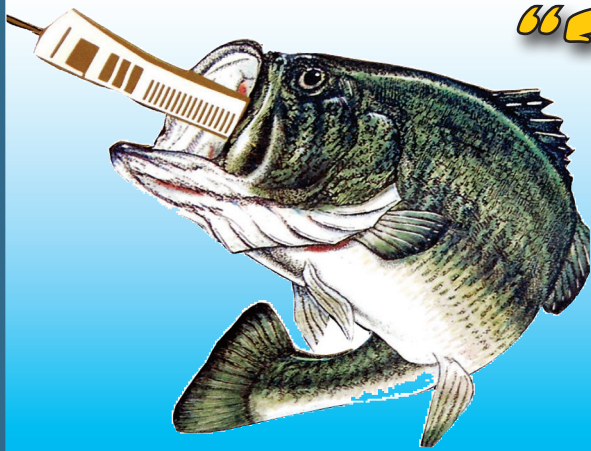


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Vol. 21

MAY, 2020

No. 249

"16th Annual Legend of Lake Fork Big Bass Tournament" Suspended Till 2021

By Don Hampton

It is with the deepest regret, not only for the anglers but also for the merchants and businesses in the area, that we had to make the decision to suspend the date of the "16th Annual Legend of Lake Fork Big Bass Tournament". Believe me when I say, this was probably the hardest decision we have ever made. Sue and I watched almost every update on the COVID-19 Virus and every word from Governor Abbot before coming to this conclusion.

We have been questioned on several occasions that other tournaments are being held on Lake Fork, so why can't we? The answer is quite sim-

ple and we have made our determination on facts and logic. The smaller tournaments being held do not compare to the magnitude or exposure of ours.

On an average we draw between 1,000 to 1,300 anglers from 26 to 30 states in America along with Canada and Mexico. Bringing in this many anglers, many with their families, the chances of cross contamination would be astronomical and there is no way we could enforce social distancing. We feel that we are doing our part in suspending the date of the tournament as doing our part in preventing the spread of this deadly disease.

For those that believe Texas has opened up for business as usual, you are mistaken. The stay

at home order has been rescinded, but there are strong limitations on the businesses that can open. The restaurants, shopping malls, theaters, etc. are limited to 25% capacity. If by chance the numbers of infections show a decrease in numbers by May 18th, the capacity will raise to 50%. Also at that time beauty shops, barbers, bars, etc. will be able to open.

Many have asked why not just plan it later in the year. The main reason for this is the respect of our anglers. For the past 15 years many of our anglers plan their vacation to attend our tournament. We cannot presume they could completely rearrange their lives to come and participate. For

(See 16th Annual..Continued on Page 4)



Eric Bacon, 15 years old from Emory, TX., probably outfished his dad Paul when he caught this nice bass fishing Lake Fork. C.P.R.



Lake Fork guide Randy Oldfield at least got \$1 for his birthday when he caught this nice bass! Happy Birthday Randy! C.P.R.



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"If That's Your Fishing Hole, Where's Your Mailbox?"

By: Don Hampton

When Bubba speaks of owning something, you can bet it is definitely his stuff. He is also very possessive over his stuff! Everyone knows Bubba needs stuff especially Bubbette and when he gets out of hand getting stuff, she puts him straight again. What Bubba truly cannot understand is people laying claim to something that can't possibly be theirs.

When it comes to fishing in public waters he is under the impression that those waters actually belong to the State of Texas. He also holds dear the belief that anyone that purchases a fishing license and abides by the laws can fish those waters anytime and anywhere they

so desire. After all this is Texas and Bubba even has a bumper sticker that reads, "MADE IN TEXAS BY TEXANS". So, what Bubba would really like to know is if there has been a new "Homestead Act" put in effect that he has not heard of that allows anglers to claim portions of water. If so he is going to be out of luck because Bubbette won't let him get anymore stuff!

If there has not been a new "Homestead Act" implemented, why are so many anglers claiming waters? It seems more and more that Bubba is hearing, "That's my fishing hole, you can't go there!" Some anglers will say this in a sportsmanship jest, but then again you hear some say it with

meaning. Bubba has the tendency to laugh with the sportsmen and laugh at the others.

Bubba had a long extensive conversation with one of the latter the other day on Lake Fork. Bubba was out fishing one of his favorite spots, (it's even called "Community Hump"), when he was made to feel like he'd eaten someone else's fried chicken at a family reunion. Well, Bubba doesn't stay in a hurt mood for too long at a time and soon put the chicken bones on another plate. He apologized for trespassing and not spotting the individual's mailbox when he pulled in with his boat. Bubba didn't let it stop there though! This boy has seen an Enquirer and

has an inquiring mind.

The next thing Bubba wanted to know was if he had pulled in the driveway or ran over his lawn because his trolling motor did tear up some lily pads and he didn't want to be held responsible. Well this gave the other boat something to discuss, but they were soon interrupted by Bubba's next question. "What do property and school taxes run a year on a place like this?" Bubba sincerely asked. "I've been thinking of getting a place like this of my own to retire to but don't know if Bubbette and me can quite afford it! And, seeing you are a guide, is this portion of the lake zoned business or residential and where does your property line end?" Bubba went on

to add with all the conviction and sincerity of a Baptist preacher at a hot summer night tent revival. Well the only reply Bubba got referred to his mother and something about his heritage and then they left. He thought they didn't show very much sportsmanship and they weren't very sociable either because they wouldn't even accept his invitation over.

Bubba being the type of person he is didn't wish to trespass on this individual's property anymore. To make sure of this he followed them all day to see if he had any other property on the lake with maybe a mailbox in front of it. Bubba did not locate one at any of the places they went to and fished. He did of course mark

the spots on his GPS and gave them to all his friends so they would know these spots did not belong to anyone and they would not be trespassing if they fished there. Bubba is just that kind of guy!

Another draw back on individuals that claim fishing holes as their own is that now you have Bubba thinking! If the fish school there, shouldn't you pay school taxes? If you plant a cedar tree there, isn't that an improvement and property value would increase thus increasing your property taxes?

So, when you are out on the lake, if you are one of those that seriously claims a fishing hole as your own, Bubba just might call the tax assessor on you!

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16th Annual Legend Suspended (Continued from Page 1)

the tournament anglers that fish many different events, they are re-scheduling their tournaments which makes it difficult to choose a perspective date.

