in starts at 3:00 p.m. (official clock at sign-in). You must be in the weigh-in line by 3:30 p.m.
15. All fish must be brought to the scales in weigh-in bags.
16. No iced or frozen fish will be weighed. Ice may be added ONLY to aid in survival of fish.
17. Each contestant will be responsible for weighing his or her own fish. (No pooling of fish).
18. Dead fish at weigh-in will be penalized 1/2 (.5) pound. All fish weighed in become the property of Texas Trails Bassmasters and will be released (with the exception of trophy or dead fish).

19. In the event of a tie for any position, prize money for that position and the following position will be combined and evenly divided between the tying contestants.
20. Contestants may not have served as a compensated guide on Lake Fork 30 days prior to this tournament.
21. Contestants may fished with a guide on Lake Fork prior to the day before fishing this TTB tournament.
22. Use of ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES or CONTROLLED DRUGS are prohibited during tournament hours. Prescription drug use should be declared at sign-in.
23. Anyone who has ever been disqualified for cheating or misconduct from any tournament is ineligible to fish.
24. Any contestant who violates any rule may be disqualified. Any act of a competitor, verbal or physical, that reflects unfavorably upon Texas Trails Bassmasters effort to promote fishing, conservation, clean waters, courtesy or safety shall be reason for disqualification from this and all future Texas Trails Bassmasters tournaments.
25. Parent or guardian must accompany contestants under 18 years of age.
26. All protests must be registered in writing with the tournament judges within 15 minutes after designated weigh-in time. All decisions of the tournament judges will be final in all matters. Anyone protesting the outcome of an Open tournament will have to pay for any additional polygraph test given.
27. All boats must be 8 feet in length or longer. An aerated live well is recommended to aid in fish survival for live release. Anglers cannot leave boat to land a fish.
28. All contestants are responsible to have read these rules and must agree to abide by them (by signing the entry form) while competing in this Texas Trails Bassmasters event.
29. Contestants will be subject to polygraph test. Failure to take and/or pass such a test will result in disqualification.

Additional Information

For more information or for information on joining Texas Trails Bassmasters of Lake Fork visit our website

www.texastrailsbassmasters.com

Remove entry form below this line. Retain above portion for your records

Entry Application

Entry fee of \$40 must accompany mailed entry and must be postmarked on or before Oct. 15, 2016 to Texas Trails Bassmasters, 538 PR 5861, Yantis, TX 75497, or you may pay \$45 at tournament headquarters before starting time of tournament. \$10 extra for Big Bass (optional). Print clearly.

Name _____

Email _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Having read and understood the tournament rules, by my signature I agree to accept all decisions of the judges as final. By my signature I waive, release and hold harmless all members, officials and sponsors of any and all alleged liabilities to me and/or my equipment.

Contestant Signature _____

Minor's release: Signed by _____ Parent/Guardian

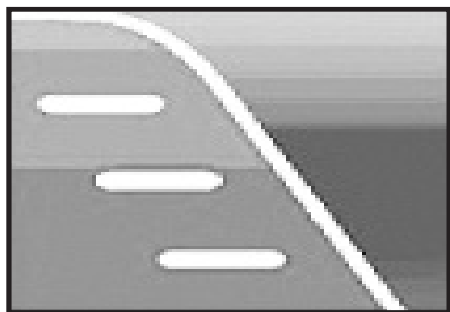
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EntryFee _____

Big Bass _____

Cash _____ Ck# _____



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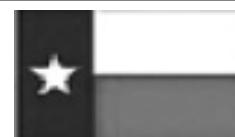
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Toyota ShareLunker Season Begins October 1 (Continued from Page 10-A)

fish.

Employees and families of program sponsors are not eligible for participation in the program.

Anyone catching a fish that may qualify can call our toll-free, 24-hour pager at 1-888-784-0600 (October 1-April 30 only) or (903) 681-0550.

