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No. 309

20th Annual Legend of Lake Fork



Big Bass Tournament



Brian Frechette from Weatherford, TX., won heaviest bass over the slot in the 20th Annual Legend of Lake Fork Tournament with this hawg weighing 11.27-pounds. For his catch he took home a total of \$40,700. (See full story on Page 4)



Steven Robbins from Haltom City, TX., won heaviest bass under the slot in the 20th Annual Legend of Lake Fork Tournament with this bass weighing 2.65-pounds. For his catch he took home a total of \$30,400. (More Photos on Pages 3,



Robert Hebert Opelousas, LA., was the lucky Early Entry Draw for having his entry in before April 30th for getting in early he took home an extra \$20,000. Annistyn, age 7 and her sister Addison Perry, age 3 were rewarded for pulling his name from the early entries.



Steve Crumpler from Bloomberg, TX., weighed in this 10.19-lb. bass in the Legend of Lake Fork Big Bass Tournament.



Harrison Creel from Mt. Hermon, LA., weighed in this 8.97-lb. bass in the Legend of Lake Fork Big Bass Tournament.

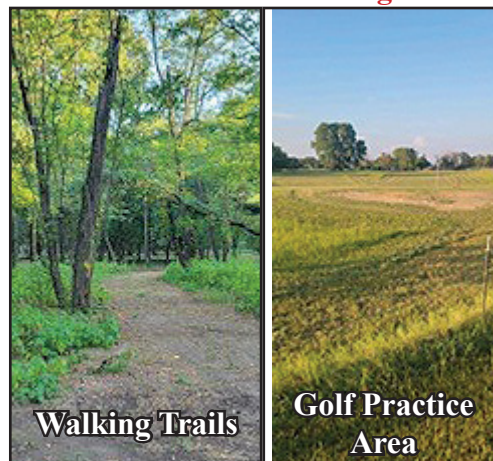


Robert Stillwell from McAlester, OK., weighed in this 8.90-lb. bass in the Legend of Lake Fork Big Bass Tournament.

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Bubbette may soon be kickin' Bubba's bass!

By: Don Hampton

Bubba loves the sport of fishing and Bubbette thinks he shows it too much sometimes.

I do believe every piece of Bubba's clothing has a picture of a fish or a bass on it.

His good luck tournament socks with the bass on the front (from the toe to the ankle) are a little bit much.

If you ever see Bubba without a picture of a bass on his shirt, you could just bet he's on his way to a funeral, a wedding, or church. At these times you could probably rest assured that he has a picture of a bass somewhere on his person. Most fathers carry pictures of their wife, children or grandchildren in their wallet. Bubba carries pictures of his latest big catch to pull out and show his buds. They may be in his wallet or on his cell phone, but he can bet he will have them on him.

In Bubba's home the clocks have a picture of a bass jumping out of the water. The pictures in his game room are all of fish. He has his Big Mouth Billy Bass to sing to him and a talking

Channel Cat hanging on the wall. This is to entertain him while he is admiring his stuff.

Bubbette likes to have pretty flowers in the house. Bubba has them sitting in a fish shaped vase.

Bubbette likes to have pictures of the grandchildren placed around the house. Bubba has them all in frames with fish designs around the borders.

Bubbette likes to have fine china for entertaining friends. Bubba bought her a set of plates for her anniversary in the shape of fish and glasses with plastic fish on the stems.

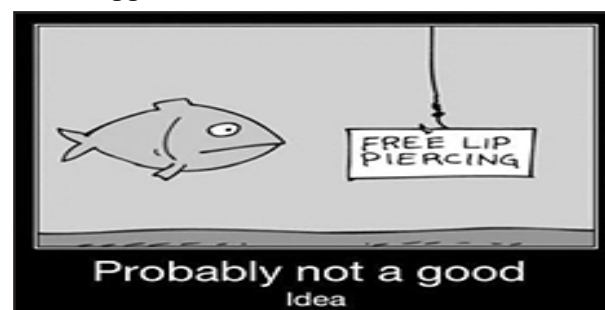
Bubba and Bubbette's definition of class differ. Bubbette likes Waterford crystal. Bubba likes his "Ford" and crystal clear waters. Bubbette likes china. Bubba likes baggies that keep his sandwiches dry in his ice chest. Bubbette likes sterling silver forks and spoons. Bubba likes fishing the Fork with spoons. Bubbette prefers satin and silk. Bubba likes braid and monofilament. Bubbette likes ornamental curtain rods. Bubba likes custom angle rods. Bubbette loves rings and jewelry that is real, while Bubba is al-

ways looking for a new reel. Bubbette goes for glamour and glitz while Bubba goes for baits and tackle kits.

We all know how much Bubba likes fishing stuff but I do believe his stuff is about to be stuffed. Bubba's obsession to fishing memorabilia is about to come to an end according to Bubbette. It would seem all of Bubba's stuff is pushing all of Bubbette's to the side and that is the wrong side to be on of Bubbette.

Her final words on this matter were, "I love Bubba and can't kick him out, but if things keep getting so fishy I'm going to kick his BASS!"

So if you see Bubba out fishing on the lake and he's standing up all the time, well you know what happened!



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

By Don Hampton

Excitement ran high over Lake Fork at the 20th Annual Legend of Lake Fork Big Bass Tournament. Mother Nature was kind to the anglers with only a couple of windy days. The predicted thunder storms by the weather man went around our great reservoir

Over 700 anglers representing 23 states converged on Lake Fork. A few of the states represented were Kentucky, Indiana, North Carolina, New Mexico, Nebraska, Colorado, Washington, Wisconsin, Florida, Georgia, Alabama, and Iowa.

Lake Fork being a slot lake, meaning anything between 16" and 24" cannot be brought to the weigh-in, the tournament rule is no bass can touch 16". The reason for this rule is not only to protect the

anglers but also because we give a grand prize away for the heaviest under 16".

Whether it was the lake just over pool level in the past few months because of all the rain we've had or because the gates were open, the bite on Lake Fork could only be described as fair. Anglers reported a lot of bass being caught in the slot but as we all know, they are great to catch but do not help in a Lake Fork tournament. It was disappointing for the anglers that brought those slot fish to the scales and had their visits with the men with badges.

On Friday there was one bass over the slot of 24" brought to the scales. This didn't hurt the feelings of the 2-pound plus winners in the hours. In the 8 to 9 o'clock hour Steve Crumpler from Bloomberg, Texas weighed in a bass weighing 10.19-pounds. Fri-

day fishing didn't prove as good as the next two days with heavier weights.

On Saturday there were five over the slot bass brought to the weigh in. It began in the 7 to 8 o'clock hour. In this hour Harrison Creel from Mt Hermon, Louisiana weighed in an 8.97-pound bass. The next over the slot bass was weighed in during the 8 to 9 o'clock hour by Robert Stillwell from McAlester, Oklahoma and weighed 8.90-pounds. In the 12 to 1 o'clock hour Cody Brunette from Rockwall, Texas weighed in a 10.58-pound bass. Danny Dulude from Grand Saline, Texas weighed in an 8.80-pound. In the 1 to 2 o'clock hour Brian Frechette from Weatherford, Texas weighed in a lunker tilting the scales at 11.27-pounds.

On Sunday there were three over

(Continued on Next Page)

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weighed in. The first bass of the day weighed in during the 8 to 9 o'clock hour was caught by Douglas Cox from Montrose, Colorado and weighed 9.83-pounds. During the 9 to 10 o'clock hour Colten Pusateri from Anna, Texas brought to the scales a bass weighing 8.30-pounds. In the 10 to 11 o'clock hour Rick Wheeler from Emory, Texas brought the last over the slot of the tournament weighing 6.67-pounds.

