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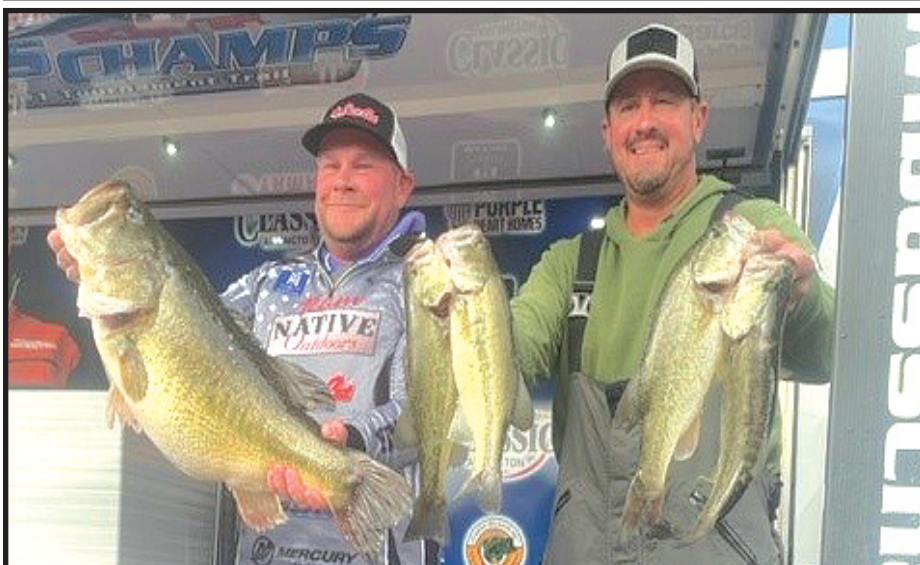
1 Section

"Lines To Get Hooked On"
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No. 306



Drew Sloan and Nolan Jackson won the BassChamps Team Trail on Lake Fork with a total weight of 18.92-lbs. with the help of this Lake Fork beast weighing 12.77-lbs. also winning them the Big Bass Pot.



The team of Charles Fisher and Chris Albritton won 2nd Place in the BassChamps Team Trails on Lake Fork with a total weight of 15.32-lbs. with the help of this 9.62-lb. bass added to their stringer weight. (See Full Story on Page 10)



Lake Fork guide Randy Oldfield was fishing Lake Fork on a cold day when he caught this hawg weighing 14.25-pounds. This bass was caught, weighed, photoed, and released back into the lake.

Annual White Bass Run Looking Strong in East Texas

Heavy fall rain will mean anglers in east Texas should enjoy prime white bass fishing this spring, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) biologists predict, while results could be spottier in central and south Texas.

Each spring, white bass run upstream from reservoirs into rivers and creeks to spawn, creating prime fishing opportunities for new and seasoned anglers. White bass can be targeted from the bank, motorized boat or paddle craft in multiple publicly accessible locations throughout the state.

East Texas could have the most potential this year for anglers to pursue white bass. Heavy rainfalls in late fall and winter increased river levels, water flows and muddied the water. TPWD biologists predict a good year for white bass fishing and in deep east Texas, the Sabine River above Toledo Bend reservoir is the top fishery. Reports indicate large females began to move up-river in mid-January.

The Neches River and Kickapoo Creek above

Lake Palestine offer more prime spots for white bass in East Texas. Inland Fisheries staff also recommend staying on Highway 31 and accessing Chambers Creek above Richland Chambers and according to reports, Lake Houston shows promise with good reports coming out of Peach, Caney, and Spring creeks and Luce's Bayou.

Reports indicate recent rainfall and releases from Lake Lavon in north central Texas have triggered the male white bass to head upstream. Hot spots include the East Fork of the Trinity River below Lake Lavon and upstream of Lake Ray Hubbard off State Highway 78. White Bass anglers can also hook into the occasional hybrid striper coming up from Ray Hubbard. Another hot spot is on the Stewart Creek arm of Lake Lewisville where public trails along the creek in Frisco grant access for fishing.

In central Texas, the Hill Country and south Texas, the run could be hit and miss due to some rivers and reservoirs currently experiencing low water levels and low flows. These

conditions could have an impact on the timing and size of the white bass run. Some well-timed rain events in the coming weeks could change the situation for the better.

Early reports from Inland Fisheries Division staff in San Antonio are showing signs that the Nueces River also could be a hot spot this year. Popular runs in the Waco area that could hold promise this year include the South Bosque River and Hog Creek at the southern end of Lake Waco, Nolan River above Pat Cleburne Lake, Cowhouse Creek on the North-West side of Belton, Lampasas River above Stillhouse Hollow Lake, the Brazos above Whitney and Granbury Lakes, the Navasota River above Lake Limestone, Fort Parker State Park Lake and Mexia especially above Lake Limestone.

White bass, also known as sand bass, are a popular freshwater species preferred by Texas anglers both for sport fishing and for the dinner table. While most riverside property is pri-

(See Annual White Bass...Continued on Page 4)




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"Bubette May Be Pruning Bubba's Family Tree"

By Don Hampton

Most individuals are proud of their heritage and can tell you where their ancestry derives from. Some are so proud of it they hold it up about the same level as their nose is in the air. Some can even trace their ancestry back to the Mayflower. Bubba tried to find out once if one of his ancestors came over on that boat. He just knew that if one did they set a record for fishing across the Atlantic.

In his search to complete his family tree he learned he had some "Blue Blood" in his family line. Bubba tried to speak with an English accent for a week after that one! With his last name being what it is, he was hoping he could trace it to Nottingham, England or at least to kinfolk owning a hotel chain. He would have really liked being an heir to an estate in England but he would have settled for free rooms when he went out of town on tournaments. Having his hopes of being an heir to the throne, Bubba lost his English accent and since he wasn't kin to the owner of the hotel chain he made his reservations with his credit card.

In his search he found out his ancestors were just hard working poor immigrants that came to America and

settled in Arkansas and even named a town after themselves. Bubba found pride in this, especially after he saw none had ever married a "Clinton"!

One item of information that Bubba gained that made him beam with pride and hard for us to live with, is that his great grandmother was a full blooded Cherokee Indian. He couldn't find out if she was a princess or daughter of a chief but knowing he had Indian ancestors changed Bubba's life. The English accent was nothing compared to what we all have to live with now!

Knowing Bubba as long as I have, when he said, "How?", it was a question and he expected an answer. Now he says "HOW" in a deep base voice and it is a greeting of hello or goodbye, I haven't figured it out yet.

You really have to pay closer attention and listen more attentively than before when speaking with Chief Bubba of the Cherokee Nation.

Now when you ask Bubba a question he may answer with an "Ugh!" What the heck does that mean? Is it a yes, no, or indifference? He now refers to his bass boat as his canoe. He refers to his RV as his teepee, because he can move his tribe from one fishing ground to another. I'm truly expecting any day now for him to quit using SPF-100 so he can truly be a redskin! Where he

used to say, "Well I'm going home now!" he'll say, "Must go to wigwam now!" I have not heard that since early John Wayne movies, or was it "The Three Stooges in the West!" Whichever the case I'm quite sure that is where he picked that phrase up!

Bass Pro Shop, Academy, Cabella's and all of the fishing stores where Bubba shops, I apologize, for Bubba has renamed you all! From this day forth you will be known only as "Happy Hunting Grounds!" You can thank Chief Bubba for that!

Because of this heritage knowledge Bubba has attained he best keep his health. He no longer puts his faith in "Pale-Faced Doctors". He now believes only in "Doc", his tribal "Medicine Man". Bubba also believes that when he leaves this earth he will follow his ancestors to the "Happy Fishing Grounds!"

Don't be too concerned about Bubba though! The next time you see him he may have less hair, but he'll be his old self because Bubette has assured me that if he calls her his "Squaw" one more time, "SHE'S GOING TO SCALP HIM!" Bubette said, "I've never pruned a family tree before, but I'm about to top his out!"

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Annual White Bass Run Looking Strong in East Texas (Continued from Page 2)

vately owned, public access to high-quality white bass runs can be found at many Texas State Parks, Texas Paddling Trails, leased River Access and Conservation Area (RACA) sites and highway and bridge crossings.

Below are some accessible locations for the white bass run:

Brazos River: Fuller's Folly River Ranch and Sandy Bottoms River Company are recent site additions to the RACA program upstream of Lake Granbury. Reports indicate water flow remains below normal overall, but TPWD staff are hopeful that recent rain events with the potential for more in early spring, will support a good run from Lake Granbury into the upstream section of the river.

Neches River: Above Lake Palestine, anglers can find public access at Chandler River Park featured in this TPWD YouTube Video. This RACA site offers nearly 6,000 feet of river frontage for bank fishing

and includes a boat ramp and kayak launch.

Llano River: The Kingsland Slab RV Camp provides access to the river, with 750 feet of river frontage along the Llano River. This RACA site offers free public fishing access and is located at 7300 River Oaks Dr. in Kingsland.

Sabine River: Above Toledo Bend Reservoir in Panola County, anglers can find public access for white bass fishing at the Grand Bluff Boat Ramp, which offers 275 feet of river frontage and a single trailer boat ramp. This RACA site offers free public access to the Black Shoals fishing hole located about 3 miles upstream.

Frio River: Above Choke Canyon Reservoir, anglers can find public access points for white bass fishing at county road and highway crossings, including the Highway 99 bridge crossing and boat ramp in McMullen County.

Colorado River: Above Lake Buchanan, bank anglers can fish for white bass at Colorado Bend State Park. The park offers a boat ramp (cur-

rently closed to motorboats) and bank access.

TPWD recommends that anglers check the water levels and river flows before heading to their favorite location. A variety of artificial lures and flies will work for anglers targeting white bass, including small jigs, crank baits and streamers. Night fishing using lights or around lighted docks can also be effective. White bass are excellent table fare for anglers looking for versatile and healthy source of protein. The daily bag limit for white bass is 25 with a 10-inch minimum length. More information on fishing regulations can be found in the TPWD Outdoor Annual. As always, don't forget to purchase your fishing license unless exempt. Funds from the sale of fishing licenses are used to make fishing better by supporting TWPD hatcheries and fish stockings, fish habitat enhancement, fisheries management, outreach activities and more. Purchase online or at a retailer near you.

