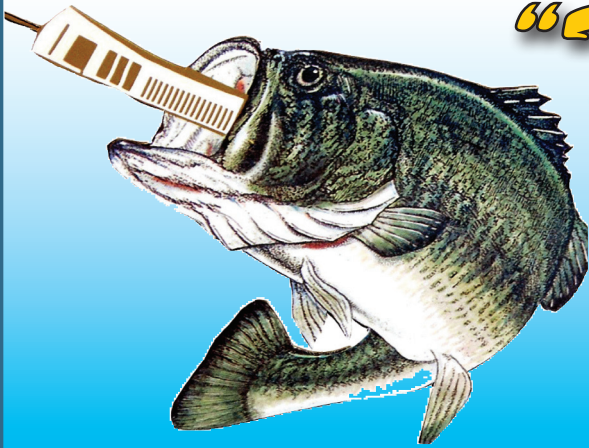


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1 Section

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Vol. 22

August, 2021

No. 264



Jackson Wallace, 14 years old from Dallas caught his personal best over the slot fishing with guide Whitt Smith in July. C.P.R.



Kylie Small was fishing Lake Fork in July with guide David Ozio when she caught this nice bass. Weight Unavailable. C.P.R.

Invasive Silver Carp Found in Texas Waters; Anglers Urged to Prevent Bait Bucket Transfers

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) received a report in late June that an invasive silver carp had been spotted in Chocotaw Creek, a Texas tributary of the Red River approximately 15 miles downstream from Lake Texoma. A bow angler,

Stephen Banaszak, first reported the finding and two specimens were provided to TPWD and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) who confirmed they were silver carp.

"These are the first reports of silver carp from Texas waters, although

they have previously been found in other areas of the Red River including just downstream from Lake Texoma in Oklahoma waters in 2019," said Dan Bennett, TPWD fisheries management biologist.

(See Invasive Silver....
Continued on Page 4)



Silver carp are easily identified by the low-set eyes below the mouth and represent an extreme danger to the ecosystems in our Texas lakes. If any anglers should come across one report to TPW immediately.



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"Characteristic Differences Between Bubbas and Bubbettes!"

By Don Hampton

Besides the most obvious of differences between a Bubba and a Bubbette (male & female) the characteristics of each differ immensely.

One for instance is nicknames bestowed upon each other.

When the Bubbettes go out for lunch, if it is Laura, Suzanne, Debra and Rose, they will call each other Laura, Suzanne, Debra, and Rose. If Joe Bob, Leroy, Billy Bob and Beaudreaux go out for the night, they will affectionately refer to each other as Fat Boy, Godzilla, Peanut Head and Fish Brains.

When eating out and the waitress brings the bill, Bubbas will each throw in \$20, even though it's only for \$22.50. None of them will have anything smaller, and none will actually admit they want change back. When the Bubbettes get their bill, out come the pocket calculators.

When money is an issue, Bubba will pay \$2 for a \$1 item he wants. Bubbette will pay \$1 for a \$2 item she doesn't want.

In Bubba's bathroom he will have six items. A toothbrush, shaving cream, razor,

a bar of soap, a comb and a towel from the Holiday Inn. The average number of items in Bubbette's bathroom is 337. Bubba would not be able to identify most of these items.

In an argument, Bubbettes always have the last word. Anything Bubba says after that is the beginning of a new argument. The best thing for a Bubba to do in an argument is keep his mouth shut and just nod at whatever Bubbette says.

As far as thinking about the future, Bubbettes worry about the future until they find a husband. Bubba never worries about the future until he gets a wife.

When it comes to holy state of matrimony, Bubbette marries a man expecting he will change, but he doesn't. Bubba marries a woman thinking she will never change, but she does and keeps trying to change him.

A successful Bubba is one that makes more money than his Bubbette can spend. A successful Bubbette is one who can find such a Bubba.

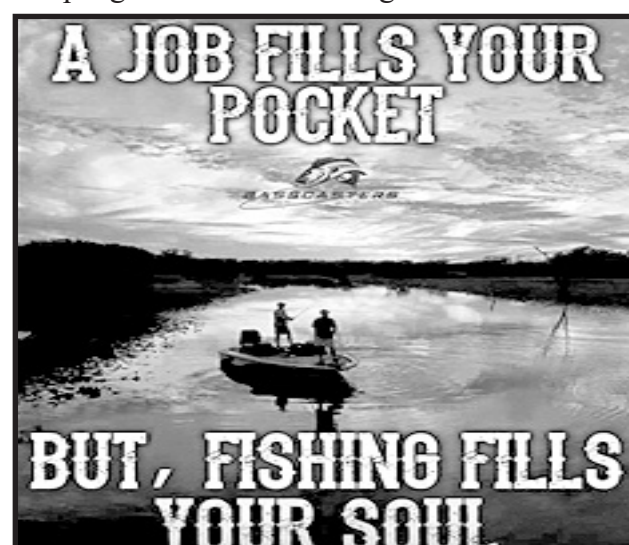
Bubba will dress up for two occasions, funerals and weddings. Bubbette will dress up to go shopping, water the plants, empty the garbage, answer the phone, read a

book, or get the mail.

As far as Bubba and Bubbette's offspring, Bubbette knows all about her children. She knows about dentist appointments and romances, best friends and favorite foods and secret fears, hopes and dreams. Bubba is vaguely aware of some short people living in the same house.

So now you know the characteristic differences between Bubba and Bubbette.

In closing, if you are a Bubba married to Bubbette, forget your mistakes. There's no sense in two people remembering and harping on the same thing.



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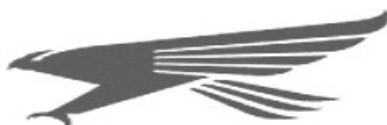
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Invasive Silver Carp *(Continued from Page 1)*

"Invasive carp pose a significant risk to Lake Texoma's ecosystem and boaters and there is adequate flow and upstream river area for them to become established and reproduce in the lake if introduced."

Previously, bighead carp, another closely related invasive species, had been documented in the Red River and tributaries downstream of Lake Texoma. In addition, bighead carp were documented in the Sulphur River downstream of Lake Wright Patman and Big Cypress Bayou downstream of Lake O' the Pines. To prevent the spread of these invasive species, which look much like shad when

small, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission passed regulations making it illegal to transport any live non-game fish from these water bodies. Anglers are urged to follow these rules to prevent introducing these species to other water bodies when using them as bait.

"These invasive carp are not native to the U.S. but have been introduced and become established and problematic in numerous states, primarily in the Mississippi River Basin. Both of these invasive carp species are filter feeders and have the potential to cause significant changes in native fish populations by competing with

other filter feeding fish species such as shad and buffalo, and even larval sportfish that also rely on plankton as a food source in their first couple of months," said Monica McGarrity, TPWD Senior Scientist for Aquatic Invasive Species. "Silver carp can also pose a risk to humans, as they can jump up to 10 feet out of the water when startled by the sounds of watercraft, often jumping into boats, sometimes injuring boaters. When present in large numbers, jumping silver carp can be a significant hazard."