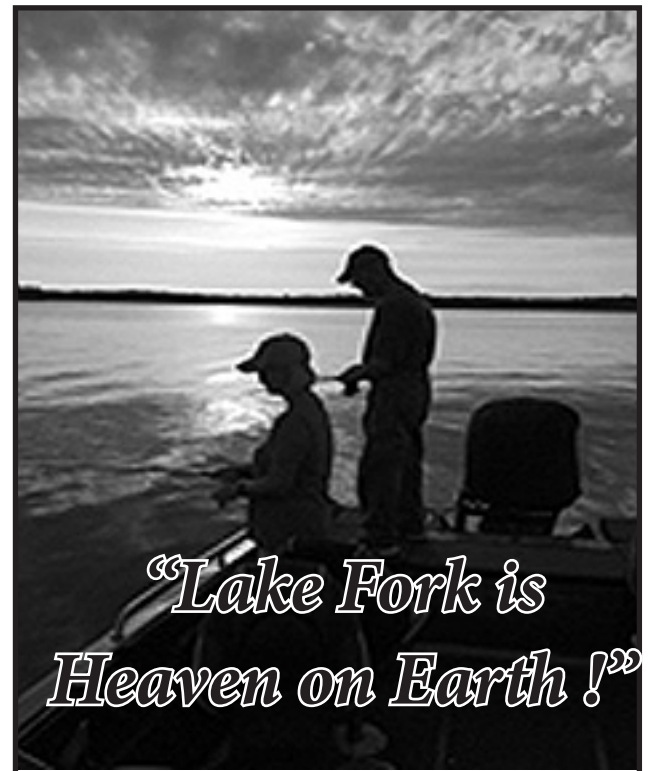
This pandemic needs to be taken very seriously and we have to make serious well thought out decisions based on the facts. No one ever thought we would have to endure such harshness of a contagion such as this in our lifetime. Nor did we believe we would face the restrictions, confinement, or economical setbacks this terrible disease has brought upon us.

For the many anglers looking forward to this

tournament, please be patient. The "16th Annual Legend of Lake Fork Big Bass Tournament" will be held on May 14th, 15th, 16th,

2021.

Till then be safe, keep practicing social distancing, and God Bless. We will get through these harsh times.



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Don't Touch the Wildlife. Seriously!

With more people enjoying the outdoors and working from home, you may start to notice more wildlife in your backyard, neighborhood or surrounding area. Species including birds, deer and snakes are active this time of year and their young often stray or appear to be abandoned. But wildlife experts caution against lending a helping hand.

The deer fawning season begins in early to mid-May. A newborn fawn's mottled coat and mother's care usually hides them from predators. But as fawns mature, they shed these coats for a more adult color which causes them to catch the eye. With mothers leav-

ing fawns for hours at a time, you may spot one lying alone in tall grass or in a brushy area. Well-meaning people sometimes pick up these fawns, thinking that they have been abandoned by their mothers and need help. This is rarely the case.

Leave all young animals alone unless it is obviously injured or orphaned. To be sure, spend time observing the wild animal from a distance in order to make that determination. Staying too close may deter the mother from returning, so be sure to practice your social distancing skills. By interfering too soon, you may be doing more harm than good.

The same applies to

young birds, who might be out of their nests but cannot fly. If the bird's eyes are open, it has a coat of feathers and is hopping around, it is probably fine. Grounded fledglings will usually be up and flying within a few days.

If it is determined that a wild animal is sick or injured call the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's wildlife information line, (512) 389-4505, during business hours for a referral to a licensed wildlife rehabilitator. After-hours callers can get the names of rehabilitators from TPWD's dispatch line at (512) 389-4848 or by checking the department's web site.



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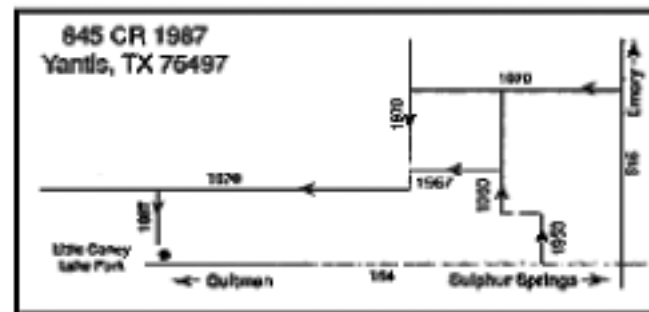


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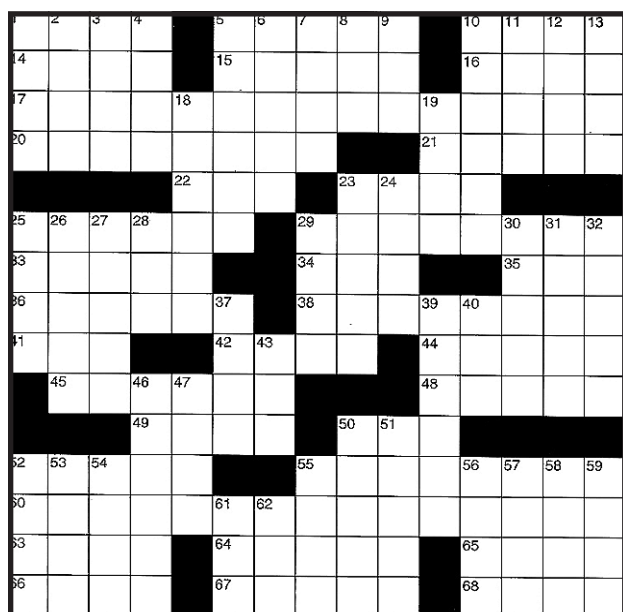
"As with last year at this time, Mother Nature has made it very difficult to date on all guides to do their jobs effectively. Excessive rain and insanely high winds have affected the normal spawning cycle and may push it back into May. This will play well into May as I expect to see an exceptional amount of bass on the beds in mid month. This will also time well for the annual shad spawn and the big bass should be rock-in and roll-in on main lake points. Main lake water temps are currently hovering in the mid sixties and I expect this number to rise exponentially over the next couple of weeks.

You should start your day on the water combing the shore lines for white birds. Bass will push spawning shad up close to the shore lines and the shad cover the sustenance base for all the hungry critters. There are many different ways to tackle these bass feeding on shad but I mainly key on using the squarebill and a small swimbait to bring home the bacon. Once the feeding frenzy subsides, back out into deeper water and throw an 1 1/2 oz spinnerbait to bag the giants. The first hour after daybreak provides the best opportunity to score a trophy bass and the above mentioned tools are a starting point. You can work the squarebill in 2-3ft of water and any shad colored option will work. Cover as many main lake points as possible and pay strict attention to any shad movement. Birds will help you recognize where these shad are grouped up and make your way there as quickly as possible to get in a few casts before they disperse. Option two is a large spinnerbait. Position the boat in 3ft of water and cast back toward the 12ft range. Let it sink for a few seconds and then start a slow smooth retrieve. Expect a jolting strike when they latch onto the bait. A Carolina rig is a must if there is no wind present and fish



it in the same areas as the squarebill and spinnerbait. Flukes are my favorite to use on the c-rig along with a 4ft leader. Colors are standard, darker colors on overcast days, more translucent hues on sunny days.