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Banff Mountain Film Festival World Tour Arrives in Austin, Benefits Texas State Parks

The Banff Centre Mountain Film Festival World Tour is back in Austin March 22 at the historic Paramount Theatre.

This is the 18th year that Whole Earth Provision Co. has hosted the tour in Austin and the 14th year that Texas State Parks has been the beneficiary of the event.

Two programs will feature different films: a matinee at 2 p.m. and an evening show at 7 p.m. Regular ticket prices are \$35 for the matinee and \$40 for the evening show. Tickets for the Banff Mountain Film Festival World Tour are available online at the Paramount Theatre website.

The films take audiences to stunning landscapes and remote cultures and bring them up-close and personal with adrenaline-packed action sports. The World Tour offers an exhilarating, provocative and often sublime exploration of the mountain world.

"A tip of the hat to our Texas State Parks!" said Jack Jones, founder of Whole Earth Provision Co. "From coastal beaches and Piney-

woods on to West Texas mountains and canyons, and from the Rio Grande to the dark skies of the Panhandle, our parks offer us access to places of natural beauty and recreational opportunities to refresh our spirits and to create treasured memories. We hope Texans will join us in supporting our state parks."

Whole Earth combines the proceeds from the World Tour shows with the funds raised during its Texas State Parks Month event in its stores during the month of April, where customers can make donations for state parks. Over the past 13 years, the two events have raised more than \$317,800.

"We are grateful to Whole Earth Provision Co. for their longstanding commitment to Texas State Parks and the preservation of these treasured natural spaces," said Rodney Franklin, director of Texas State Parks. "The donations from the Banff Mountain Film Festival World Tour and Texas State Parks Month enable us to enhance the outdoor experience for our visitors. It is a partnership we value tremendous-

ly and one of my favorite events each year."

Banff Centre Mountain Film Festival is held each year in Banff, Canada. From the more than 400 festival entries, award-winning films and audience favorites are chosen for inclusion in the Banff Mountain Film Festival World Tour. The tour travels to over 500 communities and 40 countries during the year.

Host organizations in each tour location help to choose the programs that reflect the interests of their community, creating a unique celebration of adventure and adventurers at each stop.



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"March on Lake Fork Means Action!"

By Whitt Smith

March is here and I'm not sure who is more ready, the Pre-Spawn Bass or anglers. The lake level is up and in great shape!

It's the start of the busiest couple of months here. So, keep that in consideration for your trips in pursuit of the fantastic Largemouth Bass that Lake Fork has to offer. Safety and patience are essential as we go about enjoy-

ing our favorite lake on Earth.

March will have the first wave of Bass to push shallow to Spawn, but will also have opportunities for fantastic Pre-Spawn Bass fishing. With the lake up, the shallow male bass are already on the inside of the grass lines. Your favorite confidence soft plastic lure on a Texas Rig on the banks and shallow cover will get you bit, but finding the certain stretches that contain them is key. Once you do, cycle back through. This month when you locate male bass, the females won't be far away. Usually the females will be behind you in deeper water channels, first break of bottom contour, large stumps, grass or nearby secondary points.

My favorite rig for catching these Big female Bass is a 'Mojo Rig' or CS Rig (pegged or bobber stop sinker 10-18" above plastic lure) on Seaguar InvizX Fluorocarbon line. Fan cast the target areas and drag the plastic slowly with rod, taking up slack



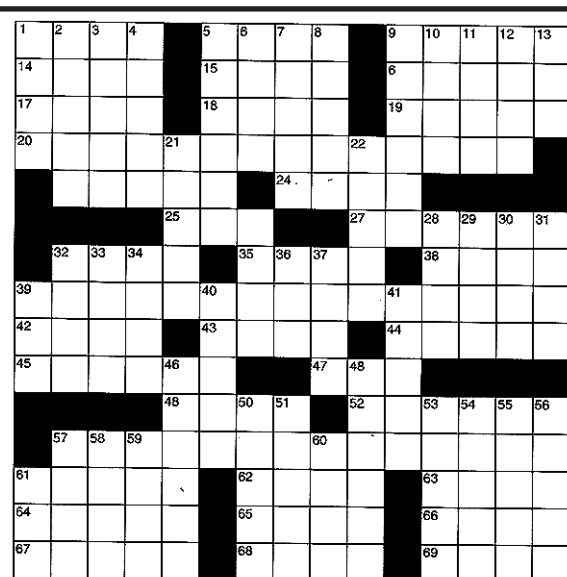
with your reel.

Lipless and square bill Crankbaits in red hues, along with spinnerbaits and jerkbaits will still produce some great Bass in March.

As for the Pre-Spawn staging Bass, main lake and secondary points can hold some Big Bass. We use large Swimbaits, square-bill Crankbaits, Carolina Rigs and Football Jigs on these structures with great success. We use 20 lb. Seaguar InvizX Fluorocarbon line for these techniques. Occasionally, 25

lb. for largest lures.

I hope you all enjoy this fantastic time of year on Lake Fork. Please contact me, if I can help with anything.



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 sultanate
59. Usually with wooden soles
60. Ancient Greek City
61. Moray, for one

Answers on Page 21

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Texas Game Wardens Arrest Outfitter, Guides for Illegal Exotic Hunts

Texas Game Wardens arrested a local hunting outfitter and two others for illegally guiding nilgai hunts on private property.

The suspects used airboats and thermal optics to take clients on hunts for the exotic animals, operating a sophisticated scheme and profiting from illegal activity.

The individuals have been charged with hunting exotic animals without landowner consent, theft of exotic livestock and

engaging in organized criminal activity.

The arrests were the result of a nearly year-long investigation by Texas Game Wardens in the Rio Grande Valley area. Warrants were served on multiple properties simultaneously and were executed with the support of multiple game wardens, including the Texas Game Warden Rural Operations Group, as well as Homeland Security Investigations, due to the orga-

nized criminal activity aspect of the case.

The case remains under investigation and no further details are available at this time.

Nilgai, native to India and Pakistan, were imported to Texas in the 1920s.



The "corn" in "corned beef" dates back to a time when corns, or kernels of coarse salt, were used to cure beef. No corn was actually involved in the process.



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"The Moon Report"

"March Pre-Spawn Crappie"

By Terri Moon

It's finally time for the spring migration on Fork! Water temperatures are gradually rising and when temps are between 55 and 60 degrees, start checking the main creeks and secondary points. The males will move in shallow first and the females will stage around the nearest deep water structure.

The toughest part of this time of year is when you finally find the crappie, a cold front will come through dropping water temps which in turn backs their movement off and the search begins again! When this happens, don't give up on the deep water crappie. There are still a bunch down the lake and they are less effected by the cold fronts.

The exciting part of slip bobber fishing is you never know what you're going to catch! We've already caught some really nice bass while searching shallow for crappie.

The baits working for us have been Lake Fork Tackle's live baby shad in sun perch, Cajun cricket or watermelon red pearl, chartreuse and pearl and Skipper jigs black and chartreuse.

As far as presentation in the early stages of pre-spawn, it is a very light bite – so a "slow



motion" or "no motion" approach seems to work best. Pay close attention to your line – sometimes it will just go slack. So, if you see or feel anything different – just jerk! You'll find the shallower they go, the harder they'll hit.

Remember this time of year you'll find the crappie at many depths during their transition. The bridges are producing crappie 8-16 ft. while the staging crappie are found around the timber 5-10 ft., and spawners 1-5 ft. There are a lot of options if the weather or wind is a factor. The fun part of this time of year is that you never know WHAT you're going to catch at any depth because they are all on the move!

Looks like the action is starting earlier than usual – hope you all don't miss out on the fun.

Please remember that the 10 inch minimum goes back in effect this

month.

For those of you wanting to book a trip, my number is 903-335-0941. Leave a message and I'll get back to you as soon as I can.

Many Blessings to ALL and stay safe out there!

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Family Fishing Education Opportunities Offered for Texans this Spring

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) is partnering with Fishing's Future and the George H.W. Bush Vamos A Pescar Education Fund to provide fishing education opportunities for families in Houston and the Rio Grande Valley.

Fishing's Future is a national angling educational organization based in Texas with more than 17 years of experience and expertise in teaching families how to fish and spend time in the great outdoors.

The program kicked off in February and will continue through August with activities including in-person family fishing events. This year the program will continue working directly with families through community organizations.

The program will conduct 18 activities in the Houston and Rio Grande Valley area to educate 20 families from the basics of fishing through advanced techniques, Catch, Care, and Cook it, Boater Education, Surf and Pier fishing, online Family Networking, How to Shop and more.

Fishing's Future will also expand reach in these areas by establishing two new chapters to conduct family fish camps and other outreach activities for the next five years. All equipment

and expertise needed for families to have a successful fishing event will be provided. Some events will include fish cleaning and cooking.

"Hooking up with TPWD and The Recreational Boating & Fishing Foundation on the George H. W. Bush Vamos A Pescar Educational Fund Grant is a perfect partnership for Fishing's Future," said Michael Scherer, program director of Fishing's Future. "Our three organizations are dedicated to increasing the educational knowledge of both young and old. TPWD is staffed with the sharpest minds — their staff brings real-life science and research into play."

The goals of the program include building fishing knowledge, skills and abilities of participating families from Texas metro areas to ultimately increase participation in fishing. In addition, the program strengthens family bonds and Texans' connections to the outdoors and fisheries resources.

"This grant helps to foster the development of relationships between families to build a sense of community, better serve local organizations and help their families get outdoors and enjoy State and Community Parks," add-

ed Scherer. "It also helps teach environmental stewardship and Increases awareness for the protection, conservation and restoration of our Nation's aquatic natural resources."

For those wanting to support these important efforts, Fishing's Future will conduct angler education instructor trainings. Increasing the number of certified angler education instructors, especially those who are bilingual or with Spanish as their primary language, will generate opportunities for the program to make a greater impact across Texas.

"We are excited to partner with Fishing's Future to offer the George H.W. Bush Vamos A Pescar program and connect families with fishing and the outdoors across Texas," said Jason Mercer, TPWD R3 Coordinator Fishing and Boating. "This effort provides so many excellent opportunities for families to participate in fishing, develop their fishing skills and knowledge, and of course spend quality time as a family."