On Saturday of the tournament Steven Robbins from Haltom City, Texas weighed in an under 16" bass weighing 2.65-pounds. This bass stood as the heaviest under during the tournament, not only winning him second in the hour but also the grand prize of \$30,000.

Brian Frechette's bass weighing 11.27-pounds held up as the heaviest during the tournament winning him an extra \$40,000.

In the early incentive drawing, 7-year-old Annistyn and her sister Ad-

dison, daughters of Jeremy and Sabrina Perry from Pittsburg, Texas drew Robert Hebert's name from Opelousas, Louisiana out of all the early entries. For his name being drawn and for having entered before April 30th, he took home an extra \$20,000 in cash.

In closing, I would like to send out a very special thank you to all of our sponsors and local businesses for helping us to make this tournament an annual success. I especially want to thank all my workers that lightened the load for me and for doing such a great job. This couldn't be done without all of you!

Anglers mark your calendars for the 21st Annual Legend of Lake Fork Big Bass Tournament to be held May 15, 16, 17, 2026. For all the photos of the over the slot bass of the tournament see pages 2, 15, and 16.

Take care, stay healthy, fish friendly, and God Bless.

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"June means schooling offshore bass!"

By Whitt Smith

June brings the official first day of Summer. That means school is out and the Bass schools are in session.

June Bass Fishing means predominantly "offshore" angling for the most part. Graph points, underwater bridges, ridges, road beds and humps for bait fish and Bass. Typically, you'll want to graph/ scan

the 17 to 25 ft depth on these structures to determine if there are schools of bait and Bass present. Sometimes the Bass will be on the top of these structures, but oftentimes they will set up on the downwind side to ambush bait fish. This year we're running a little lower than average water temperatures for the time of year, so timing on the spots could be of some help. These spots will often times have a shell bed, rock or road debris that is the key spot and others will have timber and/ or a steep drop that Bass relate to. Time on the water and experience will dial you in on specific spots and cast line ups.

As for set ups I'll have on my front deck in June: A magnum, deep diving crank bait on a 7' 11" to 8' heavy cranking rod with 15# Seaguar InvizX Fluorocarbon line. The biggest and most aggressive Bass in a school will most often bite this lure first. So, get to slinging the big crank.

A magnum size Shakey Head Jig, 5/8- 3/4



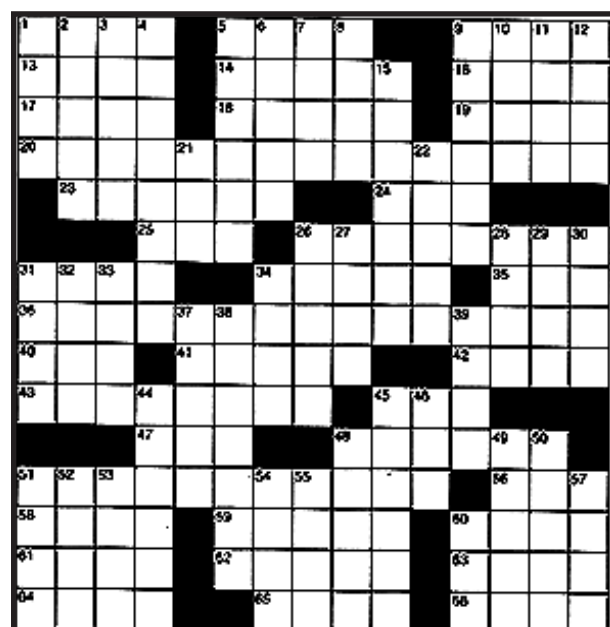
oz with a 7 to 12" straight tail worm on 20# Seaguar InvizX Fluorocarbon Line and a 7' 3" Heavy Action or a 7' 6" Medium Heavy Rod.

The Mop Up Pitcher of Lake Fork is the venerable Carolina Rig. 3/4- 1 Oz weight, 3 foot or so of 15 to 20# leader tied to mainline of 20# Seaguar InvizX Fluorocarbon Line. Attach the soft plastic lure of your choice and confidence and drag away my friends. Many a client has announced

their disdain for the "Ball and Chain" to me over the many years. That is until they land their Personal Best Bass on it and then state that they now like the Carolina Rig.

A Flutter Spoon is at the ready for suspended Bass, on a 7' to 7' 3" Medium Heavy Action Rod and 17- 20# Seaguar InvizX Fluorocarbon line.

I hope you have a wonderful Summer and if you are interested in doing some "offshore" Bassin' in June, I'd love to have you out there or get you with my colleagues.



CLUES ACROSS

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Painful sore | 36. Pittsburgh and Seattle baseball teams |
| 5. Canned meat | 40. Before |
| 9. Stem | 41. Murdered |
| 13. Thomas ____, British composer | 42. Russian city |
| 14. Carpet | 43. Loses hope |
| 16. Ancient Greek city | 45. Plant habitat |
| 17. Dandy | 47. Sunup in New York (abbr.) |
| 18. Fragrant resin obtained from tropical trees | 48. More comfortable |
| 19. Government officers (informal) | 51. Capable of being understood |
| 20. American League baseball teams | 56. Skeletal muscle |
| 23. Profoundly | 58. ____, Erikson, psychologist |
| 24. Auricle | 59. Towers |
| 25. Can | 60. Incline from vertical |
| 26. Oozed, in a way | 61. Magnitude relative to a time unit |
| 31. Jai ____, sport | 62. ____, Carta, British charter |
| 34. Monetary units of Samoa | 63. Powerful operating system |
| 35. ____, de cologne | 64. Not new |
| | 65. Poses |
| | 66. Copyreader's duty |

CLUES DOWN

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Pamper | 31. Copied |
| 2. Mountain nymph (Greek) | 32. French city |
| 3. Mindless | 33. Area units |
| 4. Blood-related disease | 34. Despot |
| 5. Tempered | 37. Hebrew letter |
| 6. Loss of the ability to move a body part | 38. Superiority |
| 7. Copier | 39. Difficult situations |
| 8. Act out | 44. Nagged |
| 9. Previously | 45. Angiospermous trees |
| 10. Genus of very spiny shrubs | 46. Compass point (abbr.) |
| 11. Queen of Sparta | 48. Black |
| 12. Sea or striped | 49. African antelope |
| 15. Cocktail with lemon juice and brandy | 50. Spokes, in a way |
| 21. Environmental agency (abbr.) | 51. South American country |
| 22. Athabaskan | 52. Geological times |
| 26. Lapps | 53. Any customary observance or practice |
| 27. Ardor | 54. Bottle that contains a drug |
| 28. To pour out | 55. Protocist |
| 29. Pinnae | 57. Words of something printed or written |
| 30. Follows sunset | 60. Color |

Answers on Page 21

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Rob Bospflug from Imperial Beach, California was fishing Lake Fork with guide Whitt Smith when he caught this nice bass. C.P.R.



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"The Moon Report"

"June Fishing on Fork"

By Terri Moon

Ahhh – June fishing on Fork – it's one of my favorite months to fish! June can produce 'BIG' fish in all species. It's so exciting when we are surprised by a huge bream, a big bass, or a hard fighting white bass, or catfish while crappie fishing!

The majority of the crappie are "post spawn" and have moved out to structure in 10 to 30 ft. depths. You might find a few late spawners shallower around the new and full moon this month.

The crappie are showing up around bridges, standing timber, in creek channels, and brush piles. Don't be afraid to change up your presentation. Some days they want the bait moving, and other days they want it dead still. It's sure fun to watch the reaction of the fish on Live Scope! Those crappie don't always "SLAM" the baits – so, you need to be vigilant in watching your line because the sneaky ones will push your bait up and your line will go slack. If your not watching, you'll probably miss that fish.

