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Vol. 27

January, 2026

No. 316



Shelby Smith daughter of Lake Fork guide Whitt Smith shows she hasn't forgotten her talent for catching big bass in December. We first had her photo in our paper when she was 8 years old with a Lake Fork big bass. C.P.R.



Lake Fork guide Danny Holder caught this lunker hawg measuring over 25" and weighing a hefty 11.3-pounds. Lake Fork is looking better than ever going into 2026. C.P.R.

2026

Happy New Year



Kenny Bredemeier was fishing Lake Fork with his dad "Hard Working Harold" when he caught this really heavy hawg. C.P.R.



Maxine Bratz was fishing Lake Fork in December when she caught this nice bass. Weight not provided. C.P.R.



Robert Martin from Brownsboro, Texas was fishing Lake Fork with guide Whitt Smith when he caught this nice bass. C.P.R.

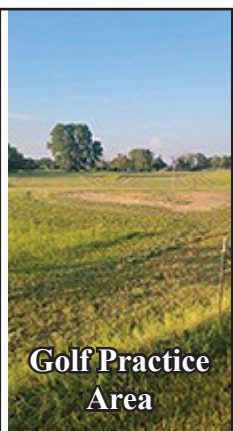
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"Bubba's New Year Just Has To Get Better!"

By Don Hampton

Well Bubba had just a great Christmas with his family coming to his homestead. He does love his kids and grandkids. What he says he really enjoys is spoiling his grandkids while they're at his house, giving them candy and cookies and then sending them home for his kids to go through what he had to go through raising them. He does have a sense of humor when it comes to that.

I do believe what he enjoyed the most was the eating and opening presents though. I'm not real sure just how much he loved picking up all the wrapping paper and the cleanup afterwards, but we all know he can put on a good show and how much he loves that crap!

It is a good thing he got some fishing stuff from Santa to play with because his New Year just isn't starting off with him in the best spirits. The way he has been acting you would think his dog ran away and he had a fish hook stuck in his back side. The main reason for his change of attitude is his boat is broke. It

would seem just before the holidays he hit a stump (his lack of judgment I'm sure) and broke the driveshaft in his motor. Well with the holidays you can't get parts because everyone is celebrating with their families. According to Bubba this is all just wrong when it comes to his boat getting fixed!

A bad part of the situation is he has good insurance and they have already sent him the check to have it fixed. He will sit staring at the check in his hand and whining like his little great grandson when Bubbette won't give him candy or let him have his way. Whenever Bubba can't just get up and go fishing when he wants, you would think the world came to an end. To top it all off, all his fishing buds are spending holidays with their families and won't take him fishing. To Bubba this ain't right either!!! He believes holidays, anniversaries and birthdays are great fishing times! Sunshine, rain, sleet or snow, a fishing he will go!

To top it all off, Bubbette isn't making matters any better. With Bubba around the house more, she's putting him to good use. She

has him running errands, helping with house chores, going shopping with her, exchanging gifts, visiting friends. You know, all that crap Bubba really loves!

Bubbette is getting so tired of his moping around the house, she's ready to smother him with a pillow in his sleep, run away from home or buy him a boat to get him back to normal. Bubba would really like the last one, he doesn't care much for the others though. Especially the one with the pillow. She does believe he loves that boat way too much! At times she gets a little jealous of how much Bubba loves his boat and fishing but she knows there are a lot of worse habits a man could have.

The best thing is within the next week Bubba will be back in his boat and on the lake and doing what he loves with a passion! This will give his mechanic, his dealership, Mercury, his friends, his relatives and everyone involved and around Bubba a reprieve and make him and them happy once more!

Happy New Year & Stay Safe!!

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Trails to Trout' Brings Fishing to Tyler's Nature Center

Celebrate the start of the new year by introducing a kid to the Texas winter tradition of rainbow trout fishing. The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's (TPWD) "Trails to Trout" fishing days are scheduled for Jan. 4 and Jan. 10 at the Tyler Nature Center.

