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1 Section

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November, 2025

No. 314



Robert Washington from Waterproof, LA., won the heaviest over the slot in the 20th Annual Berkley Tournament with this 9.48-lb. hawg.



Randy Klevinski, Plantersville, TX., won the heaviest under the slot in the 20th Annual Berkley Tournament with this 3.13-lb. hawg. (See Full Story on Page 4)



Jimmy Houston set a hook on Lake Fork when he cut the ribbon at the Grand Opening Celebration of the Jimmy Houston Big Bass RV Park located at 3944 TX Hwy 154. (See Full Story on Page 5)



Tater Reynolds from Florien, LA., caught this 8.53-lb. bass on Saturday in the 8 o'clock hour winning \$1,000 in the Berkley Tournament.



Leo Moses, 10 yrs. old, from Kaufman, TX., caught this 8.79-lb. bass on 8-lb. test line, Saturday in the 11 o'clock hour winning \$1,000 in the Berkley Tournament.



Jamie Russell from Graham, TX., caught this 9.06-lb. bass on Saturday in the 2 o'clock hour winning \$1,000 in the Berkley Tournament.

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When It Comes To Thanksgiving, Bubba May Be The Turkey Full of Grace

By: Don J. Hampton

Bubba isn't an individual that is asked to say the grace much when it comes to meals. Don't get me wrong Bubba considers himself religious and is always thankful to the "Good Lord" for all his blessings. But, come on people, Bubba is Bubba!

If Bubba is asked to say the grace, you never know what kind of thanks you may hear. If he is really hungry you might hear, "Good bread, good meat, God Bless, let's eat, AMEN!" If he is really hungry and not feeling like a bear just out of hibernation and in a good mood you might hear, "Rubby dub, dub, bring on the grub, Yeah God, AMEN!" But, if Bubba has had a snack just before meal time, like tasting the turkey as he is slicing it, get ready for a long winded grace like you've never heard before. During these blessings he would have a country revival preacher squirming in his seat. During this course you might hear Bubba throw in four or five AMENS. Not because she's filled with the spirit or that she agrees with what Bubba is saying, but rather because she's trying to shut him down. This is something one can really expect to hear at Thanksgiving at Bubba and Bubba's home.

Each year at Thanksgiving and Christmas, Bubba is the designated turkey smoker. He does smoke a mean turkey and all his relatives think he is the best and his smoked sweet potatoes and oyster dressing is a culinary

delight also. The bad part of this is that the cook tastes his cooking before he will serve it. If you thought this would spoil his appetite, you are wrong. This just puts him at the table not being hungry as a bear and it being Bubba's household the Thanksgiving blessing belongs to him.

The beginning and the end of his grace are book worthy. It is just all of those things in the middle that will have you starving before the last AMEN. Believe me when he says, "AMEN", there is a chorus of "AMENS" around the table!

He will start by thanking God for all the blessings he has bestowed on his family and friends. He asked him to bless this great country we live in and for all the soldiers that defend our freedom and way of life. He will thank God for the food they are about to partake of and that he will nourish it to the goodness of their bodies, but then Bubba will say thanks for everything he feels important.

He is liable to start off by thanking the "Good Lord" for Lake Fork and all of the good lakes he has fished throughout the year. He'll be thankful for his sharp hooks, strong line, and prized possessions such as his rods and reels. He'll put in how much he appreciated

the fish biting and that they might on his future trips be as hungry as some of his kinfolk are getting at the table during his blessing. He will thank the Lord for his boat, motor, electronics and as always for his pick-up truck. He'll be thankful for the weather, the tournaments he won, the great trips he has been on, and on, and on, and on! Sometimes during these blessings Bubba would run down the EVEREADY Bunny! I do believe he would stretch them out more if he wasn't afraid his food would get cold!

Bubba is pretty smart in a sense the way he explained it to me. He said, "I've got a captive audience! No matter how long I say grace, none of my kinfolk are going to get up and leave a table full of good vittles!"

When Bubba finally says "AMEN", I think the chorus of "AMENS" is basically because everyone's so glad he's finally come to an end, but probably to drown out Bubba putting in a P.S.

Bubba always finishes his prayer with sincere thanks. He is thankful for his life, his wife, his family and friends, for the great country we live in, and that all may be blessed with the Lord's spirit.

Isn't that something we all should put in our prayers! "Happy Thanksgiving from our home to yours!"

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20th Annual Berkley Big Bass Tournament on Lake Fork (Continued from Page 1)

By Don Hampton

The 20th Annual Berkley Big Bass Tournament was held on Lake Fork on October 18th and 19th. Over 1,300 anglers representing numerous states came to try their luck to win some of the money to be given away.

Anglers could not complain about the weather on Saturday. Winds were moderate out of the South and the bass responded. Sunday did draw some complaints with the northern that came in with cooler temperatures. The catch wasn't as good on Sunday as it was on Saturday. Many of the anglers said they could not fish on their favorite spots on Sunday because of the white caps and winds.

Although there were only 5 bass over the slot of 24" Lake Fork did show out. The bass 16" and under ranged in the high 2-pound category with many ranging 2.70-pounds and higher. This shows what the future of Lake Fork has in store.

With the pay-outs ranging from \$1,000 for 1st Place in each hour to \$200 for 10th Place many anglers took home good money for a 2-pound plus bass. Other anglers that landed in 11th through 15th received an Abu Garcia reel and 16th through 20th received an Abu Garcia rod. So if they didn't receive a check they weren't completely disappointed receiving a nice prize.

