

LAKE FORK "The Big Bass Capital Of Texas"



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

1 Section

"Lines To Get Hooked On"
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Vol. 27

December, 2025

No. 315



Carl Coulliette, Sterling, AK., landed this big hawg on his fly rod and reel 11/5/25 while fishing Lake Fork with guide Whitt Smith. C.P.R.



Tim Whatley caught this nice bass while fishing in November with Lake Fork guide Randy Oldfield. C.P.R.



End of a Great Year on Lake Fork

By Don Hampton

In 2025 Lake Fork has come on stronger than in previous years. Not only has there been greater catch quotas but also healthier and heavier bass being caught.

In past years anglers have questioned where the grass has gone.

That has not been in question this year. There is plenty of hydrilla to be found in the lake and lilly pad areas are easily found. All of this just adds to the angling experience.

This lake continues to impress given the number of boats that crisscross it on a daily basis in search of

bass. Call it Mother Nature smiling on this healthy water. Call it great management by Texas Parks and Wildlife. Call it the Lake Fork Sportsman Association's Live Release Boat and their continued efforts at releasing all the bass caught here

(See End of a Great Year..
Continued on Page 10)



Ronnie from Plano, Texas was fishing Lake Fork in November with guide Whitt Smith when he caught his personal best. C.P.R.



Suzy had a great day crappie fishing and probably had a great fish fry after fishing with guide Danny Holder. Released to the Grease.

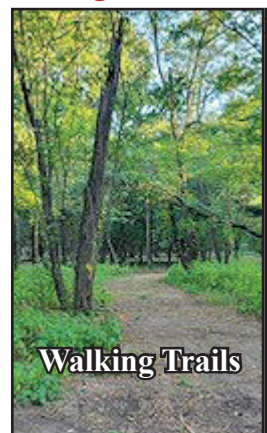


Issac Crispin from Dallas, Texas was all smiles when he caught this Lake Fork hawg while fishing with guide Whitt Smith. C.P.R.

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Bubba Claus Sworn in to Replace Santa for East Texas Lake Areas

By: Bubba B. Tuff

Well boys and girls, Santa's contract has been renegotiated and it directly effects the East Texas Lake Areas.

Due to the influx of new homeowners and the overwhelming amount of tourism to the lake areas, Santa regrets to inform us he will no longer be the bearer of good tidings. His contract has been renegotiated by the State of Texas Fairies and Elves Local 101.

Set forth in the new contract, Santa's responsibilities will no longer include the East Texas lake areas. Cookie breaks will be shortened to assure satisfactory work ethics and quality.

In a press release to "The Fisherman's Guide News", sent out November 26, 2025, Santa's replacement was named. Everyone can rest assured we will be in good hands. The replacement for the East Texas lake areas will be his third cousin, "Bubba Claus"!!

Bubba Claus is originally from the South Pole. There he attended Equator High and went on to further his education by attending night school majoring in Chimney Dropping and Fire Safety.

"I share the same goal as my cousin Santa. I will deliver toys to all the boys and girls in the East Texas lake areas," said Bubba Claus

in an interview with "The Fisherman's Guide News"!!

In the interview, to relieve concerned parents, the differences in the method of delivery were discussed at great length. Bubba Claus assured, "Christmas would be better'n' ever and jus' dog-gone good!"

The differences in delivery will include the following:

*There will be no danger of a Grinch stealing your Christmas. On Bubba's sleigh he has a loaded gun rack and a bumper sticker that reads: "These toys insured by Smith and Wesson".

*Instead of milk and cookies, Bubba Claus prefers that children leave a Michelob Ultra Light, fried crappie and hushpuppies on the fireplace mantel.

*When Bubba Claus's sleigh lands on your roof, do not be alarmed by the sound of barking. Bubba Claus's sleigh will be pulled by floppy-eared flying coon dogs instead of reindeer. (It seems Santa once loaned Bubba his reindeer and now Blitzen's head overlooks Bubba's fireplace).

*No longer will you hear "On Comet, on Cupid, on Donner, on Blitzen... instead in a southern drawl you will hear, "Buedro, Jake, Snake, Goober, Gomer les' git 'er done!"

*For that night only and for Bubba Claus only the local speed limits will be waived. Also, in accordance with local tradition, Bubba's bumper will have a sticker on it saying "Made in Texas by Texans, So Don't Mess With Bubba!"

*Bubba Claus does not wear a belt. If the children are present when he bends over to put the presents under the tree, make sure they turn their heads.

*Out of respect for Bubba, the traditional Christmas songs like "Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer" and "Santa Claus Is Coming to Town" will be replaced by "Bubba Shot the Jukebox" and "Grandma Got Ran Over By A Reindeer"!!

After extended negotiations, it was determined by all agencies involved, Bubba Claus would definitely fit and exceed the 'slot'...thus he was judged a "Keeper"!!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

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Thriving Fawns, Thriving Hunt: Texas Deer Numbers Stay Strong

To hunters, springtime in Texas is often viewed as chasing turkeys through hot, humid weather, or hanging up the firearm for a fishing pole. For white-tailed deer, spring represents a time for growth: body growth, antler growth and population growth.

Texas began the growing season under widespread drought in March, but most of the state received much-needed rain in late spring. Where it rained, plant growth boosted antler development in bucks and allowed does to load up on calories for birth and nursing. Rain came late to the Edwards Plateau and South Texas, but while summer rainfall helped lower temperatures and allowed for a late season green-up that benefited fawn survival, it was too late to greatly benefit antler development in those regions.

The general deer season kicked off Nov. 1 and runs through Jan. 4, 2026, in the North Zone and through Jan. 18, 2026, in the South Zone, giving folks plenty of chances

to go from field to table with their harvest.

Hunters taking advantage of Texas public hunting lands must have an Annual Public Hunting Permit. It's also important for public land hunters to consult 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. Ecoregion

Highlights The Cross Timbers in North Texas has the second highest deer population in the state and will offer hunters plenty of opportunities to harvest mature bucks. Despite what seems like lasting spring drought conditions, the Edwards Plateau is a great deer hunting region for those looking for quality animals. It consistently has the highest hunter success rates in Texas. The catastrophic Hill Country floods may have had local impacts

on fawns near river and stream channels, but most deer were able to reach higher ground. Post Oak Savannah hunters can expect a great season of chasing mature bucks thanks to good fawn survival in previous years.

