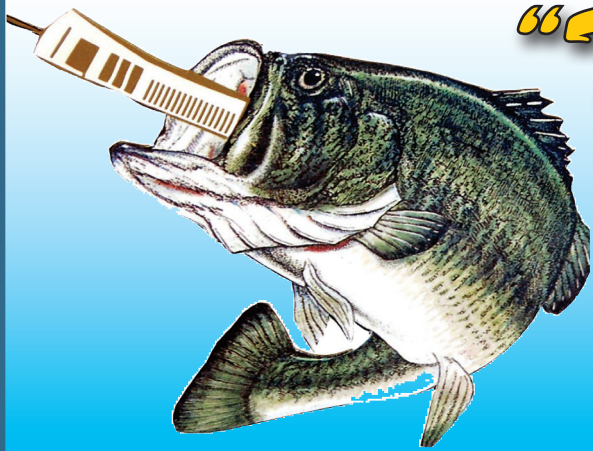


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"The Fisherman's Guide, News You Can Use" "Lines To Get Hooked On"

1 Section

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Vol. 22

April, 2021

No. 260



Stan Tencza was fishing with Lake Fork guide Danny Holder when he caught this TPWD ShareLunker weighing 13.06-lbs. This was the first Lunker to go into the program from Lake Fork this year.



Mars Riggs, 10 years old from San Antonio caught this hawg crappie fishing with guide Terri Moon on a 5-ft UltraLite. C.P.R.

All Fish Fishburne could say is "Wow!" Mark 'Tanner' Spurgin dashed the hopes of many anglers fishing the 13th Annual Mega Bass Tournament when he weighed in this whopping 15.47-lb during the 2nd hour of the tournament. This lunker also went into the TPWD ShareLunker Program.

13th Annual Mega Bass on Lake Fork

By Don Hampton

The 13th Annual Mega Bass Tournament held on Lake Fork on March 28th could only be classified as historic. It being the highest paid, one day amateur tournament in existence has

the tendency to draw anglers. This year over 1,700 anglers came to test their skills on this great reservoir to try and win some of the \$20,000 per hour given away with 1st place in each hour winning a check for \$15,000.

In the Mega Bass pre-

sented by BassChamps the scales are open for a half hour beginning with the 8 o'clock hour and ending with the 2 o'clock hour. The fishing began at 6:30 am and the anglers were ready to make that

(See 13th Annual....

Continued on Page 4)



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"Bubba just can't and won't shut-up!"

By: Don Hampton

If you have ever seen Bubba speechless, behold you've witnessed a miracle. The only time you may hear a moment of silence from him is when he is eating. You may even hear that same moment of peacefulness when he misses a hook set, his line breaks, or he misses a productive fishing trip. That time will only be momentarily. Then cover the women and children's ears because he may break that moment of silence in a typical outburst.

Bubba has mentioned on more than one occasion that Bubba talks more than two gossips on a fence line. She has even let it be known that he even talks in his sleep and guess what 90% of his conversations are about? If you answered fishing you get an A+ on this exam.

Bubba is not one of these fishermen that believe quiet and stealth is the key to catching fish. He believes in talking to the fish, singing to them, praying for them, cussing them, and praising them. Whatever emotion he is experiencing he vocalizes it either in word, song, or exclamation!

If you have ever fished with Bubba you'll either think; "There is never a dull moment!" or "Will this guy ever shut-up?" You may even think both!

On the trip to the water Bubba listens to fish

tunes. This is a CD he attained over the Internet that is composed of ten original songs in which the words have been changed to a fishing theme. These songs range from Willie Nelson singing "On The Boat Again!" to Dobie Gray singing, "Give Me Some Bait Boy and Free My Pole, I Want To Go Down To The Fishing Hole and Drift Away!" and of course, "Don't Worry Catch Crappie!" It is a really good CD, but fishing with Bubba you tend to hear them all the time! He explains this as his mood music. (As if he needed to get in the mood for fishing.) It really wouldn't be that bad except he knows all the words and lyrics and once the boat is in the water and the radio is off, he's like the Energizer Bunny and keeps going and going and going!

Bubba, when it comes to singing these songs to the fish, truly is a legend in his own mind. He either thinks he is a really good singer or else the inspiration helps him catch more fish. He has now started changing every word to every song he knows to reflect fishing. Remember that beautiful song, "Bring Back That Loving Feeling"? Bubba's goes something like this, "Bring Back that Tuggin' Feelin' Oh, Oh That Tugging Feelin'. Fishey, Fishey, I tied my hook on just for yooooou! If you'd only bite it, bite it, tha' way you're supposed to doooo!" You get the picture?

Sing those words to the lyrics of the song and then picture Bubba on the front of a bass boat with rod n' reel in hand singing that to the fish on Lake Fork!

Bubba doesn't stop with the songs, he has made up slogans you will hear on every trip with him. You've heard the one and maybe even used it a time or two that goes; "Here Fishy, Fishy, Fishy!" Well his goes far beyond that for coaxing the bass to lure. You'll hear him say, "Here Fishy, I got you some artificial sushi, low calorie, sure enough to get hooked on!" Bubba has to watch himself when he is fishing in mixed company with some of his speeches to the fish. One example is many anglers, myself included, refer to big bass as hawgs. Bubba doesn't do this! He refers to them as "Fat Girls" and his favorite saying is, "I'm looking for a fat girl to do the line dance with me!" To my surprise I do believe this one works for him. I have seen him hook a few after this little chant of enticement.

If you ever wish to hear any of Bubba's songs or lyrics, don't expect them on the radio or television, just pull up beside his boat on the lake. You will be sure to hear some then, because, "Bubba just won't and can't shut up when it comes to fishing!"

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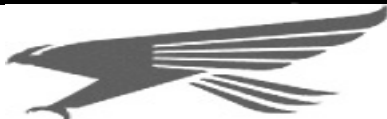
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13th Annual Mega Bass *(Continued from Page 1)*

first cast. The weather was not pretty with a northern that came in the night before. North winds ranged from 10 to 25 mph causing large white caps on the lake and disrupting fishing in some parts of the lake but this could not stop the anglers in their efforts to win with 10 places paid each hour with an additional 2 places for the T-shirt bonus. The weights of the bass that came to the scales showed the determination of the angler.

During the course of the tournament there were nine (9) bass over the 24" slot brought to the scales. Bass under the slot ranged

mostly in the 2-pound range with the heaviest being weighed in by a high school senior Andrew Wright from Plano, Texas with a 3.20-pound bass which won him \$900. The second heaviest under the slot was a 3.05-pound weighed in by Ray Ward from Emory, Texas that won him \$1,000.

Every hour of the tournament had big bass coming to the scales. During the 8 o'clock hour JD Foster from Waxahachie, Texas won a check for \$15,000 for his bass weighing 9.38-pounds. What made this tournament go into the record books was

the bass brought to the scales in the 9 o'clock hour. Mark Spurgin from McKinney, Texas weighed in a lunker weighing 15.47-pounds.

This was the heaviest bass ever to be weighed in during an amateur tournament. This bass also went into the TPWD ShareLunker program and was the heaviest weighed in during the tournament. For Mark's great catch he won \$15,000 in hourly and took home the grand prize of a 2021 Skeeter ZX powered by a Yamaha 200 SHO.