For more information on George H.W. Bush Vamos A Pescar Education Fund and educational programs, or to participate, visit www.FishingsFuture.org

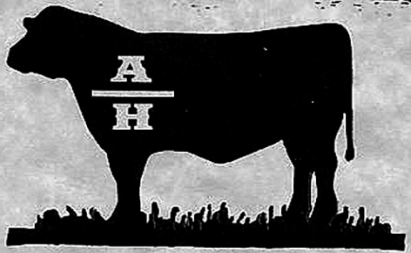


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BassChamps Team Tournament Series on Lake Fork

By Don Hampton

Lake Fork proved active and very productive on February 15th with BassChamps hosting their Team Trail Series on our great lake.

The weather could have been better for the 216 teams that came to compete, but they were rewarded with some great catches. A period of increment weather with thunder and lightning had a few anglers looking for cover.

With 26 places being paid with 1st place

being paid \$25,000 and 11th place through 26th place receiving a check for \$1,000, Big Bass of the tournament paid an extra \$1,000 and 2nd Big Bass paid an extra \$600.

Tournament Headquarters and the weigh-in was hosted out of Lake Fork Marina. All anglers coming to the scales were in high hopes that their weight would at least be in the top 26. All teams that landed in this range had a good five fish limit with the highest weight being a 8.02-pounds.

The excitement level ran high when the team of

Drew Sloan from Scurry, Texas and his partner Nolan Jackson from Royse City, Texas brought their five fish to the scales. Their big bass weighed a whopping

12.77-pounds and gave them a stringer weight of 18.92-pounds. This great catch and weight won them 1st Place in the tournament for the \$25,000 plus an additional \$1,000 for Big Bass. Winning 2nd Place overall was the team of Charles Fisher from Bridgeport, Texas and his partner Chris Albritton from Millsap, Texas. Their big bass weighed 9.62-pounds and gave them a stringer weight of 15.32-pounds. For their diligent fishing and great catch they received \$10,000 for 2nd Place plus \$600 for next heaviest bass. Teams that placed from 3rd through 10th place the winnings ranged from \$5,500 to \$1,500.

If you are interested in fishing BassChamps events, visit them on line at BassChamps.com. They will be back on Lake Fork on April 6th with their Mega Bass Tournament. Anglers this is one tournament you will not want to miss. See you on the water and always 'Fish Friendly!'

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Geoff Niemeth, from Salado, TX., was fishing Lake Fork with guide Whitt Smith when he caught this nice bass. C.P.R.



Jerrod of Santone jigs was fishing Lake Fork when he caught this nice bass on 2/6/25. Weight not provided. C.P.R.



Danny Weems was fishing off his dock on Lake Fork when he caught this nice bass. Weight not provided. C.P.R.

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Texas Game Wardens Uncover Illegal White-Tailed Deer Smuggling Operation

Texas Game Wardens have concluded an investigation that led to the arrest and conviction of two individuals involved in illegally moving captive white-tailed deer.

A South Texas deer breeder and his business partner were caught attempting to smuggle seven deer from a licensed deer breeding facility in East Texas through Montgomery County to Brazoria and Duval counties, where they intended to illegally release the deer into the wild on private property.

The case unfolded when a Montgomery County Game Warden conducted a traffic stop and discovered the illegally possessed deer being transported without required documentation or identification. Further investigation uncovered significant violations of Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) statutes and regulations, as well as criminal and traffic violations. Both individuals were arrested and booked into Montgomery County Jail.

The deer breeder faced 41 total charges: one traffic code violation, 11 penal code viola-

tions and 29 deer breeder violations under the Texas Administrative Code and Parks and Wildlife Code. He pleaded guilty to three penal code violations and 29 deer breeder violations. His business partner was charged with two penal code violations and 28 deer breeder violations, of which he was convicted. Both men were convicted on multiple counts of violations committed with the intent to circumvent disease monitoring and testing requirements. Violations included failure to conduct ante-mortem chronic wasting disease (CWD) testing, failure to obtain valid transfer permits, removal of breeder deer without required identification and illegal possession of live game animals. Combined, they were convicted of a total of 57 deer breeder violations, one alcohol and two dangerous drug violations. They received a total \$12,060 in fines.

This case underscores the commitment of TPWD and Texas Game Wardens to protecting the state's natural resources and upholding wildlife regulations. The possession and

movement of deer are regulated, among other reasons, to mitigate the spread of diseases like CWD and to ensure the health of both captive and free-ranging wildlife populations. Anytime a white-tailed deer leaves a breeding facility, it must be uniquely and permanently identified, no matter its age. Breeder deer that have not been properly identified or have had their identification hidden or illegally changed or removed are commonly referred to as "ghost deer."

"Flagrant violations, such as intentionally transferring deer without identifiers, hinder Texas' ability to identify the source of a deer in the event of a disease detection," said Col. Ronald VanderRoest, TPWD Law Enforcement Director. "This creates the potential for negative impacts to the health of both captive and free ranging deer populations, the deer breeder industry, landowners, hunters and Texas' outdoor and rural based economies, where white-tailed deer hunting has a \$9.6 billion annual eco-

(See *White-Tailed Deer Smuggling*.....

Continued on Page 15)

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





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Texas Trails Bassmasters of Lake Fork Open March 8th

By Don Hampton

The Texas Trails Bassmasters of Lake Fork will be hosting their 45th Semi Annual Bass Tournament on March 8. The tournament will be hosted out of Oak Ridge Marina. All amateur anglers are invited to participate.

This is an individual tournament. More than one angler can fish in a boat, but all must be a paid entry and have a means of keeping their catches separated.

Entry fee for the tournament is \$45 with 80% of all entry fees paid back and Big Bass Pot \$10 with 100% pay back. Based on 100 entries 1st Place pays \$1,040; 2nd Place \$780; 3rd Place \$520; 4th Place \$260; 5th thru 10th \$100. Big Bass Pot pays 3 places with 1st Big Bass paying \$500, 2nd paying \$300., and 3rd paying \$200.

Fishing hours for the tournament are from 6 am to 3:30 pm. All anglers must be checked in by 3:30 pm. Lake slot rules apply. A bass can touch the 16-inch mark but not exceed and be at least 12 inches in length. An over the slot must at least touch the 24 inches in length to be legal. Any bass between 16 and 24 inches brought to the weigh-in is illegal and the angler will be disqualified. The official measuring stick for the tournament is the Chek-It-Stick.

A great thing about this tournament, even though it is hot, the top water bite and deep bite will be kicking with the stable weather conditions.

Anglers can enter the tournament by picking up an entry at one of the area businesses and mailing it in at the address listed on the entry. For those of you who want to, you can

enter at tournament headquarters on March 7th, from 4 pm to 9 pm and on March 8th, from 5 am to 6 am.

Everyone is invited to come out and attend. If not an angler, come out for the weigh-in and festivities. Since this is a fund-raising event we will be selling raffle tickets for some great prizes to be given away.

If looking for a great Bass Club to join, you need look no further. Texas Trails Bassmasters of Lake Fork is a very progressive club. We have one tournament per month and all lakes are approximately one hour from Lake Fork with a 2 day Championship at the end of the year with motel rooms furnished. This club is also involved in "The Wish To Fish Foundation" and weight masters for the Annual Kidfish.

We hope to see everyone at this event. For more information see the ad on page 29.

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White-Tailed Deer Smuggling *(Continued from Page 12)*

conomic contribution." able risks associated with their release into the wild, the "ghost deer" in this case were euthanized in accordance with protocols related to disease testing. The type of activity the suspects were participating in led TPWD to believe a heightened risk of disease exposure existed. Fortunately, the epidemiological investigation revealed no detection of CWD. About Texas Game Wardens, within the Law Enforcement Division of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department,

are responsible for enforcing laws related to the conservation and management of natural resources and public safety through community-based law enforcement. Their mission is to provide hunting, fishing and outdoor recreation opportunities for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. Additionally, they play a crucial role in search and rescue operations during natural disasters, exemplifying their commitment to protecting both the environment and the people of Texas.

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Manual Thumb Safety	Ambidextrous	NMS	NMS	Ambidextrous	NMS
Fixed Sights	3-Dot G43 style	3-Dot G43 style	3-Dot G43 style	3-Dot G43 style	3-Dot G43 style
Optic Ready Available	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Reebuck Quad Lock	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Barrel Length	3.10	3.10	2.96	2.96	3.10
Weight	15oz	15oz	15oz	15oz	15oz
Overall Length	6.10	6.10	5.70	5.70	6.10
Width	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10
Height	5.26	5.26	5.26	5.26	5.26
Frame Material	7075 T6 Aluminum	7075 T6 Aluminum	7075 T6 Aluminum	7075 T6 Aluminum	7075 T6 Aluminum
Slide & Barrel Material	Heat Treated 416 Stainless Steel	Heat Treated 416 Stainless Steel	Heat Treated 416 Stainless Steel	Heat Treated 416 Stainless Steel	Heat Treated 416 Stainless Steel
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Chronic Wasting Disease Detected in Brown County High-Fence Release Site

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) and Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) received confirmation of one case of chronic wasting disease (CWD) in a Brown County high fence ranch, marking the first confirmed detection in the county. A three and a half-year-old female white-tailed deer tested positive through post-mortem testing conducted to meet CWD surveillance requirements for a site epidemiologically traced to a CWD-positive facility. Texas A&M Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory (TVMDL) initially analyzed the samples, and the National Veterinary Services Laboratory in Iowa confirmed the CWD detection.

The detection occurred on a ranch registered as a deer breeder release site and identified as having received deer from a CWD-positive breeding facility reported in 2024.

CWD has an incubation period that can span years, so the first indication of the disease in a herd is often found through surveillance testing rather than observed clinical signs. Testing hunter-harvested deer allows animal health officials to assess disease presence and was required as part of the quarantine issued for this property epidemiologically traced to a facility with a CWD-positive detection. Landowners and hunters are encouraged to implement sound wildlife management practices, such as adequate deer harvest and management of healthy native habitat, to help mitigate disease impacts on the deer populations, especially in areas where CWD has been detected.

CWD is a fatal neurological disease found in certain cervids including deer, elk, moose and other members of the deer family. This slow, progressive disease may not produce visible signs in

susceptible species for several years after infection. As the disease process continues, animals with CWD may show changes in behavior and appearance. Clinical signs may include progressive weight loss, stumbling or tremors with a lack of coordination, loss of appetite, teeth grinding, abnormal head posture and/or drooping ears, and excessive thirst, salivation or urination. In Texas, the disease was first discovered in 2012 in free-ranging mule deer along a remote area of the Hueco Mountains near the Texas-New Mexico border. CWD has since been detected in Texas captive and free-ranging cervids, including white-tailed deer, mule deer, red deer and elk.