Tips for Proper Care and Handling of Lunker Bass

Land the fish as quickly as possible. Playing a fish to exhaustion diminishes its chance of sur-

vival. If possible, refrain from using a dip net that has a mesh larger than ¼ inch and /or is not a smooth mesh. When using a net, always make sure it is wet before it touches the fish. Avoid excessive handling or dropping of the fish while removing the hook. The fish will benefit from remaining in water (boat livewell or a large cooler filled with water) while the hook is removed with needlenosed pliers. Hold the fish vertically by the lower lip while it is in the water so that the

total weight of the fish doesn't rest on the lower jaw.

Take the fish to a marina or closest certified scales as soon as possible. Transport the fish in a properly aerated livewell or a large cooler equipped with an aerator.

Before removing the fish from the transport container, have the certified scales ready for weighing. Try to arrange to hold the fish in the marina's minnow vat after it is weighed.

To reduce stress when removing the fish from the transport container for weighing, move the fish as close as possible to the scales and holding vat before removal. If everything is ready before the fish is removed from the transport container, weighing time can be less than one minute.

It is best to sedate the fish in the transport container before weighing or taking pictures. Marinas and bait shops can supply the recommended chemicals. Wet your hands before handling the fish. Lift the fish from the water vertically by clamping your thumb on the bottom lip. To raise the fish into a horizontal position, support the fish's weight by placing your off-hand under the fish just behind the anal fin. This method should also be used if the fish is not sedated. Don't roll back the lip in an effort to paralyze the fish. This

(Continued on Next Page)

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can damage the lower jaw and hinder or prevent the fish from feeding after being released. The fish should not be out of the water longer than 30 seconds. Persons taking pictures should have their cameras ready before the fish is removed from the holding container. Holding the fish out of the water two to three minutes, or holding it in a plastic bag without proper aeration, causes stress that can damage the eyes or cause a bacterial and/or fungal infection. Such damage could cause mortality even several weeks later. Note that stress is increased by extremes in temperatures and/or windy weather conditions.

Ideal water temperature for holding fish is 55 to 75 degrees Fahrenheit, and the water temperature should not be changed more than five or six degrees per hour. If water is aerated and treated with bacterial/ fungal retardant, low water temperature may not be crucial.

Call Texas Parks and Wildlife Department at the numbers below as soon as possible with your name, where the fish is located, a telephone number where you can be reached and when and where you caught the fish. Be sure to include your area code when leaving a message on the pager. Every attempt will be made to collect the fish within 12 hours, sooner if possible.

To request pickup of a ShareLunker (large-mouth bass 13 pounds or over, legally caught in Texas waters between October 1 and April 30), call (903) 681-0550 or page 1 (888) 784-0600 and leave a number, including area code.

Texas Dove Hunting Prospects Bright: Longer Season, Lots of Birds

More validation that everything's bigger and better in Texas, dove populations are soaring and the hunting season, which gets underway Sept. 1, is the longest in 80 years.

A new 90-day season this fall means hunters will have 20 more days of opportunity compared with previous years. The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) is integrating those additional days early in the season to take advantage of mourning dove migrating into the state, as well as at the end of the season in the Special White-winged Dove Area to offer more bird hunting opportunities.

"Hunters will now be able to take advantage of those northern birds riding early November cool fronts into Texas, without sacrificing days of opportunity early in the season," said Dave Morrison, TPWD Small Game Program Director. "We've also tacked on extra days to the back end of the season in late January when South Texas prospects are still pretty solid. It's a win-win for dove hunters."

Roughly 10 percent of the nation's 350 million mourning dove reside in Texas, along with about 9 million white-winged dove. Each fall, over 415,000 Texas dove hunters take to the field in pursuit of these acrobatic, fast-flying game birds. Based on field observations by TPWD wildlife biologists, prospects for the

2016-17 hunting season are good to excellent.

"During the start of breeding season (March) in Texas, habitat conditions for dove were good to fantastic, thanks to the carryover of precipitation from 2015," said Shaun Oldenburger, TPWD Dove Program Leader. "Biologists witnessed good early production on both white-winged and mourning doves throughout the state until the May rains arrived. However, good production was witnessed in June and July as more sporadic, isolated storm events continued across the state."