Piece two of the puzzle falls into place as the month of May progresses. These trophy bass will start to migrate out to deeper water and gang up in large schools. Now is when you start your search using your electronics to find out where they will be taking up residence. The one great thing about this time of the year is that, if you find them, they will be grouped up and



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Stated firmly, in a way
- 5. Former Turkish silver coin
- 10. Foolish or stupid
- 14. Socks
- 15. Light brown
- 16. Capital of Norway
- 17. Margaret Cho, for one
- 20. Medical practitioners
- 21. Saturates
- 22. Diamond or ruby
- 23. Feel antipathy toward
- 25. Girdles
- 29. Abeyances
- 33. Songs
- 34. Valuable mineral
- 35. Malaysian isthmus
- 36. Distant in space, time or nature
- 38. Process of exposing to air (so as to purify)
- 41. O.J. trial evidence
- 42. Database management system (abbr.)
- 44. Meaning of a word or expression
- 45. ___ Gibson, tennis champ
- 48. Falcon
- 49. Broadway musical in the 1990s
- 50. Monetary unit of Romania
- 52. Monetary unit of Iraq
- 55. Aromatic potherb
- 60. Words said with a sigh
- 63. ___ Frank's diary
- 64. Hippolyte ____, French historian
- 65. Equivalent
- 66. Decagrams
- 67. Lambs (British)
- 68. Thick piece

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Stress disorder (abbr.)
- 2. Immediately past, used of people
- 3. Abba ____, Israeli politician
- 4. Force
- 5. Maltreatments
- 6. Ninth month (abbr.)
- 7. Photographs (slang)
- 8. Your consciousness of your own identity
- 9. Radioactivity unit
- 10. Extinct birds
- 11. Continent
- 12. Intense criticism (informal)
- 13. Mass
- 18. Convert food into absorbable substances
- 19. This (Spanish)
- 23. Not theres
- 24. Shrub genus
- 25. Calcedony
- 26. Where sports events take place
- 27. East Indian silk cotton tree
- 28. Vietnamese monetary unit
- 29. Wander
- 30. Smooth, shiny lizard
- 31. Uneven, as if gnawed away
- 32. More lucid
- 37. Paradise
- 39. Calm down, in a way
- 40. Green or black ___
- 43. Cricket or baseball ___
- 46. Outlines
- 47. Queen of the gods
- 50. R.D. ____, psychologist
- 51. Sea eagles
- 52. Pair
- 53. Private school in New York
- 54. Tai
- 55. Branchlet
- 56. Current units
- 57. Celt
- 58. Evergreen trees and shrubs/ having oily, one-seeded fruits
- 59. Mediation council (abbr.)
- 61. Last in an infinite series
- 62. Religion

Answers on Page 21

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Texas State Parks Reopen for Day-Use

Texas State Parks began reopened for day-use only April 20 as part of a broader effort to begin reopening the state of Texas. Per Governor Abbott's direction, new restrictions in effect include requiring visitors to wear face coverings and maintain a six-foot distance from individuals outside of their party, and prohibiting the gathering of groups larger than five.

"As we navigate through these challenging times, it is essential that outdoor experiences and opportunities are available for Texas families. We have been diligently work-

ing with our partners in local communities across the state to help safeguard our state park visitors, volunteers and staff when they return to Texas State Parks," said Carter Smith, Executive Director of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD). "During the temporary closure, our State Parks team has been cleaning and sanitizing park facilities, addressing routine maintenance projects, and ensuring requisite safety protocols are in place to ensure visitors have the best possible experience."

Due to limited staffing, weather condi-

tions and continuing construction projects, some state parks will not be open at the current time. Park visitors should check the Texas State Parks Alert Map regularly for the latest information about the status of individual parks. The resumption of overnight camping will be announced to the public once a date has been determined.

TPWD recommends visitors continue to adhere to local, state and federal travel restrictions and other guidance for safety and social distancing before traveling. Additionally, visitors are required to pre-purchase and

print day-use permits through the Texas State Parks Reservation System before traveling to a park. Day-use reservations can be made online at www.texasstateparks.org or by calling 512-389-8900.

Visitors planning on coming to a state park

are encouraged to bring all necessary provisions, such as hand sanitizer and face masks, with them in order to help local businesses properly serve their communities during this time. This will also help park staff have

necessary supplies available for all guests during their stay.

Anyone traveling to a Texas State Park should continue to follow Centers for Disease Control (CDC) public health recommendations and ad-
(See Texas State Parks... Continued on Page 21)

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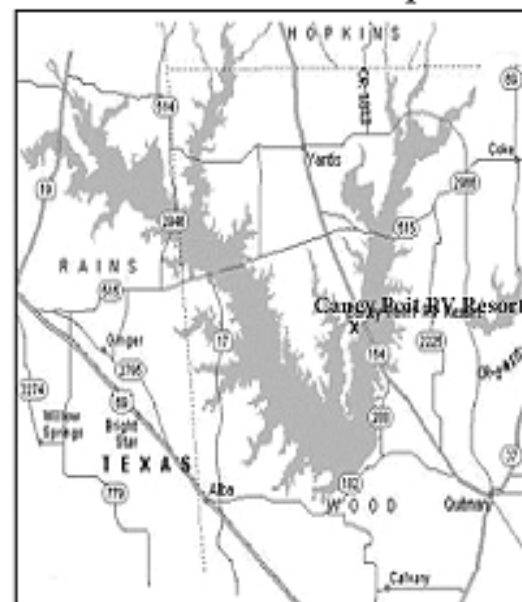
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"The Moon Report"

"Crappie and Covid"

By Terri Moon

Well, life is a little crazy right now with this unpredictable COVID virus we are all dealing with. Most of my April trips were canceled because of people honoring the shelter in place and quarantine guidelines which I certainly appreciate because it's not worth the risk. So, thank you for deciding not to come. Wood County as of yesterday is up to 7 cases which seems low but all it takes is one person who doesn't know they are infected to change our numbers drastically. This is hard on everyone but hopefully soon this will be under control and eventually we won't feel like we are playing "Russian Roulette" with our jobs. So far the year 2020 has been a "Significant Emotional Event" for all of us! Please continue to proceed with as much caution as possible, then hopefully next spring we can all fish without worry! Remember, the life you save might be someone else's!

Now – just because I've had a lot of cancelations doesn't mean I haven't been fishing! What's hard to believe is that it's taken so long for the crappie to get serious about committing to the shallows. Water temperatures have been the biggest battle this year. Those mornings in the 30's in April sure slowed things down along with high winds and storms and so much



rain that the gates were open quite a bit. The females have been moving shallow around the full and new moon. We've found them from 1 ft. of water around the edges of the grass or near flooded willows to as deep as 24 ft. around structure, or bridges or brush piles. Have a rod rigged with a slip bobber to check shallow and a rod rigged for deeper water fishing. The crappie depth can change throughout the day, so keep a close eye on that depth finder.