In the 10 o'clock hour Ryan Badders from

(Continued on Next Page)



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Diana, Texas weighed in a 10.34-pound bass winning him \$15,000; 11 o'clock hour Chad Oneal from Amity, Arkansas weighed in a 9.53-pound bass winning a check for \$15,000; 12 o'clock hour Steven Moseley from Taylor, Arkansas weighed in a 9.76-pound bass winning a check for \$15,000; 1 o'clock hour there were two bass over the slot of 24". The heaviest and winning him \$15,000 weighed 9.37-pounds and was caught by Riley Gill from Melissa, Texas. The second heaviest of the hour weighed 7.60-pounds and was caught by Tyler Stanley from San Antonio, Texas winning him \$1,000.

During the 2 o'clock, the final weigh in of the tournament there were also two overs weighed in. The heaviest winning \$15,000 weighed 8.85-pounds and was caught by Scot McDonald from Celina, Texas. The second heaviest weighed 5.85-pounds and was caught by Rodney Ply from Diamond City, Arkansas winning him a check for \$1,000. (To view the large bass that

won in the hours see page 16.)

During the course of the tournament, the Lake Fork Sportsman Association did just an excellent job with their Live Release Boat getting all the bass back into the lake to be caught another day. They are most definitely to be commended for their diligence and hard work they put into "Preserving the Legend that is Lake Fork!"



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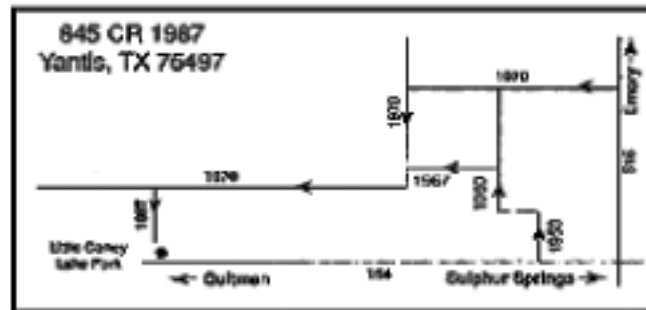


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"Spring Patterns Have Moved Back!"

What a bizarre start to a new year on Lake Fork. A large part of the lake was frozen over and then followed by twenty inches of rain during the following three weeks. These fish are all screwed up! It seems spring patterns have been moved back by a month but time will tell as we move through April. Currently big fish catches are random and patterns are not consistent from day to day. As my clients say, "It's fishing". No telling whats around the corner.

March was a very rainy month with the water clarity taking a severe beating. The first wave of spawners pulled into the shallows late in the month and the chatterbait took it's share of giants to the scales. The next wave in April will be the biggest by far as the main lake

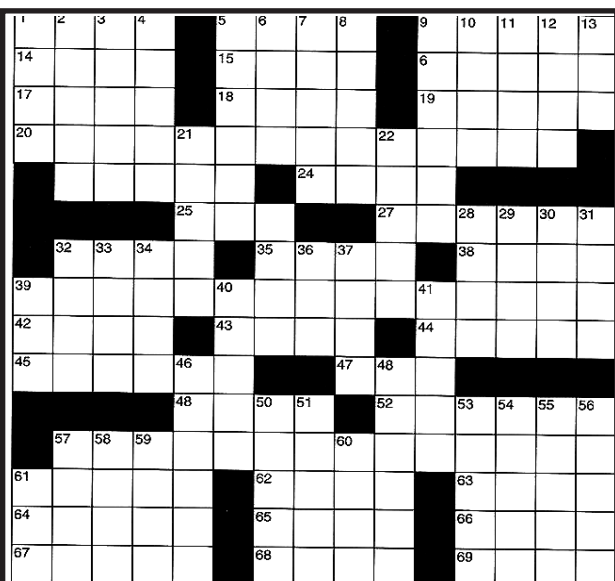
water temps are in the mid sixties currently and should warm to the upper sixties by the next full moon. This is when the giants will be caught off beds, if you can see them, but the bigger giants will be taken when the shad start to spawn. That will happen once the surface temps reach about seventy degrees and there won't be a swim-bait left in sight for purchase. Fork is an excellent lake for swimbaits especially when the lake is on the clear side. Unfortunately, the pond is not as transparent as I would like to see but it will do in a rush. There are several large swimbaits being sold around the lake and you can choose the one that strikes your fancy. Huge glide baits have been the recent craze and be prepared to let loose of plenty of cash to wield one of these bad boys. Gizzard shad colors work best for the hard sided lunger catchers and always throw them on heavy mono or stout braid. For the soft plastic versions, use brighter colors for the off colored water and more translucent baits for the clearer water. The next step is determining which hook to rig on these giant plastic bass offerings. I recommend a 10/0 hook for the full size baits and a 7/0 hook for the minnow size swimmers. From that point you will need to focus on the right depth where the slouches will be hiding and how much weight should be on the hook. Start with no weight and work your way down to a 10/0 weight weighted with 3/4 ounce. This tactic will cover



the important levels in the water column and start you on your way. Next is "where"? You can never go wrong with main lake points or secondary points especially if they have a channel swing close by. Use a long rod and keep casting until something gives. It may be your arm but that's why they make Advil.

More than likely the lake will hover around pool level for the month so don't rule out the Carolina rig on main lake points especially following the days right after a cold front. The big bass have a habit of not chasing baits during high pressure so the C-rig will pick up the slack. Magnum lizards, creature baits and even small swimbaits should do the heavy lifting. Choose dark colors for heav-

(See Spring Patterns.....
Continued on Page 20)



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Mythological mountain
- 5. Afflicts
- 9. Traps
- 14. College army
- 15. Annoyance
- 16. Old Irish alphabets
- 17. From a distance
- 18. Soluble ribonucleic acid
- 19. _____ but goodie
- 20. Studs Terkel's _____
- 23. Yellow-fever mosquitos
- 24. Muslimism
- 25. By way of
- 27. Visual sense
- 32. A plant fiber used in making rope or sacks
- 35. Having little substance
- 38. Fill up
- 39. Deductible item for some
- 42. Awry
- 43. Helios
- 44. Coal tar product
- 45. Richard __, actor
- 47. Substitute
- 49. Honey and carpenter
- 52. Type of mission
- 57. Spiteful withholder
- 61. Designed chairs
- 62. A circle of light around the sun or moon
- 63. Swiss river
- 64. Related on the mother's side
- 65. Augury
- 66. The destroyer (Hindu)
- 67. Selenes
- 68. Oceans
- 69. __ Blyton, children's author

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Towards the mouth or oral region
- 2. Bulgarian capital
- 3. A crosspiece between the legs of a chair
- 4. Having a strong sharp smell or taste
- 5. St. Francis of _____
- 6. Japanese waist pouch
- 7. Scottish waterfalls
- 8. Hideaway, slang
- 9. Expression of praise
- 10. A way to look
- 11. Burden
- 12. Utter sounds
- 13. Compass point
- 21. Lucky number
- 22. Keeps tickin'
- 26. Used when listing items
- 28. Type of spread
- 29. Bridges organ parts
- 30. Romanian city
- 31. Arabian Gulf
- 32. Joins wings, pl.
- 33. Exploiter
- 34. Rank
- 36. Signing, abbr.
- 37. Flat tableland with steep edges
- 39. Humbug
- 40. Ruhr River valley city
- 41. Ancient city in S.W. Jordan
- 46. Waders
- 48. Gamboges
- 50. The distinctive spirit of a people or an era
- 51. Bring dishonor upon
- 53. Ribonuclease
- 54. Besides
- 55. Pertaining to nerves
- 56. Causing fear
- 57. Irish mother of gods
- 58. Arabian sultinate
- 59. Usually with wooden soles
- 60. Ancient Greek City
- 61. Moray, for one

Answers on Page 21

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Promising Spring Season on the Horizon for Texas Turkey Hunters

Much of the Rio Grande wild turkey range in Texas experienced two great years of turkey production and recruitment in 2019 and 2020, and this means that hunters this spring season can expect to see many jakes and two-year-old gobblers across most of the Rio Grande range.