TPWD will stock 900 rainbow trout at the pond for kids and people of all ages to pursue from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Anglers only need to bring fishing equipment and bait. TPWD will be on hand to assist new anglers and provide limited fishing equipment for those who need it on a first-come, first-served basis. Trout bait will also be available for those who need it and ice will be provided for attendees that choose to harvest their catch.

After a morning of fishing at the pond, folks can explore the rest of the Tyler Nature Center by taking a stroll on one or more outdoor hiking trails to complete the great outdoors experience. Recommended Equipment: Bring a light-action

rod and reel combination with small fishing hooks, light line (6 lb. test or less), small bobbers (optional), and small split shot. For bait, bring salmon eggs, whole kernel corn, marshmallows, small worms or prepared trout bait. Small rooster-tail spinners also work well. If you intend to keep trout, make sure to pack a stringer or small cooler.

TPWD plans to stock 335,048 rainbow trout in Texas across the state through early March. Because rainbow trout are only available during the colder winter months in most areas of Texas, anglers are encouraged to keep up to their daily bag limit of five.

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 find other winter trout stocking program angling tips.

For more information, contact Jake Norman, TPWD Inland Fisheries Biologist, at (903) 566-1615 x 213.



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Guidance on Federal Airborne Hunting Act Pertaining to Fishing with Drones

Use of drones prohibited for fishing

Due to technological advancements with Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS), also known as drones, now widely available, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) has noticed an increase in questions connected to their use in relation to fishing and wildlife. Some of the most frequent questions have been about the legality of using drones for deploying bait by surf or bank fisherman.

To address this, TPWD staff reviewed Title 50 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) § 19.11, also known as the Federal Airborne Hunting Act (AHA), which was first enacted in 1956. Staff also sought guidance from the Office of Law Enforcement within the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The result of that analysis and discussion is the determination that 50 CFR § 19.11 (b) (2) prohibits the use of aircraft, which includes UAS or drones, to take or attempt

to take wildlife, or aid in the act of fishing.

For more information about Texas' hunting and fishing regulations, visit tpwd.texas.gov. Definitions as defined in 50 CFR § 10.12 that apply to 50 CFR § 19.11:

* Aircraft means any contrivance (device) used for flight in the air.

* Fish or wildlife means any wild animal, whether alive or dead, including without limitation any wild mammal, bird, reptile, amphibian, fish, mollusk, crustacean, arthropod, coelenterate, or other invertebrate, whether or not bred, hatched, or born in captivity, and including any part, product, egg, or offspring thereof.

* Take means to pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or attempt to pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect. (With reference to marine mammals, see Part 18 of this subchapter.)

* Wildlife means the same as fish or wildlife.

Does the AHA prohibit the use of UAS or drones by recreational, surf, or bank fishermen for deploying bait? Yes. UAS or drones cannot be used to deploy bait according to 50 CFR § 19.11 (b)(2) as that is considered aiding in the take or attempt to take wildlife, which includes fish. Does the AHA prohibit TPWD from issuing a permit authorizing the use of UAS or drones by recreational, surf, or bank fishermen for deploying bait? Yes. 50 CFR § 19.31 (a) prohibits a state from issuing permits for the purpose of sport hunting, which includes recreational or sport fishing. About Texas Game Wardens Texas Game Wardens, within the Law Enforcement Division of TPWD, are responsible for enforcing laws related to the conservation and management of natural resources and public

(See Guidance on Federal Airborne)

Continued on Page 12)



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"The Tiny Child Rig on Lake Fork!!"