In the Pineywoods, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) biologists work with landowners and timber companies to restore and maintain quality deer habitat, which has helped sustain deer populations.

White-tailed deer population growth in the Rolling Plains in recent years has made the area a hotbed for mature bucks, and another great season is expected. The South Texas Plains are known for mature bucks with above-average antlers. For hunters looking for a once-in-a-lifetime trophy, South Texas is often seen as the premier big buck destination.

For a detailed white-tailed deer forecast by

(Continued on Next Page)

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ecological region, visit the White-tailed Deer Management page on the TPWD website.

Good Habitat Management Creates Harvest Opportunities

For many landowners and hunters, deer management doesn't begin when the season opens. Healthy deer rely on good habitat and herd management, as well as spring rains from Mother Nature. By properly managing the land throughout the year, landowners are setting the stage for a successful deer season.

Antler growth is directly related to rainfall between April and June, and the improved habitat that follows. This year, hunters should see slightly above-average to average antler quality for most of the state. The Edwards Plateau and South Texas should expect slightly below-average to average antler quality since they missed out on spring rain. The Pineywoods, portions of the Post Oak Savannah and Cross Timbers received timely spring rains and should see above-average antler quality.

Much-needed summer rain and mild weather helped more fawns survive this year. Ranches that manage deer populations through hunting and improving native habitat will see steady improvements over time.

Protecting Texas Wildlife
Texans enjoying the outdoors are the first line of defense in protecting wildlife, livestock and humans from diseases that could have devastating effects.

New World Screwworm
New World screwworms (NWS) are parasitic flies that lay eggs in open wounds or moist body parts, such as those located in the nostrils, eyes or mouths, of live warm-blooded animals. These eggs hatch into a type of parasitic larvae (maggots) that only feed on living tissue, while other species of fly larvae prefer dead or rotting tissue. NWS larvae burrow or "screw" into living tissue with sharp mouth hooks, giving them a screw-like appearance. Infested wounds quickly become infected and, if left untreated, will kill the animal.

If you see LIVE animals with maggots, re-

port it to your local TPWD wildlife biologist. Early detection is key. Do not delay if you suspect an NWS infestation. Reporting is crucial to response efforts and the eradication of NWS.

For more information, visit <https://tpwd.texas.gov/screwworm>.

Chronic Wasting Disease

Landowners and hunters play an important role in managing Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) and can reduce its impact by managing populations, properly discarding unused carcass parts, reporting sick deer and voluntarily testing. Hunters are reminded to review the TPWD website and Outdoor Annual app to review this year's season dates, bag limits and information about proper carcass disposal. Hunters following these regulations are allowed to debone carcasses to help prevent the accidental spread of wildlife diseases.

More information about carcass disposal regulations, voluntary sampling, check station dates and hours of operations can be found on TPWD's CWD web page.



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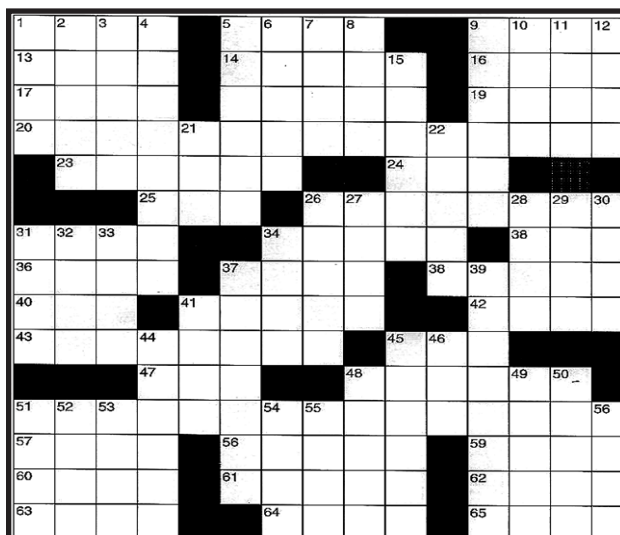
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"Full Steam Head! Donk December!!"

By Whitt Smith

Here we go full steam ahead into Big Bass Season! Some of the best times to catch the Bass of your dreams is rapidly approaching. If you can tolerate the temperature and dress appropriately, get the net ready. You can be rewarded with big



CLUES ACROSS

1. Nasty character
5. Worthless people
9. Whale ship captain
13. Sword
14. Alders
16. Captain of Yemen
17. Throw
18. Midriff
19. Adam and Eve's third son
20. Anything goes
23. Gazes
24. French river
25. Needlefish
26. Most scrabbly
31. Free from danger
34. Athapaskan language
35. After B
36. Turkish leader title
37. Having a cheerless aspect or disposition

38. Expressed pleasure
40. Mongrel
41. Supernatural beings
42. Befools
43. Flour
45. School organization
47. Annoy
48. In a way, decays
51. Bassoon, et al.
57. The content of cognition
58. Coal tar product
59. Harelike rodent of the pampas of Argentina
60. A spore-producing structure
61. Adult male of a wild or domestic duck
62. An individual unit
63. ___gate, lengthen
64. Fastener
65. King bolete, mushroom

CLUES DOWN

1. Cried
2. Moonfish
3. Put back to zero
4. Communities
5. Twain character
6. Caste
7. One
8. Hasty pudding
9. St. Francis of ___
10. A complex red organic pigment containing iron
11. Opposed to a policy
12. Thailand
15. Vascular tissues
21. Malaysian Isthmus
22. Ancient kingdom
26. A Finnish steam bath
27. Strays
28. Resound
29. Shed
30. Turner and Williams

31. Pouches
32. Chills and fever
33. Raise
34. Momentarily
37. Condensed
39. Withouth practical purpose or intention
41. Jai___, sport
44. Established by law
45. Cropped
46. Male cat
48. ___Jong, writer
49. Related on the mother's side
50. Type of bacteria
51. Become aware
52. Graven image
53. He fiddled
54. Small acid gritty-textured fruit
55. Czar
56. Identical

Answers on Page 21

bites and low fishing pressure this month. I've had back to back guide trips in December that produced 10 lb plus Bass.