Young silver and bighead carp are similar in appearance to shad

(Continued on Next Page)



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but can be identified by their low-set eyes—shad's eyes are located near the top of their heads—and the lack of a long, whip-like segment on the dorsal fin. Silver and bighead carp are also similar in appearance to each other, but silver carp have silver, rather than gray, bodies and a 'keel' or ridge that runs the length of the belly from the anal fin all the way to the throat, whereas the keel on bighead carp stops at the pelvic fin. Both species can grow quite large, with silver carp reaching approximately 3 feet in length and nearly 60 pounds and bighead carp reaching up to 4 and a half feet in length and nearly 90 pounds. Both species are easily confused with shad

or even minnows when small.

TPWD, in collaboration with the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation, Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, and USFWS, is currently working with researchers at Texas Tech University and Auburn University to conduct research on invasive carp. The project will assess the population status and distribution of bighead carp and silver carp across the Red River Basin, including the Red River downstream of Lake Texoma and the Sulphur River, a major Red River tributary, downstream of Lake Wright Patman. The project will also collect baseline data on native fish populations that may be negatively

impacted by the invasive carp.

Anyone who catches either silver or bighead carp in Texas waters is asked to report the sighting with location information and photos to AquaticInvasives@tpwd.texas.gov. Silver and bighead carp are prohibited exotic species in Texas and must be killed upon possession by beheading, gutting, gill-cutting or other means or placed on ice. Neither species can be possessed live.

Regulations for the possession and transport of exotic aquatic species can be viewed in the Outdoor Annual.

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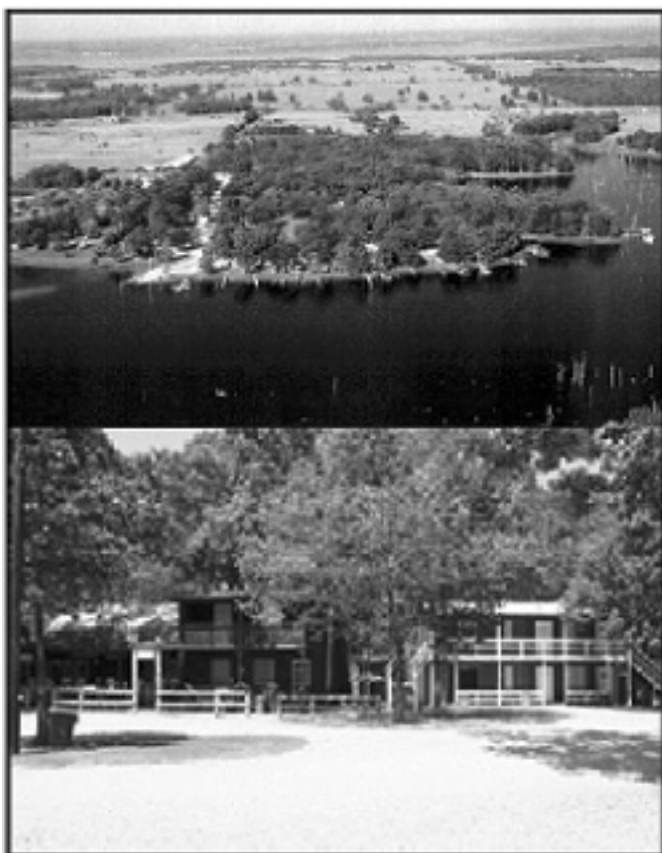
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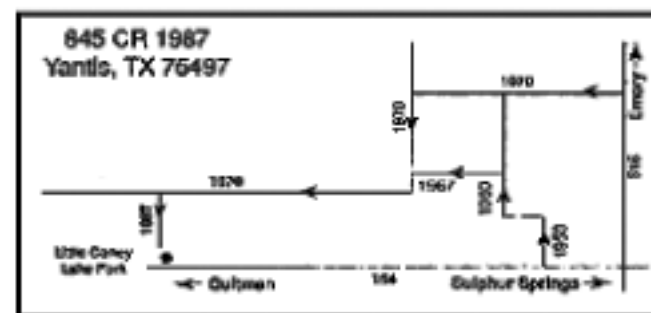
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"Lake Fork in the Recovery Mode!"

By David Ozio

"Fork is somewhat in recovery mode from what most surmise as an outrageous extended winter stretch. Many of us think the lake is still running late compared to conditions in years past. Nonetheless, fishing is starting to improve immensely and bass are starting to settle into their normal warm water lair and chase strategies change greatly compared to early summer when fish were more grouped up. It's incredible the beating this lake endures and still produces on a regular basis.

Lake Fork is currently about five inches under pool level and water clarity is incredibly good across the expanse of the impoundment. Surface temps have been ranging

from 85-88 degrees recently and these extremes have recently delegated where the bass have been holding with regard to structure. Shallow water temps have been much higher based upon lake location. Saw 92.5 just the other day on the main lake after several days of zero wind. Even with the surface temps in the upper range, bass seem to be holding on the bottom relating to points, pond dams, ridges, roadbeds and hard structures. As of this writing I have been catching bass shallow early and then fading back to the 20-26ft range on the same structures to tangle with the bruisers. Targeting these fish is the directive and your electronics will be the tool to getting the job done. I suspect as we roll into August the thermocline will rise up in the water column causing the bass to suspend. With the water temps being this warm at the moment, I really could see this happening at any time. Break lines have been the key to date as the big green fish just refuse to move up onto the tops of the humps and ridges. Could it happen in August, stay tuned.

Morning and late evening bass are no huge challenge as they will hit top water baits along with the squarebill crankbaits. Shad colors are always recommended and focus these efforts on main lake points. This action will be short lived as the bite dissipates as the sun starts to peek over the tree lines. This is when you shift gears and tie on a deeper diving crankbait and back out on these points



and focus on the 8-15ft depth range. Same colors apply during this time of the year and covering water will be the ticket to success. Once mid morning is upon you, this will be the time to break out the Carolina and Texas rigs to probe the 20-26ft depths using any plastic of your choice. Big worms usually will get the job done and I favor any version of red during the summer months. Redbug is hard to beat especially if you see the bass on the screen and decide to tackle them using a drop shot. I opt for 12lb line on the drop shot in this situation and use a 3/8 ounce weight on calm days, 1/2 ounce weight on the windy outings. If you are strictly after the biggest fish in any school, break out the one ounce football jig with

(See Lake Fork.....

Continued on Page 20)

Fish Friendly

Practice C.P.R.