This spring the water has been so murky from all the rain and high winds so darker colors like black/chartreuse or purple/chartreuse have been working up north. Mid-lake and south has been a little clearer so brighter colors like chartreuse/white or electric chicken. Some days they want it dead still and other days they want it moving so don't be afraid to change up your presentation to see what will work for your conditions that day.

Don't forget it's time for the bream to start moving in. Crickets, nightcrawlers or even Berkley crappie nibbles work great on a slip bobber or tightlining in 1 – 10 ft. of water usually around the same areas you caught crappie shallow.

I do want to wish a Happy Mother's Day to all of you and especially to my mom! Also, wishing her many blessings on her 90th birthday May 14th! My best to you all! Stay Safe!

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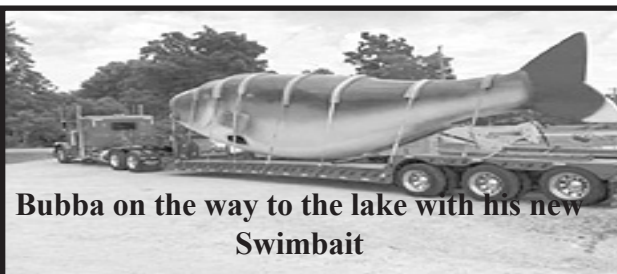
Foster Rust, 13 years old from Van, TX., was excited when he caught this 8-lb. bass while fishing in April. C.P.R.



Randy Whitehead was fishing Lake Fork in April when he caught this nice bass. Weight not provided. C.P.R.



Don Bubba Hampton caught this nice bass on 4/13/20 frog fishing Lake Fork with his good friend John Boone. C.P.R.



Bubba on the way to the lake with his new Swim-bait



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Charles Simmons caught this nice bass fishing Lake Fork in April weighing 8.2-lbs. C.P.R.



Dennis Reagen caught his PB weighing 10-lbs. fishing with Lake Fork guide Whitt Smith. C.P.R.

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Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease Confirmed in Texas, Die-Offs Reported Disease Does Not Affect People, Pets, Livestock

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) has received test results confirming that Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease (RHD) was diagnosed in a wild black-tailed jackrabbit in Lubbock County and a wild cottontail rabbit in Hudspeth County. This marks the first confirmed cases of

RHD in wild rabbits in Texas and follows the discovery of the disease in domestic rabbits in Hockley County, which was announced in a recent Texas Animal Health Commission news release.

Since March 23, detections of the disease in both wild and domestic rabbits have oc-

curred in New Mexico, Colorado, Arizona and Mexico. There have been reports of mortality events in both wild cottontails (genus Sylvilagus) and jackrabbits (genus Lepus) in El Paso, Hudspeth, Brewster, Terrell, Lubbock and Pecos Counties in Texas.

Rabbit Hemorrhagic

Disease (RHD) is a highly contagious viral disease that can affect both domestic and wild rabbit species. This disease is nearly always fatal and primarily affects adult rabbits. The viral agent, Rab-

bit Hemorrhagic Disease Virus (RHDV), is a calicivirus with two strains, RHDV-1 and RHDV-2, being reported in North America in recent years. RHDV-2 is known to affect wild rabbits and was deter-

mined to be the agent in the Lubbock and Hockley County cases. RHD is a Foreign Animal Disease (FAD), but has been detected in Canada, Washington

(See Rabbit Disease....

Continued on Page 12)

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Rabbit Disease Confirmed in Texas

(Continued from Page 11)

and Ohio.

RHDV appears only to affect rabbit species (lagomorphs). It is not known to affect humans, livestock or pets other than rabbits. However, pets should not be allowed to consume dead animal carcasses.

"The loss of this prey species can affect big game populations as well as other populations like rodents due to a shift in what predators will go after," said John Silovsky, TPWD Wildlife Division deputy director. "That's especially true in fragile areas like the Trans Pecos."

Often the only clinical sign is sudden death. In less acute cases, clinical signs may include the following: dullness/apathy, not eating, ocular and/or nasal hemorrhage and congestion of the conjunctiva. Some may develop neurological signs such as incoordination, excitement or seizure like episodes. Infections in young rabbits are usually sub-clinical and deaths are rare.

This is a highly contagious disease that spreads between rabbits through contact with infected rabbits or carcasses, their meat or

their fur, contaminated food or water, or materials coming in contact with them. RHDV2 can persist in the environment for a very long time. These factors make disease control efforts extremely challenging once it is in the wild rabbit populations.

"Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) will be monitoring wild rabbit populations to determine the extent of the disease," said Dr. Bob Dittmar, TPWD wildlife veterinarian. "We are continuing to receive reports of dead rabbits from the western part of the state." People can contact their local TPWD wildlife biologist if they notice sick or dead rabbits. We want to reassure everyone this disease does not affect people or pets. TPWD will work with TAHC to keep the public informed as we learn more about the extent and severity of the disease."

"Texas Animal Health

Commission will continue to work alongside our partners, USDA and TPWD, to provide situational updates for all domestic rabbits confirmed with RHDV2," said Dr. Susan Rollo, TAHC State Epidemiologist. "In order to slow down and best prevent the spread of RHDV2, it is important that all rabbit owners implement strong biosecurity measures. Protect your rabbits from disease by following these steps: Domestic Rabbit Biosecurity Guide."

Domestic rabbit owners who have questions about RHDV2 or observe sudden death in their rabbits should contact their private veterinarian. Private veterinarians are requested to contact the USDA-APHIS or the TAHC to report any suspected cases at 1-800-550-8242. Report all unusual mass morbidity (sickness) or mortality (deaths) events to the TAHC.

You can find more in-

formation on RHD in the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service fact sheet on Rabbit Hemorrhagic

Disease at https://www.aphis.usda.gov/publications/animal_health/fs-rhdv2.pdf. Find a TPWD Wild-

life Biologist online at https://tpwd.texas.gov/landwater/land/technical_guidance/biologists/.

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"Knowing What To Look For!"

By Michael McFarland

Welcome to Lake Fork and the month of May. What does the month of May mean to McFarland Fishing?