"Those jakes will also keep things interesting this spring with big groups of young males roaming the turkey woods," said Jason Hardin, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) Wild Turkey Program Leader. "East Texas will see a slight bump in

jakes as well with fair production and recruitment this past summer. If you had birds in 2020, you can expect to see them again this spring."

The spring season dates are as follows:

Youth Only

*Rio Grande — North Zone — May 22 — 23, 2021

*Rio Grande — South Zone - May 8 — 9, 2021

Spring Regular Season

*Rio Grande — North Zone — Apr. 3 — May 16, 2021

*Rio Grande — South Zone — Mar. 20 — May 2, 2021

*Rio Grande — Special 1 Turkey Bag Limit —

Apr. 1 — 30, 2021

*Eastern Turkey — Apr. 22 — May 14, 2021

No more than one gobbler may be harvested annually per county in the Western One-Gobbler Zone. Those counties in the Western One-Gobbler Only Zone include Bastrop, Caldwell, Colorado, Fayette, Jackson, Lavaca, Lee, Matagorda, Milam, and Wharton.

Hunters are required to report harvest of Eastern wild turkeys electronically to TPWD within 24 hours of harvest. Reports can be made through the My Texas Hunt Har-

vest App. Hunters still must tag harvested birds. Additional information about harvest reporting, bag limits, and more can be found in the Outdoor Annual. Hunters can access the Outdoor Annual online or via the Outdoor Annual app. Both apps

are available for free download from Google Play or the App Store. The My Texas Hunt Harvest App can also be used as a tool for voluntarily reporting and tracking harvests of other resident game species, including Rio Grande turkey. With

My Texas Hunt Harvest, hunters can log harvested game animals and view harvest history, including dates and locations of every hunt.

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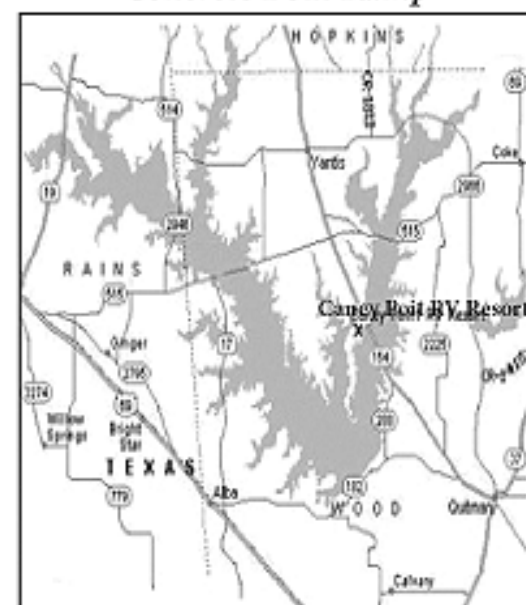
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"The Moon Report" Crappie and "Bobber Down!"

By Terri Moon

Finally it seems like its taken forever to get a consistent bobber bite this year – but, its finally happening and I love it! It's always so exciting because you never know what your going to catch this time of year!

We have been averaging at least 5 different species a trip – (and these aren't small fish)! It makes for a fun experience on these 5 ft. ultralites! (Thank you Reel Time Rods!) By the way, "Reel Time Rods" have relocated to the Tackle Factory building on Hwy. 17 on Little Mustang in Alba, Texas. So, if you are looking for a quality custom crappie rod, they can fix you up no matter what length rod you prefer, and whatever action you prefer. If your in the area, stop in and check out their operation...(they also do rod and reel repair). I'm wishing these guys all the best in their new location!

Now back to this "Bobber Fishing" – I prefer the slip bobber during the times when the crappie can be 2 ft. or 6 ft. down. It's an easy adjustment with a "bobber stop" to set your depth whereas a clip-on bobber makes it tough to cast 6 ft. of line hanging down. They are more effective when the crappie "lock in" that 1-3 ft. I prefer the weighted



clip-on bobbers for that. Some days we are using just jigs and other days they just want a minnow. So, it's a good idea to have both available.

Check secondary points and the backs of coves and creeks – look around docks, timber and edges of the grass. This is the first "serious wave" of crappie coming in to spawn. They've just been waiting on the water temperature to get right in their area of the lake. With the high water we've been having, they have a lot of new places to hide! We are getting 85% males up shallow and the big females are still staging out deeper. The next full moon ought to be awesome for us bobber lovers! You can also tightline jigs with long poles in the grass pockets and around any bushes or timber. I'm liking Bonehead jigheads with their new moondust colored bait, and also, their red/chartreuse is working.

This is a great time to let the kids and grandkids fish off the bank or a dock and let the fish entertain them. That's how I got started! I've always been grateful that my grandparents loved to fish and let me tag along making "lifetime memories"! So, now that we're finally getting some stable water temps in the 60's, the "Bobber Down" fun has begun!

Before I close, I just want to thank my customers that wisely canceled their fishing trips to follow shelter in place orders or quarantine orders and not risking infecting other people. So, especially if you are sick, please stay home. Even if you're not sick, you could still be a carrier. Please follow your area guidelines and hopefully this will get better soon.

Sending thoughts and prayers your way especially to my family in Missouri – stay safe!



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Jade Bates was fishing Texas Trails Bassmasters of Lake Fork club tournament on 3/21/21 when he caught this nice bass that weighed 10.17-lbs. C.P.R.



Curtis Daniels weighed in this under the slot bass while fishing a Victory Tournament on Lake Fork that weighed 3.59-lbs. C.P.R.



Bob Wallace from Kaufman, TX caught his personal best night fishing with Lake Fork guide Whitt Smith. C.P.R.



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TPW Commission Approves Changes to Freshwater Fishing Regulations for 2021-22

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission adopted multiple changes to the freshwater fishing regulations for the upcoming 2021-2022 season at a recent meeting held virtually. Changes to length and bag limits for blue and channel catfish statewide and at specific locations highlight this year's list of freshwater fishing regulation changes. The changes also include minor modifications to passive gear float dimensions.

The changes that were enacted for the 2021-22 license year and take effect September 1, 2021, are listed below. In addition, the details of these new regulations will be incorporated into the 2021-22 edition of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Outdoor Annual.

The current statewide regulations for blue and channel catfish consist of a 12-inch minimum length limit and a 25-fish daily bag limit that combines both species. The changes remove the minimum length limit (fish of any length could be harvested) and retain the 25-fish daily bag. However, of the 25 blue or channel catfish that could be harvested per day, anglers will be limited to harvesting no more than 10 fish that measure 20 inches or longer.

Two new exceptions to the statewide regulations for blue and channel catfish were adopted. The first category follows the no minimum length limit and 25-fish daily bag limit for blue and channel catfish from the approved statewide regulations but further limits the number of fish 20 inches or larger that could be harvested per day to five and further limits the number of fish 30 inches or larger that could be harvested to one. A total of 12 locations were approved for this category. Following are the locations and their current regulations.