Also, the color jig they prefer can change daily, so keep a good assortment on hand. Right now I am using an as-



sortment of "Limits Tackle, Skipper Jigs, and Bonehead Stump Bugs. The colors producing now have been white and chartreuse, grey/black, electric chicken, and L.S.U. These are all available at Lake Fork Marina along with all your crappie fishing needs.

Another reason I love June fishing on Fork is it's time for some bream action! They are showing up in brush piles and around bridge ledges. But, around new and the full moon, they will be in 1-5 ft. on slip bobbers. Others will back off in that 5-15 ft. and I will tight-line with night crawlers or crickets just off the bottom. Hang on tight because you never know what you might catch while fishing for these bream! I'm sure looking forward to the next full moon!

It's great to be back after a few weeks in Missouri. Our lake level is

finally back to normal and looking beautiful! The fish are biting and it feels so good to be back in my "Luxury Liner" – (my Skeeter Solera). A 'BIG' thank you Skeeter for creating such a comfortable boat for us crappie fishermen!

Hey don't forget – the first weekend in June is the incredible "Skeeter Boat Owners Tournament" at Lake Fork Marina, so come out to watch the hourly weigh-ins and check out all the vendors. They put on an amazing event.

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 Fathers Day to you all and happy heavenly fathers day to both my dads – sure miss you.

My best to you all!

TPWD Awards \$6.8 Million in Recreational Trails Grants to Texas Communities

During a recent meeting, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission approved more than \$6.8 million in grants, funding 24 trail construction and maintenance projects across the state.

The National Recreational Trails Fund (NRTF) supports recreational trail construction, renovation and acquisition through grants funded from a portion of the federal gas tax generated by fuel purchases for off-highway vehicles. The fund must be used to support a diverse mix of both motorized and non-motorized trail projects.

This year, \$5.28 million in NRTF funds were made available for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Recreational Trails Grants Program. In addition to the federal funds, \$1.52 million of the state Sporting Goods Sales Tax was allocated for eligible trail projects. A portion of the grant funds, up to \$900,000, will be used to support trail improvement projects in state parks.

Projects awarded funding are listed in alphabetical order by county below: In Bandera County, the Albert and Bessie Kronkosky State Natural Area received \$300,000 for the construction of six additional miles of multi-use natural surface trails at the site.

The city of Beeville in Bee County received \$300,000 for trail upgrades in community parks. Improvements include the renovation of 2.6-miles of existing asphalt/gravel trails to 10-foot-wide asphalt trails across five sites, benches, trash cans, bike racks, water fountains, signage and lighting. Universal City in Bexar County received \$220,800 for phase two of the Cibolo Creek Recreational Trail. The project includes constructing a 1.23-mile cement-stabilized base trail with wayfinding signage. College Station's Texas Independence Park in Brazos County received \$287,997 for the west phase trails project. Improvements include the construction of three miles of natural surface multi-use trail and .73-mile concrete trail connections with benches and trash cans. The Texas Motorized Trails Coalition (TMTC) received \$328,672 to create trails and park improvements to Ozona's Escondido Draw Recreation Area in Crockett County. The project includes the renovation of 10 miles of trail, equipment repair and rental, surveys, engineering and professional services. In Ozona, an additional \$400,000 was allocated

to TMTC's Escondido Draw Recreation Area in Crockett County to purchase trail equipment, engineering and professional services. The Paso Del Norte Community Foundation in El Paso County received \$292,072 for safety and accessibility renovations to the Paso Del Norte Trail. The project will feature renovations along a 7.5-mile section of existing trail including concrete repair, street crossing, signage, picnic tables, trash receptacles, bike racks and pet waste stations. In Harris County, the TMTC Rio Bravo Adventure Park received \$500,000 for improvements to the site. Work will include the renovation of six miles of trail and track, signage, electrical and septic updates, pavilion repairs, access road repairs, equipment repairs and rentals, resource surveys and engineering. The TMTC Rio Bravo Recreation Area in Harris County received \$400,000 for the purchase of a bulldozer/tractor and attachments, equipment maintenance and hand tools. In Houston, Harris County received \$240,000 for improvements to the Terry Hershey Trail. The project includes the renovation

(See TPWD awards \$6.8 ..Continued on Page 10)

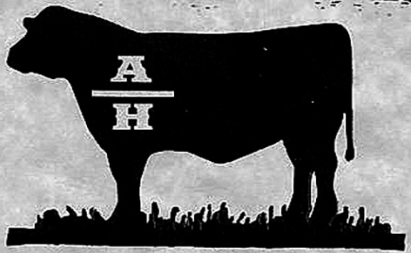


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TPWD Awards \$6.8 Million in Recreational Trails Grants *(Continued from Page 9)*

of three miles of asphalt hike and bike trail. In Hays County, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's San Marcos Aquatic Research Center received \$57,427 for the rehabilitation of interior trails. Improvements include the renovation of a 1.75-mile trail, construction of a .56-mile trail with gravel turnpike, parking improvement and signage. The city of Farmersville-NETT Section 4 in Hunt County received \$75,000 for the construction of 1.9-miles of rail-to-trail surfacing. In McLennan County, the Waco Motorcycle Club received \$337,200 for improvements to

the Waco Eagles Motocross Dirt Bike Park. The project includes the renovation of 10-miles of trail, parking, entrance signage, visitor building, lighting and security, fencing, a maintenance building, fuel and equipment rental. The Castroville Regional Park in Medina County received \$300,000 for the construction of 1.3-miles of trail, a pedestrian bridge, parking spaces, 2.4-miles of trail renovation and signage. Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches County received \$285,004 for its Building a Path to the Future at the SFA Gardens project. Improvements include the construction of

.24-miles of trail, renovation of 7.7-miles of trail, boardwalks, bridges, the purchase of equipment and the installation of 12 trailhead signs. In Nueces County, the city of Port Aransas received \$241,515 to improve connectivity and accessibility in the Port Aransas Trail System. The project includes the construction of a .18-mile connecting trail, widening a .31-mile trail to six feet for ADA access, and renovations to a .48-mile loop trail. Palo Pinto Mountains State Park in Palo Pinto County received \$300,000 for the construction of six additional miles of multi-use natural surface trail at the site. Arlington Parks and Recreation in Tarrant County received \$239,700 for the redevelopment of the River Legacy Park Trail. The project includes the renovation of an existing .49-mile trail to 12-foot-wide concrete. The Austin Parks and Recreation Department in Travis County received \$300,000 for the creation of the Onion Creek Greenbelt trailhead and trail expansion. The project includes construction of a .6-mile trail, parking area, utilities and revegetation. *(See TPWD awards \$6.8 ..Continued on Page 21)*

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John Moore from Branson, Missouri was fishing Lake Fork with guide Whitt Smith when he landed this nice bass. C.P.R.



Sid McGinnis was doing some pleasure fishing on Lake Fork when he caught this really nice bass. C.P.R.



Mike Reimer from Cordell, Oklahoma was fishing Lake Fork with guide Whitt Smith when he landed this nice bass. C.P.R.

LAKESIDE TROLLING MOTOR

A black and white photograph of the Lakeside Trolling Motor storefront. It's a small building with a sign that says "LAKESIDE TROLLING MOTOR". There are several vehicles, including cars and a truck, parked in front of the building.

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A logo for Stacey's Fish Fry featuring a map of Texas with the text "Stacey's FISH FRY" inside it.

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Daniel Kunz Named James "Randy" Fugate Memorial Wildlife Division Professional of the Year

Daniel Kunz, a senior biologist in South Texas, is the 2025 recipient of the James "Randy" Fugate Memorial Wildlife Division Professional of the Year Award.