Lures I have rigged up this month are a Jerkbait, "deep" jerkbait, lipless Crankbait, A-Rig, shallow Crankbait, mid-depth Crankbait, Flippin' jig and the ever versatile swim jig in different weights.

Wood/ rock cover, any green grass left and creek channel bends are what I like to target. As it gets colder, bass prefer to move more vertically than moving long distances horizontally. They'll tend to rise as the Sun comes out and the surface temp and Shad rise up.

Creek channel swing banks will begin to be a player in locating Bass, so study Topo and graph maps for these areas to target. Main bridge pylons can hold suspended bass looking to feed on Crappie and bait present, also.

I hope you get a chance to experience December



bassin' for Bigs on Lake Fork. Be sure to book a room and help support our great selection of lodging options, restaurants/ food trailers and the great tackle shops. We are fortunate to have them all.

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Big Time Texas Hunts Winners Announced

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) reveals the winners of this year's Big Time Texas Hunts (BTTH).

TPWD notified the 14 winners of their random selection from the pool of 162,421 entries, which raised more than \$1.46 million to support wildlife research, habitat management and public hunting across the state. The BTTH projects webpage lists specific examples of how the funds support TPWD's mission.

"Big Time Texas Hunts continues to be an important conservation fundraiser for TPWD, and we greatly appreciate the support of our Texas hunters who purchase entries each year," said Kelly Edmiston, TPWD public hunting coordinator. "If a hunter is lucky enough to win, they will experience the hunt of a lifetime. If they don't win, they can feel good knowing the funds from their entry go directly to wildlife conservation and public

access projects on public hunting lands in Texas."

Raymon Hedges, Anchorage, Alaska won the Trans-Pecos Aoudad Adventure, a challenging free-range hunt with professional guides for a mature male ram in the Chihuahuan Desert. A portion of the proceeds from this hunt goes directly to desert bighorn sheep restoration and research efforts. Hunting aoudad positively impacts bighorn sheep by lowering the number of competitors and reducing the spread of disease and grazing pressure on the habitat. Winners from other categories include:

- * Big Time Bird Hunt – Neil Haile, Corinth
- * Exotic Safari – Robert Murrow, Round Rock
- * Gator Hunt – Gerard Contreras, Webster
- * Nilgai Antelope Safari -- Edward Carpenter, Centerville
- * Premium Buck Hunt – Logan Thomas, Henrietta
- * Texas Grand Slam – Matthew Bridges, Elkhart

- * Trans-Pecos Aoudad Adventure – Raymon Hedges, Anchorage, Alaska
 - * Ultimate Mule Deer Hunt – Thomas Tietjen, Caldwell
 - * Whitetail Bonanza – Dudley Lampley, Yoakum; Roy Garza, Humble; Larry Carollo, Bellville; Patrick Huitt, Sugarland; Guy Rodgers, Mansfield
 - * Wild Hog Adventure – Dylan Henson, Bonham
- "We want to congratulate the winners but also thank all the hunters who bought an entry, and the outfitters and TPWD wildlife biologists who created and implement the hunts," said Janis Johnson, TPWD marketing manager.

Entries for next year's Big Time Texas Hunts go on sale May 15. Big Time Texas Hunts is made possible with support from Toyota and the Texas Bighorn Society.



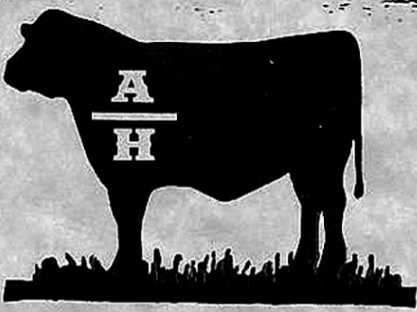
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"The Moon Report"

Fork's December Crappie

By Terri Moon

Early December often starts with water temps hanging in the low 60's, especially after a mild stretch of weather. This is a prime window, because crappie are in full transition mode – leaving fall patterns but not fully settled into deep winter structure. This can be some of the best fishing of the month.

These are some of the areas that consistently hold fish during the low 60 degree phase, before the lake makes its final temperature drop into the 50's. Mid depth timber along creek edges or slight drop offs – they'll suspend 8-12 ft. in 16-24 ft. of water. Also check secondary points leading into major creeks. Look for scattered stump lines or isolated timber in 12-18 ft. of water. Brush piles in 16-24 ft. should also produce. Next check bridges and mid-depth pilings, especially when water temps hover around 60-62 degrees. They can be holding anywhere between 12-20 ft. depending on the time of day. As the water temps drop to the 50's – you'll find the crappie will go deeper



to that 15-25 ft. down in 25 to 40 ft. of water.

Once the lake cools into the upper 50's, crappie begin to settle into their true winter patterns. Then I'll shift my focus to deeper brush piles in 18-28 ft., standing timber in 22-30 ft., and deep creek channels – looking for suspended schools. This is where livescope earns its keep. Winter crappie aren't scattered – they group up tight. Winter crappie prefer a slower, more controlled presentation. Most days, the key is to hold the bait as still as possible – just above the fish's eye level. When they want it, they will ease up and thump it. Sometimes they hit it on the fall, other times you practically have to hold the bait still on their nose. But, once the school turns on it can

go from zero to wide-open in minutes.

The color baits that have been producing in hand tied are Skip-pers black/chartreuse, white/chartreuse, and pink/chartreuse in 1/16 or 1/8 oz. In soft baits like ThermoLine Monkey milk, or any shad colored bait have been producing. Don't hesitate to change up the color of your bait – it can make a difference depending on light conditions and water clarity. One minor change can make all the difference!

I want to send a sincere thank you to everyone who fished with me on Lake Fork this year. Sharing the boat with each of you – friends, family, and longtime customers

(See Fork's Crappie..