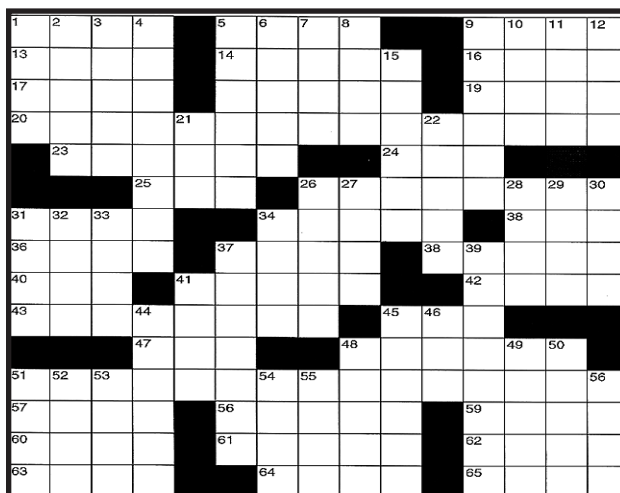
By Whitt Smith

This rig is a dynamite bite getter any time of year, but can excel in cold water or pressured angling conditions. It's basically a weedless version of the proverbial Ned Rig, perfect for Lake Fork weeds, brush

piles, docks, rip rap or stump laden waters. I like to use a ZMan Big TRD ElazTech worm, straight shank 3/0 or 4/0 drop shot hook (regular or HD) that has a monofilament keeper on the upper shank and a mushroom head or nail weight. Unlike rigging a traditional Ned Rig, rig the hook into the tapered end of the worm Texas Style weedless. Then insert the mushroom head or nail weight into the flat, thick end of the worm, placing a dab of super glue on the portion of the weight that is inserted in the worm. This will save weights from being thrown during violent head shakes from Bass and/ or repeated casts. It's basically a backward rigged worm set-up that will slip in and out of the thickest cover you want to fish for Ol' Bucketmouth. I fish it very similar to a traditional Texas Rig Worm, letting it go to the bottom and drag-



ging it slowly. I like to allow it to stop and the properties of the ElazTech allowing it to stand tail up. On Lake Fork, I prefer to fish this rig on a bait cast set-up so I can cast it into brush, etc. and have the line size and rod power to pull the Bass out and away from the cover. The advantage of this rig, other than the
(See Tiny Child..... Continued on Page 20)



CLUES ACROSS

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Friends (French) | 37. Desolate |
| 5. Journey | 38. Like cereal |
| 9. Compartments | 40. Albania |
| 13. Gulls | 41. Pistil bracts |
| 14. Yello-fever mosquitos | 42. Radioactivity units |
| 16. Soft-finned fish | 43. Expunctions |
| 17. Terror | 45. School organization |
| 18. Shelf | 47. Seaport, abbrev. |
| 19. The standard monetary unit of Turkey | 48. Division of a group into opposing factions |
| 20. Speedy | 51. Falstaff's go-between |
| 23. Suspension | 57. Die |
| 24. Spoken in the Dali region of Yunnan | 58. Capital of South Korea |
| 25. Male cat | 59. Air-bed |
| 26. Past | 60. Ireland |
| 31. Interpret something in a certain way | 61. Shrub |
| 34. Uncovers | 62. At all times |
| 35. South American wood sorrel | 63. Tear down |
| 36. Turkish leader title | 64. Drunks |
| | 65. Secretary, for one |

CLUES DOWN

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Sunrise (Spanish) | 31. An account of incidents or events |
| 2. Wet spongy ground | 32. Makes older |
| 3. Saddam Hussein, for one | 33. New Zealand parrot |
| 4. In a way, sets | 34. A reddish brown pigment from clay |
| 5. Type of powder | 37. Munificence |
| 6. In a way, smells | 39. Apprenticed |
| 7. Icelandic poems | 41. Sound of pleasure |
| 8. Containerfuls | 44. Bench |
| 9. A silky-coated sheepdog | 45. Oars |
| 10. Capital of Western Samoa | 46. 21st letter of the Greek alphabet |
| 11. Banishes | 48. Sit on one's heels |
| 12. Ruler of Iran | 49. Remove the surface of |
| 15. Member of U.S. Navy | 50. French young woman |
| 21. Hirobumi __, Japanese Prime Minister | 51. Jan VanDer __, Dutch painter |
| 22. Large person | 52. Iris genus |
| 26. Peels | 53. Gentleman |
| 27. Ribosomal ribonucleic acid | 54. Mains |
| 28. Island north of Guam | 55. Fly alone |
| 29. Frosted | 56. English city |
| 30. Treats skins | |

Answers on Page 21

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Wildlife Health Alert: Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Detected in Multiple Areas Throughout Texas

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) urges caution as highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) is circulating among wild birds across the state as waterbirds and waterfowl migrate and congregate on their wintering grounds.