Established in 2021, the award honors a Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) Wildlife Division staff member who exemplifies a positive attitude in all aspects of their work, delivers exceptional customer service, builds trusting relationships and consistently exceeds expectations in advancing the agency's mission.

"Like Randy Fugate, Daniel is known for his welcoming demeanor and genuine ap-

preciation for all aspects of his work," said Meredith Longoria, TPWD Wildlife Division Deputy Director. "His expertise, integrity, humility and work ethic are qualities often praised by colleagues and partners."

After receiving a master's degree through the Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute at Texas A&M University Kingsville, Kunz first joined the Wildlife Division in October 2002 as a natural resource specialist and district biologist covering Aransas, Duval, Jim Wells, Nueces and San Patricio counties. It was in this role that Kunz first forged a lifelong friendship with Randy Fugate, the award's namesake. In 2010, Kunz was promoted to technical guidance biologist, succeeding one of his mentors, Jimmy Rutledge.

Kunz has played a pivotal role in training both new and experienced biologists in resource management and field techniques. He develops publications for staff and landowners, coordinates new biologist training and is a member of multiple Wildlife Division technical committees. Kunz also represents TPWD on the Ocelot Translocation Committee, guides re-

search efforts in South Texas, and has been instrumental in securing wild turkey trap sites for restoration projects in Texas and Utah.

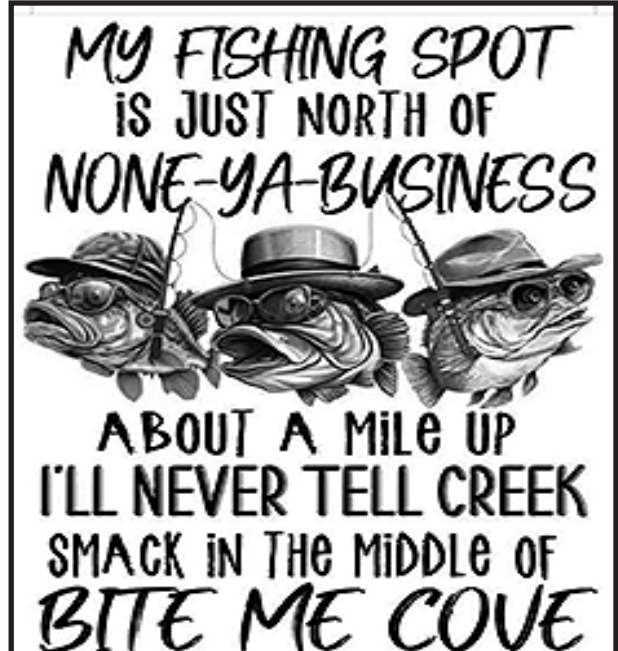
"His deep commitment to fostering relationships with staff, landowners and conservation partners exemplifies the spirit of this award," said Longoria.



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*"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





20th Annual Big Bass Tournament

May 16,17,18, 2025

On Behalf of Legend of Lake Fork

Big Bass Tournament, The Fisherman's Guide News, & The Wish to Fish Foundation, we would like to thank all of our sponsors and all of the anglers that participated in the 20th Annual Legend of Lake Fork Big Bass Tournament. It is your dedication and participation that makes this a success. We hope to see all of you next year at the 21st Annual.

Be Safe, Fish Friendly, & God Bless

Call Today: 903-360-6994 Email: fishnews@lakefork.net

Iconic Indian Lodge Reopens After Remodel

The historic Indian Lodge, nestled within Davis Mountains State Park, has completed its extensive remodel and is now open for reservation. This historic and treasured West Texas retreat was built by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) in the 1930s and features white adobe walls and southwestern charm. "We sincerely thank our visitors for their patience during the temporary closure and look forward to welcoming you back to the tranquility and historic charm of Indian Lodge State Park and the Black Bear Restaurant," said Torrey Bonham, superintendent of Davis Mountains State Park.

Renovation work completed during the closure included infrastructure upgrades such as air conditioning, electrical, and plumbing systems, as well as pool repairs, fire alarm system enhancements, new windows and doors, and a newly redesigned and landscaped courtyard. Visitors can now book their next West Texas adventure to Indian Lodge through the Texas State Parks Online Reservation System or by calling the Reservations Center at (512) 389-8900

during normal business hours. For additional questions about booking, the Indian Lodge front office can be reached at (432) 426-3254.

With the renovations now complete, guests will have an opportunity to stay in both the modern and historically significant sections of the lodge. These preserved units showcase the craftsmanship and legacy of one of the New Deal's most iconic public works program — the CCC. These features offer visitors a unique blend of rustic elegance and historical significance.

Additionally, the Indian Lodge pool has undergone refurbishment and has reopened in time for the summer season.

The Black Bear Restaurant has also emerged from hibernation and is offering a buffet-style breakfast and lunch from 7 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Thursday through Monday. The restaurant will have a brief closure from 10 –11 a.m. daily for meal transitions. Weekly menus will be shared on the Indian Lodge Facebook page.

Located in Jeff Davis County, Indian Lodge is a full-service hotel located within Davis Moun-

tains State Park northwest of Fort Davis. The first section of the lodge was built by the CCC in the 1930s to resemble a multilevel pueblo village. The original CCC work can still be seen at the lodge in the original interiors and furnishings. More rooms and amenities were added to the site in the late 1960s. The structure of the lodge includes 18-inch adobe walls, hand-carved cedar furniture, and ceilings of pine viga and latilla.

For more information about Indian Lodge, visit the park's webpage on the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department website.

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Cody Brunette from Rockwall, TX., weighed in this 10.58-lb. bass in the Legend of Lake Fork Big Bass Tournament. Danny Dulude from Grand Saline, TX., weighed in this 8.80-lb. bass in the Legend of Lake Fork Big Bass Tournament.

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Douglas Cox from Montrose, CO., weighed in this 9.83-lb. bass in the Legend of Lake Fork Big Bass Tournament.



Colten Pusateri from Anna, TX., weighed in this 8.30-lb. bass in the Legend of Lake Fork Big Bass Tournament.



Rick Wheeler from Emory, TX., weighed in this 6.67-lb. bass in the Legend of Lake Fork Big Bass Tournament.

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82
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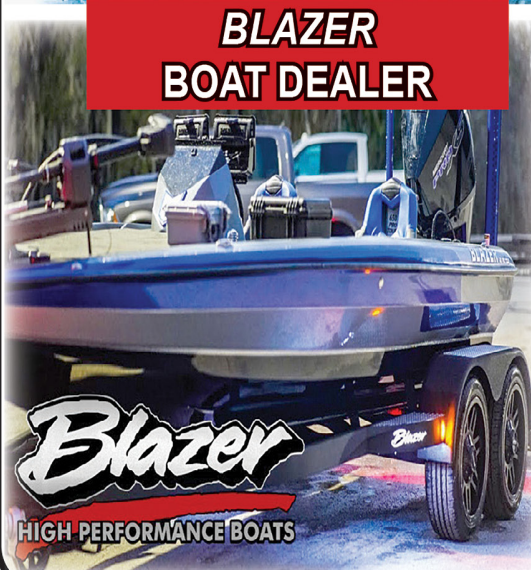
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Capacity	10+1	10+1	10+1	10+1	10+1
Manual Thumb Safety	Amidextrous	NMS	NMS	Amidextrous	NMS
Fixed Sights	3-Dot G43 style	3-Dot G43 style	3-Dot G43 style	3-Dot G43 style	3-Dot G43 style
Optic Ready Available	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Roebuck Quad Lock	Yes	Yes	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	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
Trigger Pull Weight	9lbs	9lbs	9lbs	9lbs	5.5lbs
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"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.