Well first lets talk a bit. The fishing here at Lake Fork has been good so far this year and with full pool lake levels the April spawn seems to have been quite successful. As the spawning begins to come to a conclusion, the post spawn bite will begin. Big female bass will begin to move back out to the deeper cooler water areas. At first, this does not necessarily mean offshore. Many females will simply move out to the very first and nearest

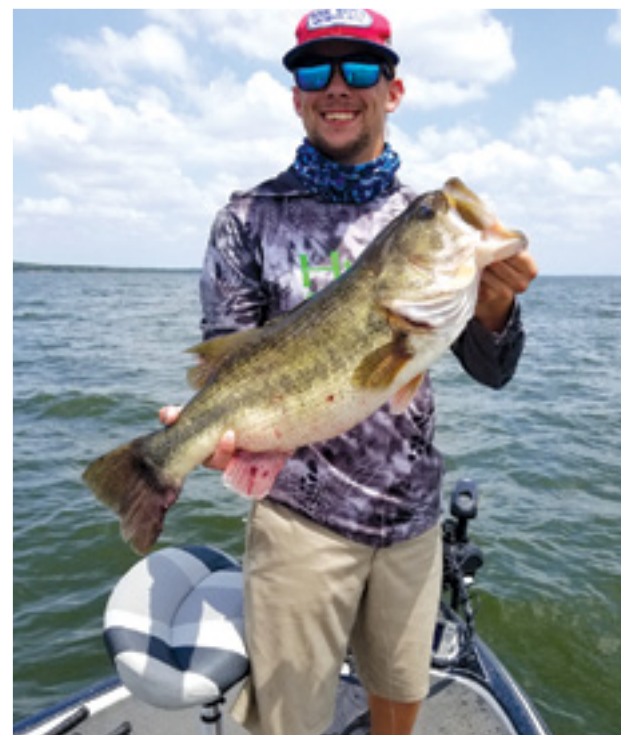
deep water breaks or tree lines to simply rest and recover. Bass will begin to school up at this time in these common areas and eventually as the daily water temperature continues to rise they will move further out to deeper offshore structure and cover. Remember this, "The baitfish go first!" Follow the baitfish for the rest of the year and you will find more consistent success. So what does the month of May mean to me?

Hungry, schooling big bass that are chasing and eating shad, its time for the top water folks. The month of May can offer some of the best top water action of the whole season. Whether you throw frogs in the shallow backwaters, yellow magic poppers around the shad spawn areas or big walking baits and wake baits for post spawn females offshore, the best bite is on the surface. Many giant post spawn bass will fall victim to baits like the Heddon Zara spook, the Lucky Craft Sammy and the Yellow magic popper. Frogs thrown in and around the back water junk and vegetation can get violent erup-

tions and offer very exciting shallow water big bass battles. So get your topwaters ready and make sure your heart is healthy because there is no other more exciting way to catch them than a great topwater bite. If you would like to learn more about finding these key locations and how to use these top water techniques to catch a bass of a lifetime, I would love to show you first hand. Contact Mike McFarland TheLakeForkGuide.com Thank you reading, stay healthy and I wish you all great fishing.



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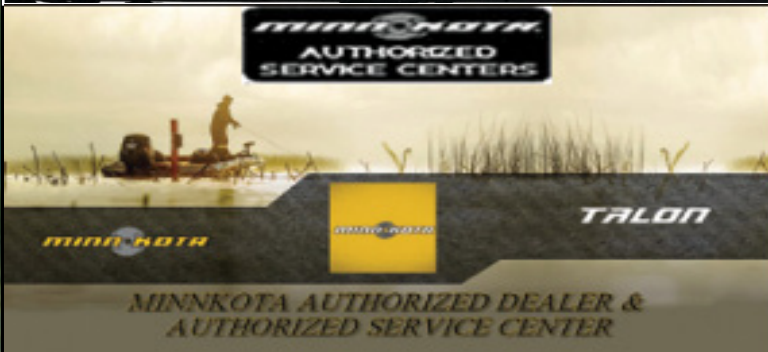
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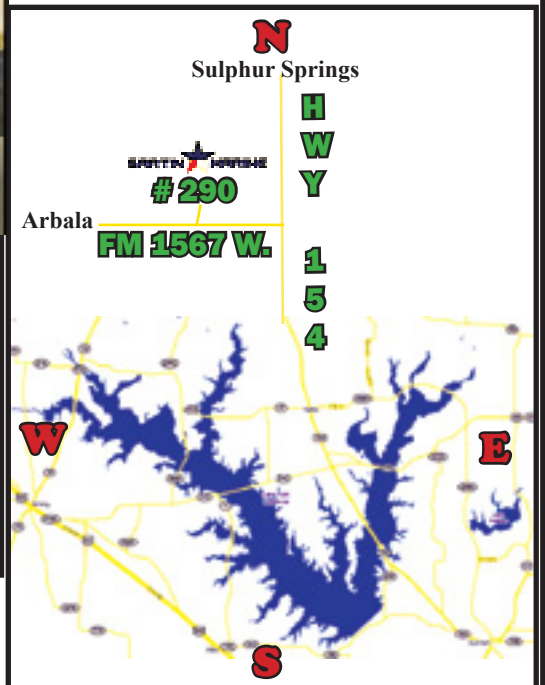


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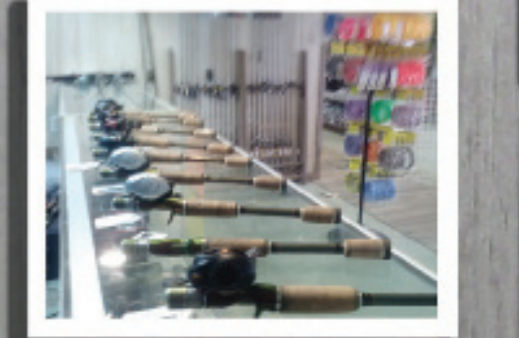
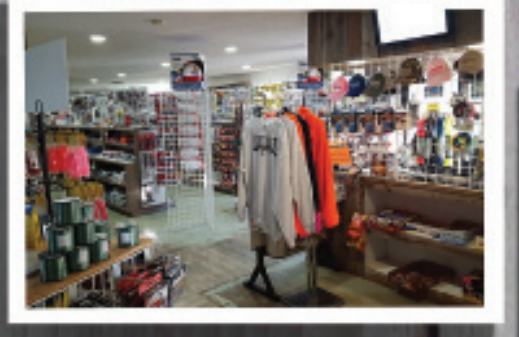
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A graphic for Marty's Parts and Service Shop. It features the shop's name in a stylized font, "MOTORCYCLE-ATV-UTV", and the phone number "903-383-6686". Logos for Yamaha (MM), Honda (The House), and Kawasaki are also present. A vertical scale on the right side of the graphic shows the numbers 3, 8, 4, and 6.



There is no more beautiful sight than to be sitting in your boat on Lake Fork waiting to catch one of those monster bass and to have an American Eagle fly over looking to catch a fish too! (Fisherman's Guide Photo by Don Hampton)

 An advertisement for Kubota commercial mowers. The top section features the text "There's no time for downtime." above a photograph of workers using mowers on a golf course. Below the photo are the terms "Commercial Mowers", "Fleet discounts", and "Free loaners". The Kubota logo is prominently displayed. The bottom section lists benefits of the fleet program and provides contact information for ALBA TRACTOR, LLC and Pittsburg TRACTOR, INC.