As in all of Berkley Big Bass Tournaments there is a Grand Prize of a Skeeter Bass Boat given to the heaviest bass under the slot and the heaviest over the slot. This year to commemorate Berkley's 20th Annual they gave the same Skeeter ZX200 to both the heaviest over the slot and the heaviest under. Randy Klevenski from Plantersville, Texas won the heaviest under with a bass weighing 3.13-pounds. For his catch he won \$1,000 hourly and a Skeeter ZX200 powered by a Yamaha SHO and Skeeter built trailer. Winning the heaviest over the 24" slot was Robert Washington from

Waterproof, Louisiana with a bass that weighed 9.48-pounds that he brought to the scales in the 12 o'clock hour on Saturday. For his great catch he took home \$1,000 in hourly cash and a Skeeter ZX200 powered by a Yamaha SHO and a Skeeter built trailer. Also taking home \$1,000 in hourly monies for bass 24" and over was Mack Randle from Sulphur Springs, Texas with a 7.55-pound bass; Tater Reynolds from Florien, Louisiana with an 8.53-pound bass; Leo Moses from Kaufman, Texas with an 8.79-pound bass; Jamie Russell from Graham, Texas with a 9.03-pound bass. In the 2024 Berkley Tournament there was only one over 24" weighed in during the course of the tournament. This shows fishing is getting better on Lake Fork.

An exciting point in the tournament was when 10 year old Leo Moses weighed in an 8.79-pound he caught. Leo caught this bass on 8-pound test line and when his father went for the net he already had

(See 20th Annual...Continued on Page 9)

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Jimmy Houston Big Bass RV Park Grand Opening

By Don Hampton

Spirits were high at the Grand Opening Celebration and Ribbon Cutting at Jimmy Houston Outdoors Big Bass RV Park.

Jimmy Houston set his hook on Lake Fork and many came to visit, get an autograph, and view the ribbon cutting.

The celebration kicked off at 2:00 pm on Friday October 17th. Visitors were welcomed with cookies, drinks and signage. Raffle tickets were passed to each visitor with some really great gifts given away every thirty minutes. All guests were able to purchase one of Jimmy's many books. Also present were food trucks and vendors.

In attendance were various Chamber of Commerce around the area and other organizations. All visitors met the staff and Jimmy Houston. They enjoyed friendly banner with Jimmy

and were entertained with some of his great stories and experiences he has had over the years as a professional bass angler and television host of his show. He also shared about the many trips he has had here on Lake Fork.

The Ribbon Cutting was conducted by Jimmy at 2:30 pm. He also had some funny remarks about the over-sized scissors provided, but we all know everything is bigger in Texas.

At 3:00 pm entertainment was provided by acoustic music by The American Soldier Show.

Guest were free to explore the boat storage facilities, RV sites, their new offices, the bathhouse and more.

Through the complete celebration Jimmy and the staff were most cordial, friendly and outgoing. In all I would have to say it was quite a success. I would also venture to say that Mr. Houston probably had writer's cramp from signing all the autographs.



Enjoying the beautiful day and the great celebration were Kandy Murphy, Jimmy Houston, and Stephanie Culver.



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"November is Favorite Time Fishing Fork!"

By Whitt Smith

November is one of my favorite times to fish Lake Fork. Plus, it's a beautiful time just to be in East Texas.

November is moving bait season for me, mostly. I love to fish with Crankbaits, spinnerbaits

and bladed jigs, as the Bass are following Shad schools around, gorging up for the onset of Winter. Go to work with the 4 X 4 of Bass Fishing, the Squarebill Crankbait or a lipless crankbait. Don't be shy on line size on your Squarebill crankbait, as you want to fish it near, against and around cover. I run 17-20 lb Seaguar InvizX Fluorocarbon on mine and the same on the lipless crankbait. A rod specifically designed for crankbaits will help you keep Bass hooked up when they head shake or make that last hard dive at boat side. For square bills, a rod the size and build such as the Dobyns 705CB or 706CB is the ticket. They make the 705CB model in many different series to fit different budgets. I prefer a 7' 3" to 7' 6" rod for a lipless crankbait, with the rod action rating depending on if I'm fishing grass and need to snap the lure out of it or not.

Seawalls/bulkheads, rip rap, backs of pockets, coves and creeks or the last bit of deep creek

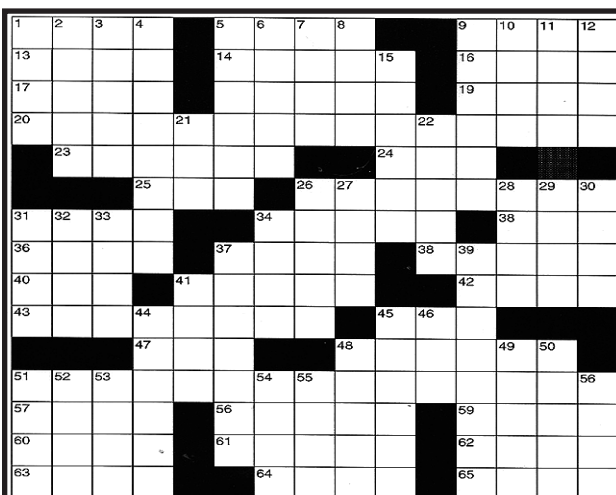


channel back in a creek are places to target Bass ambushing baitfish this month.

Ripping bladed jigs out of vegetation can be productive earlier in the month. But as temperatures drop and the vegetation starts to die back, Bass will gravitate to hard wood structure. Pick up a trusty pitching rod 7' to 7' 3" or skipping rod 6' 10" to 7' with some 20 lb test Seaguar InvizX

Fluorocarbon with a pegged TX Rig craw/creature bait or jig and go to work around shallow to mid-depth timber and docks.

I hope you get to enjoy the November weather, foliage, fishing and lack of angling pressure. Happy Thanksgiving to everyone and be safe out there.



