

LAKE FORK "The Big Bass Capital Of Texas"



"The Fisherman's Guide, News You Can Use"

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1 Section

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Free

Vol. 26

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No. 308

20th Annual Legend of Lake Fork



Big Bass Tournament

By Don Hampton

If you didn't get your early entry in before April 30th, you still have a chance to get in to win some of the cash to be given away. We will be at the tournament sight Lake Fork Marina located just off Highway 17N. We will start taking entries on Thursday, May 15th from 2 pm to 9 pm; on Friday May 16th from 5 am to 6 am. and from 4 pm to 9 pm; on Saturday May 17th from 5 am to

6 am and again at 4 pm to 9 pm. On Sunday May 18th, for anglers wishing to fish just one day we will be taking entries from 5 am to 6 am. As usual anglers can fish one day, two days, or all three days of the tournament. We will be paying eleven places each hour. Anglers have a lot to look forward to at the 20th Annual Legend of Lake Fork Big Bass Tournament which will be held on May 16, 17, 18, 2025. With the spring

rains we are now having, the lake should be at full pool during the tournament with all boat ramps safely open. Some bass will have already spawned and eating heavily to get their weight back, but some will still be on the beds. We all know what this means, great fishing and the best time of the year. As always and as it has been in past years, the tournament will be held out of Lake Fork (See Legend of Lake... Continued on Page 4)



Lorne Smith from Ardmore, Oklahoma won the 17th Annual Mega Bass Tournament hosted by BassChamps with this bass weighing 9.88-pounds taking home \$15,250 in cash and a new Skeeter ZX 200 powered by Yamaha, a Skeeter built trailer and Garmin electronics.

17th Annual Mega Bass Tournament

By Don Hampton

The 17th Annual Mega Bass Tournament was held on Lake Fork on April 12th. It being the highest paid, one day amateur tournament

in existence has the tendency to draw anglers. This year over 1,300 anglers came to test their skills on this great reservoir to try and win some of the \$25,000 per hour given away with 1st place

in each hour winning a check for \$15,000. In the Mega Bass presented by Bass-Champs the scales are open for a half hour beginning with the (See Mega Bass... Continued on Page 5)



Ross Moorman-Hahn from Springtown, TX won \$15,250 in the 8 o'clock hour with this bass weighing 7.93-lbs.



Brian Millwood from West Monroe, LA. won \$15,000 in the 9 o'clock hour with this bass weighing 8.90-lbs.

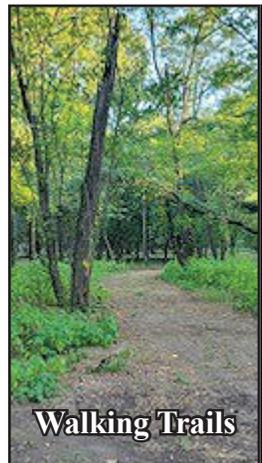


Roberts Brooks from Ardmore, OK won \$15,250 in the 10 o'clock hour with this bass weighing 6.20-lbs.

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"If That's Your Fishing Hole, Where's Your Mail-box?"

By: Don Hampton

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

When it comes to fishing in public waters he is under the impression that those waters actually belong to the State of Texas. He also holds dear the belief that anyone that purchases a fishing license and abides by the laws can fish those waters anytime and anywhere they so desire. After all this is Texas and Bubba even has a T-shirt that reads, "MADE IN TEXAS BY TEXANS". So, what Bubba would really like to know is if there has been a new "Homestead Act" put in effect that he has not heard of that allows anglers to claim portions of water. If so he is going to be out of luck because Bubbette won't let him get anymore stuff!

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

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

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

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

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

Bubba being the type of person he is didn't wish to trespass on this individual's property anymore. To make sure of this he followed them all day to see if he had any other property on the lake with maybe a mailbox in front of it. Bubba did not locate one at any of the places they went to and fished. He did mark the spots on his GPS and gave them to all his friends so they would know these spots did not belong to anyone and they would not be trespassing if they fished there. Bubba is just that kind of guy!

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

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

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20th Annual Legend of Lake Fork (Continued from Page 1)

Marina just off Highway 17N. This would be a great time to get your reservations. If you need an entry form you can go to our website and print one off at www.legendoflakefork.com. If you are on the lake you can pick one up at any of the marinas or email us at fishnews@lakefork.net and we will send you one. All entries that are received on or before April 30, 2025 qualify for the early entry incentive drawing of \$20,000.

If you have ordered a boat, a motor, or parts for your motor you know what a long wait it is and how the price escalates each month. With the economy being what it is I have made a change in the format. After speaking with many of the anglers they agree this is great and they are looking forward to winning a grand prize of the cash money. Many said this made it much simpler for splitting their winnings

with their partner fishing with them.

For the angler that catches the heaviest bass over the slot in the tournament that angler will receive a check for \$40,000. For the angler that catches the heaviest bass under 16-inches he or she will receive a check for \$30,000. For the name drawn in the early incentive they will receive a check for \$20,000. With the economy being what it is, I have not heard any complaints.

As an extra incentive we will be selling our commemorative T-shirts. If you have purchased a shirt and have it with you when you weigh your bass in and win 1st place in the hour you receive \$100 at that time. Also a great bargain offered to the anglers will be the chance to purchase a new rod. We will have TFO Rods, 7-foot MH with fast action tip and 7-foot M for \$65. These rods retail for \$179 each.

I hope to see all of you there and hoping you are looking forward to the event as much as we are. "Good luck and fish friendly!"



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17th Annual Mega Bass Tournament on Lake Fork (Continued from Page 1)

8 o’clock hour and ending with the 2 o’clock hour. The fishing began at 6:30 am and the anglers were ready to make that first cast. Anglers could have asked for better weather but I don’t believe Mother Nature was listening. Winds were out of the northeast 15 to 25 mph and the temperature didn’t get out of the 50’s.

During the course of the tournament there were eight (8) bass over the 24” slot brought to the scales. Bass under the 16” slot ranged mostly in the upper 2-pound range.

In the 8 o’clock hour Ross Moorman-Hahn from Springton, TX came to the scales with a bass weighing 7.93-lbs. winning \$15,250. In the 9 o’clock hour Brian Millwood from West Monroe, LA weighed in a 8.90-pound bass winning a check for \$15,000. In the 10 o’clock hour Robert Brooks from Ardmore, OK weighed in a bass weighing 6.20-pounds, the lightest over the slot but still winning him \$15,250. In the 11 o’clock hour Tony Hill from Glenwood, AR weighed in a 9.32-pound

bass winning him \$15,000. In the 12 o’clock hour, Jerry Hunter Keener from Quitman, TX weighed in an 8.54-pound bass winning him a check for \$15,250. In the 1 o’clock hour Lorne Smith from Ardmore, OK weighed in a 9.88-pound bass winning him a check for \$15,250. In the 2 o’clock hour the last of the tournament there were two bass over the slot brought to the scales. The heaviest of the hour was caught by Kyle Miers from Malakoff, TX weighing 8.90-pounds winning him \$15,000 in hourly cash. The second in the hour was caught by River Lee from Diboll, TX that weighed 8.44-pounds winning him \$2,250 in hourly cash.

Lorne Smith’s bass weighing 9.88-pounds held up as the heaviest bass caught during the tournament. For his great catch he not only won \$15,250 in hourly cash but also took home a 2025 Skeeter ZX 200 powered by a Yamaha 200 SHO. (To view the large bass that won in the hours see pages 3, 15,& 16.)

During the course of the tournament, the Lake

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



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"May means Topwater Time on Fork!"

By Whitt Smith

May brings fewer anglers and Post Spawn Bassin'. However, at the time I'm writing this, we're still seeing and catching many spawning bass.

Fry guarding male bass are catchable on weightless plastics, frogs, and poppers.