If you would like

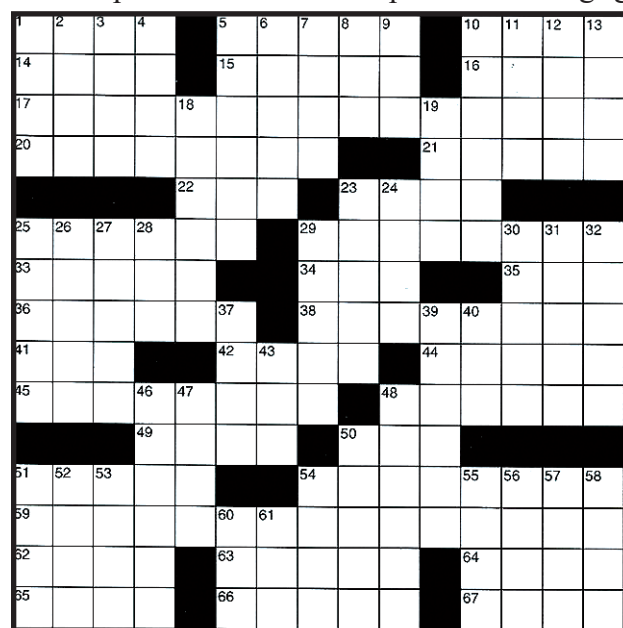
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CLUES ACROSS

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| 1. Cape near Lisbon | 38. Milled wheat product used in pasta |
| 5. Cloth | 41. Salesperson (informal) |
| 10. Ring | 42. Used to have (Scottish) |
| 14. Meet, in a way | 44. Rajah's wife (var.) |
| 15. Louse | 45. Military installations |
| 16. ____ Blyton, children's author | 48. Features |
| 17. Leave ____ (make every effort) | 49. Fair |
| 20. Supporters, in a way | 50. Bodily cavity |
| 21. Fills up | 51. Legal right |
| 22. Belonging to a thing | 54. Endeavors |
| 23. Founder of Manichaeism | 59. Western vacation site |
| 25. Dining-room attendant | 62. Celery (Spanish) |
| 29. Underground passage | 63. Type genus of the Phocidae |
| 33. Purgatives | 64. Advise |
| 34. Word element meaning "nitrogen" | 65. Gorilla |
| 35. Golf score | 66. Valuable pelts |
| 36. Armored, in a way | 67. Deceive (slang) |

CLUES DOWN

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Monetary unit of South Africa | 30. State clearly |
| 2. Double-reed instrument | 31. Edouard ____, French painter |
| 3. Point | 32. Hillsides |
| 4. Tip of Aleutian Islands | 37. Tropical woody herb |
| 5. Mental health | 39. Prophet |
| 6. Fencing swords | 40. Sealing wax |
| 7. Sumac genus | 43. Brew |
| 8. John Barleycorn | 46. Concluding speech |
| 9. Sunup in New York (abbr.) | 47. European defense organization |
| 10. Courageous | 48. Creatures, in general |
| 11. "The King and I" heroine | 50. Protective garment |
| 12. Fibbed | 51. Borneo people |
| 13. ____ and ends | 52. Take back (informal) |
| 18. Serving no useful purpose | 53. City in Iowa |
| 19. Arm bone | 54. British school |
| 23. Stupefied | 55. Constellation |
| 24. Carbon or hydrogen | 56. Small lake |
| 25. Iraqi seaport | 57. Therefore |
| 26. Lesion | 58. Kitty-cornered |
| 27. Cleanses | 60. Words per minute |
| 28. Sound unit | 61. ____ite, Muslim |
| 29. Containers | |

Answers on Page 21

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Six Tips to Beat the Heat

Last year, as temperatures soared into the triple digits in Texas, staff at 39 Texas State Parks handled 132 heat-related illnesses in humans and pets. Now that the summer has officially begun and temperatures are steadily climbing, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department is sharing their top six heat hacks for staying safe in the outdoors.

Here are the top six heat hacks recommended for park visitors:

Hydrate- It's important to drink at least 16 ounces of water every hour in the heat to re-

plenish your body and prevent dehydration. Don't forget to bring enough for your four-legged family members too.

Block the Rays- Apply a generous amount of sunscreen or sunblock before heading outdoors. Be sure to re-apply every couple of hours, and after swimming or sweating.

Dress Smart- Wear light, loose-fitting, breathable clothing; a hat, correct shoes, sunscreen and wet bandanas to keep you cool while in the sun. For pets, protect paws against blistering by hitting the trails dur-

ing cooler times of the day when the ground isn't hot or by putting booties on pets to help shield paws from the hot ground. Touch the pavement or ground with the back of your hand. If you cannot hold it there for five seconds, the surface is too hot for your dog's paws.

Stay Salty- Food helps keep up energy and replace salt lost from sweating. Eating snacks such as jerky, granola, trail mix, tuna and dried fruit is a fantastic way to nourish your body while on the trails.

Buddy System- Two

brains are better than one. It's beneficial to have someone with you in hot conditions so you can look after each other on the trail. With high temperatures hitting Texas, heat-related illnesses are common and having a friend around to help recognize the ear-

ly symptoms can save you from getting sick.

Plan Ahead- Study the map and have it with you. Average hikers move at 2 miles per hour, so allow yourself plenty of time to avoid hiking in the heat of the day. Make sure to rest in a cool or shaded area to recover from

the heat if necessary. It is also a good idea to let someone know your plan before you hit the trails and what time you should be back. That way, if you become lost, people know where to look.

For more information about heat safety, visit the TPWD website.

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"The Moon Report"

"Fork's Summertime Crappie and Bream"

By Terri Moon

It finally set in – those 100 degree days! The afternoons are way too hot for me – but, the mornings are very do-able! In fact, surprisingly pleasant!

The bite has been best around mid-morning. They are gradually moving deeper and this week they are biting 16-20 ft. in 20-30 ft. of water. I'm starting to see a thermocline set in at about 20 ft. It's been a very light bite.

You need to really watch your line or you're going to miss a lot of bites! It can be as subtle as a line twitch or if it goes slack, you need to instantly react. Stay in contact with your bait because loose line will lose fish! The crappie haven't been on a feeding frenzy so you really have to optimize every opportunity. The biggest mistake I see people make is once they set the hook, they will drop their rod tip leaving slack line and by the time they catch up to their bait, the fish is gone. So keep that rod tip up and the line tight! A slow motion – no motion – presentation is working best for us right now. So, try real hard not to over-work your bait.

The colors working for us are Monkey Milk, Blue Ice, also Threadfin Shad or Caddo Morning. It just depends on the water clarity in the area



we're fishing and the brightness of the time of day.

The crappie have been in and out of the bridges and showing up on main lake points, humps and creek channel bends. Look for areas with drop-offs with access to shallower water. Look for balls of baitfish with your graph. This will give you an indication on how deep to fish.

Now as far as the bream fishing, it's been fun! I have to admit I've been sneaking out there on my days off just to catch "me" some! These are hands down MY favorite fish to catch and eat! It's really been a "hoot" watching the kids this month reel in these hard fighting bream! It's so cute to watch them make memories they'll remember for a lifetime!

We're finding them in 1-5 ft. around grasslines and willows. Then after the new and full moon times, they will back off in 5-15 ft. in that same general

area. Nightcrawlers or crickets on a slip bobber or tightlined will work. I also keep a jar of Berkley's Gulp 1" minnows in the boat in case I run across some nice bream in a brush pile!

Wish you all the best out there. Stay hydrated, plenty of sun block and a bigger hat and enjoy the summer!

Before I close, I have to send a "HUGE" thank you to Brian Sartin for always being there for me when my trolling motor quits me! He has saved the day for me so many times and just want him to know how much all of us guides appreciate him!

Also sending thoughts and prayers to all who are going through tough events in their lives and especially to Mama Nova and my daughter Becky who are both having surgery this month. Wishing you all many blessings!

Fish Friendly



Ryan Ellis from New Braunsfels caught this Lake Fork hawg fishing with guide Whitt Smith. C.P.R.