CLUES ACROSS

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| 1. An equal exchange | 41. juniper berries |
| 5. Blemish | 42. Trade |
| 9. Workplaces | 43. Record |
| 13. Ebb or rip | 44. Repeats |
| 14. Cleat, naut. | 45. Relative biological effectiveness (abbrev.) |
| 16. Incite | 47. Lilly, drug company |
| 17. Liquor from toddy palms | 48. Softnesses in music |
| 18. Ridge | 51. Wishful pursuit |
| 19. William __, Buffalo Bill | 57. A way to look |
| 20. Hospital employee | 58. Language used in nonliteral sense |
| 23. Leased | 59. Bog down |
| 24. Angular unit | 60. Show off |
| 25. Emergency workers, abbrev. | 61. Overhang |
| 26. Script | 62. Calendar month |
| 31. Radioactivity units | 63. Monetary unit of Western Samoa |
| 34. Become drunk | 64. Chest (Scandinavian) |
| 35. Defensive nuclear weapon | 65. Runs down |
| 36. Wings | |
| 37. An open skin infection | |
| 38. Sock | |
| 40. Strong liquor flavored with | |

CLUES DOWN

- | | |
|---|------------------------------------|
| 1. Excel | Asian part of Russia. |
| 2. One who cables | 31. Finger millet |
| 3. Saying | 32. Settled down |
| 4. Toy dog | 33. Hamlet for one |
| 5. Sports equipment | 34. Lonely |
| 6. In a way, wrapped up | 37. Make a pig of oneself |
| 7. Affirm | 39. Tumors |
| 8. Network of nerves | 41. Brine |
| 9. An ornamental sunken panel in a dome | 44. Change mind |
| 10. Miri | 45. Most prevalent |
| 11. Stratum | 46. Howl |
| 12. Eyelid infection | 48. Spiritual leaders |
| 15. Ridges | 49. Pen name of Louise de la Ramee |
| 21. Type of recall, abbr. | 50. Thong |
| 22. Composition for nine | 51. Cheats |
| 26. Infections | 52. Giant |
| 27. Pool sticks | 53. Mounted soldier |
| 28. Isodor __, American Nobel physicist | 54. Asian nation |
| 29. Wading birds | 55. Yugoslavian city |
| 30. A city that's located in the | 56. His and __ |

Answers on Page 21

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Waterfowl Hunters: Help Stop the Spread of Invasive Species

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) encourages waterfowl hunters to take action to protect Texas water bodies from the spread of aquatic invasive species like zebra mussels and giant salvinia that can degrade waterfowl habitats and block access.

Hunters can make a difference to help protect waterfowl and the hunting experience by simply taking a few minutes to clean, drain and dry their boats and equipment, including decoys and other hunting gear, before traveling from lake to lake. These simple steps help keep these invasive species from spreading to new waters. Aquatic invasive plants can easily become entangled or trapped on boats and boat trailers or even tow vehicles and be moved to other lakes. Hunters should also make sure they aren't inadvertently carrying invasive species on other equipment like waders, decoys, decoy bags and marsh sleds by cleaning, draining and drying this equipment as well. A video to help hunt-

ers learn how to properly clean, drain and dry their gear can be found on the TPWD YouTube Channel.

Giant salvinia, a highly invasive, free-floating aquatic fern that can double its coverage area in a week, can produce thick surface mats that impact the ecosystem and aquatic life and make access for hunting, fishing, boating, swimming and other water recreation nearly impossible. It only takes a single fragment moved to a new lake to cause a new infestation. "Giant salvinia is often thought of as a plant that blocks recreational access for anglers and boaters, but it can cause serious problems for waterfowl hunters too," said John Findeisen, TPWD aquatic habitat enhancement team lead. "Not only does it form thick mats that block hunters' access to prime waterfowl hunting areas, but it can also outgrow and replace the native plants that waterfowl rely on for food and habitat."

Giant salvinia is currently present on 28 East Texas lakes and numerous rivers, creeks and marshes

largely between Houston and Beaumont. However, other invasive plants are present in many other lakes, and it is important to be vigilant and clean, drain, dry when leaving any water body. Zebra mussels, non-native shellfish that attach to hard surfaces, pose a significant threat to our lakes and our economy. These invasive mussels cause costly damage to boats and infrastructure for water supply and control, alter lake ecosystems and cause harm to native aquatic life. They also litter shorelines with hazardous, sharp shells that impact lakefront recreation. "Waterfowl hunters can help keep invasive mussels and aquatic plants, that may also have mussels attached, from being moved and harming more lakes by taking a few minutes to remove mud, plants and debris from boats, along with draining all water before leaving the lake and allowing everything to dry completely afterward before traveling to a new location,"

(See Waterfowl Hunters.....Continued on Page 10)



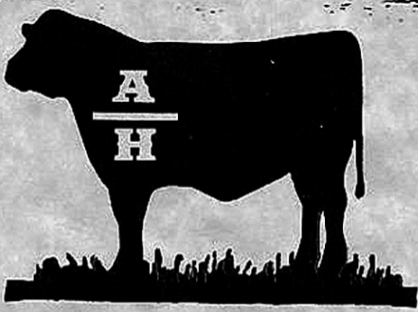
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"The Moon Report"

November Crappie Fishing

By Terri Moon

November brings cooler weather, falling leaves, and some of the best crappie fishing of the year on Lake Fork. As water temperatures begin to drop to the low to mid 60's, it triggers that fall feeding push before winter sets in.

As the lake transitions, in early November, crappie start moving from their scattered late summer patterns back toward deeper brush piles, bridge columns, and standing timber near creek channels. These transition areas are often 15 to 25 feet deep and hold both black and white crappie this time of year. You'll often find them suspended just above the brush, grouped tightly and ready to feed.

Electronics make all the difference now. Forward-facing sonar or down imaging lets you see schools clearly, to determine what depths you need to target. In November, crappie are usually suspended 12-20 feet down, hovering just above structure. Once you mark fish, present your bait just over their heads. Keep your movements slow



and steady. A gentle lift and pause often outperforms constant motion. If you are vertical jigging, hold your bait still for several seconds between twitches.