Continued on Page 26)

Lake Fork Sportsman Association Needs You!

By Don Hampton

The Lake Fork Sportsman's Association continually cares for the prosperity on this great reservoir. For the past 26 years they have done an excellent job in securing the longevity of Lake Fork. From the Live Release Boat making sure all bass in the tournaments are released back in the lake in good health, to grass rejuvenation, placing manmade structure, placing fish at-

tractors and habitat and much more. This organization is made up of members that volunteer their time and energy to the preservation of our great reservoir. These individuals do not do this out of obligation but instead out of a sincere love and care for Lake Fork.

They all want to see our reservoir prosper, not just for the present but for future generations.

If you are not a member but love fishing Lake

Fork, have a home here, a business, or a guide on the lake, go look in the mirror and ask yourself why you are not a member. If you are just here to take all the money you can off this lake and not give a little of your time back to the preservation of this great reservoir; to my way of thinking you are just selfish and greedy. Also you have no consideration for our lake. If you wish to talk about this, call me 903-360-6994



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End of a Great Year on Lake Fork (Continued from Page 1)

in tournaments back into this great reservoir in good health to be caught another time. But whatever you do, fish Lake Fork early and often.

In the Mega Bass Tournament put on by Bass-Champs there were 8 over the slot bass brought to the weigh-in with a 9.88-pound being the heaviest. In the 20th Annual Legend of Lake

Fork there were 9 over the slot bass brought to the scales. Four of these were in the 10-pound weight range from 10.27-pounds to 10.98-pounds and an 11.27 was the heaviest to win in the tournament. In the Skeeter Owners Tournament there were 17 over the slot brought to the scales with the heaviest weighing 10.04-pounds. In the 39th Annual Sealy Outdoors Tournament there were 31

over the slot weighed in with a 10.83-pounds being the heaviest in the tournament. In the Berkley Tournament there were five bass over the slot brought to the scales with a 9.48-pound bass being the heaviest weighed

in during the tournament. The heaviest under the slot winning in this tournament was a bass weighing 3.13-pounds.

These are all documented proven facts. The amazing progress Lake Fork is showing is the weights of under the slots brought to the weigh-ins. In previous years anglers would bring in a 1.5 to 1.99-pound bass and expect a check. This year some of the tournaments you had a 2.28-pound bass knocked out of the pay range. Most recently the weights under the slot have ranged from 2.50-pounds and up to the 3-pounds. These facts show that this great reservoir is coming on strong.

One fact is obvious to anglers fishing Lake Fork is that she is thriving and if you want to catch that bass of a lifetime this is the place.

Lake Fork is known as "The Big Bass Capital of Texas" and always will be.

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Rebuilding an El Paso Icon: Wyler Aerial Tramway Project Moves Forward

The long-awaited rebirth of one of El Paso's most beloved landmarks is underway, thanks to the steadfast support of the Texas Legislature. With \$27 million in state funding secured, the Wyler Aerial Tramway at Franklin Mountains State Park is on track to once again carry visitors to the top of Ranger Peak, where they can take in panoramic views of two countries and three states.

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD), in partnership with the Camino Real Regional Mobility Authority (RMA), has begun Phase I construction, funded through \$20 million in legislative appropriations over the past three sessions. This phase will deliver expanded parking, improved accessibility, upgraded restrooms, and new visitor amenities, laying the

groundwork for a completely reimagined experience at the base of the Franklin Mountains.

In the most recent 2025 legislative session, lawmakers approved an additional \$7 million to jump-start Phase II, which will include construction of a modern tramway system, visitor center, aerial station, and expanded trails and facilities. The Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation (TPWF) will lead a private fundraising effort to raise an additional \$5–7 million in philanthropic support to help complete Phase II.

"On behalf of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission, I want to extend our deep gratitude to the Texas Legislature and the El Paso legislative delegation for their unwavering commitment to this community and to this project," said Texas

Parks and Wildlife Commission Chairman Paul Foster. "The legislature's investment ensures that this iconic attraction—so loved by generations of El Pasoans—will rise again. The Wyler Aerial Tramway connects us not only to the grandeur of the Franklin Mountains, but also to the sense of pride that comes with being a Texan."

TPWD Executive Director David Yoskowitz, Ph.D., praised the collaboration that has brought the project to this point. "This is what partnership looks like—state leadership, local support, and private philanthropy all coming together for the people of Texas," Yoskowitz said. "The Wyler Aerial Tramway is more than an engineering feat; it's a symbol of how Texans work to-

(See *Rebuilding an El Paso.. Continued on Page 21*)

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Rainbow Trout Stocking Returns to Texas Waters

Just in time for the holiday season, rainbow trout arrives at waterbodies across the state for the annual Texas winter tradition of trout fishing. Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) will begin stocking thousands of rainbow trout Nov. 26, the day before Thanksgiving.

It doesn't take a lot of sophisticated fishing equipment to reel in a rainbow trout. They can be caught using simple, light tackle or hand-tied flies on a fly rod. However, anglers should keep an ar-

ray of baits and lures nearby as well as ice to keep trout fresh. Rainbow trout are an attractive, tasty fish, and anglers can easily find recipes online.

"TPWD is proud to continue the tradition of bringing rainbow trout to waters across Texas," said Neil Pugliese, TPWD rainbow trout program director. "Our annual stocking program is designed to make fishing accessible and enjoyable for everyone from seasoned anglers to families casting a line for the very first time. It's about more than fishing; it's about creating opportunities to connect with nature and build lasting memories."

TPWD plans to stock 335,048 rainbow trout in Texas from Nov. 26 to March 6. Because rainbow trout are unable to survive in most areas of Texas after winter due to the warm water temperatures, anglers are encouraged to keep up to their daily bag limit of five trout.

Exceptions exist within special trout management zones on the Guadalupe River down-

stream of Canyon Lake, which often remains cool enough for rainbow trout to survive year-round. This portion of the Guadalupe River is recognized as one of the top 100 trout streams in the nation and is considered the southernmost trout stream in North America.