The bream/ bluegill spawn is on big time. Some of their beds are visible and some

are deeper and require your electronics to locate. These beds are prime areas to catch bass. A Shakey Head, swim jig, football jig, wobble head and mojo-rig are hard to beat in and around Bluegill beds.

May means Topwater Time in Texas! Is there a better bite in Bassin'? The combination of hungry Post Spawn Bass and the Shad Spawn, equals get ready for some fun action. A big walking or prop style topwater lure are the tools for this job. 30 to 50 lb. test braid allows long casts and enables good hook-sets. I use 7' 3" rods for these lures. Secondary and main lake points, outside of spawning pockets and coves are locations to target. **Pro Tip:** Place a bobber stopper or two on your braid and keep against the knot attached to your walking topwater lure. This can assist in the braid fouling on the front hook when employing a "Walk the Dog" action.

A big square bill is the best follow-up lure to the topwater, when that bite dies or



is nonexistent on some days.

May is also a fantastic time to fish Buzzbaits. I like to lock one in my hand all day and the bass that hit it will be photo worthy. Don't think that just because it's sunny and calm that they won't hit one with a vengeance!

May is also a good month to fish big Swimbaits on big gear.

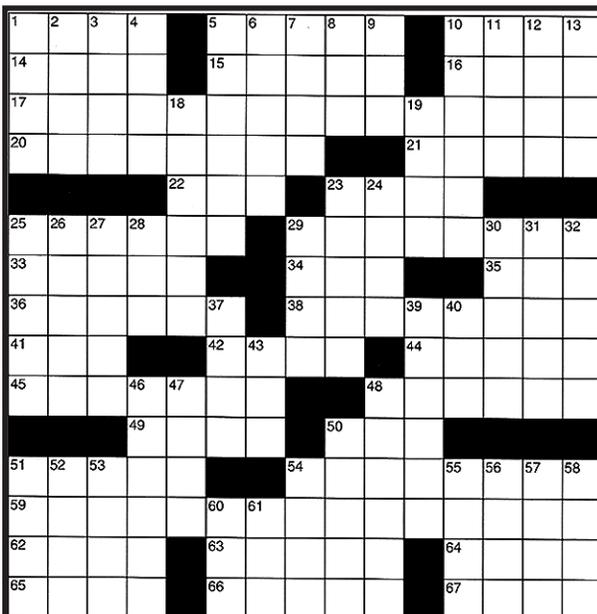
At some point in mid to late May, bass will show up on some deep structure.

Deep Crankbaits, big worms on heavy Shakey Heads and Carolina Rigs will produce bites on these bass.

May also brings the first Summer holiday of the year. Please be careful on the water, be the example, stay hydrated and enjoy your time on Lake Fork.

Be sure to visit the local tackle shops and great restaurants around the lake and give them a chance at your business.

If I can be of assistance, you can contact me at whitt@lakeforkbigbass.com or 972-743-2046.



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Featured dish
- 5. Oats
- 10. Herringlike food fish
- 14. Car
- 15. African river
- 16. Organized-crime head
- 17. Speculated
- 20. Followers
- 21. Jumpers
- 22. Crunches federal numbers
- 23. Greek portico
- 25. Abode of God and the angels
- 29. Vertical spar for supporting sails
- 33. Joe ____, British actor and playwright
- 34. Compass point
- 35. Characters in 1 inch of tape (computers)
- 36. Name of God
- 38. Pharaoh was one
- 41. Volcanic mountain in Japan
- 42. Hymenopterans
- 44. Sharp, narrow ridge found in rugged mountains
- 45. Affixed (biology)
- 48. Becomes
- 49. Unstressed-stressed
- 50. Chinese Muslim
- 51. Bosnian ethnic group
- 54. With embellishment
- 59. Living dangerously
- 62. Snake pose
- 63. Raccoonlike mammal of Central and South America
- 64. Remove the edges from
- 65. & &
- 66. Substance produced from pine
- 67. New England river

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Joseph ____, stage producer
- 2. Little ____, comic character
- 3. Essential oil obtained from flowers
- 4. Miniatures
- 5. About a South American mountain system
- 6. In ____, made in glass
- 7. Root of "out"
- 8. Born
- 9. Branch
- 10. Utter a cry
- 11. Maori war dance
- 12. Caricatured
- 13. Intersperses
- 18. ____, O'Neill, playwright
- 19. Medicinal plant
- 23. Birdcalls
- 24. Card having three spots
- 25. Georgetown team
- 26. Wipe out
- 27. Greek mountain
- 28. Swearing to the truth
- 29. 12 inches (plural)
- 30. True firs
- 31. Slew
- 32. Prongs
- 37. Pea stem (British)
- 39. Local church community
- 40. Denotes three
- 43. Long, projecting nose
- 46. Greek prophetesses
- 47. Romanian city
- 48. Bush's state capital
- 50. Country on Hispaniola
- 51. Prevents harm to creatures
- 52. ____, gate, lengthen
- 53. Foray
- 54. ____, the night before Christmas
- 55. Semiaquatic salamanders
- 56. Turkish monetary unit
- 57. ____, Clapton, musician
- 58. Showing
- 60. Company that rings receipts
- 61. Any thick, messy substance

Answers on Page 21

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Commission Approves Expansion of Digital License and Tag Options for Recreational Hunting, Fishing

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department is expanding digital license and tag options to all recreational hunting, fishing and combo license and tag types.

TPWD introduced digital licensing and tagging in 2022 for harvested deer, turkey and oversized red drum.

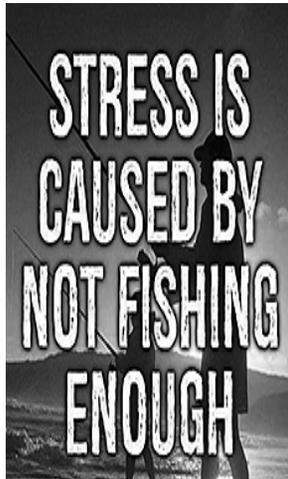
Options have since expanded to allow resident hunters and anglers to purchase a fully digital license for the super combo (Items 111, 117), youth

hunting (Item 169) or lifetime combo (Item 990), Hunting (Item 991), or Fishing tags (Item 992). Customers can also purchase other products such as the exempt angler tag (Item 257), bonus red drum (Item 599) and spotted seatrout tags (Item 596).

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission approved expanded digital license and tag amendments during its March meeting. The new will go into effect on Sept. 1 but will be

available for purchase Aug. 15, when 2025-26 licenses go on sale.

Additional information on the new amendments can be viewed on the commission website.



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"The Moon Report"
"May Crappie or Morels"

By Terri Moon

Yep – every year at this time I face this dilemma! The big crappie finally commit to the shallows and the bobber action is incredible. Then I get the call from Missouri that the morel mushrooms are showing up. There is only a short window of time to pick the morels in the spring, and you can catch crappie year round. So, the morels win again.

But...before I left in 4 ft. of water on jigs under bobbers around the trees, the crappie were biting as fast as you could throw in. It was awesome! Even the bass wanted to play! It sure seemed like it took forever for the water temps to get where they needed to be this year – so, everything was late spawning. Then came the "WINDS" – Holy Cow! You just can't do much in 30 to 40 mph winds. But, I'm so grateful and blessed to be in a Skeeter Solera that was made for rough water – besides being so darn comfortable to ride in and fish out of! You definitely can tell that a lot of thought went into the making of this boat. (I love all the extras!) But, most of all, I feel "SAFE" in it and that peace of mind is "PRICELESS"! Also I'm impressed on how shallow of water I can fish it in, especially this



time of year when we are fishing 1 – 2 ft. of water. It's just an amazing all around boat especially in tough conditions! (But, I still wish this wind would take a break!)