*Six locations that are currently under statewide regulations: Lakes Belton (Bell and Coryell counties), Bob Sandlin (Camp, Franklin, and Titus counties), Conroe (Montgomery and Walker counties), Hubbard Creek (Stephens County), Lavon (Collin County), and Ray Hubbard (Collin, Dallas, Kaufman, and Rockwall counties).

*Three locations currently under a 30- to 45-inch slot length limit: Lewisville (Denton County), Richland-Chambers (Freestone and Navarro counties), and Waco (McClennan County).

*Two locations currently under no minimum length limit and a 50-fish daily bag limit but with

and Smith counties).

*Lake Tawakoni (Hunt, Rains, and Van Zandt counties) currently is under similar regulations: no minimum but with harvest limits of seven over 20 inches and two over 30 inches.

The final new exemption category is a 14-inch minimum length limit and a 15-fish combined daily bag for blue and channel catfish. Locations for this category, which are currently under statewide regulations, are:

*Lakes Braunig (Bexar County), Calaveras (Bexar County), Choke Canyon (Live Oak and McMullen counties), Fayette County (Fayette County), and Proctor (Comanche County).

Additionally, two reservoirs will be added to an existing blue and channel catfish regulation category: no minimum length limit and a 50-fish bag limit with the additional restriction that no more than five fish of 30 inches or larger could be harvested per day. Those reservoirs are Lake Livingston (Polk, San Jacinto, Trinity, and Walker counties), which has a 12-inch minimum length limit and 50-fish daily bag limit, and Lake Sam Rayburn (Jasper County), which is currently under statewide regulations.

These two reservoirs, Lake Livingston and Lake Sam Rayburn and these reservoirs, Lakes Caddo (Harrison and Marion counties) and Toledo Bend (Newton Sabine, and Shelby counties), and the Sabine River (Newton and Orange counties), (See TPW Commission Approve..Continued on Page 21)

harvest limits of five fish that measure 20 inches or longer: Kirby (Taylor County) and Palestine (Cherokee, Anderson, Henderson,



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Texas Spring Wildflowers are Predicted to Shine Bright this Season Despite Winter Storm

Spring is here and that means the start of Texas' amazing spring wildflower season. Late winter annuals and perennials lead the 2021 flora parade along Texas highways and state lands within our diverse ecoregions and vernal landscapes.

Texas bluebonnets typically peak at the end of March through mid-April. Bluebonnets often start blooming near Interstate 10 between San Antonio and Houston and then farther north toward the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex. The native range of Texas bluebonnets is primarily the Hill Country and Blackland Prairie Ecoregions, although Texans have seeded these flowers well beyond.

"Recent Texas flora Facebook posts, and photos

from native plant enthusiasts, that I received during the winter storm included blooming bluebonnets covered in ice in central Texas," said Jason Singhurst, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) botanist. "Believe it or not though, most native perennial or biennial plants such as bluebonnets fared just fine under the insulated snow and ice. If we can get some steady rain in the coming weeks and temperatures stay in mid-80's or below through April, it should be a great Texas bluebonnet spring."

During the early spring, Texans everywhere can expect to see a flourish of trout lilies, butter cups, many mustards, Dakota vervain, four-nerve dai-

sy, spring beauty, violets, Texas rainbow cactus, fishhook barrel cactus, Texas mountain laurel flowers, among many others.

Singhurst says that he anticipates that this spring will allow for a very promising wildflower season in the Big Bend and far west Texas region. Previous years have had extremely dry winters

but this season will likely be more colorful due to increased wet weather over this winter. In central Texas, Singhurst anticipates that residents will see many vegetative bluebonnets, Engelmann's daisy, Blackfoot daisy, Drummond's skullcap, Lindheimer's paintbrush, Missouri primrose, prairie fleabane, and many others.

Texans who set out to view wildflowers this spring can log the flora they see on iNaturalist and contribute to biologists knowledge of the state's wildflowers. The platform also allows other plant enthusiasts to assist one another in identification of species throughout the state.

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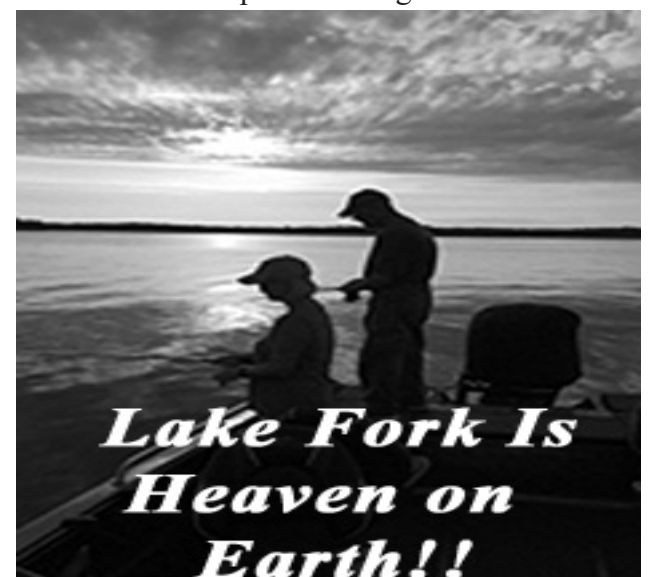
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Lake Fork Adds Two Trophy Bass to the Toyota TPWD ShareLunker Program

Stan Tencza of Yantis, Texas has been fishing Lake Fork for about six years and logged "ShareLunker 598," which tipped the scales at 13.06 pounds. Tencza used a white chatterbait to record his catch, setting a new personal best for largemouth bass. His previous personal record was a 10.7-pounder three years ago during the day. However, most of the fishing Tencza has done over the last four to five years has been at night.

"I live on the lake and unfortunately haven't had much of a chance to fish so far this year, but finally got out Thursday night," said Tencza. "It was my first night to night fish this year and I started the evening throwing out big swimbaits. We were about to give up, but then I heard some shad busting the water and switched over to a white chatterbait with a spin tail trailer. On the second cast I threw it out there, let it fall to the bottom and lifted up to get it up off the bottom. I think I got a reaction bite as she probably watched it fall before grabbing it. The excitement was overwhelming to say the least. Overall, I think it was the best night of my life."

Tencza's catch on Thursday night became the

265th in the history of the program at Lake Fork. The 266th ShareLunker from Lake Fork came at a great time for the angler. This bass weighed 15.47-pounds and was caught by Mark Spurgin from McKinney, Texas during the 13th Annual Mega Bass tournament on March 28th.

During the first three months of the season (Jan. 1 through March 31), anglers who reel in a 13+ pound bass can loan it to TPWD for the ShareLunker selective breeding and stocking program. These anglers can call the ShareLunker hotline at (903) 681-0550 to report their catch 24/7 until April 1, 2021.


Anglers who catch and donate one of these 13+ lunkers earn Legacy Class status, receive a catch kit filled with merchandise, a 13lb+ Legacy decal for their vehicle or boat, VIP access to the Toyota ShareLunker Annual Awards event and a high-quality replica of their lunker fish. These anglers will also receive entries into two separate drawings; a Legacy Class Drawing and the year-end Grand Prize Drawing. Both drawings will award the winner a \$5,000 Bass Pro Shops shopping spree and an annual fishing license.