Fishing for rainbow trout on Texas rivers and streams is popular among anglers. In addition to stocking the Guadalupe River downstream of Canyon Lake, TPWD also stocks rainbow trout in the Brazos River downstream of Possum Kingdom Lake, portions of the Frio and South Llano rivers, and in the Clear Fork of the Trinity River.

Other stocking locations include dozens of local city- and county-managed park ponds and the newly renovated Lake Zebco and Centex and Strike King ponds at the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center. Although trout stockings

(See *Rainbow Trout Stocking Returns*.....

Continued on Page 20)



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New Design for Horned Lizard License Plate Celebrates 25 Years of Conservation Funding

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's (TPWD) newly redesigned horned lizard conservation license plate is now available for purchase, in recognition of the 25th anniversary of the horned lizard plate and the Conservation License Plate Program (CLPP).

Earlier this year, thousands of participants voted for the design they liked best from among three potential designs. The new design was the heavy favorite and is a photograph of a horned lizard in the wild, which was donated by award-winning wildlife photographer Hector Astorga.

"The Texas horned lizard is an iconic Texas critter," said Richard Heilbrun, TPWD Wildlife Conservation Program director. "Just tough enough and just endearing enough to represent our people, our wildlife and our wild places. Unfortunately, we don't have as many horned lizards as we used to, but TPWD is trying to fix that through conservation projects, which

are partially funded by the sale of this plate."

Money raised from license plate sales fund projects that help protect native species and their habitats. In addition to the horned lizard, other species benefitting include bumblebees and other pollinators, Texas tortoises, alligator snapping turtles and a long list of mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians and plants. Learn more at conservationplate.org.

"Since its debut 25 years ago, the conservation plate program has generated more than \$12.7 million in revenue for conservation," said Janis Johnson, TPWD marketing manager. "Even after all of these years, the horned lizard plate is still the fan favorite and the highest-selling plate, having contributed more than \$5.4 million to conservation. With the plate redesign, we hope to freshen its look and attract new customers who are wild about nature and want to support wildlife conservation in Texas."

In addition to the horned lizard, other plate designs in TPWD's family of plates include the monarch butterfly, rattlesnake and hummingbird, which benefit nongame wildlife; white-tailed deer and bighorn sheep plates benefit big game management; camping and bluebonnet plates benefit state parks; largemouth bass and Texas rivers benefit fisheries; and the roadrunner plate benefits nature tourism and habitat conservation.

To buy the horned lizard plate or one of the other 10 conservation license plates available, visit www.conservationplate.org or your local county tax assessor-collector's office.

The plates are available for vehicles, trailers and motorcycles and cost just \$30 per year, with \$22 going directly to TPWD-sponsored conservation projects. Buyers do not have to wait until they receive a renewal notice, they can order at any time, and the cost will be pro-rated.

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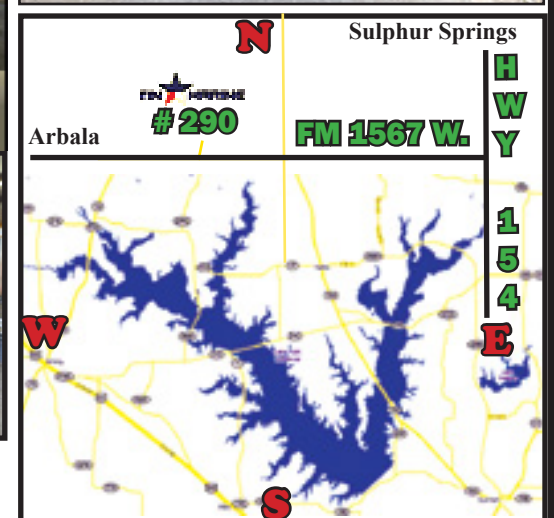
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Danny Craig from Grants Pass, OR., was fishing Lake Fork with guide Whitt Smith when he caught this hawg. C.P.R.



Ernest Khoury was fishing Lake Fork with guide Randy Oldfield when he caught this hawg. C.P.R.



Bill Conley from Southlake, TX., was fishing Lake Fork with guide Whitt Smith when he caught this nice bass. 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 draws to a close I want to say thank you to the members of the Lake Fork Sportsman's Association for their hard work on the live release boat and raffle sales. We had a great year with lots of fun and good times.

We also want to wish everyone A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS, HAPPY NEW YEAR AND HAPPY HOLIDAYS.

We are looking forward to having a great year next year with several new projects around the lake and lots of good fellowship with our members.

We are still accepting new and used fishing tackle and lures for our High School Tackle Program. If you have anything you would like to donate, please give us a call or email us.

Now the ability to join the association is on our website at Lakeforksportsmansassociation.com. Check us out.

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. There will not be a meeting in December replaced with the membership dinner. In January 2026 our meeting will be held on Thursday January 8th.

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.

Lake Fork Sportsman's ASSOCIATION
Preserving The Legend

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.

Lake Fork Sportsman's ASSOCIATION
Preserving The Legend

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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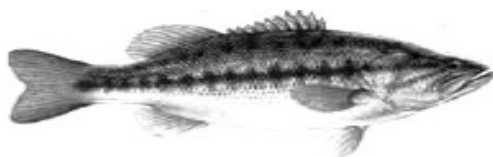
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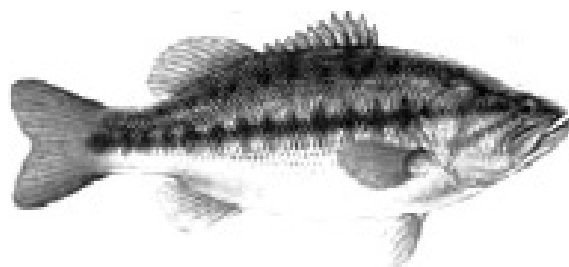
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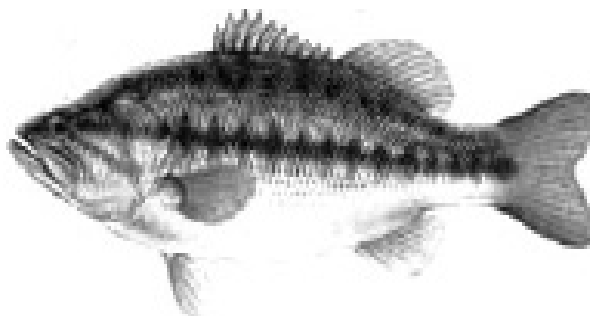
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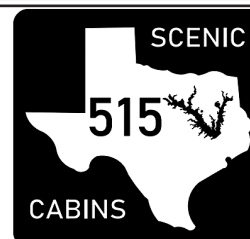
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Rainbow Trout Stocking Returns to Texas Waters (Continued from Page 12)

take place at numerous locations in Texas, TPWD's Neighborhood Fishin' program provides a unique experience for families and new an-

glers to catch a fish in and around major cities.