Now is a good time to have a rod rigged with a slip bobber to check shallow water or suspending fish in 1-6 ft., and also have a rod rigged for deeper water fishing. The crappie depth can change throughout the day so keep an eye on that depth finder to see what depth to target. If your in murky water, go to darker jig colors – black chartreuse – navy chartreuse. If you are in clearer water, try white/chartreuse or yellow. I use Skipper jigs or Bonehead baits and Limits Tackle – all available at Lake Fork Marina. Some days they want a very slow presentation and other days they want the bait moving. So, change it up to see what will work for the condi-

tions you are fishing.

When the water temps get to 68-75 degrees, the bream will start their spawn. There is nothing more fun or better to eat! They sure go good with morels! Crickets, night-crawlers, or just Berkeley crappie nibbles will work on a slip bobber or just lightlining for them just off the bottom. They will go shallow during the new and full moon throughout the summer. Just check the same areas you caught crappie shallow.

There will be another wave of crappie come in to spawn the next full moon. In the meantime, back out deeper 16 to 24 ft. around tree lines, bridges and brushpiles.

To book a trip you can reach me at 903-335-0941. Also, you can follow our adventures on my Facebook page, Thanks to all-Terri Moon.

Happy Mother's Day to you all!

Lake Nasworthy 'Infested' with Invasive Zebra Mussels

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) has designated Lake Nasworthy, near San Angelo, as "infested" with invasive zebra mussels. This designation signifies there is an established reproducing population present in the lake. TPWD confirmed the presence of zebra mussel larvae (veligers) in mid-March from plankton samples that were collected in Nov. 2024 during the mussels' fall spawning period. Zebra mussel larvae were detected in samples collected at two sites on the lake, near the Knickerbocker Road bridge and near the dam.

TPWD fisheries biologists subsequently searched the shoreline and substrate at numerous sites around the lake. The biologists found a single settled adult zebra mussel along the shoreline near the bridge. The detection of larvae at multiple sites and the presence of an adult mussel indicates the presence of an established, reproducing population.

"Unfortunately, the zebra mussel infestation of Lake Nasworthy is part of a trend in recent years of spread of this highly inva-

sive species to lakes in the western part of the state," said Monica McGarrity, TPWD senior scientist for aquatic invasive species. "All boaters taking steps to properly clean, drain, and dry boats to prevent the spread of invasive species is critical to stopping the further spread of zebra mussels."

Plankton samples were also taken in the fall at the nearby Twin Buttes Reservoir and, fortunately, zebra mussel larvae and DNA were not detected. These results suggest that Twin Buttes remains free of this invasive mussel at the present time. However, TPWD will continue to monitor Twin Buttes Reservoir and collect additional plankton samples this spring.

Zebra mussels, a non-native shellfish that attaches to hard surfaces, pose a significant threat to our lakes. These invasive mussels damage boats and water supply infrastructure, alter lake ecosystems and cause harm to native species. They also litter shorelines with hazardous, sharp shells that impact lakefront recreation.

Because zebra mussels are most often trans-

ported on or in boats, boaters play a critical role in preventing them from spreading to new lakes. Zebra mussels attach to boats and anything left in the water, including anchors, and can survive for days out of water, often hiding in crevices where they may escape notice. Their microscopic larvae are free-floating and invisible to the naked eye, meaning they can be transported unknowingly in residual water in boats.

"Invasive mussels have now spread to 38 Texas lakes, with 34 fully infested, but there are far more lakes that still haven't been invaded and are at risk," said Brian Van Zee, TPWD Inland Fisheries Regional Director. "Each boater taking the necessary actions to clean and drain their boat before leaving the lake and allowing compartments and gear to dry completely when they get home can make a big difference in protecting our Texas lakes."

TPWD urges boaters to follow these three simple but crucial steps to clean, drain and dry boats and gear before traveling from lake to (See *Lake Nasworthy Infested...Continued on Page 10*)

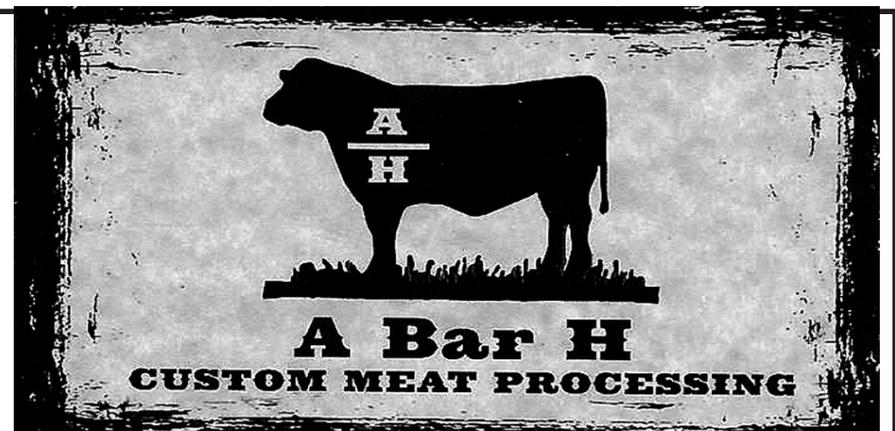


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Lake Nasworthy 'Infested' with Invasive Zebra Mussels (Continued from Page 9)

lake. Remove plants, mud and debris; drain all water from the boat and gear; once back home, open compartments and allow everything to dry completely for at least a week, if possible.

If a boat or other equipment, such as barges, docks, lifts, pumps, etc., have been stored in the water at a lake with invasive mussels, they are likely infested and pose an extremely high risk for transporting these invasive species to a new lake unless they are properly decontaminated. Before moving a boat or other equipment that has been stored in the water, call TPWD at (512) 389-4848 for guidance.

In addition to the harm that invasive species can cause to aquatic ecosystems, water infrastructure and the recreational experience at lakes, the transport of these organisms can result in legal trouble for boaters. Transporting prohibited aquatic invasive species in Texas is illegal and punishable with a fine of up to \$500 per violation. It's also the law that boaters must drain all water from their boat and onboard receptacles, including bait buckets, before leaving or approaching a body of fresh water. They must also remove all invasive plants from the boat and trailer before leaving a lake.

For more information on how to properly clean, drain and dry boats and equipment, visit the TPWD YouTube channel for a short

instructional video. To learn more about zebra mussels and other invasive species in Texas, visit tpwd.texas.gov/StopInvasives.

TPWD and partners monitor for invasive species in Texas lakes, but anyone who spots them on boats, trailers or equipment that is being moved can help prevent new introductions by reporting the sighting to TPWD at (512) 389-4848. Anyone who finds invasive species such as zebra mussels in lakes where they haven't been found before can help identify new introductions by emailing photos and location information to aquaticinvasives@tpwd.texas.gov.

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River Lee from Diboll, TX weighed in this 8.44-lb bass winning 2nd in the 2 o'clock hour of the Mega Bass Tournament.



Lake Fork guide Whitt Smith landed this hawg weighing 9.5-lbs on 4/11 and measuring just over 24". C.P.R.



Johnny Reid caught this nice bass while fishing Lake Fork with guide Randy Oldfield. Weight not provided. C.P.R.

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Catfish Stocking is Back at Neighborhood Fishin' Lakes

Spring has returned and that means it's time for catfish angling at Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) Neighborhood Fishin' lakes across the state. The program provides friends and families with the opportunity to reel in catfish close to home and participate in the Texas tradition of outdoor recreation.

On April 11, TPWD resumed stocking thousands of catfish at 18 Neighborhood Fishin' lakes, including five in the Dallas-Fort Worth area, four in the Houston area, two each in Austin and San Antonio

and one each in Amarillo, College Station, San Angelo, Waco and Wichita Falls. "Neighborhood Fishin' lakes are conveniently located in urban and suburban areas to provide a great fishing experience where most Texas residents live," said Marcos DeJesus, TPWD Inland Fisheries Division Region Three Director. "Catfish are fun and easy to catch for anglers of all ages and experience levels. If you've never fished before, these are the perfect places to get started. If you are an experienced angler, these are the perfect places to introduce fishing to a friend or family member."