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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 -
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To Keep and Bear Arms -
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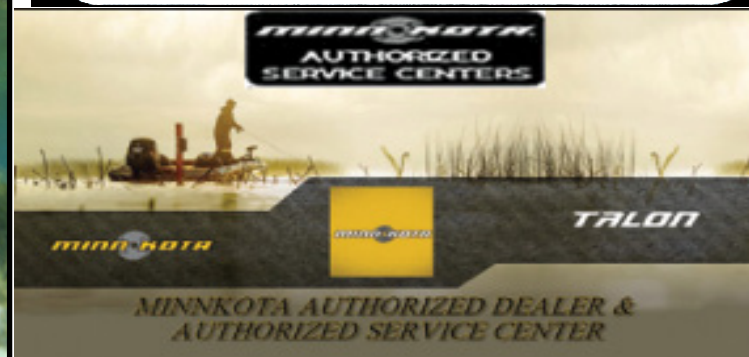
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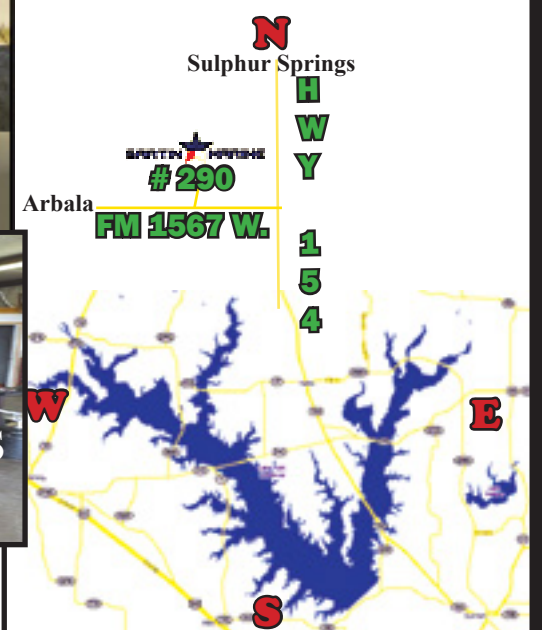


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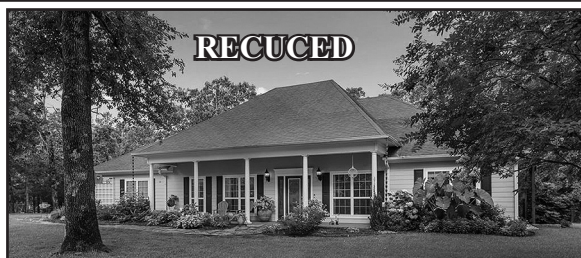
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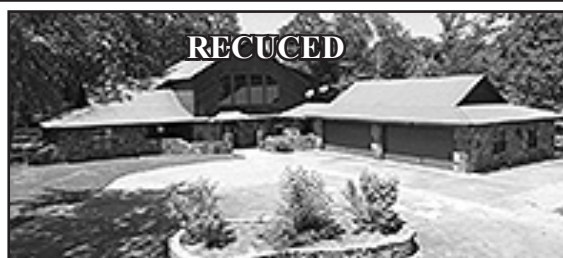
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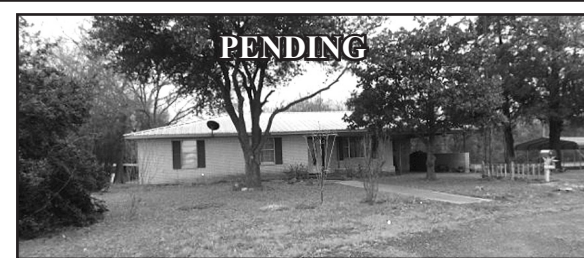
REDUCED

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



REDUCED

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 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



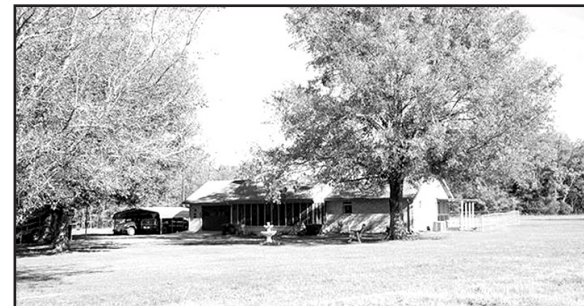
CONTINGENT

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



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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Lots from 1 to 3.5 acres, \$49,900 to \$139,900

Acreage from 2.5 to 5 acres, \$59,900 to \$74,900

Acreage from 13 to 29.4 acres, \$119,900 to \$274,900

43 acres \$390,000

2 Lake Fork waterfront lots \$350,000

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

Texas Master Naturalist Program Receives Prestigious Society for Range Management Outstanding Achievement Award

The Society for Range Management (SRM) recognized the Texas Master Naturalist (TMN) program with its Outstanding Achievement Award for commitment to community engagement. The award goes to those working to manage, conserve and enjoy the vast landscapes known as rangelands. SRM is an international professional scientific society and conservation organization whose

members study, conserve, manage and sustain the varied resources of the rangelands, including prairie, shrublands, woodlands and savannahs.

TMN is the nation's first volunteer naturalist program of its kind to be implemented on a statewide scale and now serves as a model for other states. It is designed to develop a local corps of "master volunteers" who provide education, outreach and service dedicated to the beneficial management of natural resources and natural areas within their communities.

As of 2024, TMN had trained more than 17,400 certified volunteers, impacted more than 260,400 acres of wildlife and native plant habitats, contributed more than 7.5 million hours of service and reached more than 7.13 million Texas residents of all ages. These volunteer efforts are estimated to be worth more than \$170 million to the state of Texas.

The program recently celebrated its 25th anniversary of providing education, outreach and service to communities throughout Texas with an average 7,000 active volunteers in 49 chapters serving 213 counties across the state.

In addition to education and outreach, TMN volunteers assist in the operation of parks, nature centers and natural areas around the state and provide leadership in local conservation efforts.

TMN is sponsored by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) and Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service (AgriLife). For more information about TMN go to TPWD or AgriLife's Master Naturalist web pages.