Anglers who enter data for any lunker they catch greater than 8 lbs. or 24 inches during the calendar year 2021 also receive a catch kit, a decal for their vehicle or boat and an entry into the year-end Grand Prize Drawing to win a \$5,000 Bass Pro Shops shopping spree and annual fishing license. ShareLunker entry classes include the Lunker Class (8lb+), Elite Class (10lb+), and Legend Class (13lb+).

Once a lunker is reeled in, anglers need to enter the catch data on the Toyota ShareLunker mobile app – available for free from the Apple App Store and Google Play – or on the Toyota ShareLunker online app at TexasSharelunker.com. In addition to providing basic catch information, anglers can also provide a DNA scale sample from their lunker bass to TPWD researchers for genetic analysis.

The Toyota ShareLunker Program is made possible in part by the generous sponsorship of Toyota. Toyota is a longtime supporter of Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation and TPWD, providing major funding for a wide variety of fisheries, state parks and wildlife projects.

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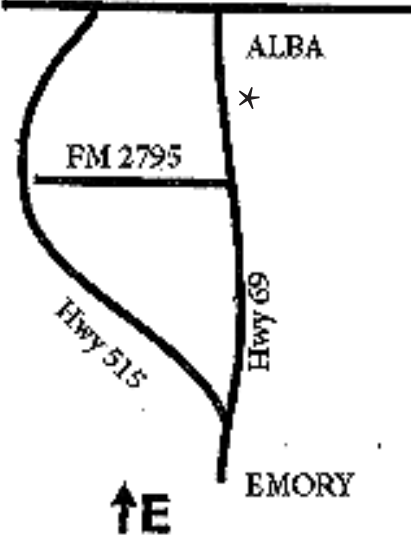


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4th Annual

Jake Wilson Memorial Amateur One-Day Open Bass Team Tournament

May 1, 2021

Hosted by Minnow Bucket Marina on World Famous Lake Fork

Sponsored by




Tournament Details

Registration Entries Must be Postmarked by April 26th - the Monday Before the Tournament.

Team Entry (two person) Per Team \$160

Free Kid Fishing Event (Shoreline Only) from 10 AM to 12 Noon

| Actual Payouts | | | |
|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|
| 1st prize \$2000 | 4th prize \$500 | 7th prize \$250 | 10th prize \$150 |
| 2nd prize \$1000 | 5th prize \$400 | 8th prize \$200 | BIG BASS: \$500 |
| 3rd prize \$700 | 6th prize \$300 | 9th prize \$175 | |

Fund raiser proceeds are distributed to selected children organizations that advance education and social group participation.



The Jake Wilson Memorial Bass Tournament was organized to celebrate the life and legacy of Jake Charles Wilson. Jake passed from this life to the next on August 30, 2017.

Jake had a passion for fishing, hunting and singing. He loved the Lord and cherished his children with all his heart. In his 34 short years, Jake served as Children's Pastor, worked in Prison Ministry and led Praise and Worship services. Jake was also well respected in the Gas Pipeline Industry and made many friends he considered family.

We are thankful for the relationship we had with Jake and the lasting impact he made in our lives. Until we are reunited in Heaven let us lift others up and to speak words of love and life daily!



Jake Wilson Memorial Foundation was established to honor Jake Wilson's life and memory by helping children

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May 14, 15, 16, 2021

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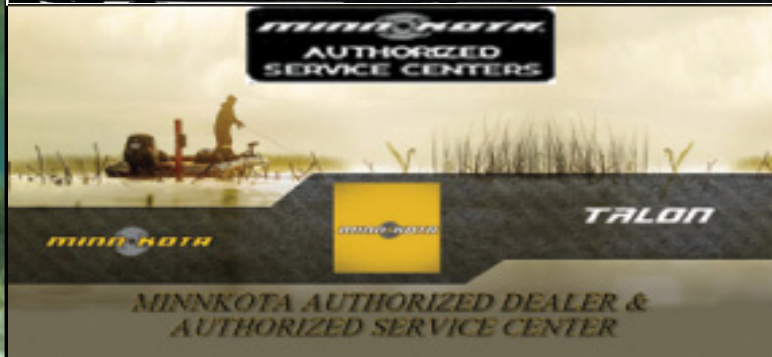
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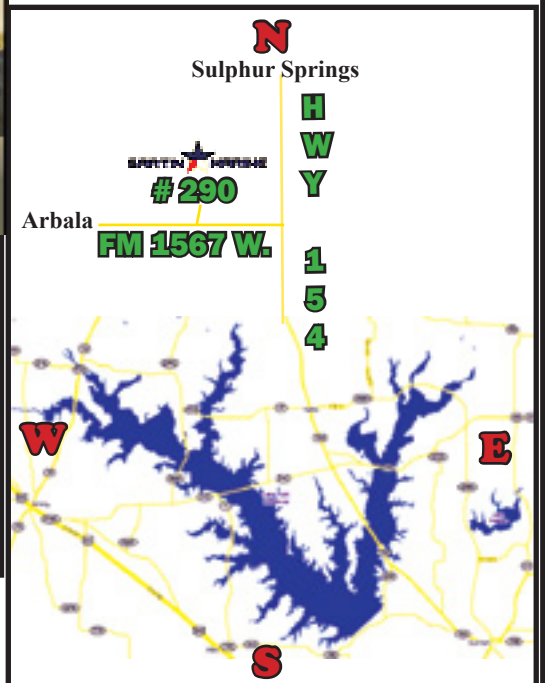


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"Ancona Italian Restaurant In Quitman" A True Taste of Italy

By Deborah Terrell

Ancona Italian Restaurant is owned and operated by Kushtrim (Timmy) and Dashnor (Danny) Dushaj. They both migrated to the United States from Albania. Timmy is the Head Chef. He came to America in 2010 and has over 20 years experience in the restaurant business. Timmy worked at two restaurants in New Jersey. He worked at three in Texas where he chose to reside and invested in Ancona's.

Ancona's other partner is Danny. Danny left war-torn Albania in 1994 when he fled to Milano Italy. While in Milano, Danny trained and worked in several Italian restaurants. After a few years in 1998, he migrated to the United States. He worked at Italian restaurants in New Jersey and New York. He learned, saved his money and later owned two restaurants in New Jersey; a steakhouse called Sparks along with an Italian restaurant called Adolphus. Danny has over 20 years experience in the restaurant industry.

Danny met his wife Sabina in 2001. They were married in 2005 and have three boys. Danny and

Sabina also own the Country Kitchen in Quitman.

Ancona's opened in August 2020. They offer a large meeting room that can accommodate up to 75 people. The room is available by reservation for large parties or meetings at no charge when ordering food.

Ancona's is open 6 days a week (Tues. thru Sun.) and offer daily lunch specials. The res-

taurant makes their own sauces and homemade bread from scratch; this also includes many of the dishes available on our menu. Timmy and Danny and all of their friendly staff are looking forward to meeting you when you come in for dining or call ahead for take-out.

(Publisher's Note: Bubba gives this restaurant for its great friendly service and terrific food a 5 Star Rating)



Janice Venneman didn't want to get wet in the rain, so she fished on the dock and caught this nice bass on a crappie jig. C.P.R.



One angler during a kayak tournament on Lake Fork had an uninvited visitor. This is why you won't see Bubba fishing in a kayak!