This is the time of year to check the 154, 515 east and west bridges – they will hold tight to concrete. When the water dips below 60 degrees, check the deeper brush around the Little Caney area off secondary points or creek bends. Just remember when a cold front hits, fish deeper and slower. Windy or overcast days can push crappie tighter into cover.

November is a great month to rely on both jigs and minnows. I use 1/16 and 1/8 oz. jigs depending on wind and the depth I'm fishing. The bait colors that produce in November has

been Money Milk, Blue Ice, or any shad color in soft baits, and black/chartreuse, pink/white tail, and electric chicken in hand tied baits.

So, don't miss out on one of Lake Fork's most productive months of the year. Bundle up, keep your coffee hot, and take a camera and experience November excitement on Lake Fork!

Now – the most exciting November happenings is that it's time for Lake Fork Marinas "Customer Appreciation" month specials! They discount the price of rooms, plus 25% off all tackle, gifts, and clothing. It's a great time to stock up on baits, and do your holiday gift shopping. If you haven't been to

(See November Crappie..
Continued on Page 21)

20th Annual Berkley Big Bass (Continued from Page 4)

it in the boat. This young angler may be a pro some day in his future.

There was a few mishaps in the tournament and a few derogatory remarks made on the situation. These individuals need a tournament education on how to measure a bass. Rules of the tournament are handed out to each angler and it is their responsibility to read and understand them. If they do not abide by the rules they are the ones at fault. As a tournament director

myself, if an angler does not fish by the rules they are disqualified. You cannot let one angler slide on an infraction. If you do you have cheated every angler in the tournament. So, anglers read the rules and follow them and you will not learn that DQ does not mean Dairy Queen!

In all it was a great tournament as many anglers wished. More than a few went home with more money in their pockets.

Chad and Jeff and the crew of BassChamps

did an excellent job in conducting the tournament. The Lake Fork Sportsman Association did a tremendous job with their Live Release Boat in returning all the bass back into the lake in good health to be caught another day.

For more information on BassChamps tournaments check out their website at www.basschamps.com

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Waterfowl Hunters: Help Stop the Spread of Invasive Species (Continued from Page 7)

said Monica McGarrity, TPWD senior scientist for aquatic invasive species. "Taking just a few minutes for these simple steps can help prevent impacts on ecosystems, infrastructure and recreation, and make a huge difference in our efforts to protect and preserve Texas lakes for current and future generations."

Zebra mussels are now found in 39 Texas lakes across seven river basins, as well as in reaches down-

stream of infested lakes. TPWD and partners monitor numerous at-risk lakes around the state for early detection of zebra and closely related quagga mussels. Once they've been introduced and established in a lake, nothing can be done to control or eradicate them.

On top of the harm invasive species cause aquatic ecosystems, water infrastructure and the recreational experience at lakes, the transport of these organ-

isms 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, trailer and tow vehicle before leaving a lake.

TPWD and partners monitor for invasive species in Texas lakes, but need your help. Anyone who finds them in lakes where they haven't been reported before — or who spots them on boats, trailers or equipment being moved — can help identify and prevent new introductions by reporting the sighting of invasive species being moved to TPWD immediately at (512) 389-4848 or by emailing photos and location information for new invasions to aquaticinvasives@tpwd.texas.gov.

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

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Quail Surveys Raise Expectations for Another Quality Hunting Season

Quail hunting season kicks off on Nov. 1 in Texas, and the annual Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) roadside survey revealed some encouraging population numbers heading into opening day. Good habitat conditions along with timely rainfall helped bobwhite and scaled quail production this last spring and summer.

"Texas Parks and Wildlife Department biologists covered over 3,300 road miles in early August during our annual roadside quail surveys," said Patrick Schutz, TPWD Upland Game Bird Program Leader. "Overall, we are encouraged by the numbers in this year's surveys and anticipate a good season for hunters especially in the Rolling Plains, South Texas and Trans Pecos regions where populations have traditionally been the strongest."

Bobwhite quail benefited from improved habitat for chicks thanks to above average rainfall throughout most of their range. Bobwhite populations in the Rolling Plains appear to be similar to last year but reports in many areas in this ecoregion show above average bobwhite numbers.

Teacup Mountain Wildlife Management Area (WMA) in north Texas will provide a new public hunting opportunity for this upcoming season. Along with the Matador WMA, TPWD expects average to above average hunting opportunities at these WMAs.

South Texas should provide good opportunities for hunters looking to harvest birds this fall. The typical number of bobwhites seen per route by biologists was 12.70 compared to 9.13 last year, above the 15-year mean of 9.78.

"South Texas remains a stronghold and bobwhite populations appeared to increase the further south you go within the region," said Schutz. "This region accounted for over 50 percent of the estimated total bobwhite harvest last season and biologists are encouraged by the bobwhite numbers they've observed recently. Public hunting opportunities in this ecoregion can be found at the Chaparral and James E. Daughtrey Wildlife Management Areas and we expect these WMAs to provide fair hunting conditions."

The 2025 scaled quail population survey revealed that population numbers increased across their range. The average number of scaled quail seen by biologists was above the 15-year mean in all ecoregions and reported good carryover

(See Quail Surveys Raise... Continued on Page 12)

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Quail Surveys Raise Expectations for Another Quality Hunting Season (Continued from Page 11)

from the previous year. Birds were observed on more than 70 percent of the surveys in the Trans Pecos ecoregion and on more than 50 percent of the routes in the Edwards Plateau ecoregion.

"The Trans-Pecos and Edwards Plateau were in drought conditions early on, but rainfall and habitat conditions improved through mid to later summer," said Schutz. "Early spring rains and good habitat conditions in the High Plains provided for some early nesting, increased calling activity and mul-

tiple broods observed throughout the region."