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

What is Avian Influenza: Avian Influenza, caused by influenza type A viruses, is a contagious viral disease that poses a major threat to the poultry industry and animal health. Migratory waterfowl and other waterbirds are a natural reservoir for this disease.

There are many strains of the virus that vary in severity based on the species affected. These strains

are put into two general classifications— low pathogenic (LPAI) and highly pathogenic (HPAI). LPAI generally causes only minor illnesses and occurs naturally in migratory waterfowl. HPAI spreads rapidly and has a high death rate in birds.

Additionally, select mammal species are highly susceptible to HPAI including domestic cats, skunks, foxes, raccoons, bobcats, mountain lions and black bears.

Due to the ease of transmission, TPWD recommends wildlife rehabilitators remain cautious when intaking wild animals with clinical signs consistent with HPAI and quarantining animals to limit the potential for HPAI exposure to other animals within the facility. Backyard poultry may infect or be infected by contact with wild birds. If a wildlife rehabilitator suspects HPAI in an animal, contact TPWD within 24 hours of intake.

Clinical Signs and Transmission: Clinical signs include neurological disease such as incoordination or stumbling, lethargy, trembling, seizures, lack of fear of people, coughing and sneezing and sudden death, though birds infected with HPAI may not always have outward signs of infection. The virus may spread in a variety of ways, including through contact with infected wild and domestic birds as well as by contaminated equipment, clothing and shoes of caretakers.

For mammals, transmission occurs primarily through the consumption of infected animal carcasses and contaminated equipment.

Currently, the transmission risk of avian influenza from infected birds to people remains low, but the public should take basic protective measures if contact with wild animals cannot be avoided. Pub-

(See Wildlife Health Alert:.....Continued on Page 9)



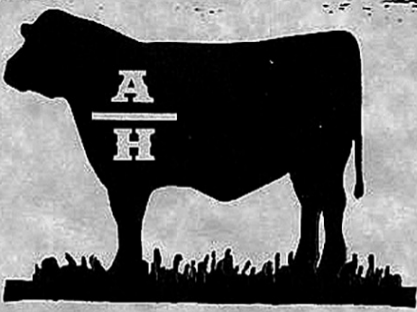
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"The Moon Report"

"Lake Fork Crappie January 2026"

By Terri Moon

First I want to wish everyone a "Happy, Blessed, and Prosperous 2026!" Also I want to sincerely thank all of you that fished with me in 2025 with so many memorable moments! I appreciate you all!

I know January will bring cooler temperatures, with not as many fishable days – but, on those days be sure and check out the Boat and Tackle Shows in your area. It's amazing to see the growth of the crappie fishing industry. From tackle to trolling motors, to electronics, and even the boat manufacturers are getting on board. There is even bigger and better payouts for the Crappie Tournaments giving way to more television coverage and exposure. So, whether you fish a little or a lot it's always fun to go to these tackle shows to check out all the latest inventions, and pick up some new things to try when the weather permits a fishable day.

Now as far as the crappie fishing – with the dropping water temperatures, the crappie will congregate out



deeper in anywhere between 30 to 55 ft. along bends or intersections of creek channels, the 154 and 515 bridges are known winter hotspots, and deep water timber or brush piles, and deep water humps. Just watch your graph to see how deep you need to target. The colder water makes the fish less aggressive, so a subtle presentation is key. The only problem with this time of year is the crazy wind we've had to deal with. It's not easy trying to find 40–50 ft of water out of the wind!