For more information on previous detections in Texas, regulations, and CWD best management practices for hunters and landowners, visit TPWD's CWD page or TAHC's CWD page.

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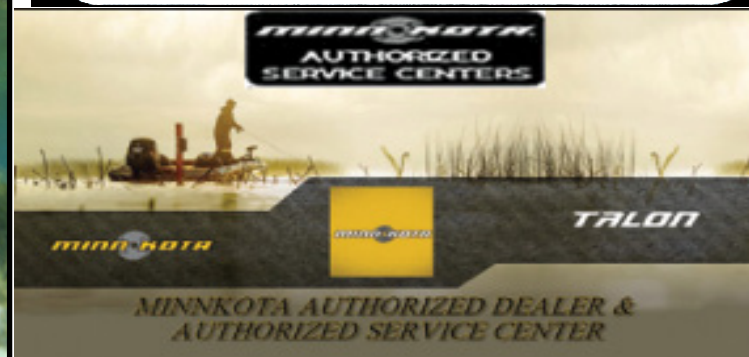
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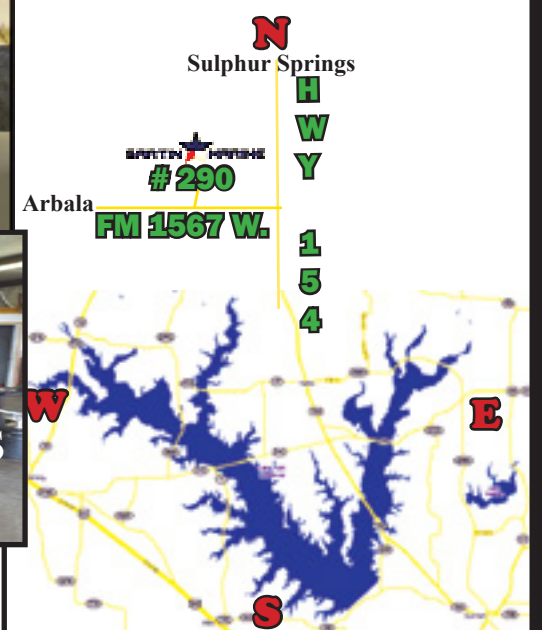


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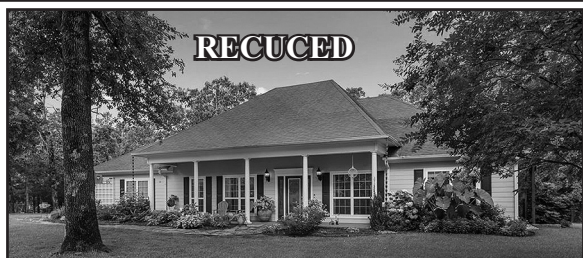
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WANT A SLICE OF EAST TEXAS HEAVEN? Spacious 2400 sq. ft. living area, 3 Bedroom, 3 Bath with views from every room overlooking 51.8 acres. Enjoy nature in this private, peaceful retreat. Be it horseback, hiking, or just soaking in the beauty, this property offers endless opportunities for outdoor recreation. Additionally there is an extra large 2-car garage and a triple garage and workshop with half bath. Call for an appointment today. \$697,000



Located a few minutes to Lake Fork shores, this versatile 2 acre property offers 2 beautiful homes providing a variety of possibilities for family living, rental income or multi-generational use, no restrictions. Main house is 3-2 with 1 carport, open concept. Second home is 1 bedroom, 1.5 bath. The 2 acres provide ample space for addition of workshop, barn or garage. Recent Appraisal. \$346,000.



EXPLORE THIS LAKE FORK WATERFRONT outdoor retreat down the driveway to a stunning rock home with 2795 sq. ft. on 1.284 wooded acres. Attributes include large living area, vaulted ceiling, hardwood throughout, floor to ceiling windows with great backyard wooded view. Kitchen is designed to entertain and to continue on to the outside with grilling area and large smoker. Edge of property is waterfront with view of legendary Lake Fork. Main floor has Primary bedroom and bath with enclosed porch. Second floor has two bedrooms, bath and large area for office or family room. Gorgeous 3 BR, 2 1/2 BATH, 4 car garage. \$865,000.



BEAUTIFUL, HARD TO FIND ACREAGE in Rains County! This 44 acre property is south of Emory. It features a nice mix of open pastures, woodlands with large, mature trees, 3 small ponds, and has road frontage across front and back. There is a 40x50 metal barndominium, built in 2018, plus an 800 sf 1 BR, 1 bath apartment and 1200 sf. garage workshop. Amazing hunting property. Reduced \$699,000



Beautiful home on 2 acres with the possibility of purchasing an adjacent 7 acres. Plenty of space in this 2759 sq. ft. home with 3 bedrooms, 2 bath, 2 carport. Main living area has built-ins and wood burning FP, 2nd living area is large enough for pool table and gaming equipment, also has office area and sunroom, storage area off the carport and a 12x12 storage shed. \$359,999.



Country home on 1.55 acres. 1367 sq. ft. with 2 bedroom, 2 bath, carport, enclosed porch on the back-wood burning stove, wood floors, newer central air and heat, metal roof. Also includes 1500 sq. ft. metal storage building with 2 overhead doors. Small metal guest house 1 bedroom, 1 bath, carport. Also a 2-car carport and small storage building. Some furniture and tools available. Been well-maintained through the years. \$249,000



Nestled on a peaceful, dead end road, this inviting country home with 2 bedrooms, 2 baths and 1 car-garage on 4.42 acres offers the perfect escape. Surrounded by mature trees, it features a small fenced yard, a 20x20 ft. storage building that is great for tools, equipment and additional storage. Located just a short drive to Lake Fork. Yours for \$275,000.



Brick home on 25.54 fenced acres, 3 ponds for livestock, solar panel powers carport-garage 19x20 carport, 14x24 storage shed, 9x14 shed, 24x44 pole barn and 37x44 metal carport for tractors and mowers. Home is 5 bedrooms, 2.5 baths beautiful woodwork, tile flooring, built-in cabinets, wood burning fireplace, updated kitchen, dining area, center island. Downstairs is 2 bedrooms with baths, and 1 bedroom with built-in desk for possible office. Plenty of room upstairs with 18x24 bedroom and 10x24 extra room. Long hallway with storage closets, Wrap around porch \$549,000

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Causes Black Vulture Mortalities in New Braunfels Area

Preliminary tests have confirmed Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) in multiple black vultures recovered at Landa Park in New Braunfels.

Disease experts indicate HPAI is circulating among wild birds in Texas as waterbirds and waterfowl visit their wintering grounds.

Widespread detections have occurred across Texas, with most recent findings in

Amarillo, El Paso, Galveston, Harris, Lubbock, Potter, Travis and Wharton counties.

Detected in all states across the U.S., HPAI is a highly contagious zoonotic virus that transmits easily among wild and domestic birds. HPAI can also transmit to mammals including wild mammals and domestic cats. It can spread directly between animals and indirectly through environmental contamination.

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) advises wildlife rehabilitators to exercise caution when admitting wild animals showing clinical signs of HPAI and to refrain from admitting any birds exhibiting such symptoms.

The public can assist in interrupting HPAI transmission by limiting all unnecessary contact with wild birds, including the discontinuation of feeding and other activities that cause waterfowl to congregate in parks. In addition, taking down all bird feeders and bird baths is recommended, as these allow birds to congre-

gate, increasing the chance of disease exposure if present. People who choose to leave bird feeders and bird baths out are asked to clean them several times each week with a ten percent bleach solution and watch for signs of disease. Do not handle any sick or dead wildlife or allow any pets to consume any wild carcasses.

Currently, the transmission risk of avian influenza from infected birds to people remains low, but the public should take basic protective measures if contact with wild animals cannot be avoided. The public and health care professionals can find more information about HPAI in humans from the Texas Department of State Health Services. If an individual had contact with an HPAI-positive or suspect animal and develops signs of illness, immediately contact your health care provider and let them know about the exposure.

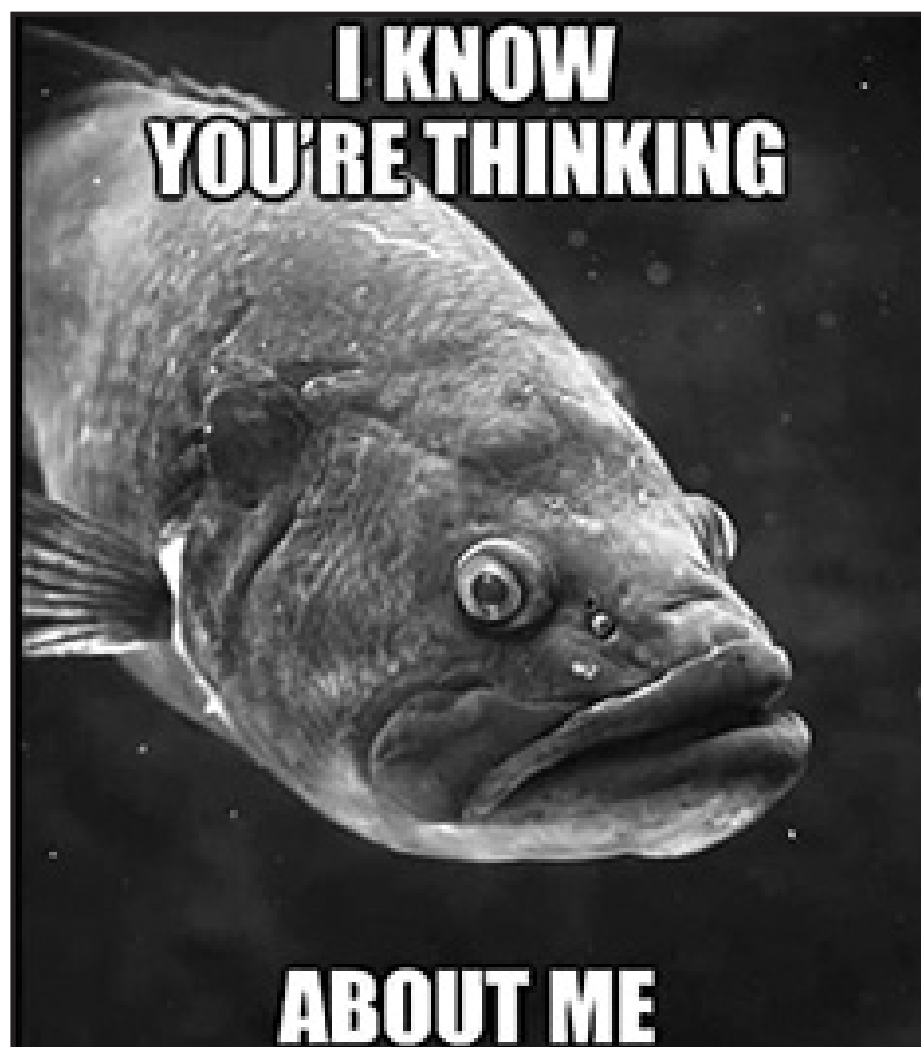
If you encounter a wild animal with signs consistent with HPAI, contact your local TPWD wildlife biologist.