The Edwards Plateau and High Plains ecoregions made the biggest leaps in scaled quail sightings during August surveys. The average number of scaled quail seen in the Edwards Plateau was 14 per route compared to 6.38 last year, which was significantly above the 15-year mean of 6.47. Out in the High Plains, the number of scaled quail seen per route by biologists was 7.75 compared to 3.83 last year, above the 15-year mean of 3.42.

TPWD biologists expect Black Gap and Elephant Mountain WMAs to provide average to above average opportunities for scaled quail despite limited early season production due to continuing drought in the region.

TPWD provides a full regional breakdown of this year's TPWD quail index survey for northern bobwhite and scaled quail, including highlights and prospects. For county specific outlooks, contact a local TPWD wildlife biologist.

Statewide surveys were initiated in 1978 to monitor quail populations — historical survey data, 1978 to 2025 — and are available on the TPWD website. TPWD surveys are only designed to provide a representation of bobwhite and scaled quail populations at the regional level and local conditions may vary considerably.

Hunters taking advantage of Texas Public Hunting Lands must have the Annual Public Hunting Permit. Public land hunters must check the Public Hunting Lands Map Booklet to review regulations that may apply to specific areas. The Texas Hunt & Fish app can be used to complete on-site registration electronically at a public hunting area.

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TPWD Biologists Predict Favorable Season for Waterfowl Hunters

Abundant population numbers and above average rainfall during the summer months is a confidence booster for hunters preparing for the start of the new waterfowl hunting season.

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) biologists indicated that teal, gadwall, wigeon, pintails, shovelers and redheads, key duck species for Texas hunters, are collectively plentiful and showed population increases this past summer.

"Texas hunters can anticipate another strong waterfowl season, though overall success will depend on local water availability and the timing of cold fronts," said Kevin Kraai, TPWD Waterfowl Program Leader. "Hunters who scout actively and find fresh shallow water will have the best opportunities this season."

Hunters will also benefit from the new three-bird daily bag limit for pintails. A recent analysis confirmed that pintails are more numerous than the U.S. Fish and

Wildlife Service (USFWS) May Waterfowl Breeding Population and Habitat Survey detected. The new fall flight models also indicate the potential for a greater sustainable harvest compared to previous models.

On the weather front, the above average summer rainfall resulted in numerous reservoirs and stock ponds holding more water than last year. The increased water levels have expanded habitat for migrating ducks, but hot and dry conditions during the month of September have begun to reduce shallow wetlands, playa lakes and other surface water. Hunters can expect birds to concentrate in areas where rainfall or active management has maintained fresh habitat.

On the coast, irrigation restrictions tied to low Highland Lake levels last year have resulted in fewer flooded rice fields this fall. Rice acreage across the state is slightly lower than last year and continues to trail the

long-term averages. The upshot are habitats in coastal marshes and large reservoirs are in good condition. Most High Plains playas are also still holding water, but new rainfall is needed to prevent them from drying out.

The National Weather Service outlook calls for a developing La Niña this winter which usually means warmer and drier conditions are more likely. However, individual cold fronts will continue to drive waterfowl migrations into Texas and hunters should be prepared to take advantage of these weather events as they occur.

In addition to ducks, TPWD biologists denote that goose hunting prospects are strong due to a second year of improved productivity that could send more juvenile birds south. Those factors typically lead to better decoy response and higher harvest success for Texas hunters.

More information regard-

(See TPWD Biologists ...Continued on Page 20)

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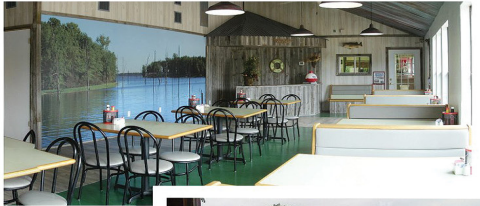
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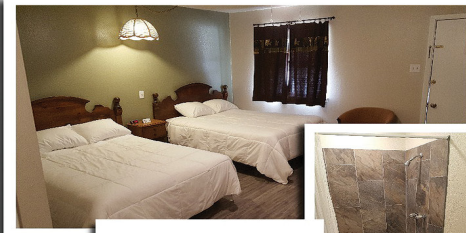
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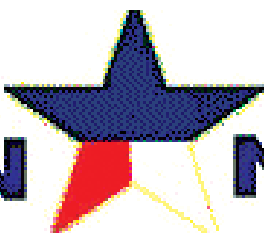
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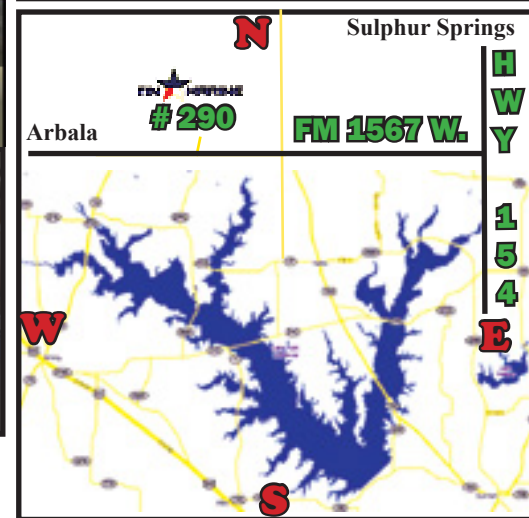
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Caliber	9mm	9mm	380acp	380acp	9mm
Capacity	10-1	10-1	10-1	10-1	10-1
Manual Thumb Safety	Amidextrous	NMS	NMS	Amidextrous	NMS
Fixed Sights	3-Dot G43 style	3-Dot G43 style	3-Dot G43 style	3-Dot G43 style	3-Dot G43 style
Optic Ready Available	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Recock 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
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Mack Randle from Sulphur Springs, TX., caught this 7.55-lb. bass on Sunday in the 1 o'clock hour winning \$1,000 in the Berkley Tournament.