TPWD manages 18 Neighborhood Fishin' lakes statewide in most major urban centers, including Amarillo, Austin, the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex, Houston, San Angelo, San Antonio and Wichita Falls. These lakes — frequently stocked with rainbow trout during winter — offer plenty of amenities so family members of all ages can enjoy a fun and relaxing day fishing and connecting in nature. Other stocking locations include dozens of local city and county park ponds.

In addition, anglers can enjoy complementary fishing without a license in a Texas state park from a bank, dock or pier. TPWD recommends anyone planning a trip to a state park reserves a day pass in advance especially during busy times like weekends and holidays. Day passes can be reserved online though the TPWD web-

site or over the phone by calling (512) 389-8900.

Texas does not require a fishing license for youth under the age of 17, but adults must have a fishing license with a freshwater fishing endorsement. Funds from the sale of fishing licenses and freshwater fishing endorsements directly support efforts by TPWD to provide great fishing opportunities for current and future generations.


An angler fishing in a Community Fishing Lake or from a dock, pier or jetty within a Texas State Park may use no more than two poles. The statewide bag limit is five trout with no minimum length limit, except on parts of the Guadalupe River where special limits are in effect.

The dates and locations are subject to change due to inclement weather or other unforeseen circumstances. Be sure to check the 2025-26 Trout Stocking Schedule online before going fishing to confirm the stocking date, check fishing regulations and to find other winter trout stocking program angling tips.




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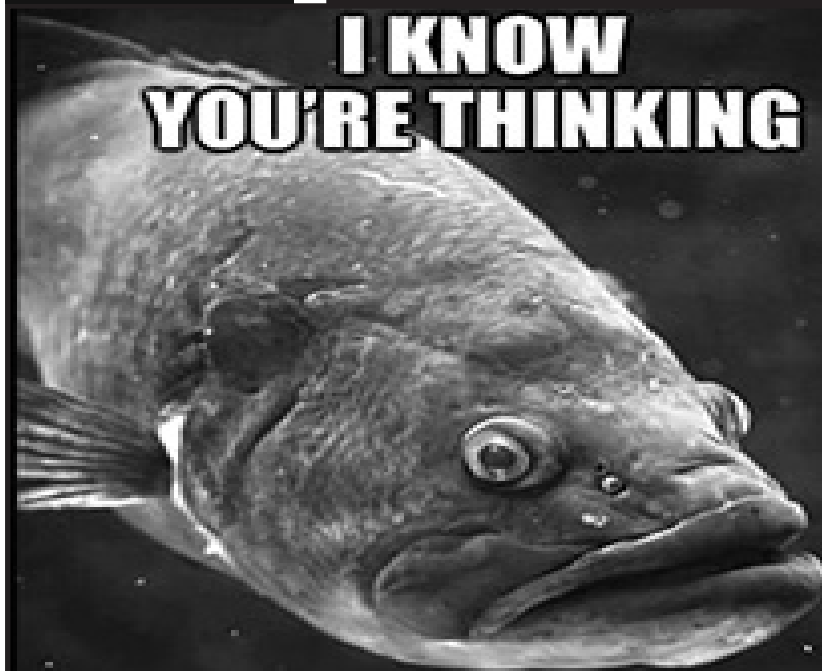


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ABOUT ME

Rebuilding an El Paso Icon (Continued from Page 11)

gether to make great things happen."

Originally constructed in 1959 by El Paso broadcaster Karl Wyler and donated to TPWD in 1997, the tramway quickly became one of El Paso's top attractions, welcoming more than 40,000 visitors annually before it closed in 2018 due to safety concerns.

"TPWF is honored to help write the next chapter of this remarkable story," said Anne Brown, Executive Director of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation. "With the Legislature's investment leading the way, private donors and local partners now have the opportunity to join in bringing back a landmark that means so much to the people of El Paso and

to visitors from across Texas and beyond."

When complete, the reimagined Wyler Aerial Tramway will feature a new, state-of-the-art tram system, improved acces-

sibility, and enhanced visitor amenities—all designed to honor the site's history while inspiring new generations to experience the rugged beauty of West Texas from above.

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P	A	S	S		W	A	I	S	T		S	E	T	H
T	H	E	S	K	Y	S	T	H	E	L	I	M	I	T
	S	T	A	R	E	S			L	Y	S			
			G	A	R		S	E	E	D	I	E	S	T
S	A	F	E			S	A	R	S	I		C	E	E
A	G	A	S		D	O	U	R		A	A	H	E	D
C	U	R		A	E	O	N	S			C	O	D	S
S	E	M	O	L	I	N	A		P	T	A			
			R	A	G				E	R	O	D	E	S
W	I	N	D	I	N	S	T	R	U	M	E	N	T	S
I	D	E	A		E	O	S	I	N		M	A	R	A
S	O	R	I		D	R	A	K	E		I	T	E	M
E	L	O	N			B	R	A	D		C	E	P	E