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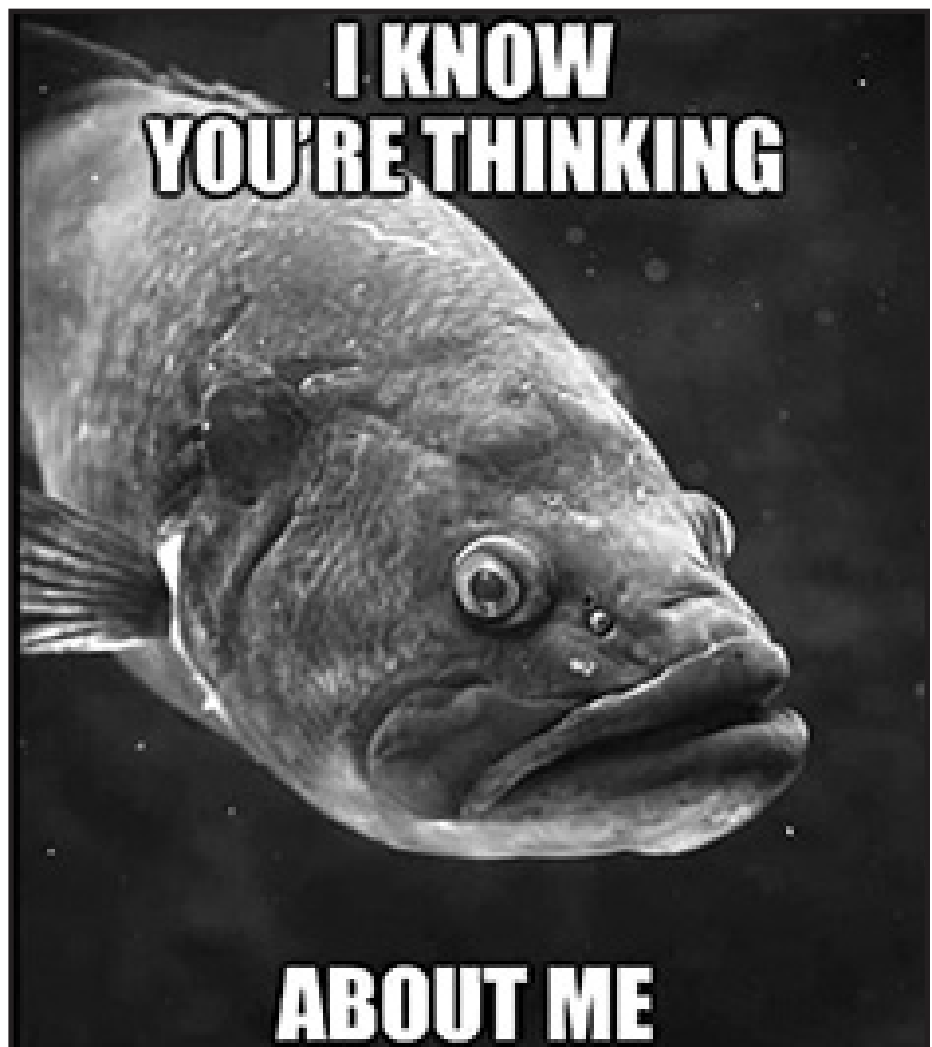
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TPWD Awards Grants *(Continued from Page 10)*

In Travis County, Westcave Outdoor Discovery Center received \$59,348 for improvements to the canyon and uplands trail. The project includes the renovation of 431-feet of trail, construction of 176-feet of natural surface trail with boardwalk renovation, fencing, interpretive signage and benches. BikeTexas in Travis County received \$75,000 for the Texas Trails and Active Transportation Conference (TTAT). The funding will support the TTAT, which focuses on the creation and maintenance of trails in Texas. In Victoria County, the city of Victoria received \$250,056 for improvements to the Ted B. Reed Multi-Use Recreational Trail. The project includes construction of a .17-mile concrete trail and renovation of an existing .32-mile decomposed granite trail to 10-foot-wide concrete. The city of Vernon in Wilbarger County received \$54,051 for the Camp Cheromanche

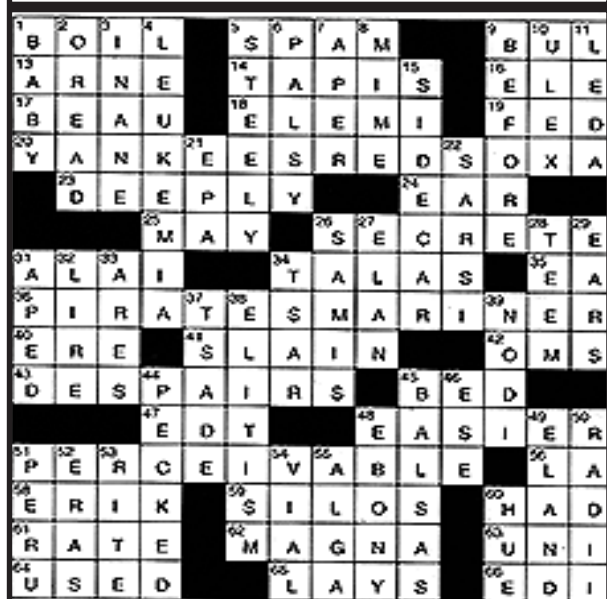
Nature Trail project. \$60,800 for trail improvements at Wise County Park. The project includes construction of trail amenities including an ADA-compliant restroom, wayfinding signage, entrance sign, benches and picnic tables.

Just The Right Answers

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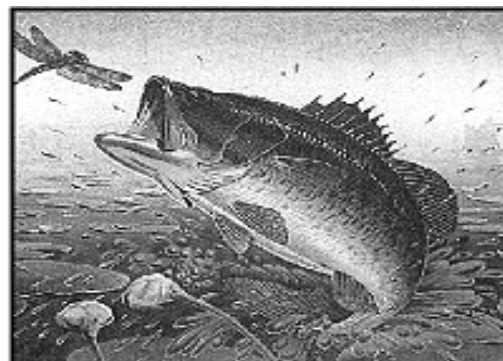
Supply Find

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

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S P N T C R K E K E W P
E A A A E C R U C M A K
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G L U E A E L P T X E T
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Game Warden Field Notes

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

—Venom and Vice—

A Milam County Game Warden received a call on Feb. 1 from a concerned landlord about a tenant reportedly keeping several venomous snakes in an apartment near the Cameron ISD Middle School. Given the nature of the call and the tenant's history, game wardens from Travis and Williamson counties, along with the Milam County Sheriff's Office, assisted with the

investigation.

Upon contact, the tenant admitted to possessing multiple snakes and allowed wardens to inspect them. Inside the apartment, wardens observed what appeared to be methamphetamine and drug paraphernalia in plain sight. A field test confirmed the substance as methamphetamine, and the suspect was arrested for possession of a controlled substance. The tenant's apartment is located within 1,000 feet of a school, placing the offense within a designated drug-free zone.

After being Miran-

dized, he confessed to keeping a monocled cobra, a green bush viper, rat snakes, bull snakes and approximately 25 rattlesnakes—without the required permit or a hunting license.

Due to the presence of the openly visible narcotics, wardens obtained a search warrant, which led to the discovery of additional narcotics, drug paraphernalia and more unlawfully possessed snakes. Wardens seized the reptiles and transferred them to a licensed permit holder who is equipped to care for them.

(Continued on Page 24)



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Grill Up Some Gourmet Summer Fare

By Sue Hampton

One of the biggest signs that summer is on the horizon is the beginning of the barbecue season. When the first tantalizing aroma of grilling food wafts through the warm air it is a definite sign that pool parties, trips to the beach and summer fun are about to start.

Many people survive the summer on barbecue staples – hot dogs and hamburgers – but there are many other delicious foods



Barbecues don't have to be predictable. There are many gourmet recipes that are perfectly suited to hot coals and an open flame. This recipe is perfect for a "Happy Father's Day" meal!

you can throw on the grill to get a sensational meal. Chicken is perhaps one of the most versatile foods you can shape into a masterpiece over hot coals. The meat just seems to taste better with the slightest charring from an open flame.

Looking for an easy-to-prepare yet flavorful chicken dish to grill that just may rival the classic hamburger? Try these lemon oregano chicken baguettes the next time you put a match to the charcoal. Served on crunchy french bread, these hand-

held chicken delights can be offered as lunch or a light dinner.

LEMON OREGANO CHICKEN BAGUETTE

(Serves 4)

4 boneless, skinless chicken breast halves, butterflied
1 lemon, peeled and chopped
2 garlic cloves crushed, 2 teaspoons dried oregano
2 tablespoons olive oil
1 teaspoon black pepper
1 baguette
Salt
1 beefsteak tomato, sliced

1 handful crisp salad leaves
1 roasted garlic aioli (recipe follows)

Toss chicken breast halves with lemon, garlic, oregano, oil and pepper. Cover and refrigerate for 20 minutes. Cut baguette into four equal-sized pieces. Split and toast baguette on the cut side until just crisp, one minute. Grill over medium-hot coals until chicken is opaque, with no trace of pink, three minutes per side. Sprinkle with salt. Fill baguette with tomatoes, salad, chicken and aioli dressing. Serve warm.