Based on early survey results at TPWD, mourning dove numbers may be some of the highest in more than a decade in the Panhandle with similar numbers as 2015 in the rest of the state. White-winged doves continue to increase in numbers across the state, but the growth is gradually slowing.

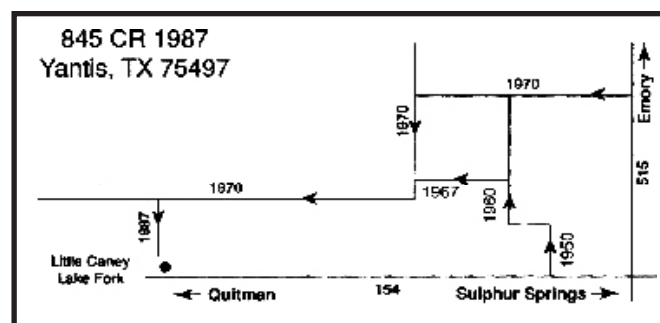
"Hunters should be prepared for good seed production across the state, so there will be plenty food available for mourning doves except in areas where flooding occurred," said Oldenburger. "This may make hunting a little more difficult due to thick vegetation cover, and hunters will need to spend a little more time finding downed birds in areas due to this issue during opening day in some areas."

(See Texas Dove Hunting....Continued on Page 17-A)

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Employee Achievement Recognized at TPW Commission Meeting

Two Texas Parks and Wildlife Department employees were recognized recently at a TPW Commission meeting by Executive Director Carter Smith for their outstanding work in various fields. National Association of State Boating Law Administrators Texas Boating Law Enforcement Officer of the Year - Bryan Callihan

The National Association of State Boating Law Administrators has awarded Lamar County Game Warden Bryan Callihan the Texas Boating Law Enforcement

Officer of the Year award. Over the past year, warden Callihan has been involved as a steadfast advocate for public safety on the water. He has presented over 15 water safety centered outdoor educational programs. In May 2015, he served with a team of game wardens who were dispatched to assist with the floods of Wichita Falls by patrolling flooded city streets by river boats. Most of warden Callihan's water safety work centers around Lake Pat Mayse and is a recognized water safety leader on the 6,000-acre lake by personally logging over 260 hours of water safety patrol for the citizens of Texas.

Warden Callihan demonstrates excellence in leadership and profes-

sionalism through his dedication to the mission of TPWD both in his community and while in the field.

Association of Midwest Fish and Game Law Enforcement Officer of the Year -

Zach Havens

The Association of Midwest Fish and Game Law Enforcement awarded Game Warden Zach Havens with the Officer of the Year award. Warden Havens began his career 22 years ago with the State Parks division before moving to Inland Fisheries and finally to the Law Enforcement division. Warden Havens has been stationed in Erath County for the last 18 years.

Warden Havens actively does public outreach and

works with students at Stephenville High School by attending outdoor awareness classes targeting students without outdoor opportunities. The students learn camping, kayaking, rappelling, fishing and receive a hunter education certificate. Through these activities, students learn about the role hunters' play in wildlife management. He also talks annually to the Future Farmers of America classes at Stephenville High School and updates the students on fish and game law changes as well as answers any questions they have. Additionally, Warden Havens volunteers as a leader for Boy Scout Troop 39 in Stephenville.

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Texas Dove Hunting Prospects Bright: Longer Season, Lots of Birds (Continued from Page 15-A)

Dove season in the North Zone runs Sept. 1 - Nov. 13 and Dec. 17 - Jan. 1, 2017; in the Central Zone from Sept. 1 - Nov. 6 and Dec. 17 - Jan. 8, 2017; and in the South Zone from Sept. 23 - Nov. 13 and Dec. 17 - Jan. 23, 2017. The daily bag limit for doves statewide is 15 and the possession limit 45.