Each lake will receive channel catfish every two weeks through the end of October — with a brief pause during the heat of August — to ensure there are plenty of angling opportunities for everyone throughout the spring, summer and early fall.

Neighborhood Fishin' lakes are located in city and county parks with ample parking, shoreline access, restrooms, lighting and other recreation-

al amenities in addition to fishing. Anglers can keep up to five fish of any kind (all species combined) per day with one black bass 14 inches or greater in length. Youth under 17 do not need a fishing license, but adults who fish these sites do. For as little as \$11, folks can purchase a "one-day, all-water" license or they can buy an "annual, freshwater" license for \$30, allowing you to fish at any time during the year. All proceeds go toward management of the fisheries, providing access and conservation of Texas fish and their habitats. To find a Neighborhood Fishin' lake near you as well as tips on how to fish, where to purchase fishing gear or licenses, fishing regulations or to sign up for email updates, visit www.neighborhoodfishin.org.

Neighborhood Fishin' is supported by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation through donations from Friedkin Family Foundation and Phillips 66 as well as local government bodies across the state.



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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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Paddling Safety Tips

As paddlers take to Texas' lakes, rivers and coastal waters, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) reminds everyone to prioritize safety while kayaking, canoeing and paddleboarding. With warmer weather drawing more outdoor enthusiasts to the water, following essential safety practices can prevent accidents and save lives. "Paddling is a great way to enjoy Texas' natural beauty, but preparation is key to staying safe," said Erika Brooks, TPWD boating education training specialist. "Wearing a properly fitted life jacket, knowing the water conditions and planning ahead can make all the difference." Texas law requires all paddlers to have a U.S. Coast Guard-approved life jacket on board, and children under 13 must wear one at all times while paddling. Paddlers should also check weather forecasts, understand water currents and carry a whistle or other sound-producing device to signal for help if needed.

"Many paddling accidents involve unexpected hazards like strong currents, submerged obstacles, or sudden weather changes," said Cody Jones, Texas Game Warden assistant commander for marine enforcement. "Being aware of your surroundings and wearing your life jacket can mean the difference between a close call and a tragedy." Several recent tragedies serve as a stark reminder that preparation, awareness and proper safety equipment are essential for a day out on the water. "Over the past few weeks, we've seen a concerning rise in paddling-related fatalities in the Dallas-Fort Worth area," said Joseph Quintero, Texas Game Warden captain. "These unfortunate incidents highlight the importance of being prepared as conditions on the water can change quickly. No matter your experience level, it's important to not overestimate your abilities and take the proper precautions." Paddlers should also avoid alcohol while on the

water, paddle in groups when possible and let someone know their float plan, including their expected return time and location and carry a white light if paddling between sunset and sunrise. As temperatures continue to rise, staying hydrated and using sun protection is also advised.

Additional paddling safety tips can be found at <https://tpwd.texas.gov/boating/paddling-trails/safety/>.



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Tony Hill from Glenwood, AR won \$15,000 in the 11 o'clock hour with this bass weighing 9.32-lbs.



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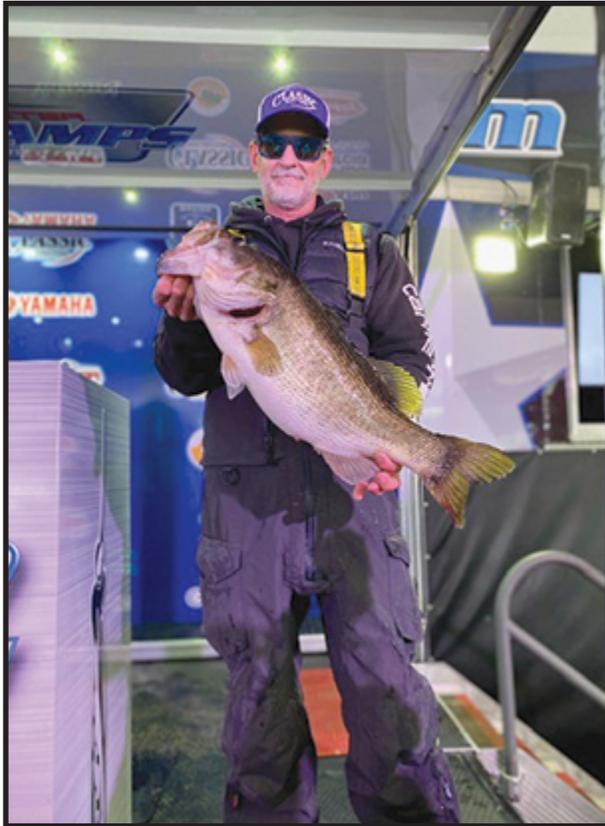
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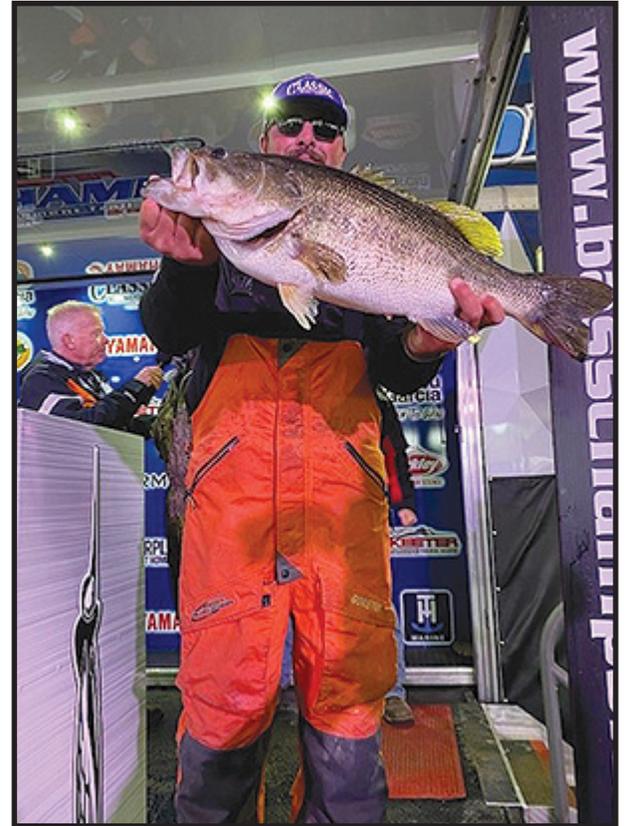
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Jerry Hunter Keener from Quitman, TX won \$15,250 in the 12 o'clock hour with this bass weighing 8.54-lbs.



Lorne Smith from Ardmore, OK won \$15,250 in the 1 o'clock hour with this bass weighing 9.88-lbs.



Kyle Miers from Malakoff, TX won \$15,000 in the 2 o'clock hour with this bass weighing 8.90-lbs.

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Capacity	10+1	10+1	10+1	10+1	10+1
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Fixed Sights	3-Dot G43 style				
Optic Ready Available	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Roebuck 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				
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Amendment II

A Well Regulated Militia -
"A militia, when properly formed, are in fact the people themselves" whose ability to act in both personal and common defense must be well maintained.

Being Necessary to the Security of a Free State -
Secure in personal liberty (the state of being free), and the governance of a free people (the State securing the rights of a free people).

The Right of the People -
"The whole of the people"; an individual right, independent of government.