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Hour 4 Winner Chad Oneal - Amity, AR
9.53 lbs - \$15,000



Hour 5 Winner Steven Moseley - Taylor, AR
9.76 lbs - \$15,000



Hour 6 Winner Riley Gill - Melissa, TX
9.37 lbs - \$15,000



Hour 7 Winner Scot McDonald - Celina, TX
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KAYAK (kayak, float tube, pontoon, canoe or bank fishermen. No power.)

Individual, 5-FISH PHOTOS, TOTAL LENGTH; BIG BASS.

CLUB TROPHY: 3 big fish, total length for Club.

COST: \$70/PERSON, includes \$5 big bass pot.

PAYOUT: 1-\$1000, 2nd-\$600, 3-\$400, 4-\$300, 5-\$200, 6-10 \$100. Big Bass - \$300, \$200. (100 entries)

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3-6pm -BIG SUNFISH TOURNEY \$10, optional, pay on site.

6 pm - Lake Fork Guide report.

SATURDAY - 9am-NOON- FREE CASTING CLINICS, PRODUCT & KAYAK DEMOS

2:00 pm- PHOTO "WEIGH-IN", CASTING CONTESTS

3:00pm- WINNERS PAYOUT & DOOR PRIZES

REGISTRATION & PAYMENT: ONLINE at www.ianglertournament.com

Or ON SITE Noon-9:00 PM Friday or 5-6:00 AM Saturday, cash or online.

Must be registered by April 15 to be eligible for drawing for A SAGE FLY ROD.

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"Knowing What To Look For!"

By Michael McFarland

The spawn is on! Spring is a time of reproduction for many species of fish here at the world famous Lake Fork. Talking specifically now about the Florida strain bass the month of April is a great one. Many of the giant largemouth bass (F-1 strain) will move into the shallows to lay their eggs and spawn. The male bass will go first, claim an area and begin to dig a nest. The female will stage somewhere nearby the nesting grounds... a big tree, on a stump or break, under a dock or in the buck brush or even under a pile of matted grass.

She will stage, waiting in this last place while the final incubation of her eggs occurs. During this time she will visit with many males in a given area deciding which ones she will soon choose. Yes, big female bass will disperse their eggs amongst several nests. Science has proved this, it is nature's way of assuring survival. Before laying the eggs the female will enlarge & improve the nest to her liking as she courts with the males of her choice.

Here at Lake Fork its not uncommon to see big male bass in the 3-6lb range paired with females that are 2 times their size. Finding and seeing this will make your heart beat faster I promise.

Its very similar to sight fishing as you must obviously first search, find and be able to see the big bass in the nest. The searching part is much like hunting and can be very exciting by itself. When you find what your looking for, its time to sneak up, entice and fool her into striking your bait. Many and all lures become possible but the most common is a simple Texas rig creature bait. Its not all that easy I promise but I do guarantee its heart pounding excitement!!!

To learn more about Lake Fork bass fishing and or bass fishing in general please find me on U-tube and subscribe.



Michael McFarland
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The female bass will only spend 24 to 48 hours in the nest laying her eggs. This act of spawning will usually occur during the full and new moon phase of the month. Knowing this helps in targeting the timing to find and catch such a giant fish of a lifetime. This style of fishing is known as bed fishing and has become extremely popular



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Zebra Mussels Detected at Medina Lake Lake Placid Designated as "Infested"

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) has detected invasive zebra mussels at Medina Lake and Lake Placid will be re-classified as "fully infested." Infested status signifies that there is now evidence of an established, reproducing population of zebra mussels in the lake.

The detection in Medina Lake, located near Bandera, marks the first introduction of invasive zebra mussels in the San Antonio River Basin. On Feb. 11, a member of the public submitted a report with a photo to TPWD of a zebra mussel located at a boat ramp near the mouth of Haby's Cove.

Shortly after the winter storms, TPWD staff conducted searches at the site where the original mussel was found and near Red Cove Marina. Biologists located two zebra mussels attached to rocks along the shoreline near the site where the first mussel was discovered.

Bandera County River Authority & Groundwater District (BCRAGD) conducted a search on Feb. 24 and located a single zebra mussel attached to a settlement sampler at a dock approximately three miles upstream from the first location where zebra mussels were detected. The

BCRAGD later conducted additional surveys of shorelines, boat docks, boat hulls and engines at numerous sites around the lake; no additional zebra mussels were found.

Due to these discoveries, Medina Lake will be designated "positive" for zebra mussels, which means there have been multiple detections, but evidence of a reproducing population has yet to be discovered. Plankton sampling for zebra mussel larvae will take place in May/June when they begin spawning, and settlement sampler monitoring and shoreline surveys will con-

(Continued on Next Page)



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tinue to determine if an established, reproducing population is already present or monitor its development.

"This is the first detection of zebra mussels in the San Antonio River Basin and could result not only in impacts on infrastructure, boats, and other property but also in downstream spread within the basin and introductions by boats moving from Medina Lake to other nearby lakes," said Monica McGarrity, TPWD Senior Scientist for Aquatic Invasive Species. "Finding zebra mussels in a new river basin unfortunately means that they've most likely been transported there by boats, barges, or other equipment that didn't take appropriate precautions to prevent their spread. The vigilance of all boaters and anglers is needed to stop or slow the further spread of zebra mussels in Texas lakes."

Lake Placid, located near Seguin in the Guadalupe River Basin, was previously designated as "positive" for zebra mussels, but will now be upgraded to "fully infested" status. In May 2019, zebra mussel larvae and a single adult were documented at Lake Placid, but biologists had not yet found evidence of an established, reproducing population in the lake. However, in early February 2021, during some routine maintenance activities at the Lake Placid dam, Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority employees discovered

a population of adult zebra mussels in the hydroelectric turbine near the bottom of the dam. Numerous mussels of different size classes were found, indicating the presence of an established, reproducing population.

TPWD is encouraging boaters and homeowners on Medina Lake and Lake Placid to keep an eye out for settled zebra mussels on shoreline rocks and structures or boats stored in the water and report any suspected organisms with photos to aquaticinvasives@tpwd.texas.gov. Zebra mussels grow to approximately 1-1.5 inches in length and have triangular, typically striped brown/tan shells. Unlike native mussels or non-native Asian clams, zebra mussels adhere strongly to hard surfaces.

"Although zebra mussels are now found in 31 Texas lakes, there are still many other lakes in the state that they haven't invaded. Boaters play a critical role in preventing them from spreading to new lakes. Before traveling from lake to lake, clean, drain and dry your boat and gear. Remove plants, mud and debris, drain all the water from the boat and gear, and then open up compartments once you get home and allow everything to dry completely," advises Brian Van Zee, TPWD Inland Fisheries Regional Director.

If you have stored your boat in the water at a lake with zebra mussels, it is likely infested with

zebra mussels and poses an extremely high risk for moving this invasive species to a new lake. Before moving your boat to another lake, call TPWD at (512) 389-4848 for guidance on decontamination. The transport of aquatic invasive species can result in legal trouble for boaters or transporters. Transporting prohibited invasive species in Texas is illegal and punishable with a fine of up to \$500 per violation. Boaters are also required to drain all water from their boat and onboard receptacles, including bait buckets, before leaving or approaching a body of fresh water.