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Free Pick Up & Delivery On Scheduled Service In The Lake Fork Area

Texas CWD Testing Shows Scale of Effort to Contain Deadly Deer Disease

The latest numbers on Chronic Wasting Disease testing in Texas give some hope that efforts to contain the disease are working, according to state wildlife experts. The CWD testing year that ended in February produced just shy of 13,000 CWD samples statewide by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department with the help of participating landowners and hunters. This number includes all samples collected in Texas CWD Zones and far exceeds the target of 7,039 samples.

During this period, Texas recorded 26 new confirmed CWD positives, with six additional "suspect positives" awaiting confirmation. That includes CWD found in a new area, Val Verde County, in a free-ranging white-tailed deer last December, and a second found in close

proximity about a month later. Plans to manage the disease in this area are ongoing. All the remaining new free-ranging positives were within existing containment zones.

"Hunters can still plan for a good fall deer season and we encourage them to continue to have their deer tested to help TPWD biologists with statewide sampling efforts. Early detection is critical to managing and containing CWD to protect Texas deer," said Clayton Wolf, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department wildlife division director. "It is important for everyone to be aware and informed about this disease, the zones of concern, the regulations and the common-sense precautions we've recommended for years."

CWD was also detected in

Kimble County for the first time in a deer breeding facility in early February. That facility and facilities that had supplied deer to or received deer from that facility during the previous five years are under quarantine, and herd plans for those facilities are being developed with the Texas Animal Health Commission as well as plans for increased surveillance in the immediate area.

Four of the five Texas deer breeding facilities that tested positive in 2015-2016 are no longer in operation.

In Texas, CWD was first discovered in 2012 in free-ranging mule deer along a remote area of the Hueco Mountains near the Texas-New Mexico border, and has since been detected in 176 white-tailed deer, red deer and mule deer in Dal-

lam, El Paso, Hartley, Hudspeth, Kimble, Lavaca, Medina, Uvalde and Val Verde counties. Of those, 129 are connected to deer breeding facilities and release sites.

CWD among cervids is a progressive, fatal neurological disease that commonly results in altered behavior as a result of microscopic changes made to the brain

of affected animals. An animal may carry the disease for years without outward indication, but in the latter stages, signs may include listlessness, lowering of the head, weight loss, repetitive walking in set patterns, and a lack of responsiveness.

To date there is no evidence that CWD poses a risk to

humans or non-cervids. However, as a precaution, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and the World Health Organization recommend not to consume meat from infected animals. For more information, see the TPWD website.

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Lake Fork Sportsman's Association "Preserving the Legend That is Lake Fork"

By Larry Marler President
Lake Fork Sportsman's Association

May is here already. Most of us are housebound and hoping this Covid19 virus goes away soon so we can get the tournaments back on for all fishermen.

Until the authorities figure out how to start testing in the Lake Fork Area for this disease (that we cannot see) we will not know what is going on. Follow social distancing, be extra careful, wear your masks and gloves when you go out and stay safe for yourself and others.

So far tournaments have cancelled through April and most have rescheduled for later this summer and fall. We might see some tournaments try to open in May with strict instructions on social distancing. Just pay attention to new rules, stay your distance and do what the tournament directors put forth as new rules. Your safety and those around you come first. Please be responsible.

Fishing has improved. Crappie are being taken in shallows and if you know where the brush piles are, the fish should be there. I have heard of some nice bass

being caught as the water temperature continues to rise and the Lake is at or near full pool. Catfish are also biting so good luck to you all and enjoy.

One of our newest members, Greg Geisler, called and talked to Bill Kirby at Sabine River Authority on putting trees into the lake making brush piles for fish. The area had a lot of downed trees from high winds and these trees would be good habitat for Lake Fork fish. Bill told Greg that it is okay to put trees in but if you put them in deeper water he wants you to weigh them down so they do not float around which could be hazardous to boat traffic.

As you know, Lake Fork Sportsman's Association continues to try and improve the fishery in Lake Fork. We still have plants ready to be planted as soon as we get the okay and the water level goes down some.

Another of our projects this year is the Life Cycle Support Strategy which utilizes a series of components that we can figure in a pattern from shallow to deep water. They include spawning beds, habitat protective fences, minnow house fac-

tories and artificial fish attractors called T-Habs. The minnow factories using tubes in a mesh cage are created by the agriculture departments in Emory and Yantis High Schools. Students also will help place them in the lake once we get the go ahead which may be this fall.

Again, please be careful out there, stay healthy and hope to see you soon at a future fishing tournament.



Lake Fork Sportsman's Association
Preserving The Legend

TACKLE DONATIONS NEEDED
Rods, reels, tackle, and fishing-related equipment are needed to support the High School Fishing Tackle Program sponsored by Lake Fork Sportsman's Association. LFSA requests donations of new and used fishing articles that will be cleaned, assembled, and refurbished. Items will be further donated to area high school fishing teams.
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"History Repeats It's Self!" (Continued from Page 6)

much easier to catch. Start your search on main lake points setting your sights in the 20-30ft range. Humps, ridges and roadbeds also come into play. You will probably stumble on herds of sand bass but don't be dismayed. At this time of the year, trophy black bass will run with their cousins and feed along side them on balls of shad. Spoons work well provided that the bottom is free of timber but the c-rig will do most of the heavy lifting. It's also a good time to tie on a football jig in black/blue or peanut butter/

jelly. Any craw trailer will work and be sure to match the skirt of the jig as close as possible. I would also set up an A-rig if an abundance of sand bass are present. Rig this presentation with any white swimbait in the 3 1/2 to 5 inch length. Make a long cast and let it sink to the bottom. Start a slow retrieve and hold on. You may have to weed through several pesky sand bass but a giant could latch on to the rig and totally make your day.

If you are headed out to Lake Fork in May searching for the trophy of a lifetime, I would love to be a part of this trophy quest. I also have gift certificates available if you have friends or loved one's who have dream't 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/davidoziolakeforkguide>. I post my daily trip results on this page. I would also like to thank Okuma Fishing and Talon Custom Lures for making my job the blast that it is. 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."

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Texas State Parks Reopen *(Continued from Page 7)*

here to strict social distancing and cleanliness standards while in public spaces. Those traveling to parks in rural areas should remember possible limits on available resources and local health care capacities.

Operational changes still in effect at parks include the suspension of all transactions at parks, equipment rentals and in-person interpretive programs. All

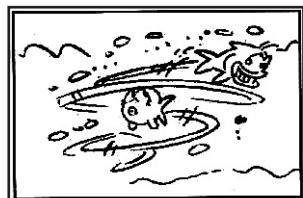
group-use facilities, visitor and nature centers, headquarters and other enclosed spaces where people congregate will also remain closed.