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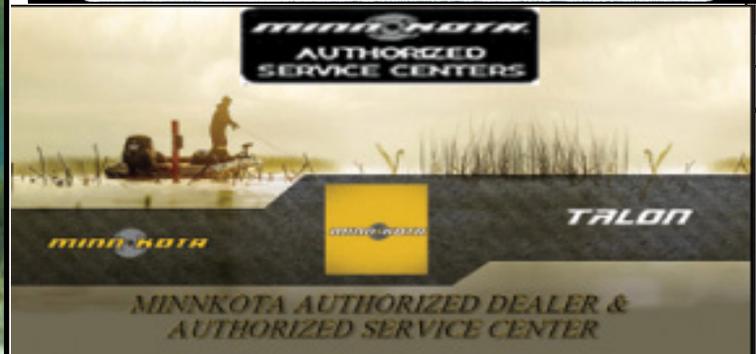
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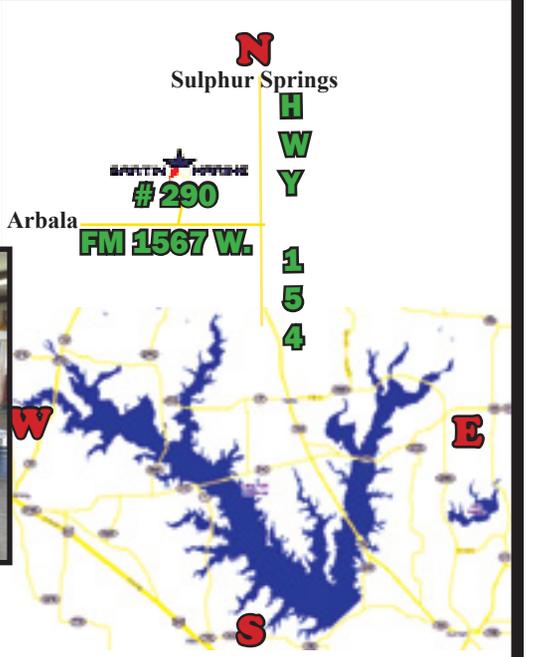


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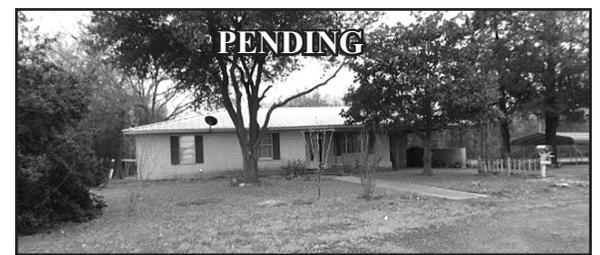
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Your dream home in Spring Creek minutes to Lakes Fork and Tawakoni. Generous 1982 sq. ft. living. Inside is tall ceilings, open concept, modern designs, top kitchen appliances, stylish counters & cabinets. Private retreat Master with luxury ensuite bath and closets. Well-sized two bedrooms with Jack and Jill bath. Covered screened-in porch and hot tub for relaxing. The 2.1 acre lot is adorned with large, mature trees plus a wet-weather creek meanders along the back. Beautifully landscaped. Attached two-car garage and storage shed. Country living with convenience of town. \$499,000



RECUCED

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. \$799,000.



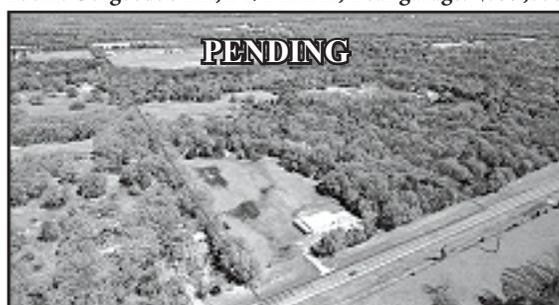
PENDING

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 storagebuilding 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



CONTINGENT

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PENDING

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



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.



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.



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.

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43 acres \$390,000

2 Lake Fork waterfront lots \$350,000

16.27 acres Lake Fork waterfront \$1,500,000

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Detected in Several Mammal Species in the Texas Panhandle

Recent testing has detected Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) in mammal species including foxes, raccoons, striped skunks and domestic cats collected in Deaf Smith, Hansford, Lubbock, Ochiltree, Parmer and Randall Counties. These detections resulted from a collaboration between Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD), the Department of State

Health Services Zoonosis Control branch and the Texas Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Lab following widespread detections in wild birds across Texas, with recent detections in Amarillo, El Paso, Galveston, Harris, Lubbock, Potter, Travis and Wharton counties.

Detected in all 50 states across the U.S. and Puerto Rico, HPAI is a highly contagious zoonotic virus that transmits easily among wild and domestic birds. It can spread directly between animals and indirectly through environmental contamination.

For mammals, current data shows transmission occurs primarily through consumption of infected animal carcasses, though mammal-to-mammal transmission is possible. Clinical Signs of HPAI in mammals may vary based on species and can include ataxia (incoordination, stumbling), tremors, seizures, lack of fear of people, lethargy, runny or crusty eyes and nose, coughing and sneezing, or sudden death.

TPWD recommends wildlife rehabilitators remain cautious when intaking wild animals with clinical signs consistent

with HPAI to limit the potential for exposures to other animals within the facility.

The transmission risk of avian influenza from infected birds to people remains low, but people should take basic protective measures (i.e., wearing gloves, face masks and handwashing) if they must make contact with wild animals.

Those who locate wild animals with signs consistent with HPAI should immediately contact their local TPWD wildlife biologist. More information about HPAI and human health can be found at the Department of State Health Services website.

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I KNOW YOU'RE THINKING ABOUT ME

Governor Abbott Appoints Timmerman, Reappoints Patton to Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission

Governor Greg Abbott appointed Tim Timmerman and reappointed Bobby Patton to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission for terms set to expire Feb. 1, 2031. The appointment will be in effect at the next Commission meeting May 21 and 22. Background for each appointee is below: Timothy "Tim" Timmerman of Austin is the owner of Timmerman Capital LLC and numerous real estate investment and development entities. He is the president of the Colorado River Land Trust, board member for Central Texas Community Foundation, Austin Area Research Organization, YMCA of Central Texas and Texas Business Leadership Council. He's also a member of the Texas A&M University Chancellor's Century Council and the Texas A&M Legacy Society. Additionally, he is the former vice chairman of St. David's Round Rock Medical Center and a former board member of the Austin Chamber of Commerce. Timmerman received a Bachelor of Business Administration from Texas A&M University and a Master of Business Administration from The University of Texas (UT) at Austin. Bobby Patton of Fort Worth is president of Texas Capitalization Resource Group, Inc. He is a member of the State Bar of Texas, the UT Development Board, UT Marine Science Institute, the UT Liberal Arts Advisory Council and a director of the Fort Worth Stock Show & Rodeo. Additionally, he is the former chairman of the PGA Tournament Com-

mittee for Charles Schwab. Patton received a Bachelor of Business Administration from UT Austin, a Juris Doctor from St. Mary's Law School and a Master of Laws from the Southern Methodist University Dedman School of Law. The commission manages

and conserves the natural and cultural resources of Texas and provides hunting, fishing and outdoor recreation opportunities for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. These appointments are subject to senate confirmation.

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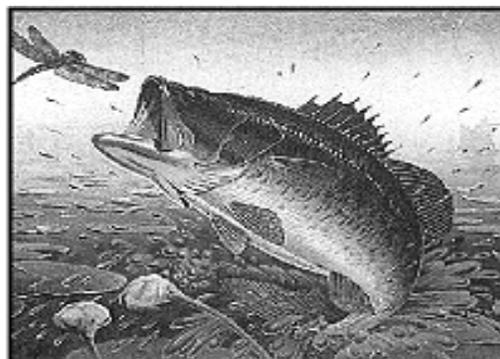
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Garden Search

There are 14 plants commonly grown in gardens hidden throughout the scrambled puzzle below. See how many you can find and circle. The words go horizontally and vertically, backward and forward.