Football Find

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

FIELD GOAL
FIRST DOWN
FUMBLE
GROUNDING
HOLDING
LATERAL
OFFSIDE

PASS
RUSHING
SACK
SAFETY
SNAP
TACKLE
TOUCHDOWN

T	A	L	N	W	O	D	T	S	R	I	F
A	S	P	S	E	F	F	A	S	A	F	I
E	D	I	S	F	F	O	C	A	E	T	E
F	I	E	A	L	D	K	S	P	A	N	L
F	G	R	C	K	I	L	E	P	W	O	D
S	A	P	K	M	S	I	M	B	L	E	G
D	O	A	D	I	E	F	I	G	A	L	O
F	G	N	I	H	S	U	R	N	W	O	A
U	L	S	A	G	D	M	E	I	F	E	L
B	A	A	D	I	G	B	N	D	R	P	A
E	S	F	U	M	L	L	B	N	O	S	T
L	N	E	L	L	A	E	A	U	R	U	A
K	P	T	O	U	C	H	D	O	W	N	K
C	A	Y	H	T	G	N	L	R	U	S	C
A	S	H	O	L	D	I	N	G	H	I	L
T	O	U	C	L	A	R	E	T	A	L	B



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Game Warden Field Notes

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

—Off the Road Again—

An Amarillo district game warden was patrolling in Potter County after dark when he was notified about an injured individual who had been "run over" by an all-terrain vehicle. The warden responded immediately. He found one adult male hit by an ATV and suffering non-life-threatening injuries to his legs. The victim and other eyewitnesses at the scene identified another adult male

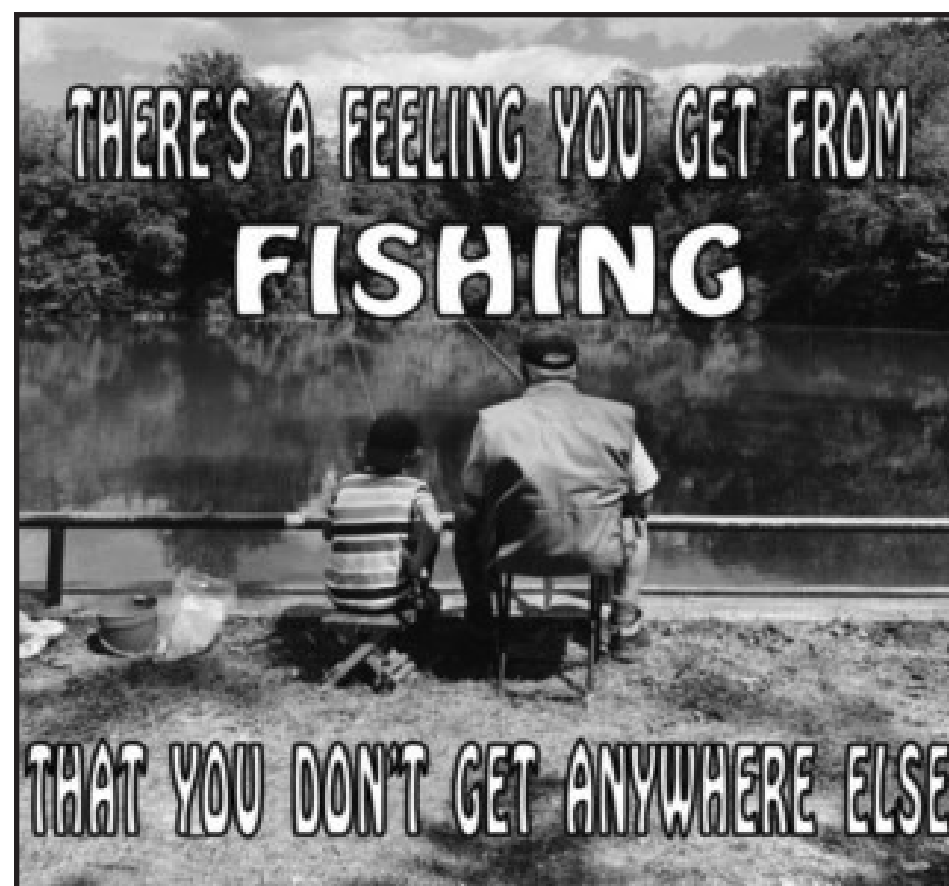
as the driver of the ATV. Upon speaking with the driver of the ATV, the warden noticed that he had heavily slurred speech patterns, glassy/bloodshot eyes, and the odor of alcohol emitting from his breath. The victim of the collision was transported to an Amarillo hospital. The driver of the ATV admitted hitting the victim with the ATV and was subsequently arrested for driving while intoxicated and deadly conduct. The driver was booked into the Potter County Jail without incident.

—Caught on Camera—

In September, a Tyler

County game warden received information on individuals potentially participating in road hunting. The warden worked with a land-owner setting up surveillance cameras in their field. Not long after he set up the monitoring system, he observed a slow moving vehicle spotlighting and headed towards his location. The warden initiated a traffic stop, determining the subjects were hunting at night. Inside the vehicle, the warden located a loaded .22 long rifle. Additionally, the subject was a minor operating a vehicle under

(Continued on Page 24)



Well-Seasoned Greetings

By Sue Hampton

Are you expecting a houseful of hungry guests this holiday season? Don't panic – even though time might be hard to come by, entertaining can be fun and stress-free.



We want to wish everyone a very "Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays from our family to yours!!"

As any host or hostess knows, avoiding a "food frenzy" is a key ingredient for easy-going entertaining. Just in time for the holidays, ketchup has come to the rescue with this tasty quick appetizer for the holidays!

CHEESY CHICKEN QUESADILLAS (Serves 4 as an appetizer)

2 tablespoons vegetable oil
½ cup ketchup
2 cups shredded cheese
1 pound boneless chicken breast, cut into strips
1 medium green bell

pepper, diced
1 medium onion, diced
4-1/2 ounces chopped mild or hot chilies
Flour tortillas
Sour cream and guacamole (garnish)

To prepare, quickly cook chicken in 1 tablespoon vegetable oil in a large skillet, set aside. In the same skillet saute green pepper and onion until slightly tender. Stir in ketchup and chilies and add chicken. Brush one side of half of the tortillas with remaining oil and place them oiled-side down on a bak-

ing sheet. Evenly top tortillas with half of cheese, chicken mixture and then remaining cheese. Top with remaining tortillas and brush with oil. Bake in a preheated 400 degree oven, eight to ten minutes or until cheese melts and tortillas are golden-brown.