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East Texas Fire and Nature Festival Coming to Tyler Nature Center in April

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department invites the public to learn about the importance of fire in nature at the East Texas Fire and Nature Festival. The event takes place 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. April 5 at the Tyler Nature Center, 11942 FM 848, Tyler, TX 75707. The free festival demonstrates the multiple benefits of prescribed fire and focuses on increasing public familiarity and understanding of its role in the ecology of the Pineywoods. Participants will be able to join nature hikes and talks, see wildland fire trucks, access hands-on fire equipment and kids' activities highlighting wildlife and science and watch a live prescribed fire demonstration, weather permitting.

This event is a collaborative effort between the following organizations: Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Texas A&M Forest Service, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, USDA Forest Service, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Texas Longleaf Team, Tall Timbers, Great Plains Fire Science Exchange, The Nature Conservancy, Pheasant Forever, American Bird Conservancy, Smith County Fire Marshal,

Smith County Soil & Water Conservation District, Smith County EMS, National Wild Turkey Federation, Master Naturalist and Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas. For media information, please contact Danielle Okay at danielle.okay@tpwd.texas.gov

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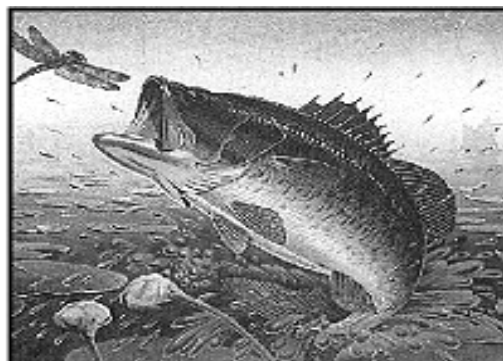
Country Find

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

ALGERIA
AUSTRIA
BELGIUM
CANADA
CHINA
FRANCE
GERMANY

IRELAND
ITALY
MEXICO
POLAND
PORTUGAL
SPAIN
UNITED STATES

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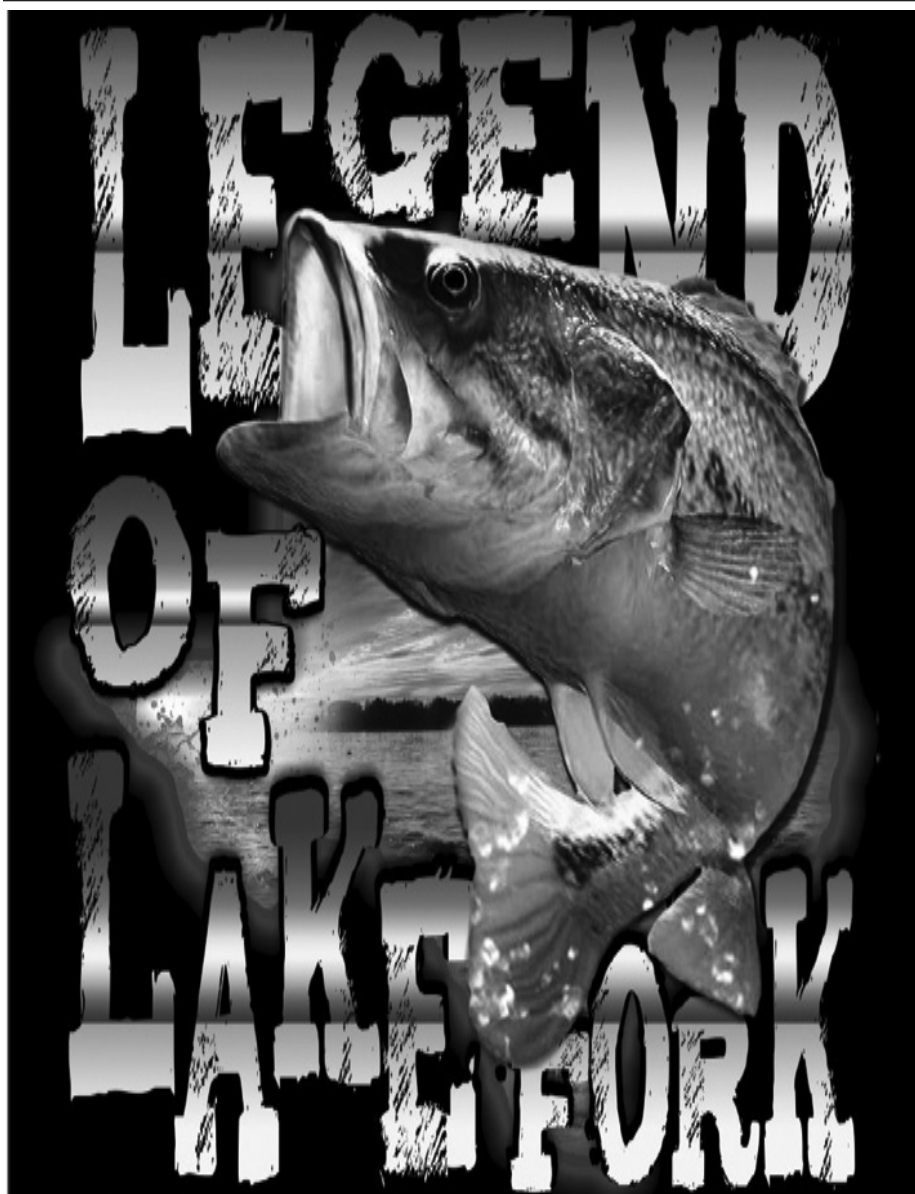
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Game Warden Field Notes

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

--Tractor Pull-- A Cherokee County game warden came upon a hunter on a tractor attempting to dump the carcass of a doe deer. The subject stated that he was not aware that doe days had closed on Nov. 29. Upon questioning, it was determined that the subject's friend who was back at camp had also had some success that morning and had taken a buck.

Upon arrival at the camp, the warden discovered an untagged buck that also failed to meet antler restrictions. Cases pending.

--Dove Tales-- A Real County game warden received a call from a group of people who were trying to fish on their own property. The caller stated while they were fishing, they were peppered by shot gun pellets and were seeing a lot of dove flying in the area. The warden arrived at the location and met a truck leaving the property, asking the driver if

he had been hunting. The driver said he had been dove hunting and killed seven birds. The warden informed the hunter that dove season in the Central Zone ended on the 14th. The hunter was cited for Hunt Dove in Closed Season and his birds were seized and donated. Case pending.

--Ineligible-- A Webb County game warden and Duval County game warden completed an investigation on an individual who had entered a deer into the local Muy Grande

(Continued on Page 24)

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Healthy Entertaining: The Sweet Benefits of Raisins

By Sue Hampton

Party food doesn't have to be fattening. There are a number of delicious and healthful dishes you can serve at parties and get-togethers. For instance, dishes prepared with raisins are tangy, flavorful and provide numerous health benefits. Raisins are loaded with vitamins, minerals, powerful antioxidants, potassium, vitamin B6, and they are also fat and cholesterol-free.

Getting hungry? Try this recipe for Tropical Shrimp Cocktail!



Try this refreshing "Tropical Shrimp Salad" at your next get-together! It is delicious and healthy!

Tropical Shrimp Cocktail

Dressing

Juice of one lime
Juice of one orange
2 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil
1 small jalapeno pepper; seeded, deveined and minced
2 tablespoons finely diced red onion
Kosher or sea salt and freshly ground pepper

Shrimp Salad

16 large cooked, peeled and deveined prawns (size 16/20)
1/3 cup California golden raisins
1 cup diced fresh pineapple
1 ripe mango, diced
1 firm ripe avocado, diced
2-tablespoons chopped cilantro
2-tablespoons chopped mint
Lime wedges; for garnish

Dressing

Whisk ingredients together and season with salt and pepper to taste. Refrigerate until needed.

Shrimp Salad

In a medium mixing bowl, toss the prawns with 2 tablespoons of the dressing to coat and set aside. Add remaining salad ingredients except for lime wedges to the bowl and toss with remaining dressing. Cover and chill well.

Divide the chilled fruit mixture among 4 stemmed cocktail glasses or small bowls. Top with the prawns (4 or more per serving) and garnish with wedges of lime.

Salad ingredients should be prepared up to 1 hour in advance and refrigerated until ready to serve.

Serves: 4



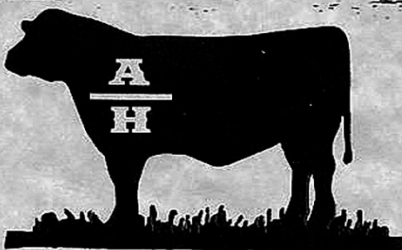

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Game Warden Field Notes (Continued from Page 22)

Deer Contest. The individual who shot the deer was from out of state and did not possess a license. She then bought a license five hours later after entering the deer into the contest. The deer scored 172 5/8 Boone and Crockett Score. Cases and Civil restitution pending.

--Decoyed-- While checking duck hunters along the Frio River, a game warden contacted a boat containing four duck hunters. The "so-called" guide stated he did not have a hunting license, identification and failed to have enough PFD's for his hunters on board. While inspecting the ducks, one hunter attempted to awkwardly pick up a pile of decoys and move it away from the warden. When the warden asked the hunter what was under the pile of decoys and why he tried to move them in such a weird manner, the hunter stated he found a large alligator skull on the bank. He attempted to hide it as he was unsure if it was legal for him to possess. The hunter was informed he could not possess the skull which was found on the Daughtry Wildlife Management Area (WMA). Multiple cases were filed for hunting without a license, insufficient PFD's and illegal possession of an alli-

gator. The alligator skull is expected to meet or exceed the record for the largest alligator documented on the Choke Canyon.