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| BEET | LILY |
| BROCCOLI | MARIGOLD |
| CABBAGE | PANSY |
| CARROT | PEPPER |
| CORN | ROSE |
| DAFFODIL | TOMATO |
| GERANIUM | TULIP |

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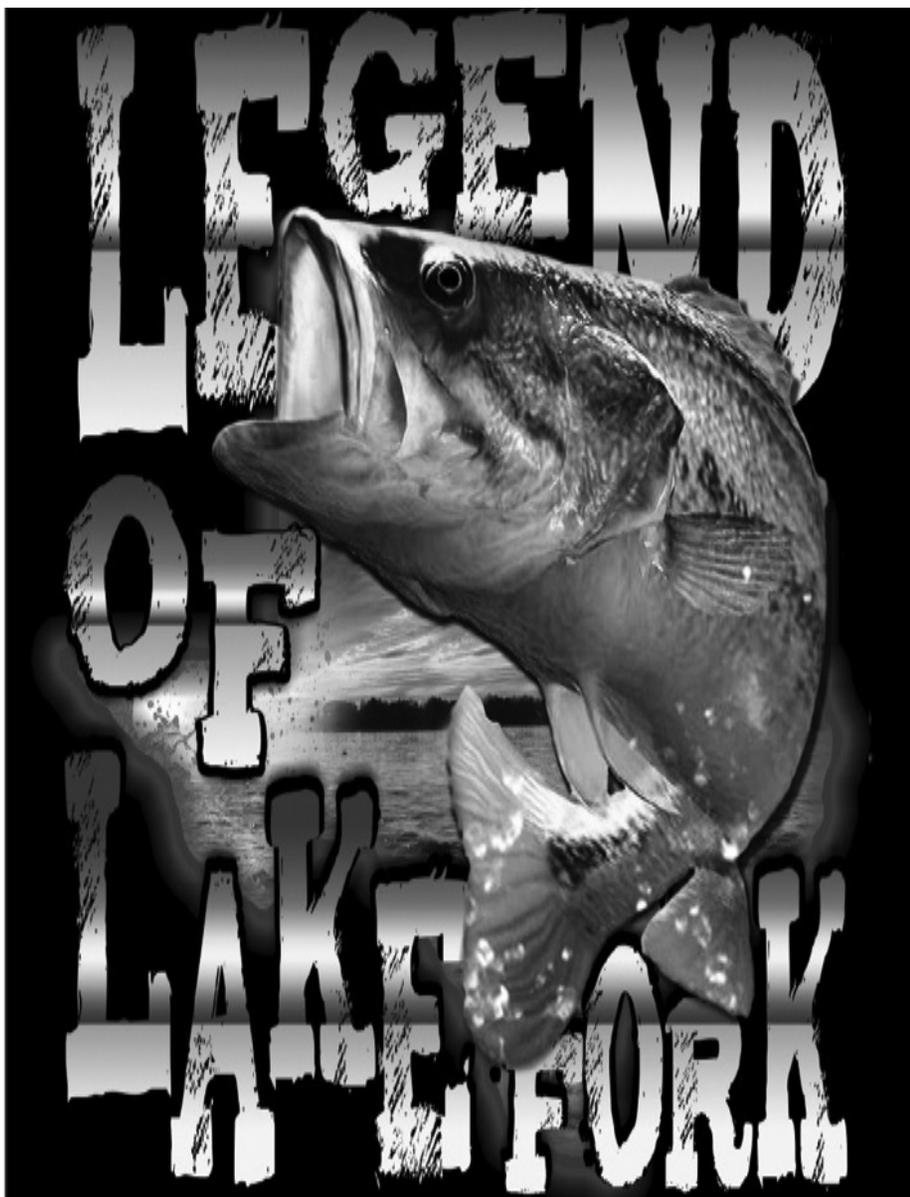
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Game Warden Field Notes

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
(Continued on Page 24)

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Avocados Give Pasta Dishes A Delightfully Unexpected Twist

By Sue Hampton

Here's food for thought: California-grown avocados are widely acknowledged to be exceptionally creamy and delicious, but it is less well known that they offer more than delectable flavor. One-fifth of a medium avocado (about 1 oz.) has 50 calories and contributes nearly 20 beneficial nutrients to the diet. California avocados are currently in season at peak availability, so now is a perfect time to incorporate this remarkable fruit into your diet.



The creamy flavor of avocados adds a twist to a traditional pasta dish. "A Happy Mother's Day to All!"

Tequila-Spiked Fettuccine with Shrimp and California Avocado

Ingredients:

4 large, ripe tomatoes, cored
 1/2 lb. fettuccine
 Salt, for pasta water
 2 Tbsp. Extra virgin olive oil, plus extra for pasta
 1 lb. medium domestic shrimp, peeled and deveined
 1 tsp. Crushed red pepper flakes
 1 tsp. Salt
 1/2 tsp. Freshly ground black pepper
 2 tsp. Minced garlic
 2 large, ripe tomatoes, cored, seeded and

cut into 1/2-inch dice
 1/4 cup silver tequila
 2 ripe, fresh California avocados, halved, seeded, peeled and cut in 1/2-inch dice
 1 bunch basil, cut into thin strips
 2 Tbsp. Butter, cold
 Salt and freshly ground black pepper, to taste

Instructions:

1. Puree the whole tomatoes in a blender until smooth, adding a small amount of water, if necessary. Reserve.
2. Fill a large stockpot with water and bring to a boil. Add the pasta and salt to the pot. Cook about 8 minutes. Drain in a colander

3. Meanwhile, heat olive oil in a large skillet over medium-high heat. Add the shrimp, crushed red pepper, salt and pepper and saute the shrimp for 1 minute on each side. Add the garlic and saute for an additional 30 seconds.
4. Remove skillet from heat and add the diced tomatoes and tequila. Return skillet to heat and continue to saute for 3 minutes, stirring constantly. (Be careful as pan might flame.)
5. Stir in half the diced avocado and half the basil. Transfer shrimp mixture to a platter using a slotted spoon, leaving liquid in the skillet.
6. Add the reserved tomato puree to the skillet, bring to a boil, lower heat and simmer until the mixture is reduced by about one-third. Add the butter, stirring until it is melted. Then, add the remaining diced avocado and basil. Taste and add salt and pepper as needed. Toss finished sauce with cooked pasta until thoroughly combined.
7. To serve, divide pasta mixture onto individual entree plates or into shallow pasta bowls. Top with shrimp mixture and serve immediately.

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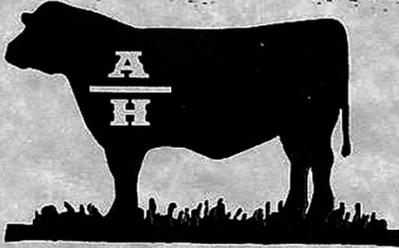
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Game Warden Field Notes (Continued from Page 22)

Muy Grande 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 alligator. 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

(Continued on Next Page)

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with possession of a controlled substance PG2 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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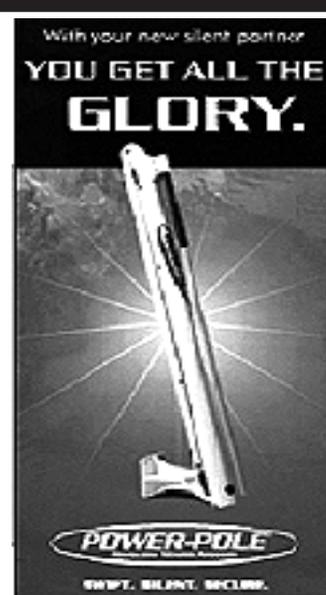
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Lake Fork Sportsman's ASSOCIATION

Preserving The Legend

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

By Dianne Spradling, President

This is the second year for the Take A Veteran Fishing event with the Wood County Marine Corp League. We have a great time and had 11 Veterans out on 4 boats and they caught a lot of catfish. Sarah Lucas caught the biggest fish at 3.13 lbs. We are extremely proud to be able to participate in this great event. Jamie's Restaurant fed the guys and girls a great meal before they headed out for the evening. It is a great privilege to fellowship with these great people.