To serve, present on a large platter or cut into quarters on individual plates garnished with a dollop of sour cream and guacamole. Enjoy!!





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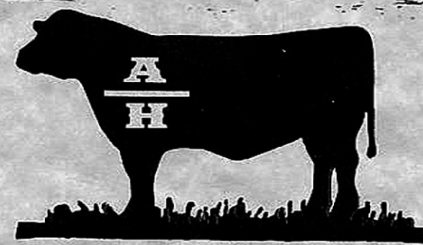
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Game Warden Field Notes (Continued from Page 22)

the influence of alco-hol. Charges are pending.

—How do you Solve a Problem Like Maria?— A landowner called Texas Game Wardens when a group of quail hunters requested assistance rescuing a dog that had fallen into an abandoned grain silo turned well. The dog, Maria, had chased a wounded bird through thick brush when she disappeared from her owner's sight. After searching, the owner found the dog trapped 50 feet below. Two Game Wardens arrived on the scene with hundreds of feet of rope, a wire dog kennel and the know how to build a pulley hoist system. Wardens baited the kennel with recently harvested quail and slowly lowered it down to Maria. With some encouragement from her owner, the dog was coerced to enter the kennel. Wardens carefully lifted her out of the well and into the loving arms of her owner. Upon inspection, she appeared unharmed and fully alert, with all four limbs fully functional. Emergency responders, the dog owner, several fellow quail hunters and the landowners' fam-

ily were amazed how a situation like that unfolded. The owner transported Maria home and scheduled her for a follow-up with a veterinarian for precautionary measures.

—Fortune Favors the Bald (Tire)—A local sheriff's office reached out to Texas Game Wardens about a stolen vehicle from New Mexico heading into Texas. A warden located the vehicle under an irrigation pivot. After backup arrived, the subject attempted to evade officers by driving through fields. When the driver lost the tread on a tire, he stopped the vehicle and was met by the warden and a local deputy. The subject, who was a suspect in a New Mexico murder case, was taken into custody for unauthorized use of a motor vehicle, evading in a motor vehicle and multiple other offenses. Cases and investigations for both states are pending.

—Stuck in the Middle with You— Val Verde County Game Wardens received information about a fishing boat that ran aground on the Rio Grande River. The

area recently accumulated excess silt from the Amistad Dam. Combined with decreasing water levels on the river, the exposed silt became sticky and acted as quicksand. The two boaters were unharmed but unable to vacate the vehicle without sinking into the mud. One of the wardens moved to an overlook point and located the boat. The wardens confirmed there was no way to reach them through waterways or on land. A call was placed for a helicopter with hoist capability. A municipal helicopter reached the individuals, and the rescue was completed successfully. The boaters did not require medical attention.

—Mama Mia— A landowner notified Henderson County game wardens about someone who shot a deer on their property from the road. The landowner received word that the suspected shooter was bragging about the act on social media. A quick search of social media revealed the suspect's mother posted about grinding up deer meat for chili. The wardens

(Continued on Next Page)



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Don & Sue Hampton



contacted the mother. She said her son shot a deer on their property, and she was processing it. The wardens interviewed the suspected shooter and he quickly confessed to shooting the deer on the caller's property from the road. It was further determined that the mother believed the deer was shot on their property and was very upset when she learned the truth.

—Help! I Need Somebody!— A Karnes County game warden patrolling a local highway came across a deer laying in the middle road. Realizing it could be a safety hazard, the warden turned around to remove the buck. After exiting his vehicle, he noticed someone walking near the front gate of a residence in the dark. The warden thought it could be the landowner coming out to ask about the deer. Upon further observation, he realized the man was stumbling. The man said he hit the deer with his motorcycle which was heavily damaged and was now laying in the bar ditch up ahead. The motorcyclist did not know how long he had been in the ditch. Thankfully, he wore a helmet. The warden notified dispatch and requested

an ambulance over a possible broken hand. EMS and a sheriff's deputy arrived on the scene. The warden called the man's wife, informed her of what happened and that he was in the care of EMS.

—Here's Your Sign— A Texas Game Warden received a call from a landowner concerned about road hunters driving near his property, shining a light and shooting guns. The warden met up with a deputy sheriff who had just intercepted the vehicle with three male subjects. In the bed of the truck, the warden found multiple loaded weapons, two dead jackrabbits, two dead raccoons and a piece of deer backstrap. After a roadside investigation, it was determined that the three subjects had spent the night driving around on the public roads, shooting animals and stop signs. Two adults were arrested for hunting from a vehicle and one juvenile was released pending charges. A total of seven firearms and two varmint game calls were seized for evidence. Additional charges are pending.

—Does Your Mother Know That You're Out?— Tom Green County Game Wardens patrolled a city

street late at night, when a white vehicle sped by in a 40-mph zone. The warden sped up to catch the vehicle and finally paced him at 60-mph. The warden attempted to stop the vehicle, but the driver evaded. Once pursued, the suspect drove down a residential alley and crashed into a garage. The suspect abandoned their vehicle and fled on foot. No one on scene was injured. Multiple agencies responded to assist with the crash and search for the suspect. During the investigation, wardens could hear the suspect's cell phone ring over and over. Once in the vehicle, they found the cell phone connected via Bluetooth. The phone continued to ring as they gathered evidence. Eventually, wardens along with their city police counterparts answered the phone. The caller identified herself as the suspect's mother. Believing the officers were buddies of her adult child and playing a joke on her, she identified the suspect and demanded to speak with them. Wardens explained the situation and discovered that over the years, the suspect accumulated multiple felony warrants. Charges pending.

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Fork's December Crappie (Continued from Page 8)

who've become like family has truly been the highlight of my season. I'm grateful for every laugh, every story, and every memory we made out on the water. Wishing all of you the very best throughout the holidays. I look forward to many more great on Lake Fork together.

I also want to give a heartfelt thanks to all the mechanics, and friends who kept me and my equipment going throughout the year. Your support and hard work, and willingness to help made it possible for me to keep doing what I love!

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