Ricky Phillips from North Carolina was fishing Lake Fork with guide Whitt Smith when he caught this hawg. C.P.R.



Debbie Ogletree Kemp was fishing Lake Fork when she caught this nice bass over the slot. Weight not provided. C.P.R.

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

By Dianne Spradling, President

As this year is coming to a close we are very grateful for all of our members as well as the great folks that came by to visit with us at the various tournaments this year. We meet people from all over the country and also got to see friends from years past. It is always fun to see everyone.

We are looking forward to starting some new projects to help keep Lake Fork the best big bass lake in the state. WE will keep you posted on the projects as they come up.

We got to attend the induction of Rick Clunn and Ann Thomasson Wilson to the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Hall of Fame. It was a very reflective and informative evening. Lots of interesting stories. We also attended the Sharelunker inductions the next day.

The general monthly meetings are held the 2nd Tuesday of each month at Jamie's Restaurant and starts at 6:30 pm. Quite a few of

us show up about 5:30 and eat a great dinner. Please come and check us out.

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



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.



For the past 27 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.



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*



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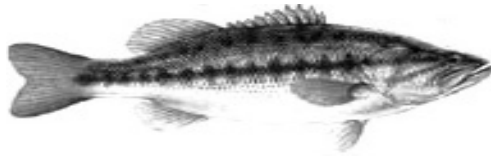
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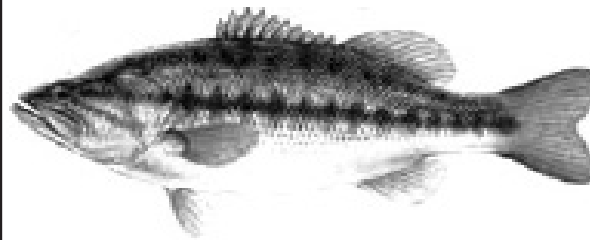
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Lake Fork Tournament Schedule Nov. thru Jan. 2026



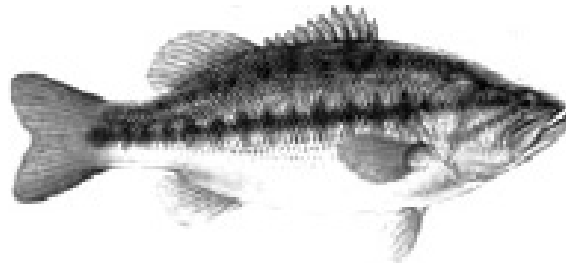
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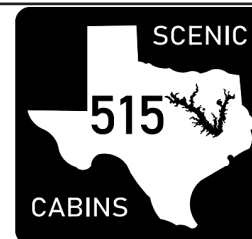
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TPWD Biologists Predict Favorable Season for Waterfowl Hunters *(Continued from Page 13)*

ing duck seasons and daily bag limits can be found in the Outdoor Annual. Light and dark goose season starts Nov. 1 in the East Zone and West Zone. More informa-



tion regarding goose seasons and daily bag limits can be found in the Outdoor Annual.

Kraai reminds migratory bird hunters that they need to make sure they are Harvest Information Program (HIP) certified and confirm the questions are answered correctly. HIP surveys allow biologists to get an accurate sample of hunters so the US-FWS can deliver harvest surveys to a subsample of hunters during the hunting season.

Hunters should purchase their new 2025-26 Texas hunting license prior to hitting the field. In addition, waterfowl hunters will also need a migratory game bird endorsement, federal duck stamp and HIP certification. It's also required by law that hunters have proof of their completion of a hunter education course.

The Duck Stamp Modernization Act of 2023 modified provisions of the Migratory Bird

Hunting and Conservation Stamp, commonly referred to as the Duck Stamp, now allowing an individual to carry an electronic stamp (E-stamp) for the entire waterfowl hunting season. A physical Federal Duck Stamp will be mailed to each E-stamp purchaser after the hunting season between March 10 – June 30, 2026.

Hunters can find waterfowl season dates, regulations, bag limits and more on this year's Outdoor Annual. Hunters can also access digital copies of their licenses via the Outdoor Annual and Texas Hunt & Fish apps.

Anyone hunting on Texas public hunting lands must purchase an Annual Public Hunting Permit. Texas has more than one million acres of land for public access. More information about these lands and locations can be found on the TPWD website. Hunters using public lands can complete their on-site registration via the Texas Hunt & Fish app.

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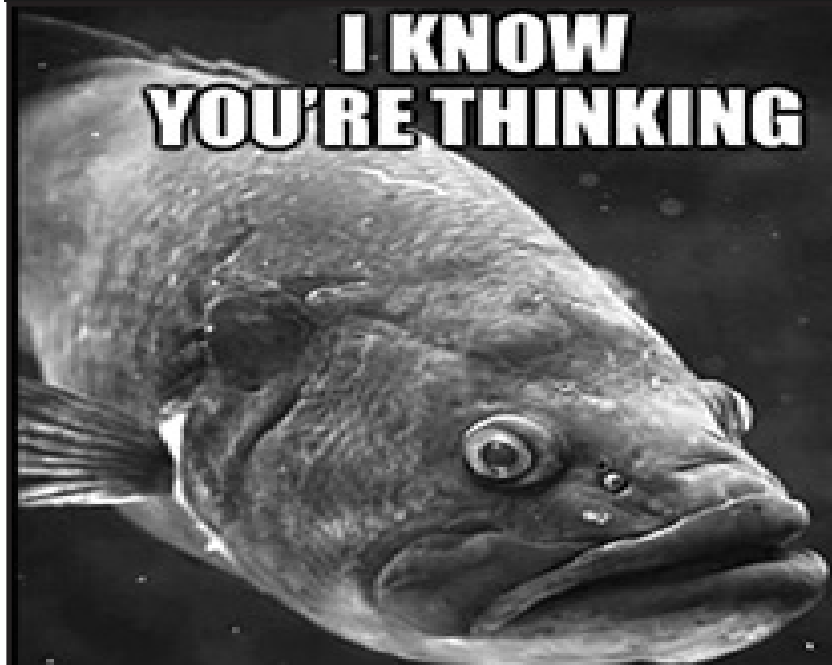
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I KNOW
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ABOUT ME

November Crappie Fishing (Continued from Page 8)

their tackle store, you will be amazed at what you'll find there. It's a shoppers paradise! Get your rooms booked by calling 903-765-2764.