Scott Wilson caught this nice Lake Fork bass on a frog while fishing with guide Whitt Smith. C.P.R.



Karl Schorr from California caught this nice Lake Fork lunker fishing with guide Whitt Smith on July 20th. C.P.R.



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Texas Game Wardens Wrap up Busy July 4th Weekend Boating Safety Efforts

Thousands of Texans and out-of-state visitors headed to Texas lakes, rivers and coastal bays to celebrate the Independence Day weekend. Texas Game Wardens were out in force to ensure everyone stayed safe on the water.

"Texas Game Wardens conducted safety checks on more than 12,220 vessels statewide between Friday and Sunday over the Fourth of July weekend," said Cody Jones, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's (TPWD) Assistant Commander for Marine Enforcement. "Our game wardens were present across Texas waterways doing their absolute best to help holiday waterway visitors have a responsible weekend, enabling many safe returns home and enjoyable holiday memories."

In addition to issuing 1,474 citations and 1,797 warnings for various boating safety law violations, wardens arrested 42 individuals for Boating While Intoxicated (BWI) and filed eight other charges for Driving While Intoxicated (DWI). Additionally, another 33 people were arrested for various other charges.

Texas Game Wardens also conducted multiple search and rescues over the holiday weekend. They also assisted with 18 reportable boating

accidents at several Texas lakes and rivers including: Nasworthy, Bob Sandlin, Grapevine, Richland Chambers, Canyon Lake, Possum Kingdom, McQueeny Granbury, Corpus Christi, Lewisville, Ray Roberts, Lake Fork Ray Hubbard, Neches River, Lake Austin, Lake Travis (2) and Lake Belton.

Game wardens were involved statewide with numerous waterway assists or other incidents.

In one incident in Bexar County, game wardens rescued a boat that was taking on water and transported the boaters to safety on Braunig Lake.

In another incident on Falcon Lake off the Rio Grande River, Game Wardens attempted to conduct a safety inspection on a white skeeter vessel. The vessel was taken to a boat ramp on suspicion of BWI after a brief pursuit. An inspection of the vessel revealed more than 200 pounds of illegal narcotics in the vessel's storage compartments.

In Travis County, the TPWD dive team assisted with locating an open-water fatality at Lake Travis. Four game warden vessels, a game warden helicopter and 10 game wardens assisted in the initial response. Game wardens also assisted with a high-water rescue.

while working these tragic events is second to none – and is never the easiest part of the job," said Cody Jones, TPWD Assistant Commander for Marine Enforcement. "We keep the families who have suffered in our thoughts and prayers."

On more than one occasion, game wardens were involved in search and rescue activities, responded to numerous boating accidents, and engaged in rescues in which life jackets were not being worn.

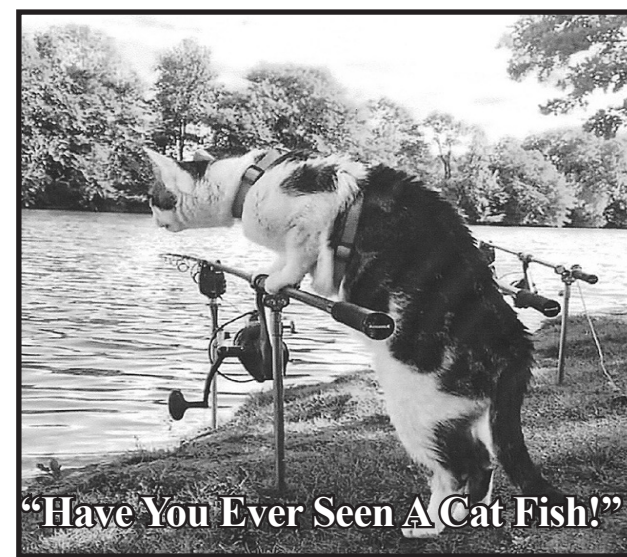
In Austin on Lady Bird Lake, TPWD Boater Education Manager Kimberly Sorensen and City of Austin Lake Patrol made contact with 60 people without proper life jackets on their canoes, kayaks or stand up paddleboards. Texas Water Safety Act states that everyone on board a boat must have a life jacket that is easily accessible and children 12 and under must wear a jacket while the boat is underway or drifting on the water.

"Many accidents and fatalities could be avoided by taking a boater education course and using life jackets," said Kimberly Sorensen, TPWD Boater Education manager.

In addition to the boating incidents over the Fourth of July weekend, Texas Game Wardens statewide juggled numerous other non-boating related incidents, including illicit drug movement, illicit drug possession and use, felony and parole violation arrests, response to shootings, domestic violence, illegal shooting of wildlife incidents, jeep rollovers, helping lost children locate parents, among others.

Texas Game Wardens also dealt with two boating fatalities and seven open water fatalities on Texas waterways over the Independence Day weekend. The two boating-related fatalities occurred on Lake Lewisville. Open-water fatality locations included the Brazos River, Lake Amon G Carter, Lake Travis, North Bosque River, Joe Pool, the Gulf of Mexico (Matagorda Beach) and the Comal River.

"The dedicated efforts of the game wardens



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Bipartisan Wildlife Proposal Would Enhance Fish and Wildlife, Add Jobs, and Grow Businesses in Texas

During the pandemic, Texans headed back to nature in record numbers, with more people visiting state parks, hunting, fishing, and boating than ever before. A new congressional proposal aims to tap that exploding interest by investing more than \$50 million per year in Texas for wildlife recovery and related public education and recreation, a move expected to boost the state's already booming nature-based economy into overdrive.

The bipartisan Recovering America's Wildlife Act, H.R.2773, would provide \$1.4 billion to state and tribal wildlife conservation initiatives to support at-risk wildlife populations and their habitats. The funding would come from existing revenues

with no new taxes.

If passed, this legislation would send grant funds flowing across Texas to nonprofit organizations, nature centers, universities, landowners, and many others for projects to conserve vulnerable wildlife before they become endangered. Species like the much-loved Texas horned lizard, our state fish the Guadalupe bass, and many songbirds and coastal birds are among the many wildlife that would benefit. This funding will also help recover species that are already endangered, such as sea turtles and the whooping crane. The additional resources are urgently needed to aid fish and wildlife populations under increasing pressure from habitat

loss, invasive species, emerging diseases, and extreme weather events in Texas and throughout the country.

According to the Outdoor Industry Association, the Texas outdoor recreation economy contributes to 327,000 jobs, generates \$14.4 billion in salaries and wages per year, and

\$3.5 billion in state and local tax revenue. For example, nature tourism is huge in Texas, and people travel from all over the world to see iconic landscapes and catch a glimpse of unique wildlife. Around 4.4 million wildlife watchers in Texas generate \$1.82 billion in retail sales and support 146,000 jobs. Research surveys conducted in 2011 and 2013 found that about 2.2 million people fish in Texas annually, and their spending amounts to \$2.01 billion in retail sales and contributes to 29,800 jobs.