I usually use a 1/16 or 1/8 oz. jighead, but, when it's windier I'll go to a 1/4 oz. In the hair jigs, Skippers in black and chartreuse or pink and chartreuse have been working. In the plastics, Bonehead

Brush Gliders in silver shad or slick neon have been producing. But, don't be afraid to change up colors to adjust to conditions. All of these baits are available at Lake Fork Marina along with any of your fishing needs. There is also a new Berkley bait out called the Power Switch that features a weight forward design for fast drop-ins to quickly get your bait in front of the fish. They come in 1-3/4 inch up to 5 inches and comes in 14 colors. The 3-inch is perfect for this time of year because it's matching the size of the shad they've been eating. This bait was made for bass fishing – but, I've found the crappie love them too!

(See Lake Fork Crappie....
Continued on Page 21)

Wildlife Health Alert: *(Continued from Page 7)*

lic and health care professionals can find more information about HPAI in humans from the Texas Department of State Health Services. If you have contact with an HPAI-positive animal and develop signs of illness, immediately contact your health care provider and let them know about the exposure. **P r e v e n t i o n :** The public can assist in interrupting HPAI transmission by limiting all unnecessary contact with wild birds. Bird feeders and water sources should be cleaned at least every two weeks with a solution of one part household bleach to nine parts water. Change water in birdbaths every few days and regularly remove wet feed and seed from feed and water sources. Discourage the congregation of waterfowl around food, water sources and backyard flocks. Game bird hunters should consider precautions such as:

- *Disposing of carcasses properly
- *Wearing gloves when processing
- *Avoiding consumption or processing of any sick bird
- *Cleaning and disinfecting tools between carcasses
- *Cooking meat to proper temperatures

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



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La Sal Del Rey National Wildlife Reserve Partners with TPWD to Host 2nd Annual Explore Bowhunting Event

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's (TPWD) Community Archery Program is joining forces with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) on Jan. 17 to help the public "Explore Bowhunting" at the La Sal Del Rey National Wildlife Reserve (NWR) in Edinburg.

With the help of Texas Game Wardens, Operation Game Thief, the Texas Youth Hunt Pro-

gram, TPWD Hunter's Education, Outdoor Tomorrow Foundation, Archery Trade Association and other local partners, this event gives participants an opportunity to learn more about hunting with a bow and how to properly prepare to use archery equipment during hunting season.

"We are excited to once again partner with USFWS at La Sal Del Ray NWR, to bring to the public this one-of-a-kind archery event," said Adam Lewis, TPWD community archery specialist. "Whether you are a seasoned archer, beginner or just starting to gain interest in the sport of archery

and bowhunting, this is a great event to hone your skills, further your knowledge and understand what it takes to be a successful bowhunter."

The workshop, scheduled for 10 a.m.-2 p.m., is free with park entrance and open to anyone interested in learning more about bowhunting. Equipment is provided, so participants do not need to bring their own archery gear.

"The event will focus on the necessary gear, proper concealment, anatomy and shot placement to improve accuracy and in turn reduce recovery time and the processing of your animal after a successful hunt," added Lewis. "This is an all-ages event and is a great way to spend some time outdoors with your family and friends."

The event includes a state-of-the-art archery

(Continued on Next Page)

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trailer with interactive archery games and a range for adaptive archers, an introductory range with 3D targets focusing on anatomy and shot placement, animal processing (skinning/quartering/butchering) demonstration, cooking conversations, gear examples and hunting simulation activities for youth. Additionally, staff will be available to answer questions related to public hunting, regulations and more.

The TPWD Community Archery Program, which is facilitating this workshop, works on a "train the trainer" model — training teachers and leaders through a National Archery in the Schools Program curriculum in range set-up, safety, program design and coaching. The curriculum is built for community groups like schools, military bases, veterans' groups, scouts,

camp, parks and recreation departments and more. It also provides resources and certification to host a mobile archery range with an audience. Community archery specialists provide "Explore Bowhunting" and "Explore Bowfishing" programming that introduces these skills to new audiences through activities and discussion. Some of the curriculum will be on display in the activities hosted at this event. TPWD provides the programs and the gear needed to interested instructors who have access to an existing audience.