Roasted Garlic Aioli

1 head of garlic
1-1/4 cups mayonnaise

Slice off tip of garlic, cutting through the cloves. Place cut-side up in oven tray. Drizzle over olive oil and sprinkle with salt and pepper. Preheat oven to 300 F. Roast garlic head until completely soft, one hour. Leave to cool. Squeeze out cloves from papery skins. Mash until smooth. Whisk into mayonnaise.

PRACTICE CPR • Catch • Photo • Release



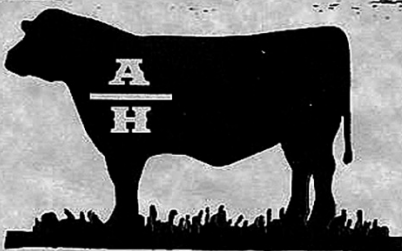
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Game Warden Field Notes (Continued from Page 22)

The suspect now faces multiple charges, including possession of a controlled substance penalty group 1, possession of drug paraphernalia, no valid hunting license and a violation for the lack of a non-indigenous snake permit.

—Montgomery County Landowner Ruffles Feathers with Case of Mistaken Identity—

Texas Game Wardens received reports from a caller saying they witnessed a bald eagle shot in Montgomery County. The warden spoke to the landowner who admitted to shooting a hawk that had been harassing his chickens. While searching the property, the warden discovered an injured bald eagle hidden underneath a tarp. The landowner confessed to shooting the eagle and said he planned to try to fix its wing.

The game warden seized the eagle and transported it to a veterinary hospital, where it was evaluated and prepped for surgery to try to repair its broken wing and gunshot wound. Despite best efforts, the eagle ultimately had to be euthanized.

After completing the initial investigation, Texas Game Wardens turned the case over to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), which will inquire into the situation further and file necessary

charges.

"While we never like to see an incident like this occur, we appreciate the caller's prompt actions in reporting the violation so Texas Game Wardens could investigate and try to give the eagle its best chance at survival," said Col. Ronald VanderRoest, TPWD Law Enforcement Director. "We are grateful for our partnership with the USFWS who will help in the prosecution of this crime and hopefully prevent violations of this nature from occurring in the future."

—Mule Deer Mishap— A Crockett County Game Warden received a call from a ranch hand in Pecos County reporting two hunters illegally harvesting mule deer. The ranch in question operates under the Managed Lands Deer Program, allowing for extended seasons for white-tailed and mule deer. Hunters could legally harvest white-tailed deer by any lawful means at that time, but mule deer could only be harvested by lawful archery equipment until Nov. 2.

The ranch hand reported that the two hunters, who were instructed to shoot only white-tailed deer, had

shot two mule deer bucks with modern firearms.

Crockett County and Brewster County Game Wardens responded the next day to interview the hunters, who admitted to shooting the bucks at last light when they saw antlers in the brush. They claimed they mistook the mule deer for white-tailed deer and took the shots as soon as the deer stood up. The wardens seized both bucks and issued citations for unlawful means and methods, warnings for taking mule deer out of season and the hunters were charged civil restitution for the two bucks.

—Not the "Reel" Deal— A Bowie County Game Warden received a call about an individual claiming to be an undercover game warden working the Wright Patman Lake Spillway. The caller said the supposed warden was checking fish and fishing licenses and commenting on the legality of fish being kept. The caller was able to provide a description of the individual and a license plate number registered in Arkansas.

Before Bowie County wardens, working with Arkansas Game Wardens, could visit the suspect's

(Continued on Next Page)

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house, however, the original caller reached out again to say the supposed warden was back at the spillway, making the same claims. A warden immediately headed to the spillway, where he observed the suspect in action and wearing law enforcement gear, though he was unarmed. As the suspect was heading back to his vehicle, the warden intercepted him for questioning. The man denied all claims, stating he was there because he worked for a road construction company.

After getting statements from witnesses, the warden obtained an arrest warrant for the suspect who later turned himself in. Charges are pending.

—Baiting and Blasting— An Atascosa County Game Warden was monitoring a property where illegal hunting activity was suspected. After hearing several shotgun blasts, the warden entered the property and discovered two men hunting dove over bait. It was during a special white-wing only season and only two mourning doves were allowed per hunter. The hunters were intentionally over their limit of mourning dove and were still actively hunting when the warden arrived.

While investigating the incident, the warden looked through feed sacks in the bed of a truck.

He was surprised to discover two cleaned out, untagged jake Rio Grande turkeys in an empty feed sack. One hunter admitted to shooting them earlier in the day and had asked the second hunter to dispose of the carcasses, which he had not yet done.

The hunters were issued citations for killing turkeys out of season, exceeding the daily bag limit of mourning doves, placing bait to attract and hunting over bait. The illegally taken game was seized and donated. Cases and civil restitution are pending.

—Red Snapper Snag— Calhoun County and Victoria County Game Wardens conducted an offshore patrol out of Port O'Connor aboard the PV Birmingham to detect undocumented federal charter boats along the nine-mile line. During a routine water safety and fisheries inspection, they found a recreational vessel illegally in possession of 11 red snapper in federal waters during the federal closure.

The red snapper were measured and photographed for evidence before being donated to those in need.

—Hook, Line, and Felony— An Amarillo District Game Wardens were patrolling Southeast Park Lake in Randall County when they observed a

man fishing from a dock. As they approached, the man and his female companion quickly attempted to leave the area.

When questioned, the man admitted he didn't have a fishing license. While running his information through dispatch, wardens learned the man had a felony parole violation warrant. They arrested him without incident and transported him to the Randall County Jail.

After the man was booked into jail, wardens returned to their patrol truck and checked the passenger seat where the man had been sitting. One of the wardens discovered three plastic baggies that had been stuffed into the lower portion of the seat, containing approximately 20 grams of a crystal substance that appeared to be methamphetamine. Upon questioning the man, he admitted to having previously used methamphetamine but claimed his girlfriend had placed them in his possession.

The man was charged with possession of a controlled substance and tampering with physical evidence in addition to the parole violation.

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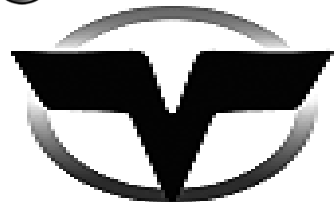
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Lake Fork Sportsman's Association "Preserving the Legend That is Lake Fork"

By Dianne Spradling, President

We had a great turnout at the Legend of Lake Fork Big Bass Tournament. We saw a lot of familiar faces and met a lot of new people. We also had a great time at the BassMaster Elite Series Tournament and Family Fest. There was many vendors and lots of good food. Did you forget to come out and visit us at the Bassmaster Elite and the Legend of Lake Fork Tournaments this month?

Don't forget that the Skeeter Owner's Tournament is coming up this month. Also the Wood County Sheriff's Department is holding their annual KidFish on June 7th at the SRA office. This is a great event and a lot of fun for the kids and parents alike. Remember there is no requirement to have a fishing license to bring your children.

Please remember that we accept donations of used rods, reels and tackle for our High School tackle program. We will be passing out equipment at our meeting in September. 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.



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

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



Centennial Time Capsule Moves to Blanco State Park

The Centennial Time Capsule, which encompasses 100 years of Texas State Parks history, hit the road once again and headed to Blanco State Park as part of its 50-year trek to every state park. The time capsule, which houses one object from every state park and support program, went on display at Abilene State Park in November.

"Staff at Abilene State Park were honored to host the Centennial Time Capsule," said Craig Simpson, Abilene State Park Superintendent. "The park saw many folks travel to Abilene from all corners of Texas and beyond to view this remarkable piece of state park history. Many were especially impressed by its craftsmanship and the use of pecan wood from Mother Neff State Park."