As the days grow shorter, the bite will slowly

move deeper, but for now, November crappie are thick, hungry, and ready for anyone willing to put in the time. It's a great time to enjoy the fellowship of friends on the water! If you

are thinking of chasing some crappie, you can reach me at 903-335-0941.

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S	E	N	E			K	I	S	T		S	A	P	S

Fruit Find

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

APRICOT
BANANA
BOYSENBERRY
CRANBERRY
CURRANT
DATE
GRAPE

HONEYDEW
LOGANBERRY
MANGO
NECTARINE
PLUM
TANGELO
TANGERINE

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

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

—Bee Careful!— A swarm of bees attacked a rancher utilizing an open top bulldozer to clear brush from his property when he inadvertently ran over their hive. Unable to be removed from his vehicle, a ranch hand covered him in blankets and called emergency services for assistance. Supported by local EMS, Sheriff's Department, and Eldorado Volunteer Fire Department, Schleicher and Sutton County Game Wardens responded to the incident.

The volunteer fire department sprayed down the area to remove some of the bees. One of the responding wardens, an avid beekeeper in his spare time, applied his knowledge to reach the rancher. Wearing his personal beekeeping suits, the wardens and sheriff were able to remove the man from the bulldozer. Since the area was inaccessible to EMS vehicles, the wardens cleared their truck and transported the severely stung operator to EMS vehicles who were waiting to take him to the hospital. He recovered from his injuries.

—Tubin' to the Oldies— Real and Uvalde County

Game Wardens received a call about a 67-year-old man who had been separated from his family while tubing down the river. After interviewing the family and the outfitter, wardens determined that the tuber failed to exit at the designated area and continued downstream. One of the wardens drove to a nearby ranch where he launched a drone in an attempt to locate the tuber. At the same time the other warden spoke to the foreman of the ranch and requested assistance in locating the tuber. The foreman spoke to a group of tubers who said they saw the individual.

(Continued on Page 24)



Give Tom Turkey the Night Off This Year

By Sue Hampton

People look forward to the Thanksgiving holiday for a number of reasons: there's the opportunity to see family and friends, children relish a couple of days off from school, and most everyone

enjoys the over-flowing table of holiday treats.

Traditionally, Thanksgiving and turkey go hand-in-hand, however that doesn't mean that the holiday would flop should you choose to serve another main course in the turkey's place. (The turkey

probably wouldn't mind either!)

Bubette's Autumn Chicken With Dijon Cider Sauce

Sauce:

2 cups apple cider
1-1/2 cups 1% milk
2 tablespoons corn-starch
2 tablespoons Dijon mustard

1/4 teaspoon salt

1/4 teaspoon ground black pepper

1/8 teaspoon ground red pepper

Apples:

2 tablespoons butter
2 large apples, with peel, cored and cut into 1/4-inch rings

Chicken:

1/3 cup all-purpose flour
3/4 teaspoon salt

1/2 teaspoon ground black pepper

6 boneless, skinless chicken breast halves

1 tablespoon dry sherry or apple juice

To make the sauce: In a medium sauce-pan, bring the cider to a boil over medium-high heat and cook for 15 minutes, or until reduced to 1/2 cup. Transfer to a cup and let cool. In the same saucepan, add all but 2 tablespoons of the milk. In a cup, dissolve the cornstarch in the remaining 2 tablespoons milk and add to the pan. Stir in the mustard, salt, black pepper and red pep-

per. Cook and stir over medium heat for 3 to 5 minutes, or until the mixture begins to thicken. Stir in the cooled reduced cider. Cook and stir until bubbly. Remove from the heat and set aside.

To make the apples: Pre-heat the oven to 200F. Melt the butter in a large skillet. Add the apples and cook over medium heat for 3 minutes per side, or just until tender. Transfer to an oven-safe platter and place in the oven to keep warm. Leave the butter in the skillet for cooking the chicken.

To make the chicken: In a shallow dish combine the flour, salt and pepper. Place the chicken breasts between two pieces of plastic wrap and, using a mallet, pound

each to 1/2-inch thickness. Dredge the chicken in the flour mixture and shake off any excess. Place the chicken in the skillet that contains the butter. Cook over medium-high heat for 5 minutes per side, or until a thermometer inserted in the thickest portion registers 160 F and the juices run clear. Transfer to the apple platter and keep warm in the oven. Add the sherry or apple juice to the skillet. Cook and stir over medium heat for one minute, scraping up the browned bits from the bottom of the pan. Add the cider sauce and cook for 4 minutes, or until heated through.

Arrange the chicken and apple slices on 6 dinner plates. Top with sauce.



Give the turkey a day off when you serve "Bubette's Autumn Chicken With Dijon Cider Sauce" for your Thanksgiving dinner.



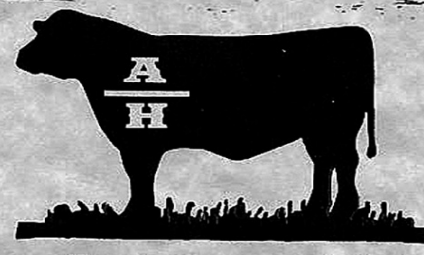
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Game Warden Field Notes (Continued from Page 22)

The information was relayed to both wardens and based off their tips, the wardens located the individual and returned him to his family.