Don't forget to come out and visit us at the Bassmaster Elite and the Legend of Lake Fork Tournaments this month.

We will be going out soon to place the fish attractors that the students at Yantis High School have completed for us and Texas Parks and Wildlife. We will let you know as soon as they are placed and will provide the location information.

Please let us know if you have any questions.

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.

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.



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



2025 Lone Star Land Steward Ecoregion Winners Announced

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) announces the 2025 Lone Star Land Steward Ecoregion Award winners. This year’s award winners represent a variety of conservation efforts, ecosystems and accomplishments, all of which display excellence in natural resource management and stewardship.

The Lone Star Land Steward Award recognizes private landowners in Texas for their exemplary contributions to land, water and wildlife stewardship. With 95 percent of the land in Texas under private ownership, the conservation and stewardship efforts of private landowners are of vital importance to all Texans.

TPWD will recognize the winning landowners and properties at 6 p.m. on May 21 at the annual Lone Star Land Steward Award banquet. The following is a list of this year’s ecological region award recipients, and a summary of their stewardship achievements:

Edwards Plateau — Hershey Ranch, Gillespie County
The Hershey Ranch, operated by Andy and Nona Sansom, comprises restored Hill Country oak savannahs on limestone soils rich with native grasses. Springs and riparian corridors have been protected and excluded from grazing to maintain the integrity of the stream side banks. This included using natural materials such as rocks and trimmed brush to stabilize the soil and stream banks. Numerous groups are allowed access to the property for recreation, intro to hunting activities, women’s mentored hunts, birding groups, iNaturalist projects

and AgriLife Extension outreach events. Andy and Nona try to seek a balance between doing what is right for the land and generating enough income to operate the ranch in perpetuity.

High Plains — Little Las Vegas Ranch, Lamb County
The 2,200-acre Little Las Vegas Ranch, owned by John S. Roley, sits on the eastern edge of the Yellowhouse Draw, an area described by Francisco de Coronado in 1542 as the “Casa de Amarillos” due to the low yellow hills. The property is home to numerous quail, Texas horned lizards, mule deer and white-tailed deer. The property is grazed on an as needed basis to manage the periodic regional droughts and is leased for hunting. The first 380 acres acquired were planted back to native grasses and wildflowers with funds intended to help preserve the lesser prairie chicken population in the area. Since then, additional restoration on old crop fields has resulted in the re-establishment of more than 1,000 acres of native habitat across the landscape. In addition, the restoration of multiple playa wetlands on the property has enhanced its usability for ducks, cranes, geese and other migrating birds. The ranch has undertaken multiple efforts to make the property more suitable for wildlife while also allowing access to 4-H groups, Littlefield Independent School District outdoor education opportunities and an all-women’s and new hunter dove hunt. In addition, the ranch allows access for dove trapping and banding conducted by TPWD.

Pineywoods — Scrappin Valley Longleaf Pine

Ecosystem Cooperative, Newton County
Crest Natural Resources, Rufus and Marianna Duncan, and Scott Duncan have formed a well-functioning cooperative to manage the almost 14,000-acre Scrappin Valley Longleaf Pine Ecosystem Cooperative. Endangered species management, research and habitat management for red cockaded woodpeckers and the Louisiana pine snake have occurred for decades and continue on site. This work occurs in the floristically diverse and high-priority Longleaf Ridge Conservation Area. By implementing measures to restore long leaf pine, managing existing stands of pine savannahs with selective thinning and frequent prescribed fire, the management team has not only restored the ecosystem, but also the historic Scrappin Valley lodge. These measures have turned the property into a premier outdoor recreation and entertainment destination that groups can rent and enjoy the open pine system of East Texas. This unique private landowner and corporate partnership has helped to maintain a productive and unique Texas ecosystem for all Texans.

South Texas — Running V Ranch, Atascosa County
The 5,600-acre Running V Ranch, owned by Suzanne and Pat Schuchart, covers South Texas brush country property that has been managed by the same family since 1916. Over the last century the Schuchart family has invested in water infrastructure, cross fencing, aerial application of her-

(See 2025 Lone Star Land....Continued on Page 31)

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20th Annual Legend of Lake Fork Big Bass Tournament

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- 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

GRAND PRIZES INCLUDE: \$40,000 For the Heaviest Bass Over The Slot \$30,000 For the Heaviest Under The Slot \$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 rule regarding the following items will be cause for immediate disqualification. ... 1. All decisions of the Tournament Directors are FINAL. ... 11. Minimum length of bass to be weighed is less than 16" (cannot touch the line) or 24" or more. ... 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.

3. Contestants may leave from any launch site on Lake Fork. No casting until 6am official clock. ... TACKLE AND EQUIPMENT: 1. All bass must be caught on artificial bait by casting. ... WEIGH IN, SPORTSMANSHIP AND CONSERVATION: 1. Sportsmanship, courtesy, safety and conservation are expected from every participant. ... 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.

OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM

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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

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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: _____

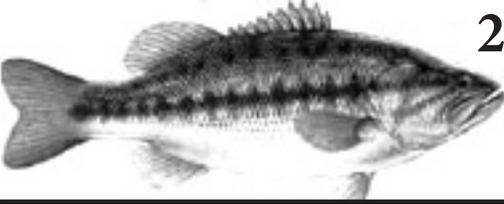
SIGNATURE: _____

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!

Martins

FISHERMANS INN
 2933 West SH 154
 Quitman, TX 75783
 903-878-2137
 Family Owned & Operated
 P.O. Box 653
 www.lakeforkfishermansinn.com
 CABIN RENTALS • RV PARK

**Lake Fork Tournament
 Schedule May thru July
 2025**


**Jamie's
 Restaurant**
"My Oh My The Pie"
903-765-2087

**Bev's Fish Creations
 & Waterfowl Taxidermy**
903-473-4529
 Replicas ~ \$20 per inch
 Ducks ~ \$425

May
 May 10 ~ JC Outdoors Teams
 Minnow Bucket
 May 10-13 ~ Bassmaster Elite
 SRA Ramp & Pavillion
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

Tony Stout
 Outdoor Staining & Painting
DECKS • PATIOS • PORCHES
 Pressure Washing Available
 ★ Good Work ★ Fair Prices
903-782-5694 Quitman, TX 75783



**Lake Fork
 Sportsman's
 ASSOCIATION**
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



**SCENIC
 515
 CABINS**

 8372 W. FM 515 Yantis, TX 75497
903-383-7885

**Cocina
 PERALTA'S
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 Quitman 607 South Main 903.763.5020
 Winnsboro 813 South Main 903.342.5303
 Pittsburg 507 South Greer Blvd. 903.856.2959



June
 June 7 ~ Kid Fish
 SRA Headquarters
 June 6 - 8 ~ Skeeter Owners Tourn.
 Lake Fork Marina
 June 22 ~ Media Solo
 Minnow Bucket
 June 28 ~ JC Outdoors Solo
 Minnow Bucket



**Alexander's
 Meat Market**
 903-342-0300



24 hour Service Credit Terms Available
**Monte Coleman's
 DISCOUNT BAIL
 BONDS**
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 Right Across From Wood County Jail
 Fast & Honest Service
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 East Texas Optical, Inc.**
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 Buy One pair of eyeglasses
 Get 2nd pair 1/2 OFF
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 290 FM 1567 West Yantis, Texas 75497 Billy and Lana Sartin Owners