Additionally, several visitors expressed excitement at the prospect of being around in 50 years to view the opening of the time capsule and getting a peek at the historic artifacts placed inside.

The time capsule will now be on display at Blanco State Park in the Texas Hill Country before moving to its next location. "The staff at Blanco State Park are very excit-

ed and proud to host the Time Capsule," said Mark Pearson, Blanco State Park Superintendent. "It has already been interesting to see visitor's reactions to it as we explain its origin and that it is just beginning its 50-year trip around our great state and its beautiful parks."

The five-foot-tall wooden time capsule weighs more than 300 pounds and was made from pecan trees harvested at Mother Neff State Park, the site widely accepted as the first Texas State Park opened to the public. It is made from solid wood and bronze and is large enough to hold more than 100 items. Sitting atop the capsule is a sculpture in the shape of Texas with all park locations marked. Additionally, there are 100 name plates recognizing all contributing parks and programs, six regional bas relief panels and a plaque on the front with a message to the future.

For the contents of the time capsule, park staff had to choose an item that would tell a story about that site, fit in a box the size of a coffee mug, survive 50 years and be strong enough to travel the roads of Texas.

"Time capsules are usually buried in the ground and forgotten until it's time to open

them, but ours will remain on display, so we wanted it to be a work of art and showcase the excellent craftsmanship of our exhibit team," said Stephen Garrett, Exhibits Manager for Texas State Parks. "This is something totally unique and I don't think anyone's ever made a time capsule quite like this before. I'm proud of the thought, care and work that went into the capsule's creation and hope park visitors enjoy seeing it as much as we did creating it."



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Slight Increase in Hunting Accidents Highlights Need for Vigilance in the Field

Texas experienced an increase in hunting accidents with last year, with 18 non-fatal hunting accidents and one fatality reported in the 2024 Texas Hunting Accident Report.

"Safe hunting in Texas starts with you," said Matthew Smith, Hunter Education Coordinator for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD). "Hunting accidents are preventable by following basic safety rules we call the '10 Commandments of Shooting Safety,' especially the primary rule – pointing the firearm's muzzle in a safe direction at all times."

In Bell County, a hunter fired at low-flying, wounded dove outside of his safe zone and 'peppered' his hunting companion with shot pellets. A dozen pellets struck the victim from head to legs. This accident could have been prevented if the hunter stuck to a "safe zone of fire" and communicated his position with others.

While scouting for ducks in Bowie County, a hunter hung a loaded shotgun in a tree while checking for leaks in his waders. The trigger caught and discharged, sending pellets into his upper thigh. This accident could have been avoided by adhering to the basic hunter safety course rules for handling firearms. It's important to remember to always unload firearms when not hunting and never leave it unattended. Below are some tips to help ensure a safe experience for hunters whether they're at home, in transit to their hunting spot or spending time in the field.

* **Mind Your Muzzle:** Whether in transit or in the

field, the muzzle should always be pointing in a safe direction. This is the most important safety rule.

* **Clear the Chamber:** Unload all firearms when not in use, especially at home, during transport and in the field. Guns should be unloaded as soon as you are finished hunting to avoid accidental discharge.

* **On Guard:** Keep your fingers outside of the trigger guard until ready to take a shot.

* **Gear Up:** Waterfowl hunters should wear protective clothing, waders and approved life jackets while in boats or around water, especially in winter months. Drowning ranks as the number one cause of waterfowl hunting-related fatalities.

* **Safe Space:** For dove, quail and pheasant hunters, the number one cause for accidents or fatalities is shooting at game outside a safe zone of fire. Communicate and stick to your safe zone of fire and never shoot towards another hunter, buildings or structures, or domestic animals such as cows. For more information on safe zones of fire, visit the TPWD Hunter Education webpage.

* **Bull's-eye and Beyond:** Be sure of your target including what is in front and behind. No one can take a shot back, so don't shoot until certain of what could be struck.

* **Blazing Style:** Wearing blaze orange while in the field allows you to be seen by other hunters and reduces the potential for hunting accidents.

Texas' highest record to date occurred in 1968 when the state saw 37 fatal hunting-related accidents. The numbers recorded every year showed

the need for more firearm safety, which led to the creation of the Hunter Education program.

Since Hunter Education became a requirement for all hunters in 1988, Texas' hunting accident rate has steadily decreased. Only a single fatality has been reported for each of the last six years.

More than 1.6 million students have been certified with Hunter Education since 1972. Hunter Education is required for every hunter in Texas (including out-of-state hunters) born on or after Sept. 2, 1971. The minimum age for certification is nine years old and certification is good for life.

There are two in-person course options for anyone under 17 years of age — a six-hour classroom course or a four-hour field course preceded by a home study Internet course. Additionally, those 17 and over can alternatively take and pass an approved online-only course. Courses can be found by visiting the Hunter Education page. Classes are also offered at schools, clubs and venues throughout Texas communities.

Hunters must show proof of Hunter Education certification on their person while in the field. Hunters have access to their Texas proof of Hunter Education in the free Outdoor Annual mobile app for iOS and Android.

Learn more about Hunter Education, how to sign up for a course and find resources for students on the TPWD website.

Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease Detected in Runnels County

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD)– has received confirmation of Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease Virus 2 (RHDV2) in multiple black-tailed jackrabbits in Runnels County.

This marks the 35th county in the state to have a confirmed wild detection since March 2020, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The number and broad geographic distribution of these detections means researchers consider RHDV2 endemic (widespread) in Texas.

Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease is a highly contagious viral disease that can affect both domestic and wild rabbit species including hares, jackrabbits and cottontails. RHDV2 appears only to affect rabbit species (lagomorphs). It is not known to affect humans, livestock or pets. However, pets should not be allowed to

consume dead animal carcasses. RHDV2 is nearly always fatal and affects rabbits of all ages. Domestic rabbit owners should practice proper biosecurity protocols and can reach out to their veterinarian to discuss vaccination.

Clinical signs of RHDV2 can include dullness/lethargy, lack of appetite, bleeding from the nose and eyes or watery, congested eyes, however most affected rabbits are commonly found deceased.

RHDV2 can persist on rabbit carcasses after death for many months. As such, TPWD recommends hunters move the least amount of biological material possible from a harvest location. Hunters that transport harvested rabbits home for consumption should discard any remaining parts in a dumpster destined for a landfill.

TPWD continues to receive and respond to

mortality events in wild rabbits and hares across the state. If you notice sick or dead wild rabbits, contact a local TPWD wildlife biologist. Learn more about RHDV2 in wild rabbits on the RHDV page of the TPWD website.



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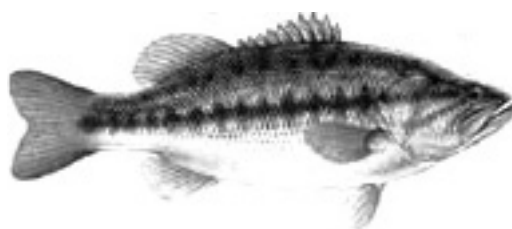
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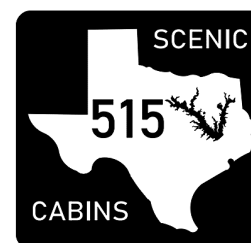
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21st Annual Big Bass Tournament

May 15, 16, 17, 2026

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For May 14, 15, 16, 17, 2026

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21st Annual



Big Bass Tournament

All Boats, Makes, Models Welcome
May 15, 16, 17, 2026

\$180,000 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, 2026 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: 903-360-6993 or 903-360-6994 Email: fishnews@lakefork.net

LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING ALL OF YOU!!!