A status map showing all lakes where zebra mussels have been found in Texas is online at tpwd.texas.gov/zebramussels. For more information on how to properly clean, drain and dry boats and equipment, visit the TPWD YouTube channel for a short instructional video. TPWD and partners monitor for zebra mussels in Texas lakes, but anyone who finds them in lakes where they haven't been found before should report them by emailing photos and location information to aquaticinvasives@tpwd.texas.gov to help identify new introductions. Anyone who spots them on boats, trailers or equipment that is being moved should immediately report the sighting to TPWD at (512) 389-4848.

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"Spring Patterns Have Moved Back!" *(Continued from Page 6)*

ily stained water and translucent colors like watermelon red for clearer water on sunny days. Big jigs will also play a roll on these points with the same color schemes as the C-rig. Graph the points before you make a cast and check for activity. If something shows up on the radar as my clients call it, drop a waypoint and start casting. Also, with cold fronts in mind, don't give up on the shallow fish entirely. You can back out to the first breakline and throw a Texas rig or a senko. Use the lightest line possible under the high skies to get the bites you are looking for. Once you get the bite, you can figure out how to get the

beast in the boat.

If you are headed out to Lake Fork in April 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 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/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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I'm pretty sure God is telling me to go catch a bass



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TPW Commission Approves *(Continued from Page 10)*

which are currently in the above regulation category, will also be added to the regulations for commercial harvest.

Current statewide length and bag limits for commercial harvest will remain at 14 inches and 25 fish [both species combined], and a five-fish bag limit will apply on all community fishing lakes and lying totally within a state park.

Changes were also adopted to standardize the descriptions for float dimensions for some passive gears as length and width rather than height and diameter. Also, inadvertently, the width of the float for minnow traps was

listed as 6 inches, and it should be 3 inches.

The changes to the 2021-22 Statewide Recreational and Commercial Fishing regulations take effect on September 1, 2021. All fishing regulations can be found in the Outdoor Annual on the

TPWD website.

The online version of the TPWD Outdoor Annual will not reflect any new changes until mid-August. More information regarding these amendments for the 2021-22 season can be viewed on the TPWD website.

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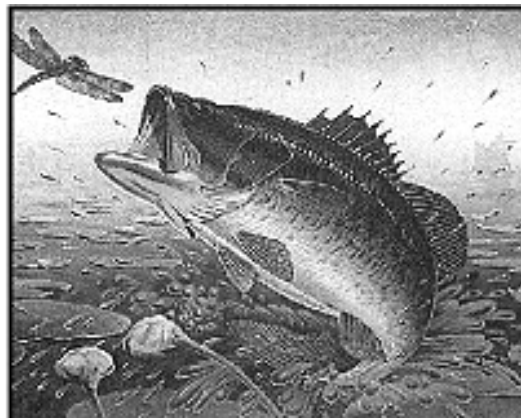
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Famous Women Word Find

There are several famous women's names hidden throughout the puzzle below. See how many you can find and circle.

- | | |
|---------|-----------|
| ADDAMS | JONES |
| BARTON | RIDE |
| CARSON | ROOSEVELT |
| CURIE | WALKER |
| EARHART | WOODHULL |
| HUERTA | |

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Game Warden Field Notes

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

--Outdoor Essentials-- A Bastrop County game warden attended a youth program hosted by a local church. The program is called, The Outdoor Zone, and the motto is "No Child Left Inside". This program encourages kids to spend more time outdoors and they meet monthly to learn about outdoor activities including hunting, fishing and camping. They focus on boys from single parent homes,

but any child is welcome to participate. This month's program consisted of four activities; how to use a compass, how to cook with a Dutch oven, building a fire, what a game warden is, and why they do what they do. They really enjoyed all the activities, however, learning about game wardens was voted their favorite activity. Some even mentioned that they would like to become a game warden. The Operation Game Thief trailer was a big hit and may have played a role in their voting.

--Good Samaritans--

A Marion County Game Wardens responded to Lake O the Pines regarding a capsized vessel. Several fishermen close to the incident rescued an 80-year-old male and his son and transported them to a boat ramp. EMS arrived on scene and then transported the older male to the hospital for observation.

--A Little Mud on the Tires-- A Polk County Game Warden received a call from dispatch regarding individuals loading up a deer. A Polk County deputy was in the area and assisted the war-

(Continued on Page 24)

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By Sue Hampton

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Here is a delicious, quick and healthy dish to prepare to enjoy with your entire family!

of your plan may be learning how to prepare a quick, healthy dish for your family.

Here's an example of a healthy dish that serves four and takes less than 30 minutes to prepare.

Red Snapper

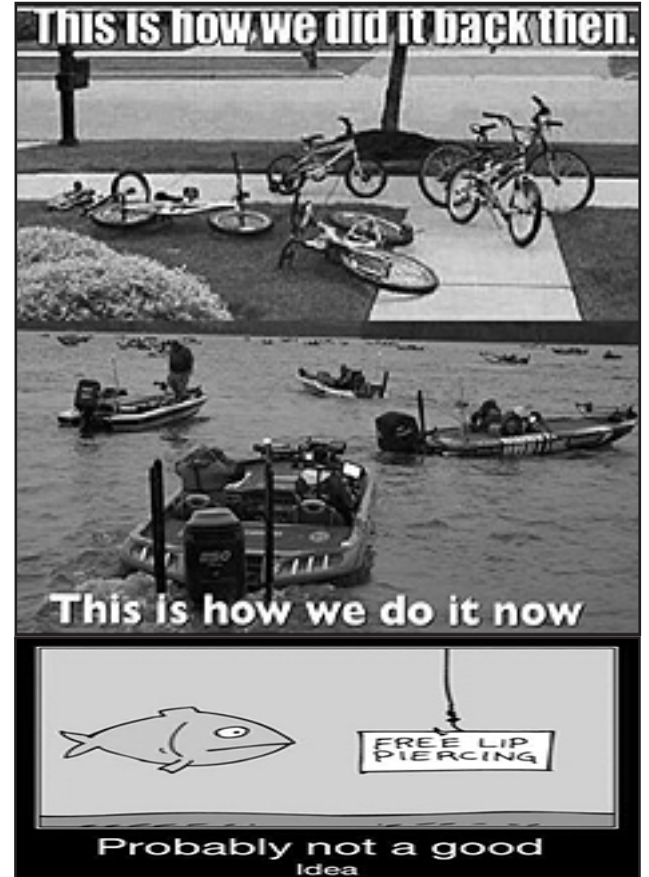
(This recipe also works well with chicken breast used in place of red snapper)

- 2 Tbsp. Olive oil
 - 1 medium onion, chopped
 - ½ cup red pepper, chopped
 - ½ cup carrots, cut into strips
 - 1 clove garlic, minced
 - ½ cup dry white wine*
 - ¾ pound (12 oz.) of red snapper fillet
 - 1 large tomato, chopped
 - 2 Tbsp. pitted ripe olives, chopped
 - 2 Tbsp. crumbled low-fat feta or low-fat ricotta cheese
- *Water or fat-free broth can be used in place of white wine.

Instructions:

In a large skillet, heat olive oil and add onion, red pepper, carrots, and garlic. Saute' for 10 minutes then add wine and bring to a boil. Push the vegetables to one side of the pan. Arrange fillets

in a single layer in center of skillet. Cover to cook for 5 minutes. Add tomato and olives. Top with cheese then cover and cook for 3 minutes or until fish is firm but moist. Transfer fish to a serving platter and add vegetables and pan juices. Serve fish on top of vegetables with brown rice. Enjoy!