In the Special White-winged Dove Area, the season runs Sept. 3-4, 10-11, Sept. 23 - Nov. 9, Dec. 17 - Jan. 23, 2017. During the early two weekends in the Special White-winged Dove Area, hunting is allowed only in the afternoon and the daily bag limit is 15 birds, to include not more than two mourning doves and two white-tipped doves. During the general season opens, the aggregate bag limit is 15 with no more than two white-tipped doves.

For novice dove hunters or those new to the sport, TPWD is offering Hunting 101 workshops this year dedicated to dove hunting. These 3-8 hour, hands-on seminars and workshops are designed for family members of all ages to learn more about the animals hunted, tools used in hunting and the shooting sports and where to go in Texas to enjoy these activities. Class schedules are available online or by contacting the TPWD Hunter Education Department at 512-389-4999.

Hunters are reminded that all current hunting licenses expired Aug. 31 and in addition to a 2016-17 hunting license, anyone born after Sept. 1, 1971, must successfully complete a hunter education training course. Those under 17 and those 17 and older who purchase a one-time deferral license may hunt legally in Texas if accompanied by a licensed hunter 17 years or older who has passed hunter education or who is otherwise exempt. Accompanied means being within normal voice control. The TPWD Hunter Education certification is valid for life and is honored in all other states and provinces. More information on hunter education certification is available online.

A Migratory Game Bird endorsement and Harvest Information Program (HIP) certification are also required to hunt dove. HIP certification involves a brief survey of previous year's migratory bird hunting success and is conducted at the time licenses are purchased.

Hunting and fishing regulations for the new season can be found in the 2016-2017 Outdoor Annual, available in print form at license retailers; digital version online and in the free Outdoor Annual mobile app available for Apple and Android devices.

Dove Hunting Tips:

Dove hunters can improve their game and increase their odds of having a successful outing by following these important tips from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD). Practice with a purpose: Get the gun out well ahead of the hunt and take some "batting practice" swinging on birds. "Even practicing leading a bird without shooting can improve your accuracy," according to TPWD dove program leader Shaun Oldenburger. "The average hunter takes five shots to bag one dove; that's three boxes of shotgun shells to get your bag limit! Effective shooting leads to better hunts and more birds in the bag." Shoot at least a couple boxes of shotshells at clay targets to get your timing, shooting stance, head, gun mounting and follow through in sync.

Know your limitations: Pattern your shotgun on paper targets with different chokes, loads and at various distances within 30 yards, where dove loads are most effective. Not all guns, chokes and loads pattern the same. Practice estimating distances to spots and then verify them with a rangefinder. You'll better understand your distances from birds and be able to make more effective shots and reduce crippling loss.

Know the routines: Mourning doves will

(See Texas Dove Hunting....Continued on Page 21-A)

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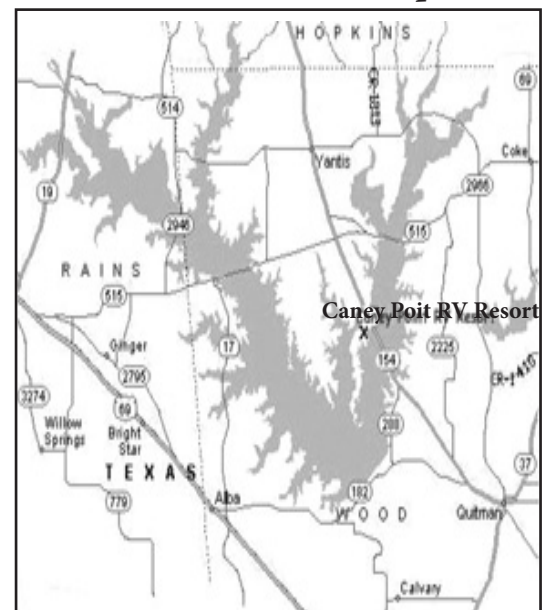
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"Pack of Knowledge" "Magnum Shakey Heads"

By Andrew Grill

It was a slow day of fishing to say the least. The transition from summer into fall can be that way on any lake, especially on Lake Fork. My customer and I had fished from sunrise to midday and we hadn't caught much if any as I recall. I remember we finished the day on one of my favorite big fish holes in hopes of a last second miracle. I rigged him up a magnum sized worm on a jig head and he set the hook on his first cast. I assumed he had hooked into a tree because his rod was bent and his line didn't appear to be moving. I looked down at the trolling motor to maneuver the boat to his snag, when

I heard what sounded like a Labrador retriever diving into the water. It was a huge bass on the end of his line!