--Citizen Assist-- A Lubbock District game warden received a call regarding hunters being on the Dimmit Playa WMA in Castro County. The Dimmit Playa WMA is a drawn only hunt property and the informant that called was a hunter who had won the drawn hunt and was currently scouting the property for the upcoming weekend. The informant told the warden that when he arrived at the Dimmit Playa there was a pickup parked at the gate of the property. As he got closer, he noticed three hunters firing shotguns inside the property. The Castro County Sheriff's Office was dispatched and arrived on scene first due to logistics. After interviewing the suspects, the sheriff discovered they had killed five pheasants. The warden coordinated with the sheriff and all five pheasants were seized and civil restitution was filed. The suspects were also cited for the following violations: Taking or Possessing species from a

Wildlife Management Area, Failure to have an Annual Public Hunting Permit and a No Upland Game Bird Endorsement Violation.

--The Munchies-- Wardens were patrolling in Childress County for state law violations when they observed a vehicle with a Louisiana license plate traveling East on a rural highway. A traffic stop was conducted and during the initial contact with the driver, the warden's pointed out that there was a small purple box with a marijuana leaf insignia on it that appeared to have "THC" written on the box. Warden's had the driver exit his vehicle and questioned him about his trip across the U.S. During the investigation, the driver admitted to having some marijuana and THC edibles inside the vehicle. A probable cause search of the vehicle yielded several containers of THC wax, THC edible candy, marijuana and several drug paraphernalia items. The driver was booked into the Childress County Jail without incident and charged with possession of a controlled substance PG2

(Continued on Next Page)

Practice C.P.R.



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4<400G, possession of marijuana less than 2oz, and possession of drug paraphernalia.

--Unintended Consequences-- A Williamson County game warden received an Operation Game Thief call regarding a buck shot out of season. The warden contacted the hunter who admitted to shooting a small four-point white-tail deer on Jan. 9. He said it was unintentional and thought it was a spike. The hunter was asked for his hunting license and he went inside his house to retrieve it. When the hunter gave it to the warden, he noticed the harvest log was not filled out and upon inspection one buck tag was missing. The warden asked to see the tag since the hunter stated he processed deer at home. The hunter took out the tag from his shirt pocket and gave it to the warden. The tag was not filled out and the dates were not cut out. Citations were issued.

--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.

--Flushing Out a Poacher-- On Nov. 2, Henderson County Game Wardens filed charges against a man for hunting without landowner consent. The wardens had been investigating the suspect since last deer season, when they found an unusual hunting blind made out of a converted port-a-potty. Unable to catch the suspect last year, wardens set up a game camera along the property line in hopes the hunter would return to hunt the same unusual blind.

On the opening morning of deer season, the

camera captured the suspect walking to his "toilet stand." Not long after, wardens confronted the hunter and he confessed to hunting without permission. Charges were filed, and the man removed the blind and feeder from the property.

--Bailout Results in Bale-Out-- While assisting other law enforcement agencies as part of Operation Lone Star, a Texas Game Warden and his K9 partner, Jake, were called to track a bailout suspect. Before starting their search for the bailout, though, Jake alerted to the vehicle — an indication people could be inside. However, Jake and his partner began pursuing the track of the bailout suspect and left the vehicle alone so it could be processed for evidence. After successfully locating and aiding in the apprehension of their suspect, the game warden received a call from the agent at the scene and were surprised to learn the haybale in the bed of the truck had just flipped over and requested assistance. Officers discovered 10 undocumented individuals hiding inside the fake hay bale.

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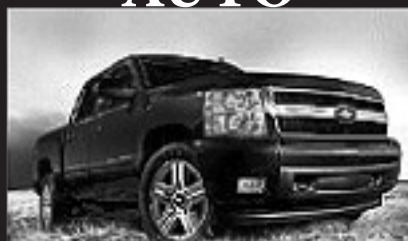
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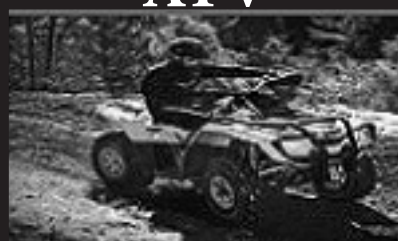
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Lake Fork Sportsman's Association "Preserving the Legend That is Lake Fork"

By Dianne Spradling, President

The new year has started with a bang. The weather cannot decide what it wants to do. As spring continues and more and more people are out on the lake fishing, please be careful and courteous to everyone out on the water.

We had a great turnout for the Bass Champs Team Tournament. The weather was rainy and cold but Saturday afternoon the sun came out for the weigh in.

We will be working with the Wood County Marine Corp League again this year for take a Veteran fishing. The date is April 22. If you are interested in helping out, please email us or give me a call at the number below. We had a great time last year with 25 Veterans going out fishing.

We are looking forward to 2025. We have several projects planned for this year. We will be working with Texas Parks and Wildlife and Sabine River Authority on these projects to help improve Lake Fork.

Our next Bass tournament will be Bass Champs

Mega Bass on April 6th at Lake Fork Marina.

Don't forget to come out to our monthly general meetings at Jamie's Restaurant. The meetings are the 2nd Tuesday of each month and starts at 6:30 pm. Quite a few of us show up about 5:30 and eat a great dinner. Please come and check us out.

If you have any questions or concerns, please email us at Lakeforksportsmansassociation@gmail.com or feel free to email me at Di61462@icloud.com or call my cell number at 214-794-2340. We hope to see you soon.



For the past 26 years Lake Fork Sportsman's Association has been Preserving the Legend that is Lake Fork with their Live Release Boat at tournaments releasing catches back healthy in the lake, planting new grasses, and establishing fish habitat.



TACKLE DONATIONS NEEDED

Rods, reels, tackle, and fishing-related equipment are needed to support the High School Fishing Tackle Program sponsored by Lake Fork Sportsman's Association. LFSA requests donations of new and used fishing articles that will be cleaned, assembled, and refurbished. Items will be further donated to area high school fishing teams.

Call Terry Long, 214-206-7504 or Pat Kostial, 619-379-6920 for more information or to arrange a donation.



Meetings are held the 2nd Tuesday of each month beginning at 6:30 pm at Jamie's Restaurant off Hwy. 17N

"Wish To Fish Foundation"

903-383-7748

Needs Your Help!!!

If you know a family that has a child that meets our criteria, just have them call us.

We'll take over from there!

*"Every child deserves a chance to fish!" Children diagnosed or who have experienced a life-threatening illness or accident sometimes do not have that opportunity. Now through the "Wish to Fish Foundation" they can have that day in the sun with their family. Any family with a child between the ages 3 to 18 years of age that has been diagnosed or treated for a life-threatening illness or accident is invited to come fish Lake Fork for any species of fish at **NO COST!** Lodging, meals, and fishing are provided for. This allows the family to spend quality time together fishing without worries or expenses. The outing includes one night lodging, meals, refreshments, snacks, all on a 26' Tritoon Pontoon, (accompanied with a 9-1-1 chase boat for any emergency that may occur. All bait and fishing equipment provided. If you are, or know of a family that meets the above criteria, contact us! Help us spread the word, we are here for the children!*

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



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May 16, 17, 18, 2025

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4th – \$200
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6th – \$150
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For the Heaviest Bass Over The Slot
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\$20,000 Draw
(Early Entries ONLY and Must Be Present to win.)

Bonus!
T-Shirt Hour Every Hour
of the Tournament

Early Entry Incentive: Only Early Entries Received on or before 4/30/25 will Qualify For Drawing To Win \$20,000 in cash.
To Qualify for drawing, Early Entries Must Be Received on or before April 30, 2025

For More Information Call: 903-360-6994 or 903-360-6993
Email: fishnews@lakefork.net

Rules & Regulations

Please read all official tournament rules and regulations prior to signing entry form. The following items will be checked when contestants weigh in. Violation of any rules regarding the following items will be cause for immediate disqualification.

- Fishing License • Boat Registration • Kill Switch
- Horsepower Rating • Alcoholic Beverages/Drugs • Life Jacket, Proper Clothing

The tournament will be held regardless of weather. Closed conditions threaten safety. Contestants should monitor weather conditions.

DECISIONS:
1. All decisions of the Tournament Directors are FINAL. Contestants only eligible for one (1) grand prize.
2. All protests must be reported in writing with a Tournament Director within 15 minutes of the disputed weigh-in.

INFORMATION:
Any and all announcements concerning emergencies and hourly results will be broadcast over the DFWC (also radio tower KACQ 93.5 FM). Bring a portable radio in your boat.

ELIGIBILITY:
1. All State & Federal personal boats are eligible to compete.
2. All State, Coast Guard, Federal Parks & Wildlife regulations shall apply at all times.

3. This tournament is designed primarily for amateurs; therefore, anyone who has fished 4 or more tournaments within the past 12 months of this tournament with an entry fee over \$1,500, or anyone who has received prize money for any other tournament, will not be eligible to compete in this tournament.

4. Contestants must have a valid fishing license to tournament date on their person at all times.
5. Each person in boat must be a participant of official tournament and abide by all tournament rules and regulations. Boat must remain at weigh-in while longer 4 or more hours of tournament hours.

6. Non-contestants will not be allowed to participate in any time during official tournament hours.
7. Any contestant found to be in violation of any tournament rules and regulations will be subject to disqualification from this tournament and all future tournaments.

8. All boats caught by contestants being together will be disqualified if any of the said contestants are found to be in violation of any tournament rules and regulations.
9. Any person who has been disqualified from any prior tournament may be subject to being inducted into this tournament.

10. Tournament officials have the right to remove any boat.
11. Participants under 18 years of age must be accompanied by a parent or adult with written parental permission.

REGISTRATION AND ENTRY FEE:
1. Entry fees with complete entry form must be received before fishing.
2. NON-REFUNDABLE (OR STATE/TX RULES OR THE BOAT REGS MAY APPLY) ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES:

1. No alcoholic beverages are to be consumed by tournament contestants on any BASS tournament day. Violation of this rule will result in disqualification. Contestants caught drinking alcohol on tournament day will be subject to disqualification. Contestants caught drinking alcohol on tournament day will be subject to disqualification. Contestants caught drinking alcohol on tournament day will be subject to disqualification.

