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The following items are compiled from recent Texas Parks and Wildlife Department law enforcement reports.

—Another “Dead” Giveaway— A kettle of vultures circling a few hundred feet above the highway caught the attention of a Val Verde County game warden on a morning patrol in mid-October. He was able to locate their target carrion, two freshly killed white-tailed deer fawns hidden in the brush that appeared to have gun-shot wounds. His investigation into the deaths of the young deer led the warden to a nearby house where he found a doe hanging on a skinning rack with what also appeared to have a gun-shot wound. After meeting with a subject located on the property, the warden obtained a confession on the shooting of all three deer out of season. Cases and warnings for waste of game, illegal means and methods, untagged deer and harvest log violations were issued.

—Bad Intentions, Worse Results— Houston County game wardens were investigating a large, fresh blood spot in the middle of a county road indicative of a roadkill when a truck came around the corner and stopped short of their location. Inside the truck were two teenagers from New Caney, and in the bed of the vehicle was an ice chest containing a freshly quartered white-tailed deer they claimed to have killed in the Davy Crockett National Forest. The teen claiming to have arrowed the deer had improperly tagged it with a mule deer tag, and failed to complete the required hunter harvest log on his license. After a brief interview about evidence the wardens had gathered from the scene, the teenagers admitted to running over the deer then stabbing it with an arrow. They then carried it to their camp, cleaned it, and tagged it with the mule deer tag. The cases are pending.

—A Sore Loser— A Lubbock/Hockley County game warden was on patrol for dove hunters the afternoon of Oct. 14 when she observed a pickup truck slow rolling (Continued on Next Page)
on a county road in front of her. The truck then turned toward the warden, swerved, and then drove into the ditch. She activated her lights and sirens and had a low-speed pursuit for approximately three miles to the suspect’s home, where he finally stopped. During the chase, the subject tossed his 32-ounce cup of whiskey and water out the window. She found the suspect to be highly intoxicated and questioned him about his condition. The suspect stated that he was mad at his Texas Tech Red Raiders, who gave up 22 fourth quarter points in a 46-35 loss to West Virginia earlier that day. An empty half gallon bottle of Canadian whiskey and two loaded pistols were found in his back seat. The suspect was booked in to the Lubbock County Detention Center for DWI and unlawful carry of weapon by license holder after a blood draw. The case is pending.

--Salty About the Pepper-- On Oct. 12, a Johnson County game warden received a call from a landowner complaining of dove hunters pepperings his barn with birdshot. Upon arriving in the area, he was able to track the shots to a group of dove hunters in a backyard who were positioned around a small tank. During the contact, the warden noticed some of the hunters had near limits of dove, which was suspicious given there were nearly no birds flying in the area. A closer inspection revealed milo spread along the water’s edge in clear violation of a law prohibiting the baiting of migratory game birds for hunting. Multiple citations were issued for hunting migratory birds over bait and unplugged shotguns.

Thirty-six mourning doves were seized and donated.

--A Repeat Offender-- A Titus County game warden wrapped up a criminal trespass and theft investigation with the arrest and confinement of the third of three suspects involved. Two of the suspects gave full confessions and were cited for trespassing on a local ranch and stealing a couple of game cameras. The second camera had caught them on tape. The third suspect refused to turn himself in so warrants were issued. The warden eventually located this suspect when he was caught trespassing again on the same ranch. He was arrested on warrants for criminal trespass, theft with prior conviction, and revocation of parole -- aggravated robbery. Additional misdemeanor charges were issued for evading arrest and criminal trespass.

--Asleep at the Wheel-- On Oct. 24, a Hunt County game warden was patrolling back roads when he encountered a vehicle parked in the roadway. He observed a man, apparently asleep, sitting in the driver’s seat. A tour around the vehicle revealed several empty beer cans lying in the ditch a few feet away. The warden awakened the man and asked him to step out of the vehicle. It was readily apparent to the warden that the man was intoxicated. Further investigation turned up more empty beer cans inside the vehicle along with a bag of marijuana. The man was arrested and several charges are pending.