The fish didn't seem to fight very hard after that initial jump, and came to the boat quickly. I noticed the fish kept swimming toward the back of the boat and I warned my customer not to let the fish swim into the outboard motor. Sure enough it did just that, and the line tangled around the prop. By this time I was on the back deck with net in hand ready to see this giant up close. I was in disbelief as I stared at the biggest bass I had ever seen hovering motionless for a few seconds, with its nose against the steel propeller. The fish was just out of reach, and before I could dive in to get my hands on her, she swept her wide tail and disappeared in the blink of an eye.

I still think of that story often, and enjoy recounting it to my customers when I happen to be rigging up a big worm on a jig head like the one we were using that day. It may come as a surprise that one of my best big bass techniques is a shaky head rig. It has accounted for a good number of double digit bass in my boat over the past few years.

When most anglers think of a shaky head, they picture a small finesse worm on a dainty jig head and light line. However, there's nothing finesse about the magnum shaky head. It's a job for 20lb line, a heavy action rod, and is perfect in heavy timber.

There are only a few companies that offer a jig head that is appropriate for this application. I have tried sev-

eral, and as of right now I'm still waiting for the "perfect" one to come along. Most importantly, the hook has to be big enough to accommodate a large straight-tail worm. A super strong 5/0 or 6/0 hook is necessary. I use a 1/2oz or 5/8oz size all the time, and I like a 10 inch straight-tail worm for this rig.

I typically fish the magnum shaky head in the mid-depth range. If I find bass in 8-20' of water, this rig will likely be on my deck. It works great in heavy timber, but it is also very effective in areas without much cover, such as a road bed. It's perfect for isolated rock or brush piles as well.

My favorite retrieve is simple, I drag the worm as slow as possible. I never shake or hop it. I feel like that big worm has plenty of movement as it crawls across the lake bottom. If I am coming over some type of wood cover, I make sure to allow the worm to fall all the way back to the bottom. I want to make sure I present the rig in the heart of the cover where a big bass is likely to be.

As for equipment, I've found the G. Loomis E6X 854 to be perfect for a magnum shaky head. It's a 7' heavy action rod and is very sensitive. It is important to feel the bottom cover and the light bites that are often associated with shaky head fishing. I always use 20lb fluorocarbon for this rig here on Lake Fork.

This is one of the few techniques that is truly effective year-round. It has been very good to me since I began guiding and still produces big fish for my customers. Hopefully it will work for you as well. Just be sure to steer your fish away from the boat motor!



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Marvin Hartsfield caught this nice 8-lb. Lake Fork bass while fishing with guide Andrew Gill during the Hunting With Soldiers weekend. C.P.R. (Courtesy Andrew Grill Guide)



Mark Harris was fishing Lake Fork on 8/3/16 with guide John Morris when he caught this nice bass weighing 7-pounds. C.P.R. (Courtesy Photo John Morris Guide)



Dr. Dale Sandvall was fishing with Lake Fork Guide Whitt Smith when he caught this nice bass. Weight not provided. C.P.R. (Courtesy Photo Whitt Smith Guide)



Chris Harper was fishing with Lake Fork Guide Whitt Smith when he caught this nice bass. Weight not provided. C.P.R. (Courtesy Photo Whitt Smith Guide)



Mike Petty was fishing Lake Fork on 7/21/16 with guide John Morris when he caught this nice bass weighing 9.6-pounds. C.P.R. (Courtesy Photo John Morris Guide)

Practice C.P.R.