SAFETY: 1. All boats must be equipped with some type of emergency system (kill switch) on any remote control outboard motor engine. A kill switch system must be attached to the boat. Contestants must have a valid fishing license to tournament date on their person at all times.

2. Boat capacity must always be followed. No more than 12 people in a boat. Life jackets must be worn and fastened while motor engine is on.
3. All boats must have a valid fishing license to tournament date on their person at all times.

PERMITTED FISHING AREAS AND HOURS:
1. All boats caught during tournament hours must tournament day. Boat may only be weighed in during official tournament hours.
2. Official Tournament Lakes: Old Lake Fork, New Lake Fork, San Marcos and San Antonio. All other lakes are off limits.

3. All boats caught during tournament hours must tournament day. Boat may only be weighed in during official tournament hours.
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60. All boats caught during tournament hours must tournament day. Boat may only be weighed in during official tournament hours.

3. Contestants may leave from any launch site on Lake Fork. No casting until 6am official clock. Official start-stop times will be determined by Official Radio Station.
4. No fishing within 50 yards of a marina gas pump.

TACKLE AND EQUIPMENT:
1. All bass must be caught on artificial bait by casting. No trolling with big motor. Contestants may use only one rod at any one time. Other rods may be in the boat for substitute purposes.
2. All fishing must be done from a boat. No bank fishing is allowed. Angler cannot leave boat to land fish.

3. No electronic tracking devices (implanted microchips) may be used to locate fish for tournament purposes. (Depth finders and graph charts are the only exceptions).
WEIGH IN, SPORTSMANSHIP AND CONSERVATION:

1. Sportsmanship, courtesy, safety and conservation are expected from every participant.
2. All bass weighed in will become the property of the tournament and will be released back into the lake each tournament day alive if possible.

3. All contestants shall be required to bring their boat and respective partner(s) with them to the weigh-in site when weighing in bass.
4. Trailering is permissible.

5. No bass on ice. Bass must be alive to be weighed in.
6. All bass brought to weigh-in station must be in an official weigh in bag with water.

7. No contestants may weigh in more than one bass per tournament hour. Only one bass per weigh in bag is allowed. The number of times you may enter separate Big Bass of the Hour is restricted to the Lake Fork limit per day. Bass entered in the Big Bass of the Hour contest do not carry forward from hour to hour. Your biggest bass is registered into the final overall standings. No ties, 1st heaviest fish weighed in wins that prize. One grand prize per angler.

8. Bass must be weighed in by the contestant who originally caught the bass and it must be in said contestant's physical possession in the weigh-in line.
9. Any artificially weighed or preserved bass will be disqualified and that contestant will be subject to prosecution under state and/or federal laws.

10. Any questionable entry will be subject to inspection by a marine biologist or similarly qualified expert from the Texas Parks & Wildlife Dept.
11. Minimum length of bass to be weighed is less than 16" (cannot touch the line) or 24" or more. If it touches the line on 24" it is a legal catch and can be weighed in. Official measuring board is the Check-It-Stick.

12. Only largemouth bass will be weighed in.
13. No contestant may have more than three bass in their possession at any time during official tournament hours. One bass only is allowed to be weighed in during any tournament hour.

14. This is a mandatory catch and release program during Official Tournament Hours. When tournament is officially over each day all bass must be released back into Lake Fork.
15. Contestants are to be attentive to litter and should make every effort to maintain their trash in their boat and dispose of it properly.

POLYGRAPH:
1. Each contestant by signing the entry form, agrees to submit to polygraph.
2. Polygraph test will be given on a random basis and must be passed.

3. There will be random polygraph tests given as soon as possible after the conclusion of each official Tournament hour as soon as that hour has elapsed. All contestants who have placed during said hour, their respective partners and boats, if any, must remain at the official Tournament site until said hourly winners are declared official. If not present, contestants will be automatically disqualified.

4. Any contestant determined by the polygraph examination or other Tournament Officials to be intoxicated or in violation of illegal drugs at the time said contestant is required to take the polygraph examination, or in violation of Tournament rules, will be disqualified from this and all future Tournaments.

5. Any contestant found to be in possession of any illegal substance will be subject to disqualification and prosecution.
BOAT INSPECTION:

All contestants, by entering this Tournament, hereby agree to allow their boats to be boarded and inspected by Tournament officials at any time during said Tournament, to include, but not limited to, their boat registration, Coast Guard horsepower rating plate, and boat contents to include livewell, rod boxes, closed storage compartments, tackle boxes, life jackets, PFD's and safety equipment. Refer to checklist.

*The above mentioned rules are for your own safety.

OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM

Please complete Entry Form and submit to our office.

“Legend of Lake Fork Tournament”, 538 P.R. 5861, Yantis, TX 75497 * (903) 360-6993

Cell: (903) 360-6994 To qualify for early entry, application must be received no later than 4/30/25.

Indicate number of days to fish ☐ \$130 (1) Day Entry ☐ \$215 (2) Day Entry ☐ \$290 (3) Day Entry

If only fishing one or two days please indicate which day you will participate: ☐ Friday ☐ Saturday ☐ Sunday

(Take \$10 Off If Paying By Cash, Check, or Money Order)

Entry Fee After 4/30/25 at Tournament Headquarters ~ Lake Fork Marina

1 Day ~ \$145 2 Day ~ \$235 3 Day ~ \$310 *(No Checks Will Be Accepted At Late Registration)

Entries and Check-In, Lake Fork Marina, Thurs. 5/15/25 ~ 2 P.M. to 9 P.M. Fri. 5/16/25 ~ 5 A.M. to 6 A.M.

& 4 P.M. to 9 P.M. Sat. 5/17/25 ~ 5 A.M. to 6 A.M. & 4 P.M. to 9 P.M. Sun. 5/18/25 ~ 5 A.M. to 6 A.M.

FIRST NAME: _____ LAST NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____ PHONE: (_____) _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

EMAIL: _____ BIRTHDATE (mm/dd/yy): _____

I hereby enter the above “Legend of Lake Fork Tournament”. I have read and understand the rules and waive and release all other Contestants, Tournament Directors, Tournament Sponsors, and their agents from all claims of personal injuries, accidents and/or damaged, lost or stolen property incurred in connection with the tournament. I understand that \$5 of my entry is a voluntary contribution to the “Wish To Fish Program”. I hereby grant permission to the tournament and all tournament officials the right to publicize, video tape, photograph and/or broadcast my name, character likeness or voice and the fact that I was a participant and/or prize winner, and all other matters incidental thereto. If I place for any prize, I will submit to a polygraph examination or be disqualified and will abide with such results. Contestant Ratifies and approves entry in the above “Legend of Lake Fork Tournament” made on his/her behalf by another and agrees thereby to be bound by all rules of the tournament.

SIGNATURE: _____

Entry Form Must Be Signed To Be Valid

FOR PARENTS/GUARDIANS OF PARTICIPANTS OF MINORITY AGE (UNDER AGE 18 AT TIME OF REGISTRATION): This is to certify that I, as parent/guardian with legal responsibility for this participant, do consent and agree to indemnify and hold harmless the Releasees from any and all liabilities incident to my minor child's involvement or participation in these programs as provided above, EVEN IF ARISING FROM THE NEGLIGENCE OF THE RELEASEES, to the fullest extent permitted by law.

SIGNATURE OF PARENT/GUARDIAN OF ABOVE MINOR

☐ CHECK ☐ CASH ☐ MONEY ORDER ☐ MasterCard ☐ VISA ☐ DISCOVER

CREDIT CARD #: _____

EXPIRATION DATE: ____/____/____ SEC: _____

SIGNATURE: _____

TO EMAIL ENTRY: fishnews@lakefork.net

EARLY ENTRY INCENTIVE:

Only early entries received on or before
4/30/25 will qualify for drawing
to win \$20,000 in cash.

Anglers can purchase TFO Roads \$65

BONUS T-Shirt Hour every hour

of the tournament!

Must have T-Shirt with you when weighing in!

Texas Trails Bassmasters of Lake Fork

48th Semi-Annual Open Tournament

Mar. 8, 2025 * Lake Fork, Texas
Oak Ridge Marina * Hwy 154 N.

Guaranteed Pay-Out Based on 100 Entries
Drawings Held After Weigh-in for prizes

903-360-6994



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



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

1st Place	\$500
2nd Place	\$300
3rd Place	\$200

1. Entry fee is \$40.00 - late entry is \$45.00
2. Early entries must be postmarked by Oct. 5, 2025.
3. All entry fees must be paid before 6 a.m. Sat., Mar. 1, 2025.
4. Check in times: Fri., Mar. 7, 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. and Sat., Mar. 8, 5 a.m. to 6 a.m. at Oak Ridge Marina.
5. To qualify, contestants must check in at tournament headquarters before fishing.
6. Fishing hours will be 6:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. (official clock at sign-in station). NO FISHING from midnight till start time.
7. Fishing will be done on Lake Fork only (trailer allowed).
8. Contestants must fish from a boat. NO-bank fishing or leaving the boat to land a fish.
9. Life jackets must be worn any time their outboard motor is running.
10. All state, federal, and local laws must be obeyed or contestant and fish may be disqualified. No slot fish may be brought to weigh-in.
11. No one may have more than five (5) fish in their possession at any time. Only one (1) may be 24" or greater.
12. Largemouth bass 12" to 16" or 24" or greater in length may be weighed. No fish under 12" or between 16" and 24" will be weighed (or state law limits at the time of the tournament).
13. All fish must be caught on artificial bait by casting. (No trolling with gas engine). Pork trailer may be used.
14. Weigh-in starts at 3:00 p.m. (official clock at sign-in). You must be in the weigh-in line by 3:30 p.m.
15. All fish must be brought to the scales in weigh-in bags.
16. No iced or frozen fish will be weighed. Ice may be added ONLY to aid in survival of fish.
17. Each contestant will be responsible for weighing his or her own fish. (No pooling of fish).
18. Dead fish at weigh-in will be penalized 1/2 (.5) pound. All fish weighed in become the property of TTB and will be released (with the exception of trophy

or dead fish).