"The litany of ways natural resources bolster the Texas economy and improve our quality of life is seemingly endless," said Carter Smith, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department executive director. "Studies show property values can increase up to 20 percent when adjacent to natural areas. Natural buffers make coasts and communities more resilient to intense storms and flood events, thereby protecting our citizens and saving billions of dollars in recovery costs. Well-managed and restored habitats provide clean water, clean air, and healthy rivers, rangelands, and bays and estuaries that benefit both wildlife and people's enjoyment of the outdoors. While it would do much to protect fish and wildlife that need it most, the Re-

(Continued on Next Page)

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covering America's Wildlife Act would also mean a long-term investment in the public health and well-being of all Texans, as well as stewardship of our home ground."

Unfortunately, many fish and wildlife species on which the outdoor recreation industry depends are declining. For example, in a 2019 study that gained worldwide attention, researchers estimated that North America has lost close to three billion breeding birds since 1970. Many of the bird groups mentioned in the report—such as migratory songbirds and grassland birds—depend on Texas natural areas, working lands, coastal habitat, and city spaces—either during migration, or as year-round residents. This loss of birds is a blow to our natural heritage, the enjoyment of future generations, and critical ecosystem services such as flood control, pest control, and pollination.

Birds are also essential to our vibrant nature tourism economy. There are 2.2 million birders in Texas, and people "flock" from all over the world to bird across the state. In the Lower Rio Grande Valley—a popular birding hot-spot—a 2011 study from Texas A&M estimates the direct economic contribution from nature tourism led to a total county-level economic output of \$463 million and 6,613 full and part time jobs annually. Passage of H.R. 2773 would provide the funding needed to

greatly expand habitat restoration on public and private lands, which in turn will support bird life and critical nesting habitat and help reverse course for declining bird species. Bird-watching infrastructure could also be boosted through new wildlife-viewing platforms and nature trails. RAWA funding could expand marketing and education for programs like Bird City Texas and the Great Texas Wildlife Trails, to further mitigate some of the threats that birds face in urban areas, such as window collisions. It would also benefit more local communities through bird tourism.

National estimates indicate that passage of Recovering America's Wildlife Act would create 23,800 to 33,600 jobs and add \$3.36 billion of economic output, leading to a net positive gain of \$1.96 billion annually to the U.S. GDP. In Texas cities and counties large and small, the funding would fuel natural investments in things like coastal artificial reefs, oyster bed restoration, habitat enhancement for clean air and water, urban ecology centers, and getting Texas children outside. It would create thousands of new "shovel-ready" jobs for wildlife management, tree planting, river restoration, and outdoor recreation projects and reap benefits tenfold.


To cite one more example, the conservation of Guadalupe bass—our state fish of Texas—is

about helping the entire river systems where the fish lives, including the people who live along its banks, and all those who love to come swim, wade, fish, float or paddle. On the South Llano, the Guadalupe bass is the centerpiece of a broad effort involving local communities, riverside landowners, nonprofits and universities, all focused on improving the health of the entire watershed. Fisheries biologists say, if RAWA passes, we could restore thousands of acres of spring, stream and river habitats and directly benefit water quality for human use while helping Guadalupe bass and many other aquatic creatures. Recovering America's Wildlife Act funds may also be used to create more paddling trails to give kayakers and canoers safe places to access rivers including signs and educational kiosks sharing information about the Guadalupe bass and other aquatic life.

The Recovering America's Wildlife Act is strongly supported by the Texas Alliance for America's Fish and Wildlife, a statewide coalition of more than 165 diverse organizations and businesses. See the alliance website for information about this historic legislation on how to help.

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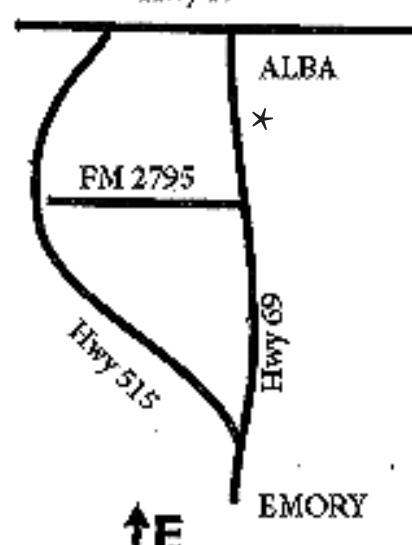
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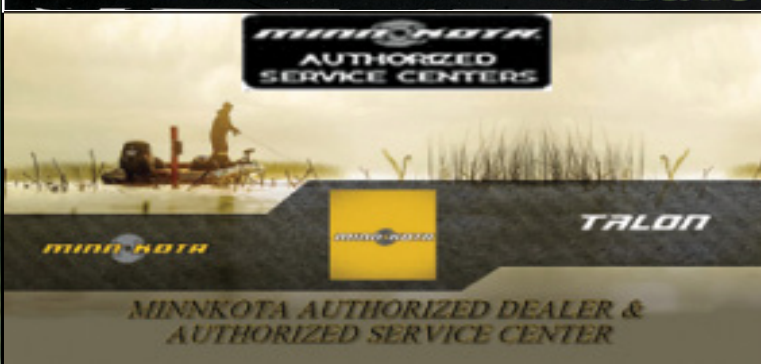
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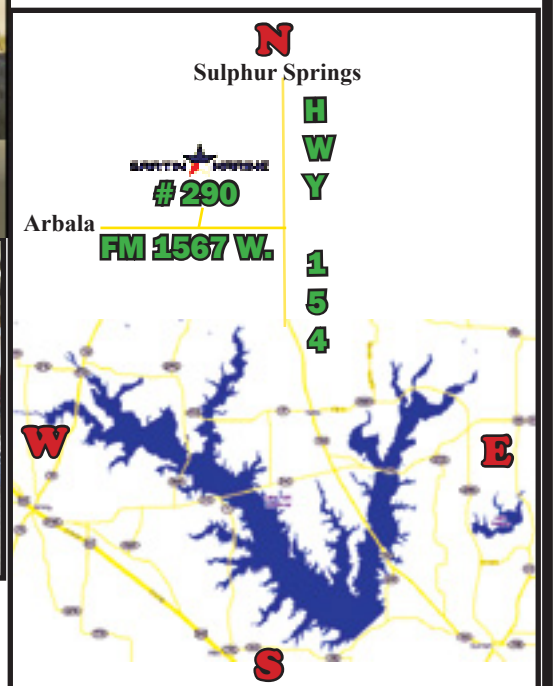
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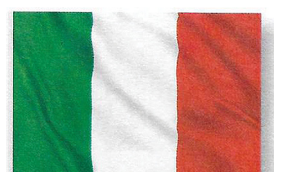
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Biologists Remind the Public Not to Touch Wildlife

With more people enjoying the outdoors this spring season, you may start to notice more wildlife in your backyard, neighborhood or surrounding areas. Species including birds, deer and snakes are active this time of year and their young often stray or appear to be abandoned. Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) experts caution against lending a helping hand.

Animals that are most often picked up by well-meaning citizens are baby birds and deer fawns. However, it is important to realize that many such human-animal encounters are unnecessary and can even be detrimental to the wildlife concerned.

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. As fawns mature, they shed these coats for a more adult color which causes them to catch the eye. A doe may leave her fawn for hours at a time while she is browsing for food. During that time people may spot a fawn lying alone in tall grass or in a brushy area. Many people interfere with the fawn 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 to make that determination. Staying too close may deter the mother from returning. Interfering too soon may do more harm than good.