Texas State Park Passes can now be purchased online through the reservation system

or over the phone by calling the Texas State Park Customer Service Line at 512-389-8900. For guidance troubleshooting issues with the reservation system or using Texas State Park Passes online, visit the reservation help page on the TPWD website.



The largest fish is the whale shark, which weighs more than twice as much as an African elephant!



The male guppy courts the female, showing off its beauty and grace by dancing around her constantly.



The grunt is a fish named for the grunting sounds it makes when removed from the water.

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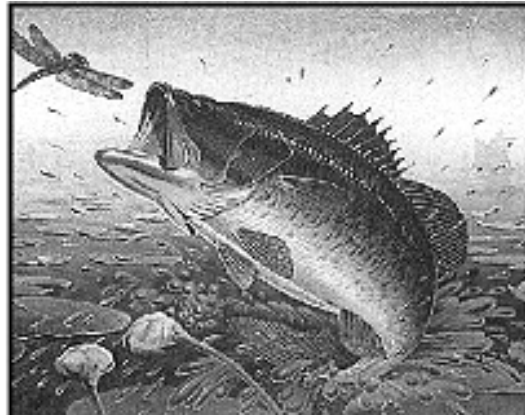
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52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64
D	I	N	A	R	T	A	R	R	A	G	O	N
60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72
Y	O	U	C	A	N	T	W	I	N	E	M	A
63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75
A	N	N	E	T	A	I	N	E	P	E	E	R
66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78
D	A	G	S	H	O	G	G	S	S	L	A	B

Medical Search

There are 14 medical professionals hidden throughout the scrambled puzzle below. See how many you can find and circle. The words go horizontally and vertically, backward and forward.

DERMATOLOGIST	PATHOLOGIST
INTERN	PEDIATRICIAN
NEUROLOGIST	PODIATRIST
NURSE	PSYCHIATRIST
ORTHOPEDIST	RADIOLOGIST
OSTEOPATH	SURGEON
PARAMEDIC	THERAPIST

E T O S T E T O P A S T
 S S T I S M S S E I G R
 R I A D I D I O D L O I
 U D I O G I G R C T S C
 N E U R O L O G I S T P
 S P T A L O L I D I S E
 A O A P O T O S E R I D
 T H M I I S T T M T R I
 H T R S D U A E A A T A
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 R O D A R G R M A D I R
 A U R G O E E A P O H I
 P S Y C H O D R I P C C
 I N T E R N E M P S Y I
 S O S T E O P A T H S A
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Game Warden Field Notes

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

Fly Like an Eagle - A Comanche County game warden was contacted by a concerned fisherman about a possible injured bald eagle near the dam at Lake Proctor. The warden arrived on scene and contacted the fisherman who confirmed through a photograph that it was in fact a bald eagle. The warden contacted the veterinarian at the Abilene Zoo and they agreed to take the eagle in for treatment of its injuries. The eagle was severely dehydrat-

ed and had an infected wound on one wing. The next day the eagle was transported to South Plains Wildlife Rehabilitation Center where it will stay until it can be released back at Lake Proctor.

Love the way you lie - Two Trinity County game wardens received a call about missing boaters, two adults and one child, on the Neches River. When they arrived at the ramp, the wardens found two trucks and an empty boat trailer. Accompanied by a Trinity County Deputy, the wardens searched the river for the missing boat. After a couple of hours,

they noticed a light on the deck of a floating cabin. Wardens made contact and confirmed it was the two missing men and child. The men were fishing from the floating cabin and said they had boat trouble earlier but had since fixed the boat. Once the wardens confirmed that everyone was okay, the men were asked to present their fishing license, and neither's was current. Additionally, the boat was not registered and only had one inflatable life jacket. The warden also found a dead woodpecker the men were using for

(Continued on Page 24)

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Impress Guests With Cajun Fried Soft-Shell Crabs & Potato Cakes

By Sue Hampton

Fried soft-shell crabs have been considered a delicacy since they were first enjoyed in the 1880's.

Soft-shell crabs are actually blue crabs and they're found in the Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico. The following recipe makes it easy to enjoy them – even if you've never prepared them before.

Cajun Fried Soft-Shell Crabs

4 cleaned, jumbo soft-shell crabs



Golden-brown crabs with a hint of Cajun flavor and these zesty potato cakes make a delicious meal! Happy Mother's Day to all of you!

- 4 teaspoons Cajun seasoning
- ½ lemon (juiced)
- 2 eggs
- 1 cup milk
- 4 cups flour
- 4 cups LouAna Peanut Oil, for that nutty taste without cholesterol

Directions:

1. Season soft-shell crabs with 1 teaspoon Cajun seasoning and juice from a lemon.
2. Beat together eggs, milk and 1 teaspoon of Cajun seasoning in a bowl.
3. Season flour with remaining 2 teaspoons Cajun seasoning. Preheat oil to 350 degrees.
4. Dredge crabs in flour, completely coating crabs. Dip in milk and egg batter and dredge back in flour.
5. Carefully drop crabs in preheated oil and fry until golden brown and floating, about 4 to 5 minutes, turning several times.
6. Allow cooked crabs to drain on paper towels before serving.

Try this delicious side dish of "Zesty Idaho Potato Cakes" to complete your meal!

Potato Cakes

- Cooking spray
- 2 cups leftover mashed Idaho Potatoes (homemade works best)
- ½ cup corn kernels (if frozen, thaw first, then squeeze out excess water)

- 1/3 cup frozen, diced red and green sweet peppers (thaw, then squeeze out excess water)
- 1 egg white
- ½ cup shredded taco cheese (cheese blend with added seasonings)
- 4 tablespoons all-purpose flour
- 1 tablespoon minced, dried onion
- 1 teaspoon salt
- ¾ teaspoon chili powder
- 1/8 teaspoon ground cumin
- Optional garnish: ¼ cup shredded taco cheese

Preheat the oven to 375F. Coat a baking sheet with a liberal amount of cooking spray.

In a medium mixing bowl, combine all ingredients and mix well with a fork or wooden spoon.

Spray a 1/3-cup measuring cup with cooking spray. Using the cup, scoop up the potato mixture and level it off with your clean hand. Invert the filled cup over the prepared baking sheet to release the potato mixture. Continue to scoop, making 8 portions (you may need to respray the cup once or twice to help release the potato mixture). Gently press the portions with your palm to form pancakes about ¾-inch thick.

Spray the tops of the pancakes lightly with cooking spray. Bake for 20 minutes. Using a metal spatula, flip the pancakes and bake another 15 minutes. Transfer pancakes to a serving platter using the spatula, then sprinkle them with additional taco cheese, if desired. Serve hot.