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

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For more information or for information on joining Texas Trails Bassmasters of Lake Fork visit our website: www.texastrailsbassmasters.com

Entry Application

Entry fee of \$40 must accompany mailed entry and must be postmarked on or before Mar. 1, 2025 to Texas Trails Bassmasters, 538 PR 5861, Yantis, TX 75497, or you may pay \$45 at tournament headquarters before starting time of tournament. \$10 extra for Big Bass (Optional). Print clearly.

Name: _____

Email: _____

Address: _____

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

Contestants Signature _____

Minor's Release: Signed by

Parent/Guardian

TTB USE ONLY

Entry # _____

Entry Fee _____

Big Bass _____

Cash _____ Chk# _____

Martins

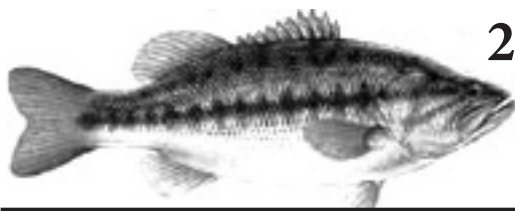


FISHERMANS INN
2933 West SH 154
Quitman, TX 75783
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P.O. Box 653

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CABIN RENTALS • RV PARK

Lake Fork Tournament Schedule Mar. thru Apr. 2025



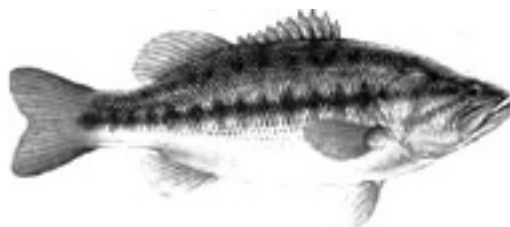
March

- Mar. 2 ~ Media Bass Solo
Minnow Bucket
- Mar. 8 ~ Tex. Trails Bassmasters Open
Oak Ridge Marina
- Mar. 15 ~ JC Outdoors Solo
Minnow Bucket
- Mar. 22 ~ JC Outdoors Teams
Minnow Bucket
- Mar. 23 ~ Media Solo
Minnow Bucket



April

- Apr. 6 ~ BassChamps MegaBass
Lake Fork Marina
- Apr. 12 ~ JC Outdoors Solo
Minnow Bucket
- Apr. 26 ~ JC Outdoors Teams
Minnow Bucket



May

- May 10 ~ JC Outdoors Teams
Minnow Bucket
- May 16, 17, 18, ~ Legend of Lake Fork
Lake Fork Marina
- May 24 ~ Sartin Marine & Friends
Minnow Bucket
- May 31 ~ JC Outdoors Solo
Minnow Bucket



Jamie's Restaurant

"My Oh My The Pie"

903-765-2087



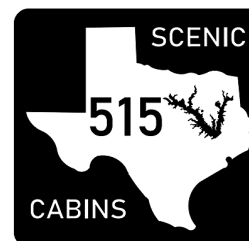
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Outdoor Staining & Painting
DECKS • PATIOS • PORCHES

Pressure Washing Available

★ Good Work ★ Fair Prices

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8372 W. FM 515 Yantis, TX 75497

903-383-7885

**Alexander's
Meat Market**

903-342-0300

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East Texas Optical, Inc.
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903-878-2451 or 800-442-8266

Buy One pair of eyeglasses
Get 2nd pair 1/2 OFF

Open: Mon. ~ Fri. 9 A.M. - 6 P.M.
Saturday ~ 9 A.M. - 1 P.M.



Paul Bacon
Physical Therapist

903 E. Lennon St., Ste. 101
Emory, TX 75440

(903) 474-9436
fax (903) 473-3170

Bev's Fish Creations & Waterfowl Taxidermy

903-473-4529

Replicas ~ \$20 per inch
Ducks ~ \$425



Preserving The Legend
Meetings are held the 2nd Tuesday of each
month beginning at 6:30 pm this month
Jamie's Restaurant off Hwy. 17N

Cocina PERALTA'S Mexicana

Family Owned & Operated
with four locations to serve you:

Grand Saline 310 W. Garland St. 903.962.3949	Quitman 607 South Main 903.763.5020	Winnsboro 813 South Main 903.342.5303	Pittsburg 507 South Greer Blvd. 903.856.2959
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24 hour Service Credit Terms Available

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Right Across From Wood County Jail
Fast & Honest Service
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We put you on the water!

Sales - Service - Parts - Accessories
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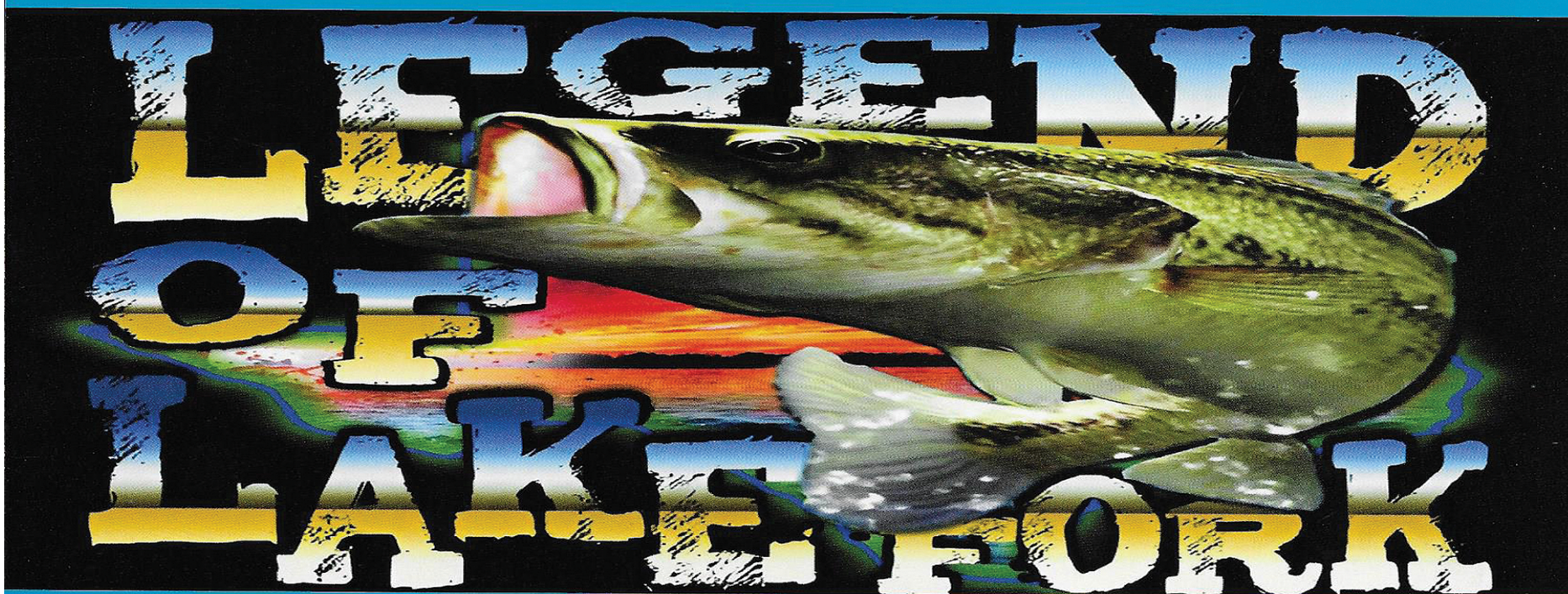
903-383-7726

www.sartinmarine.com

290 FM 1567 West
Yantis, Texas 75497

Billy and Lana Sartin
Owners

20th Annual Legend of Lake Fork



Big Bass Tournament

All Boats, Makes, Models Welcome

May 16, 17, 18, 2025

\$200,000 In Cash & Prizes

Benefiting "The Wish to Fish Foundation"

Tournament Host: Lake Fork Marina, Hwy. 17, 903-765-2764

Grand Prizes Include:

\$40,000 For the Heaviest Bass Over The Slot

\$30,000 For the Heaviest Under The Slot, \$20,000 Early Incentive Draw
(Early Entries Only, Received Before April 30, 2025 and must be present to win)

11 Places Paid Hourly: 1st - \$600 * 2nd - \$400 * 3rd - \$300 * 4th - \$200 * 5th - \$175
6th - \$150 * 7th - \$135 * 8th - \$125 * 9th - \$115 * 10th - \$110 * 1st Out of 10th \$100 GC

BONUS T-SHIRT HOUR EVERY HOUR OF THE TOURNAMENT

For More Information Call: 903-360-6994 or 903-360-6993 Email: fishnews@lakefork.net



Rains County Tourism
Distribution Board





MEGA BASS



\$25,000 CASH

presented by



GUARANTEED - EVERY HOUR

15 Places per hour

GUARANTEED
regardless of entries
EVERY HOUR

1st place.....	\$15,000
2nd place.....	\$2,000
3rd place.....	\$1,000
4th place.....	\$900
5th place.....	\$800
6th place.....	\$700
7th place.....	\$600
8th place.....	\$500
9th place.....	\$500
10th place.....	\$500
11th place.....	\$500
12th place.....	\$500
13th place.....	\$500
14th place.....	\$500
15th place.....	\$500

Even Weight Bonus \$\$
2.50 lb - \$500 - 3.00 lb - \$500
9.00 lb - \$500 - 10.00 lb - \$500
first even weights weighed in

Amateurs Only - Open to all boat brands

Big Bass of the day
WINS \$15,000 CASH
and a SKEETER ZX 200

includes hourly win



Lake Fork
Sunday, April 6th, 2025

Lake Fork Marina

Entry Fee: \$200 per person
(Includes \$10 cash/check discount)

Checks NOT accepted on site

On site registration times:

4/4 Friday 5-7 PM

Sat 4/5: 12-7 PM Sun 4/6: 5 AM

EARLY REGISTRATION DRAW PRIZES

Entries received before April 2nd at 11:59 PM
are eligible to win drawings

\$20 Bonus Card pays additional \$250
to the highest two finishers with card
every hour.

For additional info. and rules go to www.basschamps.com or call 817-439-3274

Winners are responsible for taxes, titles, and license fees. Boat pictured may differ from actual prize.
Over \$175,000 Cash, Skeeter boat & 15 places every hour are guaranteed regardless of entries.

basschamps.com