The same principals apply 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, TPWD encourages citizens to contact a permitted wildlife rehabilitator. Please note that TPWD staff advise the public not to handle or attempt to transport injured, sick or orphaned wildlife. Learn more about what to do upon encountering orphaned or injured wildlife, and how to contact rehabilitators on the TPWD Wildlife Division website.



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*For Scheduling or More Info Contact: Don Hampton, Founder & Program Director
visit our website: www.wishtofishfoundation.com*



"Knowing What To Look For!"

By Michael McFarland

Welcome to Lake Fork the bass capital of USA and once again named the number one bass lake in the nation by BASSMASTER Association 2021.

Its August and the daily temperatures are reaching their highest points of the year. The humidity is also high which can make it feel even hotter. Many fishermen call the month of August the dog days of summer and choose not to fish until things cool down later in the year. So with that being said, should you consider going fishing you ask?

Well let me just say this, yes it may be hot outside but so is the summertime bass fishing in northeast Texas and I mean on fire hot!

At Lake Fork you might find an offshore bite with schooling big bass being caught on jigs and plastic worms from deep summertime holes and deep submerged trees that last all day. Small swimbait and top water bite has been fair during early morning and late evening hours for offshore schooling bass also around shallow points with vegetation. Pay close attention and watch for boiling surface activity.

Popping style baits and buzzbaits have been most effective.

joke and can cost you your life!

If you keep these things in mind, I think you will be pleasantly surprised to find better than average bass fishing at Lake Fork during August.



Michael McFarland
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My best recommendation is to fish shallow early and late with small swimbaits and topwaters. Use jigs and plastic worms in the deeper water as the sun begins to rise. Drink lots of water, and don't stay in one place too long. Moving around will cool you down and help keep you going. Most of all be very cautious of over heating. Heat stroke is no

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Great Texas Birding Classic Exceeds \$1 Million in Grant Awards

At the close of the biggest, longest, wild-est birdwatching tournament in the country, organizers of the Great Texas Birding Classic (GTBC) announced a huge philanthropic milestone. Thanks to Texans who have been forming teams for a quarter-century to watch and listen for as many species of birds as possible, funds raised for conservation projects has topped \$1 million.

"As the tournament continues to grow, we look forward to donating even more towards habitat conservation projects in Texas," said Shelly Plante, Texas

Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) Nature Tourism Manager. "It's thrilling to see so many families, kids and friends connect with nature through the event."

This year, team registrations and sponsorships to the monthlong, 191-team tournament made it possible for the GTBC to award \$44,000 in conservation grants to on-the-ground habitat acquisition, restoration and enhancement projects throughout the state.

The following is a list of the conservation grants awarded throughout the state: \$10,000 Dispersed

Flock Statewide Big Day Conservation Grant

Socially Distanced Fly-catchers, sponsored by Deep South Marine

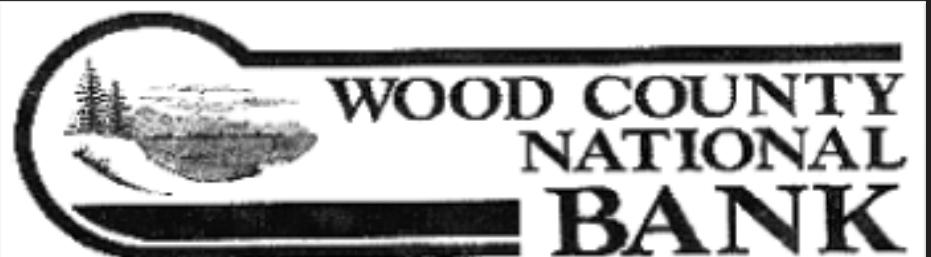
Project: Davis Mountains Preserve Wildlife Viewing Area and Water Feature – Submitted by The Nature Conservancy, Texas Chapter

Location: Davis Mountain Preserve, Jeff Davis County

\$5,000 Toyota Conservation Grant for State Parks – Gawking Geese

\$1,000 Prairies and Pineywoods West Big Sit! Conservation Grant – Brazos Banditry, sponsored by

(Continued on Next Page)



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Project: Lake Somerville ADA Accessible Bird Blind – Submitted by Rio Brazos Audubon Society

Location: Lake Somerville State Park, Burleson/Lee Counties

\$5,000 Sunrise to Noon Conservation Grant – Swarovski A.M. Kestrels, sponsored by Swarovski Optik North America

\$1,000 Central Texas Coast Big Sit! Conservation Grant – Port Aransas Spoonbills, sponsored by Port Aransas/Mustang Island Chamber of Commerce and Tourism Bureau

Project: Nature Preserve at Charlie's Pasture (Enhancing Clay's Hill Habitat) – Submitted by City of Port Aransas Nature Preserve

Location: Nature Preserve at Charlie's Pasture, Port Aransas

\$5,000 Intact Flock Heart of Texas East Big Day Conservation Grant – Parking Lot Birders

Project: Wildlife Viewing Station and Interpretive Trail at Wildwood Park – Submitted by Keep Nolanville Beautiful

Location: Nolanville, Bell County

\$5,000 Intact Flock Upper Texas Coast Big Day Conservation Grant – Swarovski Second Jabirus, sponsored by Swarovski Optik North America

Project: Resoft County Park Wetland Habitat Development – Submitted by Brazoria County Parks

Department

Location: Resoft County Park, Alvin

\$5,000 Intact Flock Upper Texas Coast Big Day Conservation Grant – Free Falling Falcons

Project: Creation of a Bird-Viewing Area at Joseph S. and Lucy L. Cullinan Park – Submitted by Cullinan Park Conservancy

Location: Joseph S. and Lucy H. Cullinan Park, Sugar Land

\$5,000 Lone Star Bird Award Conservation Grant – Off Their Nuthatches

Project: Birding on the Border, Know Your Natives! – Submitted by Valley Zoological Society — Gladys Porter Zoo

Location: Gladys Porter Zoo, Brownsville

\$1,000 Heart of Texas East Big Sit! Conservation Grant – Birding on Broadmeade

Project: Montopolis Habitat Restoration – Submitted by Ecology Action of Texas

Location: Circle Acres Nature Preserve, Austin

\$1,000 Upper Texas Coast Big Sit! Conservation Grant – Centerpoint Wirebirds, sponsored by Centerpoint Energy

Project: Quintana Sanctuaries Re-Veg Project – Submitted by Gulf Coast Bird Observatory

Location: Quintana Neotropical Bird Sanctuaries, Quintana

It was a banner year for participation in the GTBC as well, with a 60 percent increase in the

number of participants and a 38 percent growth in the number of registered teams. Records were broken for the number of Big Sit! and Sunrise to Noon teams. There were several first-time teams and 15 youth teams. In all, 421 species were identified during the tournament by more than 1,000 participating birdwatchers throughout the state.

"Our son has thoroughly enjoyed his time on the team," say Danielle and Micah Hale of Conner, member of ABNC Terrific Tanagers (Roughwings team). "We cannot go anywhere without him pointing out birds, telling us what they are and some type of nerdy bird fact. In our hectic life, sometimes we don't always slow down and enjoy our beautiful surroundings. Conner reminds us daily to simply stop and look around."