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"Cooler Weather Holds Big Promises!" (Continued from Page 6-A)

Green Pumpkin Pepper will do the trick as far as colors are concerned.

The next strategy will be focusing on suspended fish that set up just off the side of the same structures. Use your electronics to locate these hovering green monsters, pitch out a marker buoy once you locate a group of fish, then tie on a Talon Big Daddy Lake Fork flutter spoon and go to work. Cast back toward the buoy and count the spoon down until you hit the desired depth. Twitch the spoon and let it flutter down to draw the strike. Depending on the depth the fish are holding, a crank-

bait will work equally as well. I would choose the Strike King 6XD or the 8XD. Both are deadly and can be fished on 15lb line on a cranking rod. Also, submerged trees will hold the lion share of bass. Throw the crankbaits around these trees and work the bait through the limbs. You may lose a few lures the rewards can pay off handsomely.

If you are headed out to Lake Fork in September searching for the trophy of a lifetime, I would love to be a part of this trophy quest. I still have a few dates open in September and some open dates in October. I also have gift certificates available if you have friends or loved one's who have dreamt of landing a huge bass. You can contact me at 409 782-4269 or e-mail me at skeet21c@aol.com. You can follow me on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/LakeForkGuideDavidOzio>. I post my daily trip results on this page. I run a Skeeter FX with a Yamaha 250SHO and would like to thank Skeeter for making my office on the lake the best in the country. I would also like to thank G-Loomis, Talon Lures, Shimano and Lowrance for making my job the blast that it is. A special shout out to Nautical Mile Marine in Tyler for all their help in keeping me on the water seven days a week, no issues. I hope to see a lot of you on the water. Romans 10:13. "Everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved". I wish all of you a blessed day."

DAVID OZIO

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Jeff Higgins with
David Ozio



Mark Spaeth with
David Ozio



David Ozio



Mark Spaeth with
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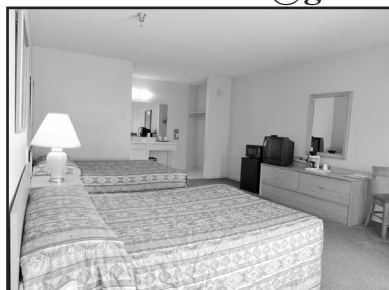
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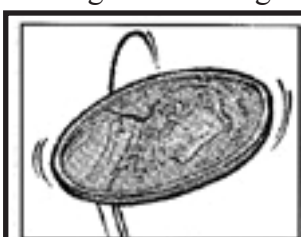
Texas Dove Hunting (Continued from Page 17-A)

typically be going to fields from roost locations to feed early in the morning, but there's also good hunting opportunities during mid-morning or even mid-afternoon at watering holes in areas with good dove concentrations. Birds won't be flying in flocks, but it can be some great hunting as

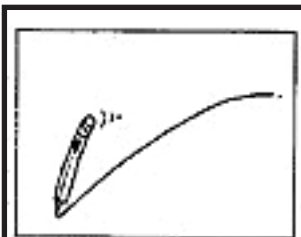
singles and doubles look for daily drinking water. White-winged dove flocks always seem to be flying in and out of an effective gun range; make sure to single out individual birds that are lower than others when shooting to be more effective.

Be safe: Always be

aware of your shooting lanes and locations of other hunters, which can change constantly when birds are coming in and the action gets hot. Shooting outside of a safe zone of fire is the #1 cause of hunting accidents in Texas, mostly during dove hunting.



If you toss a penny in the air, it is actually more likely to land on "tails," since the "head" image is heavier, so it tends to end up on the bottom.



The average pencil will draw a line 35 miles long or write approximately 50,000 words.