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Game Warden Field Notes (Continued from Page 22)

bait. The men said they were about to head back to the ramp, so the wardens followed them back to the ramp after they loaded their gear. A small amount of marijuana was found on one individual while the other attempted to start their boat. The warden asked the man to step back out of the boat. While exiting the boat, he intentionally fell into the water. The wardens grabbed the man while he was underwater and could feel his arms underneath him trying to get rid of something. Once they detained him, they noticed an empty holster in his belt. The wardens then found a large amount of meth, marijuana and Xanax. In the meantime, an Angelina County warden travelled through deer leases to attempt to get close to the floating cabin. The warden was able to get within a few hundred yards of the cabins and transported the two men and child back to the boat ramp by truck while Trinity County wardens collected evidence. After a second look in the cabin a loaded handgun was located underneath a cot. Both men were arrested, and the child was transported to relatives. Several felony charges will be filed including manufacture and delivery of meth, felon in possession of a firearm and tampering with evidence.

Crazy in Love - A Tyler County game warden was flagged down by a Jasper County Sheriff's Deputy that was responding to a call from a land-

owner about a trespasser on an ATV that had just stolen six game cameras. The warden, deputy and a DPS officer followed the ATV tracks and were able to locate where the subject lived. The landowner's property was located and after a short interview, a full confession was obtained from the subject. He had just gotten out of jail a few days prior for theft of property and was currently on probation. He was arrested for felony theft and trespassing and transported to the Jasper County jail. Cases are pending.

We Belong Together

Two Throckmorton County and Haskell County game wardens were patrolling near Lake Stamford when they saw a truck suspiciously parked on the county road with its doors open. From a distance, the wardens saw a man walk out of the bar ditch and get into the truck. They approached the vehicle and saw a rifle in the passenger's seat and nearly a dozen snares in the bed of the pickup. The man was interviewed and admitted that he was placing snares and hunting from the county road. A dead coyote that was caught in his snare was discovered a short distance away. The man was also a convicted felon. In addition to multiple class C misdemeanors, cases were filed for hunting from the public road and the man was arrested for unlawful possession of a firearm by a convicted felon.

Gesundheit! - A Real County game warden assisted the Real County Sheriff's Department on a call about a reckless driver that had been pulled over just south of Leakey. After the deputy made contact with the driver, he told the game warden the driver was acting very nervous. While the deputy was running the driver's information the subject sped away and a pursuit ensued. Real County sheriff's office, the game warden, the DPS trooper and the Real County Constable were involved in the pursuit. After pursuing the subject for about 5 miles south of Leakey the subject stopped and fled on foot. The driver ran towards the Frio river and jumped in the river. The game warden drove to the other side of the river to try and apprehend the subject, but the subject made it back across the river. A bystander told the warden where the subject crossed the river again, and he and the other officers began a search for the subject. While waiting for the Edwards County sheriff's office K9 unit to arrive, the game warden was continuing the search when he heard someone sneeze in the tall grass. The warden began searching the area where he heard the sneeze and shortly after found the subject in a ditch covered up with grass. The subject was apprehended transported to the Real County Jail. The subject said he fled because he was scared and was out on

(Continued on Next Page)



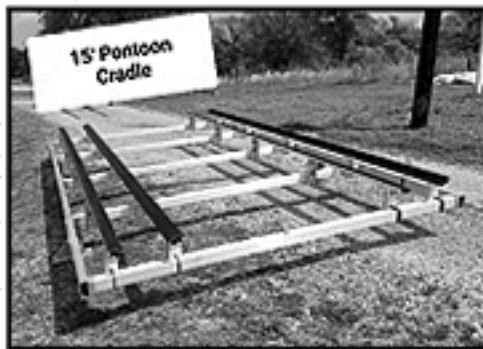
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bond. He also had two bags of marijuana stuffed in his boots.

What Happens at the Lake House - Llano County game wardens responded to a shots fired call with deputies. Multiple callers stated an individual in a subdivision was shooting an automatic rifle at a buoy in the lake near houses and towards boats in the water. A rental house was located with eight people where the shooter was identified. The shooter admitted to hiding the rifle inside the residence. Consent was given to search the house which yielded the rifle, bags of marijuana, unprescribed Adderall, and psilocybin mushrooms. A total of five people were arrested for charges ranging from possession of marijuana, deadly conduct- 3rd degree felony, and possession of controlled substance 1>4 grams — 2nd degree felony.

Stop Methin' Around - An Ellis County game warden received a call from the Cedar Hill police chief to discuss issues and complaints they were receiving on a rural part of the city where their officers couldn't easily access. After the game warden met with the chief and lieutenant, he patrolled the area and located a white truck trespassing with the driver still sitting in the vehicle. A meth pipe was in his hunting jacket and the suspect admitted to waiting on his friend to

go hog hunting. The game warden located 1.6 grams of meth in the vehicle and a loaded 30-30 rifle. The suspect was a convicted felon and the rifle came back as stolen out of Montgomery County. The subject was arrested and placed in the Ellis County Jail. Multiple charges pending.

Extremely Loud & Incredibly Dumb - While patrolling the San Jacinto River for fishing license violations in eastern Montgomery County, San Jacinto and Montgomery County game wardens heard a gunshot that sounded extremely close. After looking at a map, they noticed a pipeline about 50 yards away. As they made their way down the pipeline, the wardens noticed a pickup and ATV tucked away into the woods. While approaching the pickup, they witnessed two individuals tucking things into the toolbox of the truck. It appeared they had interrupted what was about to be a hunt without consent case. A bag of hog-wild attractant was found in the toolbox as well as a shotgun with buckshot and a rifle with a thermal scope. The ATV had been reported stolen out of Liberty County in 2018, so it was seized for further investigation. The registered owner of the ATV listed a guide on his hunting lease as his primary suspect. The guide just happened to be the same individual who was in possession of the ATV. Charges Pending.

Food Truck Bandits - While returning a recovered stolen game camera from a previous hunting case to the land manager of a local development company, a Montgomery County game warden learned that they had been having theft issues from the active construction areas on some of their development properties. The warden and a Grimes County game warden made a pass through the development while on routine patrol the evening of Feb. 15 and witnessed four individuals loading thousands of dollars of construction materials into the back of two pickup trucks. When the wardens contacted the group, they claimed that an unnamed friend who worked there told them they could have what they were taking. The land manager was able to quickly contact the construction superintendent of the project who verified that no one other than him had the authority to give away material and he did not give anyone permission to take anything. All four individuals were arrested for theft \$750-\$2,500, a class A misdemeanor. Upon further questioning, the group caught stealing were discovered as the drivers of food trucks for several local developments, including the one they were caught in.

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Minnow Bucket
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June 13-14 ~ Fish On Open
Axton's Bass City
June 27 ~ JC Outdoors Teams
Minnow Bucket
June 20 ~ Media Teams
Minnow Bucket

July

July 5 ~ JC Outdoors Solo
Minnow Bucket
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