Some of last year's adaptations to the pandemic were kept for the 2021 competition, like the Dispersed Flock category, allowing participants to team up with others from around the state, connecting electronically or by phone to combine and share their results.

"The girls and I enjoyed ourselves," says Deborah Waguespack, member of a three-generation Dispersed Flock team. "We texted and chatted throughout the day keeping up with what each group was seeing. A great family fun day!"

Toyota and the Texas Ornithological Society were event sponsors; Audubon Texas.



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"Lake Fork in the Recovery Mode!" (Continued from Page 6)

matching trailer and hang on for dear life when the rod tip loads up. Fluorocarbon lines in the 17-20lb range work well for this application and make sure you use the San Diego Jam knot to reduce break offs. As a matter of fact, use the jam knot on all line sizes of fluorocarbon line. It will be a very smart move.

The other half of this deep bass equation equates to these suspended fish. These are much tougher to catch and require great patience both in locating them and putting them into the boat. Again, the electronics play a huge roll in determining where these fish are holding in the water

column and then there is the challenge of matching the right lure with the conditions. If it is windy on that given day, choose the flutter spoon as your means of attack. Size may matter so try smaller versions first then gravitate to the magnum beast if the bite is good. Colors may also vary based upon cloud cover, silver on clear days and gold when the light level is much lower. If there is no wind period, tie on a magnum fluke in any shad color using a 7/0 hook only. In both cases, experiment with the countdown to establish the correct depth range of the given lure. Remember that sequence when a toad grabs hold of the bait and stretches your line into oblivion.

I hope this helps and gives you a starting point on your Lake Fork adventure. If you are headed out to Lake Fork in August searching for the trophy of a lifetime, I would love to be a part of this trophy quest. I still have a few dates open in August and some in September. 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 would also like to thank Okuma Fishing USA, Talon Lures and Nextgen Lithiums 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."



Craig Rowley with David Ozio



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Commercial Gulf Shrimp Season Opens

The Gulf of Mexico commercial shrimp season for both state and federal waters opened Thursday, July 15, 2021. Biologists evaluate the biological, social and economic impact when deciding the opening date to maximize the benefits to the industry and the public.

In making its determination, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's (TPWD) Coastal Fisheries Division used the best available data from samples collected during routine trawls and bag seines in June.

"The annual mid-May closure protects brown shrimp until they can reach larger, more valuable sizes during their

major period of emigration from the bays to the Gulf of Mexico. The closure also helped to prevent the waste caused by the discarding of smaller individual shrimp," said TPWD's Coastal Fisheries Division Director

Robin Riechers.

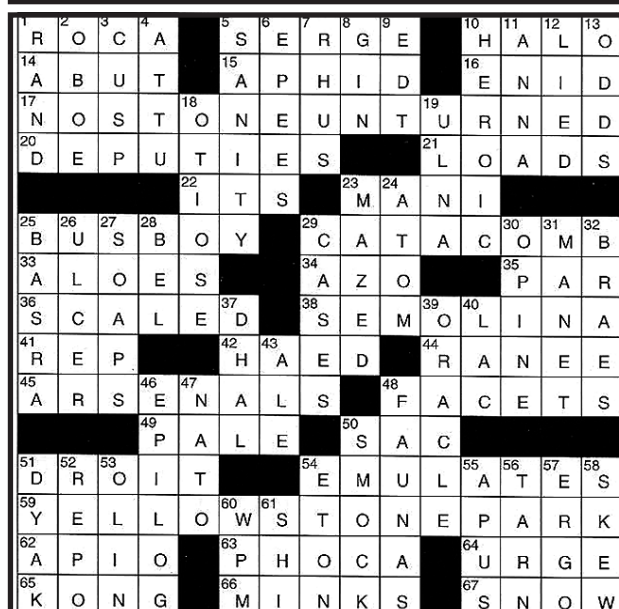
Federal waters (from 9 to 200 nautical miles offshore) opened at the same time that state waters opened. The National Marine Fisheries Service chose to adopt rules compatible with those adopted by Texas.

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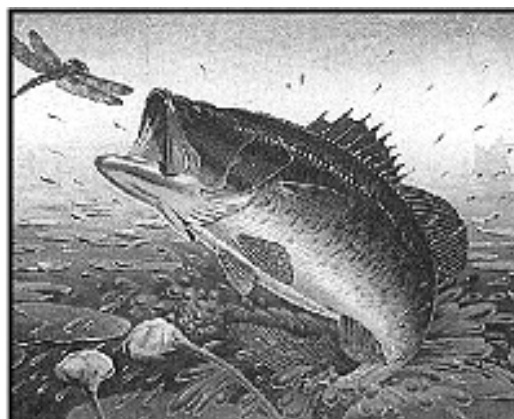
Summer Search

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

BARBECUING
CAMPING
CYCLING
HIKING
JOGGING
PICNICKING
ROLLER-SKATING

SAILING
SUNBATHING
SWIMMING
TENNIS
VOLLEYBALL
WALKING
WATER SKIING

C A M S K I N G L O V L
Y T W A L K I N G G O K
C H A I L I N I W N L I
L I T L L E R K A I L S
I G R I B A R C T T E K
N T E N N I S I E A Y M
G N I G N W K N R K B G
N G N I P M A C S S A N
I I G S O P N I K R L I
U M S G J N G P I E L H
C M K P O G P S I L E T
E H I K G N I M N L Y A
B P N I G K C N G O B B
R H I K I N G E P R A N
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Game Warden Field Notes

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

--Kids Say the Darndest Things--
A Polk County game warden received a call from county dispatch regarding a father and his 9-year-old son who had gotten stuck in their buggy deep in a deer lease. They attempted to walk back to their camp and got lost in the process. County dispatch was able to ping their location within a three-mile radius. Once in the

area, the warden was able to follow the tracks to the father and son. Dad commented to the son, "Yeah, might be bad luck being the second time we've been stuck together," as the son responds, "but each time, dad, you were driving." The warden responded, "you're a smart kid," and presented him with a Texas Game Warden badge.

--Seedy Situation--
Cargo was being inspected at a Dallas-Fort Worth Airport by Customs and Border Protection Agriculture Special-

ists and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Inspectors when they came across packages containing what they claimed to be steel nippers. The package didn't have the expected weight and was opened for inspection. Inside the box was numerous bags of vegetable seeds and dried shrimp. A package contained Ipomoea Aquatica seeds (water spinach), which is a harmful aquatic species in Texas. A second package claimed to be shirts. Wrapped inside the clothing was a

(Continued on Page 24)

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You likely serve or eat chicken several times a week. And by day 7, you may dread the thought of another cutlet. Since there are so many different ways to cook this poultry, you should never tire of it. Add a new chicken recipe to your collection. This "Chicken Salad Supreme" will have everyone singing the praises of chicken.



During the hot days of summer a refreshing salad is always good and of course cookies are always a tasty treat!