July
 NO TOURNAMENTS TO LIST
 If you are having a Tournament on Lake
 Fork and wish to have it listed, contact us
 fishnews@lakefork.net



**Paul Bacon
 Physical Therapist**

 903 E. Lennon St., Ste. 101 Emory, TX 75440 (903) 474-9436 Fax (903) 473-3170

2025 Lone Star Land Steward Ecoregion Winners Announced *(Continued from Page 28)*

bicide for brush control and mechanical brush treatments to maximize forage and plant diversity for their cattle operation and wildlife. The benefits to white-tailed deer, Northern bobwhite, Rio Grande turkeys, mottled ducks as well as other waterfowl, migratory songbirds and additional wildlife are evident as you look across this well cared for property. The Schuchart’s goal of taking their management beyond their gates is exemplified in their active involvement in their community. The ranch is currently allowing Texas Youth Hunt Program (TYHP) hunts, brush control herbicide trials and research, dog training trials, grazing land coalition field tours, mottled duck research and invasive grass research on old-world bluestem control to be conducted on the property. With over a century of living and engaging with the people and communities of Atascosa County, the Schuchart’s are proud to share their efforts with others. Rolling Plains — Ribelin Ranch, Stonewall County Brad and Melissa Ribelin own and operate 1,940 acres of Rolling Plains grassland that they have worked diligently to improve over the last decade. Extensive brush control with aerial spraying and mechanical removal has

improved the condition of the ranch by allowing sunlight to reach the ground increasing the forb diversity and grass density on the property. In turn, once the brush was made manageable the diligent use of prescribed fire is utilized to maintain their brush control efforts in the long term. This has helped increase usable space for Northern bobwhite and all other classes of wildlife on the property. The Ribelins have actively engaged with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Partners Program, Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), TPWD, the Rolling Plains Quail Research Ranch and Texas Tech University to put together a plan and implement it to maximize the habitat on their property. NRCS, TPWD, Texas Tech University and numerous other groups have used the ranch as a living classroom for prescribed fire training, looking at herbicide and brush treatment effects, and conducting quail research and monitoring. The Ribelin’s are open to all suggestions to improve their property for themselves and the wildlife that use it. They have utilized this advice to make their property a prime example of how hard work and perseverance can transform a property. Trans Pecos — Bar O Land and Cat-

tle, Jeff Davis and Culberson Counties Bar O Land and Cattle, owned and operated by Tim and Lou Edwards, goes from the heights of Gomez Peak in the Davis Mountains and stretches into the lowlands of the Delaware Basin 1,800 vertical feet below. Their 20,000 acres in this dry landscape harbor beautiful vistas, stretches of desert grassland mixed with creosote bush and rocky hillsides that feed the ranch’s extensive water distribution system. A bountiful herd of mule deer grace the property along with resident elk. This allows the ranch to complement their cattle operation with income from mule deer and Aoudad hunts as they balance the animals with the carrying capacity of the land. In a landscape that is sparsely populated, Tim and Lou serve on county appraisal boards, as the local fire chief, on the board of the grazing land coalition and Lou as a sitting member of the TPWD Mule Deer Advisory Committee. This gracious couple open their ranch to an annual TYHP hunt for youth to come experience West Texas and mule deer hunting that few get the opportunity to experience. The Edwards’ are welcoming hosts and excellent land stewards on a property that has been operated for almost 100 years by Lou’s family.

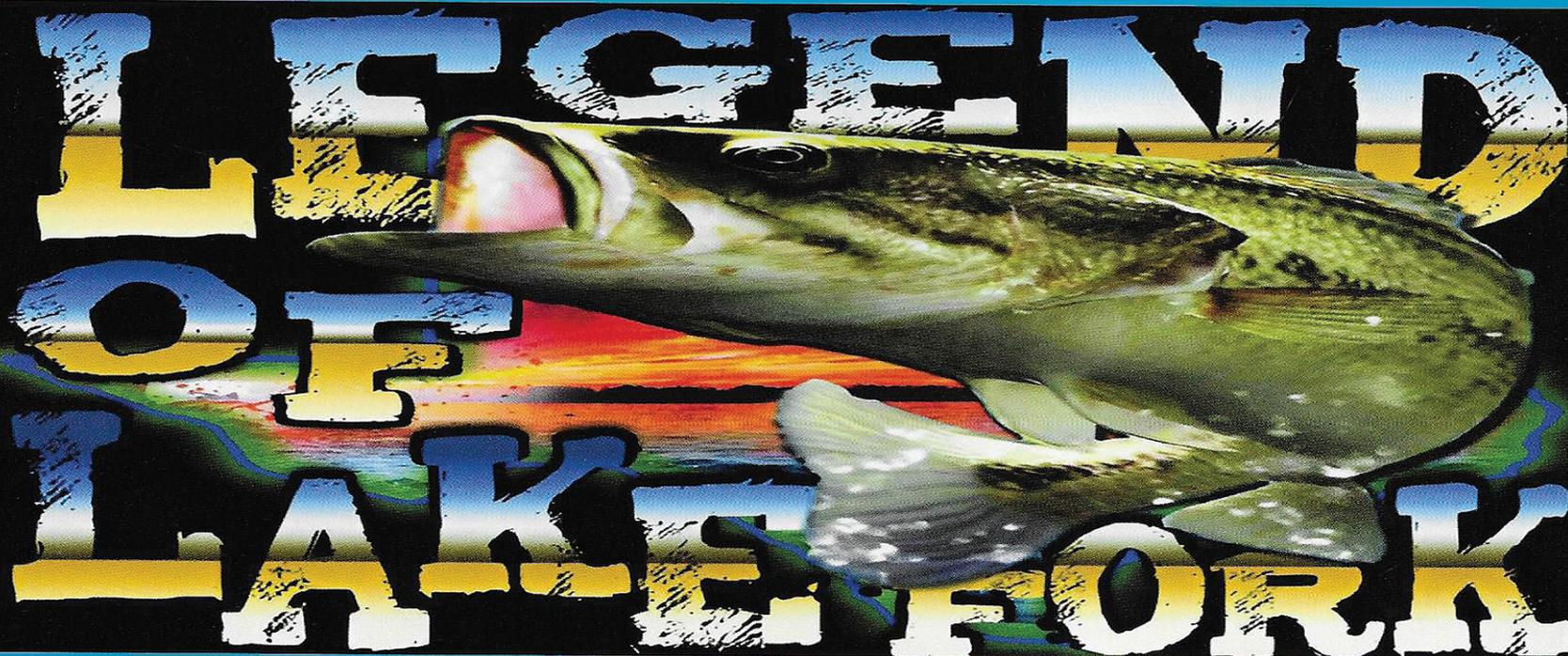
ULTIMATE LAKE HOUSE
236 CR 1422,
QUITMAN

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- 2 DINING
- 5 BEDROOM
- 2 BATH
- KITCHEN

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 CLAIRE.HILL@CBDFW.COM

Description: Lake Front Living at its best! Get Ready for Summer on Beautiful Lake Quitman. This Home is Tastefully Decorating, Boasting of Epic Sunset Views from Multi Tiered Decks leading down to the water where there are both a Covered Boat Dock, Jet Ski Lift, and Fishing Dock. Upper Deck has an Outdoor Kitchen complete with 2 ceiling fans, Country Sink, Refrigerator, and Outdoor TV. Off the Upper Deck is also a 19 X 16 Man Cave Workshop with Electricity, and a 15 X 9 She Shed. Many of the furnishings can stay including Refrigerator, Washer, and Dryer, Outdoor Kitchen Refrigerator 2 Indoor TV’s and 1 Outdoor TV. Family Reunions, Birthday Parties, and Other Special Occasions have accommodated up to 30 people overnight. Projector and Movie Screen are Negotiable.

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