--Not in Our Backyard, Either-- A Titus County game warden was patrolling the White Oak Creek Wildlife Management Area recently when he discovered a large amount of trash dumped in the WMA parking lot at the end of a county road. A thorough search of the garbage identified only one note with names on it. The note was from a landlord telling a tenant to remove all the trash from his backyard. A brief investigation revealed the identities of the two litterbugs. Citations were issued, and the suspects were persuaded to clean the entire parking lot.

--The Truth of the Matter-- A Trinity County game warden got a call from the local constable in regards to an illegal buck that had been harvested in a subdivision bow hunting program to control deer numbers. Upon arrival, the warden observed not just one carcass, but two from illegal bucks that didn’t meet the 13-inch antler spread minimum requirements. The constable advised the warden that one hunter had registered a spike in the harvest log book the evening before, which did not match the 5-point buck carcass at the collection site. The constable called the hunter to the site prior to the warden’s arrival in hopes of clearing up the issue. The hunter advised the constable that the 5-pointer was not his deer and that he shot a legal spike. After the warden cited the first hunter with an illegal buck with less than 13 inch inside spread, he called the other hunter to return back to the scene. The hunter stuck to his story, but after a brief interview, finally confessed he did shoot the buck and stated he wasn’t going to continue any longer with his story. Citations and civil restitution are pending on both illegal buck cases. The hunters also received other warnings.
Well-Seasoned Greetings

Are you expecting a houseful of hungry guests this holiday season? Don't panic – even though time might be hard to come by, entertaining can be fun and stress-free. As any host or hostess knows, avoiding a "food frenzy" is a key ingredient for easy-going entertaining.

Here are a couple of easy appetizer recipes for your holiday guests!

Cheesy Chicken Quesadillas

2 tablespoons vegetable oil
2 cups shredded cheese
1 pound boneless chicken breast, cut into strips
1 medium green bell pepper, diced
1 medium onion, diced
4-1/2 ounces chopped mild or hot chilies
Flour tortillas
Sour cream and guacamole (garnish)

To prepare, quickly cook chicken in 1 tablespoon vegetable oil in a large skillet, set aside. In the same skillet sauté green pepper and onion until slightly tender. Stir in ketchup and chilies and add chicken. Brush one side of half of the tortillas with remaining oil and place them oiled-side down on a baking sheet. Evenly top tortillas with half of cheese, chicken mixture and then remaining cheese. Top with remaining tortillas and brush with oil. Bake in a preheated 400 degree oven, eight to ten minutes or until cheese melts and tortillas are golden-brown.

To serve, present on a large platter or cut into quarters on individual plates garnished with a dollop of sour cream and guacamole.

Onion, Mushroom & Pepperjack Quesadillas

1 teaspoon olive oil
1 large onion, thinly sliced
1 cup sliced fresh white mushrooms
2 garlic cloves, minced
1 teaspoon sugar
½ teaspoon salt
½ cup frozen or drained canned corn kernels
1 tablespoon chopped fresh cilantro
4 flour tortillas, 8” diameter each
¾ cup shredded pepperjack cheese

1. In a large nonstick skillet, heat oil over high heat. Add the onion, mushrooms, garlic, sugar and salt; cook, stirring frequently, until vegetables begin to soften, about 3 minutes. Add corn; cook, stirring frequently, until mushrooms are tender and onions are lightly brown, about 5 minutes. Transfer mixture to a bowl; stir in cilantro.

2. Arrange tortillas on a work surface and spread the lower half of each with ¼ of the onion mixture (about ½ cup). Sprinkle each with 3 tablespoons of the cheese. Fold top half of the tortilla over filling and press lightly to seal.

3. Wipe out skillet with a paper towel and return to high heat. Add 2 quesadillas to skillet and cook, turning once, until cheese melts and tortillas are lightly browned. Repeat with the 2 remaining quesadillas.
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From our family to yours we want to wish everyone a very “Merry Christmas & Happy New Year! Have a blessed holiday season!

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Lake Fork Area Acreage from $79,900 to $84,900

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