CHICKEN SALAD SUPREME

Dressing

- 1/3 cup honey
- 1/4 cup white vinegar
- 2 tablespoons fresh lemon juice
- 1 tablespoon poppy seeds
- 1 teaspoon dry mustard
- 1 teaspoon grated onion
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 cup oil, canola or corn

Salad

- 1-1/2 pounds chilled smoked chicken chunked
- 3/4 cup diced cantaloupe
- 3/4 cup diced honeydew melon
- 1/2 cup green onions, sliced
- 1/2 teaspoon minced lemon zest
- 1/2 cup sliced almonds, toasted

In a food processor, briefly process the dressing, except the oil, until combined. Pour in the oil and continue processing until thick.

In a medium-size bowl, mix the chicken, melons, green onions and lemon zest with about two-thirds of the dressing. Refrigerate if desired.

Stir the almonds into the salad shortly before serving. Mound the salad on a bed of lettuce leaves, and garnish with strawberries and lemons. Spoon additional dressing over the top, if you wish.

Now try this quick and easy tasty treat!
Cherry Macadamia Oatmeal Cookies

Reynolds Parchment Paper

- 1-3/4 cups flour
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1-1/4 cups packed brown sugar
- 1 cup butter, softened
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 2 eggs
- 2 tablespoons milk
- 2 teaspoons vanilla extract
- 2-1/2 cups quick oats, uncooked
- 1 pkg. (12 oz.) chocolate chunks
- 1 cup chopped macadamia nuts
- 1/2 cup maraschino cherries, well drained and quartered
- 1 cup powdered sugar
- 2-3 tablespoons water

Preheat oven to 375F. Line 2 cookie sheets with parchment paper. Combine dry ingredients on another sheet of parchment paper.

Beat butter and sugars until light and fluffy. Beat in eggs, milk and vanilla.

Gradually add flour mixture, mixing on low until blended. Stir in oats, nuts, chocolate and cherries. Drop by tablespoons onto parchment-lined cookie sheets.

Bake 10 to 12 minutes. Slide parchment paper with cookies on to wire rack to cool. Mix powdered sugar and water; drizzle cooled cookies on parchment paper. Makes 3-4 dozen.

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Game Warden Field Notes (Continued from Page 22)

bag that also contained Ipomoea Aquatica seeds. It is illegal to import or possess seeds in Texas. The cases were referred to a Tarrant County game warden and the packages were seized as evidence. The individuals who imported the products were issued citations. The cases are pending.

--Swift Water Rescue-- A Terrell County game warden responded to a call from the sheriff's office when a local rancher was caught in a flash flood. His truck had died and was starting to move downstream from the rising water reaching the hood of his truck. It was dark and there were no lights to light his way to safety, so he called 911 for help. The warden responded along with a deputy and volunteers. Armed with swift water personal flotation devices (PFD), a throw bag, and rope they were able to make their way to the truck and extract the rancher to safety while being mindful of fencing downstream that could trap anyone who may lose their footing in the rushing water. Everyone went home safely that night.

--Cue the Mutombo Finger Wag-- Two Jefferson County game wardens were patrolling Taylor's Bayou when they saw a man in a shallow-drive mud boat quickly approaching them in the narrow bayou. The

wardens motioned for the subject to slow down and he shook his finger at them. The wardens were able to position their patrol boat beside the subject and get his full attention, forcing him to come to a stop. The subject claimed he didn't understand they asked him to stop. After checking his safety equipment, the wardens initiated an investigation after noticing signs of intoxication. The warden placed the subject under arrest for Boating While Intoxicated (BWI) and booked him into the Jefferson County Jail. The subject consented to a voluntary blood draw. Case is pending.

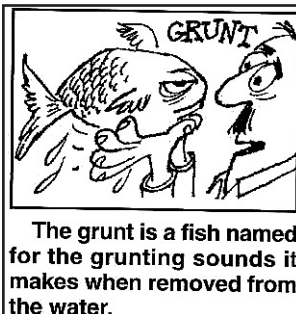
--Early Bird Gets the Ticket-- Galveston County Game Wardens were patrolling Galveston Bay and East Bay and saw several shrimp boats maneuvering in a manner consistent with shrimping. One vessel had nets and doors in the water. When asked to retrieve the net, it revealed cod. Several ves-

sels were cited for shrimping before legal hours. Cases are pending.

--Four-Wheeler of Misfortune-- While patrolling Twin Buttes Public Lands in Tom Green County, a local game warden made contact with several individuals riding all-terrain vehicles. Some of the individuals were unable to produce a limited public use permit, as required to access the public lands. The warden decided to check if some of the ATVs were stolen and discovered one individual was in possession of a stolen four-wheeler from a nearby city. The case was turned over to the originating jurisdiction for investigation.

--Don't I Know You?-- A Montgomery County game warden received a call from a local deer camp lessee who said he was texted photos of a truck entering the property without consent. While responding to

(Continued on Next Page)



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the location, the warden provided sheriff's deputies with the location of the lease and the layout of the property. The deputies walked into the property, due to heavy rains and the lack of 4X4 vehicles. They apprehended a suspect, who entered the camp illegally and was filling bags with hunting equipment. The warden arrived and aided in getting the suspect, the suspect's vehicle, and the officers out of the property. The warden had previously arrested the suspect for theft of property and stealing an ATV and other property from a nearby deer lease in 2017. The suspect was charged with burglary of a habitation and had a parole violation warrant for the earlier charge.

--A-B-C, It's Easy as 1-2-3-- A Hamilton County game warden and Johnson County game warden were patrolling Lake Pat Cleburne when they conducted a water safety check on a pontoon boat that had three women, one man and two dogs on board. The boat had expired registration, no throwable flotation device and the captain of the boat had a freshly opened 16 oz. can of beer next to his seat. During the water safety check, the warden could smell alcohol on the man and noticed he had a hard

time keeping his balance standing. The warden asked the captain, "How much have you had to drink? Have you had anything to eat today?" The captain said, "I've had about 5 beers and I had some watermelon earlier." The warden then asked the man to say his ABC's and he missed several letters. During the standard field sobriety test on shore, the man said under his breath, "I can't even do this sober." The captain was placed under arrest for Boating While Intoxicated. He consented to provide a breath specimen, which produced a result of 0.182 g/210L blood alcohol content. The captain was booked into the Johnson County Jail.

--Teamwork Makes the Dream Work-- A game warden was traveling back to Bell County from Lake Travis when he heard several deputies, several volunteer fire fighters, Temple technical rescue and Starflight in route to a call near a river. The warden called the local dispatch for more information and learned that a minor was operating an ATV and went off a sheer 35-40 ft. cliff into the Little River. Additional assistance was requested because the terrain was difficult to navigate and needed a four-wheel drive vehicle. The warden reached out to

another warden also in the area and they responded to the scene. Upon arrival, Temple Fire Department's technical team prepared a repelling system pully system and various personnel from seven different agencies assisted in recovering the patient, two of his friends and several rescuers up the sheer 35-40 ft. cliff. Due to the excellent teamwork and communication the operation was successful, and the patient was transported to the hospital in stable condition with a few broken bones.

--Strike a Pose-- A Houston County game warden was patrolling Houston County Lake when he noticed a man in possession of a slot limit bass. The man said he was going to take a photo with the fish and then release it back into the lake. The warden asked to see the fish and when the man removed it from the live well, the warden saw that it was dead and beginning to turn stiff. Case pending.

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