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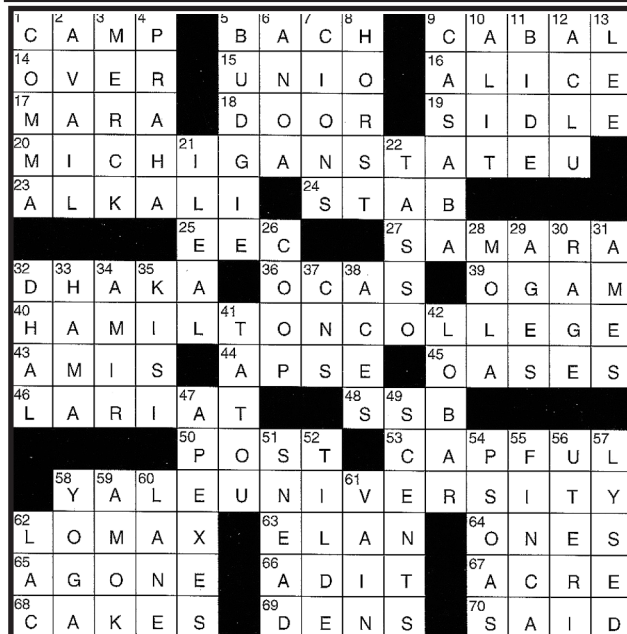
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Labor Day Word Find

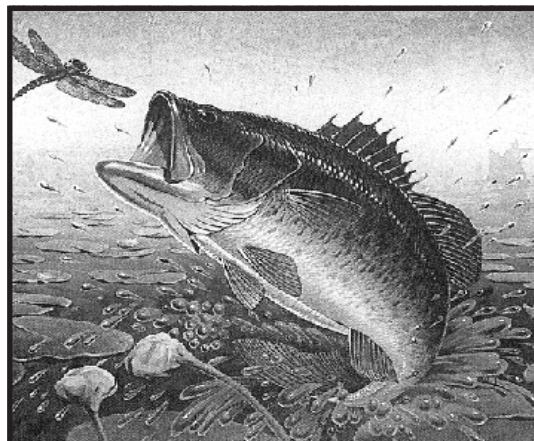
See how many different jobs you can find and circle throughout the puzzle below. Which one would you like to do when you grow up?

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ARTIST
ATHLETE
CHEF
DESIGNER

DOCTOR
FIREFIGHTER
LAWYER
MUSICIAN
PROGRAMMER

POLICE
REPORTER
SCIENTIST
TEACHER

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TPWD to Hold Three Drawings for Lifetime Licenses

Each year as the fall hunting seasons get underway, Texas hunters and anglers shed their expired, folded and hopefully well-used patchwork of a license and replace it with a freshly-purchased one.

There is a way to bypass this annual ritual -take care of licensing requirements for life with the purchase of a \$1,800 Lifetime Super Combo license, or enter for the chance to win one through the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's Lifetime License Drawing for \$5.

Entries for the drawing may be added to yearly license purchases at retailers, by phone 1-800-895-4248 and online at www.tpwd.texas.gov/license-draw. There is no limit on the number of entries that may be purchased.

This year, there are three chances to win

and entries are now being accepted. Winners will be drawn Oct. 3, Nov. 1 and Dec. 1. Entries not drawn will be automatically entered in the next drawing, so the earlier participants enter, the more chances they have to win.

Tim Brockway, a retired firefighter from Kaufman and an avid angler, used to buy a Super Combo hunting and fishing license every year. After being selected in the lifetime license drawing in 2010 he can now hunt and fish in Texas without buying another state license.

He recalls telling the guys up at the fire station, "Hey, I bought a five dollar chance to win a lifetime license and I get a call a few months later - and I would have bet anything one of the guys got their wives to call and mess with me - and I ac-

tually didn't believe them. I got off the phone and I called our local game warden that I know real well. He said: 'Give me the phone number they called you from and the person's name and I'll check on it.' Whenever I gave him the phone number and name, he said: 'Congratulations; I know the person and I know the number.'"

Proceeds from entries go toward TPWD conservation efforts that will help keep hunting and fishing great in Texas.



Johnny Appleseed (whose real name was Jonathan Chapman) was an American pioneer who planted large numbers of apple trees along the frontier in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries.



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