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Game Warden Field Notes (Continued from Page 22)

den in patrolling the area based on the original call. An ATV drove by on a public roadway and the deputy initiated a traffic stop. The driver of the ATV fled, and a pursuit ensued. The ATV turned and went off-road on muddy terrain, so the warden followed the pursuit in four-wheel drive until the path ended and then gave pursuit on foot. The warden guided the deputy to where he expected the ATV to return. The deputy apprehended the subject and the ATV which was discovered to be stolen.

--In a Slough of Trouble-- A Trinity County Game Warden and a K9 Warden were investigating a slough in the national forest that was suspected to be baited with corn. The Wardens found fresh corn in the water and other evidence of baiting down a trail, including the tear-off top to a corn bag and spilled corn. The next day before daylight, wardens sat nearby listening for shots in the slough and not long after sunrise, hunters began shooting in the slough. The Wardens located two hunters who were approximately 20 yards from the corn in the water. After a short interview, the hunters admitted to hunting over bait and putting the corn out a few days before. Citations included place bait to attract, hunt over bait, possession of lead shot and some tagging violations for deer from earlier in the season. Five wood ducks were also seized

and civil restitution for each duck is pending. **--Nothing to Stand On--** An Orange County Game Warden was traveling along the Tony Housman Wildlife Management Area (WMA) when he observed a vehicle driving along the right-of-way in the construction zone that appeared to have a shotgun on the dashboard. The warden was able to exit the interstate at the state line and make his way back along the right-of-way to investigate. As he approached the vehicle, he observed a male subject carrying a shotgun coming from the woods, which is a closed area of the Tony Housman WMA. During the contact, the subject claimed that he was hunting hogs and was looking for a stand that his friend had erected next to the interstate. The warden found the stand erected on the WMA property within just a few feet of the interstate. The subject was issued citations for no annual public hunting permit and no hunting license. Two wardens followed up with the friend who had il-

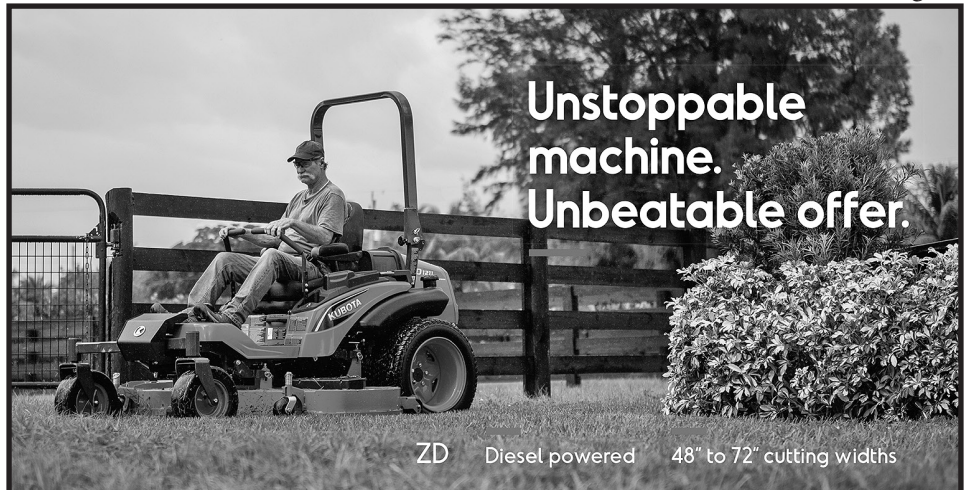
legally placed the stand in the WMA originally. That subject confessed to placing the stand in the closed area of the WMA and was issued a citation as well. Cases are pending.

--Check Please!-- A Gregg County Game Warden received a call from the White Oak PD regarding an illegal dumping complaint at a local restaurant. The restaurant owner reported numerous rancid bags of trash, accompanied by a decaying white-tailed doe carcass missing only its backstraps, piled around their business and dumpster. Information regarding the individual's identity was gathered and it matched an individual that the game warden was already investigating on unrelated hunting violations. The warden and local officers responded to the subject's residence where he and fellow tenants advised they had deemed the spoiled doe inedible via damages from a vehicle vs. deer incident. An impromptu necropsy suggested otherwise,

(Continued on Next Page)



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prompting a full confession of how the doe was shot out of season and allowed to waste. During that interview, an additional confession was also collected regarding the warden's original hunting investigation. That individual confirmed the illegal harvest of two other bucks found with antlers entangled from sparring along a late-night roadway. Exhausted and struggling to flee danger, both deer were fatally stabbed by the individual. Civil restitution and multiple subjects were charged. Charges included: Hunt/Possess Deer from Public Roadway, Untagged Deer, Illegal Means and Methods, Waste of Game, Hunt During Closed Season, Exceed Bag Limit, No Archery Stamp, and No Harvest Log. Additional charges are pending investigation.

--Mystery Machine-- A Harris county Game Warden received a call about an abandoned boat on the San Jacinto River. When the warden reached the stripped vessel, he ran the HIN to find the owner's information. The owner, an individual in Alvin, TX, had no idea that his boat was missing. He had given the boat to his son, who kept it in a local storage unit. When the son was notified, he was surprised to find the boat was not located in its stall. The son then began to search social media platforms to look for the stolen boat's motors, electronics and

miscellaneous items. The warden worked with a local deputy to have the stolen boat entered into the Boat Registration Information and Titling System. The warden then received a call from the son, exclaiming that he had found the two 225 horsepower Yamaha motors for sale on Facebook Marketplace. The warden then called a Game Warden Sergeant and a Harris County Warden to assist in the identification and location of the two motors advertised for sale. The Wardens arrived at the location and identified the stolen motors and a center console from the "abandoned" boat. Thanks to the warden's quick thinking and investigation, he was able to return the recovered stolen items to the original owner in one afternoon. Cases are pending.

--Called Out-- A Travis County Warden received a call from a processor reporting a man with a deer intact (not gutted) and most likely spoiled. The individual stated to the processor, "I guess I'll go dump this then". The warden was unable to find a local address for the suspect but was able to call him while he was returning to Houston. The individual said his friend shot an eight-point buck the previous afternoon. The warden contacted the landowner, who shot the deer, and informed him he faced a waste of game charge for leaving the "ungutted" buck for over

24 hours in temperatures exceeding 70 degrees. The warden also made the landowner aware that the general season ended two weeks prior and the buck was taken illegally. The violator then responded with an expletive-laden statement indicating his guilt. The warden seized the antlers from a taxidermist. Charges and civil restitution pending.



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Apr. 9-10 ~ Patriot Sporting Challenge
Links at Land's End

Apr. 10 ~ Media Bass Teams
Minnow Bucket

Apr. 17 ~ JC Outdoors Teams
Minnow Bucket

Apr. 17 ~ Lake Fork Classic
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Apr. 25 ~ JC Outdoors Solo
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May

May 1 ~ Jake Wilson Memorial
Minnow Bucket

May 1 ~ Bass on the Fly
Lake Fork Marina

May 2 ~ JC Outdoors Solo
Minnow Bucket

May 8 ~ Media Bass Teams
Minnow Bucket

May 14,15,16 ~ Legend of Lake Fork
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May 22 ~ JC Outdoors Teams
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May 29 ~ Sartin Marine Open
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June 5 ~ Kid Fish
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June 6 ~ JC Outdoors Solo
Minnow Bucket

June 19 ~ Media Bass Teams
Minnow Bucket



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