—Shell Shocked— A warden was contacted by a state biologist about an inquiry made by a local elementary school regarding rehabilitating Texas tortoises. After learning more about the situation, the warden determined that the school was keeping approximately 24 tortoises inside a small atrium on school property. Unfortunately, the tortoises were a threatened species and unable to be possessed by any individual or entity. School staff stated that several years ago they acquired two tortoises and over the years, students brought more tortoises into the facility. The warden arrived at the school to collect the tortoises for TPWD assisted relocation. In doing so, the curious students and staff gathered around the atrium to watch and the warden made use of the attention by turning the removal into an impromptu educational program on the tortoises and their natural habitat. The tortoises were later released at a nearby ranch in prime Texas tor-

toise habitat.

—Mother Knows Best— Over the Memorial Day weekend, game wardens conducting water safety patrols were sent videos of a male jumping off a red and white boat, harassing and capturing a Canada Goose. Despite efforts to locate the boat and the individuals involved, wardens were unable to track them down. Two months later while conducting a water safety check on a different boat, the same wardens who initially received the videos noticed several of the occupants on the vessel wearing identical hats to those in the video. One of the Wardens humorously asked about the hats and if they knew the individual who had caught the goose in the video. The occupants confirmed they knew him and affirmed their knowledge of the "goose video". They pointed to a male in the back of the boat and identified him as the "goose capturer". The Wardens asked the identified male to join them on their boat for further questioning. The male admitted he was the one in the video and said his mom had warned him that he was going to get into trouble. He added, "I

should've listened to my mom!" Wardens explained to the individual the definition of "Hunt," according to Texas law is "To capture, trap, take or kill, or any attempts thereof." Accordingly, the individual was issued a citation for "Hunting Canada Geese in a Closed Season." He was also issued a written warning for "Hunting Canada Geese by Illegal Means and Methods." The goose survived.

—Old Fishing Buddy— Texas Game Wardens were patrolling for water safety and recreational fishing activity when they received information regarding a boat that potentially possessed over the daily bag limit of red snapper. The Wardens located the unoccupied boat moored at a dock. Upon performing an inspection, twenty-one red snapper were found on board, exceeding the individual fishing limit. Wardens attempted to contact the occupants of the house where the boat was docked. After approximately thirty minutes of knocking, announcing, speaking with neighbors and attempting to call the suspect and his family members, an individual exited the residence. The

(Continued on Next Page)



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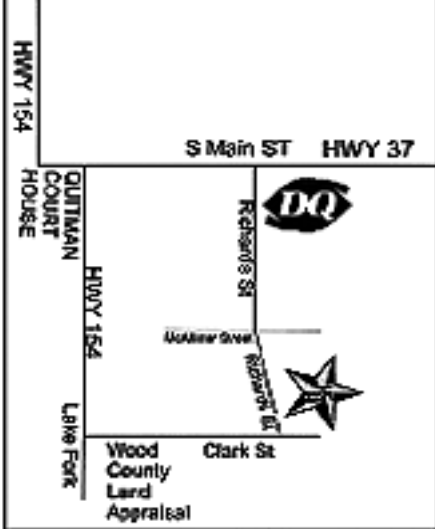
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suspect was immediately evasive when questioned about the red snapper in the boat. He stated that he had caught them with five other people but only provided one name. The Wardens contacted the individual who stated he had not talked to the suspect in fifteen years. The suspect admitted to going over his daily bag limit to the wardens. Seventeen red snappers were seized, and citations issued, along with civil restitution.

—Sting Operation— In August, a concerned citizen contacted Montgomery County game wardens regarding a neighbor keeping an alligator in his back yard. The wardens responded to the home where the alligator was reportedly kept. The homeowner admitted to capturing an alligator 4 or 5 feet in length from Lake Conroe, transporting it home to show his kids and then releasing it the next day. The wardens inspected the property and noticed a room full of aquariums. Knowledgeable in aquatic species, one of the wardens identified the animals as freshwater stingrays, which are an invasive species and illegal to possess. Through further conversation, the homeowner also admitted to removing a small alligator snapping

turtle from Lake Livingston and keeping it in a tank. As the largest freshwater turtle in North America and a threatened species, it is illegal to capture or possess one without a permit. After discussing the matter with the homeowner, he agreed to assist game wardens in relocating the animals to better suited facilities. The turtle was donated to the Spring Creek Nature Center, which is permitted to possess native species and display them for educational purposes. The stingrays were transported to Moody Gardens to educate the public about different ecosystems and the harm that invasive species can cause to local wildlife.

—Perception Pays Off— The El Paso County Sheriff's Office Major Crimes Unit released a "Be on the Look-out" bulletin to assist in the identification of an individual and vehicle last seen leaving a crime scene in the San Elizario area. An El Paso/Hudspeth County game warden remembered the vehicle from a recent encounter with fishermen which resulted in the arrest of the individual. The warden contacted the lead investigator and passed along the identifying information. Several days later, El Paso County Sheriff's detectives notified the warden that

without firm leads in the case, the information he shared with their office was vital in locating the subject and the vehicle. Due to his inter-agency collaboration, an arrest was carried out.

—Hold the Pepper— In September, a Bexar County game warden received a call from Austin communications about dove hunters peppering local residences with shotgun pellets. Upon arrival to the field, the warden observed two gentlemen hunting. As he drove up to the individuals, one of the gentlemen stood up and shot a bird that fell a few yards from him. The warden proceeded to complete a hunting check. He spoke with the individual and asked if he was aware of the type of bird he had just shot. The hunter did not know. The warden informed him that the bird was an American kestrel, a protected bird of prey, and is not allowed to be hunted or harvested. The warden checked the other hunters in the group and discussed the issues around peppering, ensuring their shotgun pellets did not cross property lines. A citation was issued for harvesting a protected species. The case and civil restitution are pending.

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