Learn more about how to contact a community archery specialist in your region on the Community Archery Program webpage on the TPWD website. Watch a video of an Explore Bowhunting event on the TPWD YouTube channel.



Issac Crispin from Dallas, TX., caught this nice bass fishing with Lake Fork guide Whitt Smith. C.P.R.

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Texas Trails Bassmasters of Lake Fork

49th Semi-Annual Open Tournament

Mar. 21, 2026 * Lake Fork, Texas

Oak Ridge Marina * Hwy 154 N.

Guaranteed Pay-Out Based on 100 Entries 903-360-6994
Drawings Held After Weigh-in for prizes



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



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



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

1. Entry fee is \$40.00 - late entry is \$45.00
2. Early entries must be postmarked by Mar. 14, 2026.
3. All entry fees must be paid before 6 a.m. Sat., Mar. 21, 2026.
4. Check in times Fri., Mar. 20, 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. and Sat., Mar. 21, 5 a.m. to 6 a.m. at Oak Ridge Marina.
5. To qualify, contestants must check in at tournament headquarters before fishing.
6. Fishing hours will be 6:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. (official clock at sign-in station). NO FISHING from midnight till start time.
7. Fishing will be done on Lake Fork only (trailer fishing allowed).
8. Contestants must fish from a boat. NO-bank fishing or leaving the boat to land a fish.
9. Life jackets must be worn any time their outboard motor is running.
10. All state, federal, and local laws must be obeyed or contestant and fish may be disqualified. No slot fish may be brought to weigh-in.
11. No one may have more than five (5) fish in their possession at any time. Only one (1) may be 24" or greater.
12. Largemouth bass 12" to 16" or 24" or greater in length may be weighed. No fish under 12" or between 16" and 24" will be weighed (or state law limits at the time of the tournament).
13. All fish must be caught on artificial bait by casting. (No trolling with gas engine). Pork trailer may be used.
14. Weigh-in starts at 3:00 p.m. (official clock at sign-in). You must be in the weigh-in line by 3:30 p.m.
15. All fish must be brought to the scales in weigh-in bags.
16. No iced or frozen fish will be weighed. Ice may be added ONLY to aid in survival of fish.
17. Each contestant will be responsible for weighing his or her own fish. (No pooling of fish).
18. Dead fish at weigh-in will be penalized 1/2 (.5) pound. All fish weighed in become the property of TTB and will be released (with the exception of trophy or dead fish).
19. In the event of a tie for any position, prize money for that position and the following positions will be combined and evenly divided between the tying contestants.
20. Contestants may not have served as a compensated guide on Lake Fork 30 days prior to the tournament.
21. Contestants may fish with a guide on Lake Fork prior to the day before fishing this TTB tournament.
22. Use of alcoholic beverages or controlled drugs are prohibited during tournament hours. Prescription drug use should be declared at sign-in.
23. Anyone who has ever been disqualified for cheating or misconduct from any tournament is ineligible to fish.
24. Any contestant who violates any rule may be disqualified. Any act of a competitor, verbal or physical, that reflects unfavorably upon TTB's effort to promote fishing, conservation, clean waters, courtesy or safety shall be reason for disqualification from this and all future TTB tournaments.
25. Parent or guardian must accompany contestants under 18 years of age.
26. All protests must be registered in writing with the tournament judges within 15 minutes after designated weigh-in time. All decisions of the tournament judges will be final in all matters. Anyone protesting the outcome of an open tournament will have to pay for any additional polygraph test given.
27. All boats are welcome to participate. An aerated livewell is recommended to aid in fish survival for live release. Anglers cannot leave boat to land a fish.
28. All contestants are responsible to have read these rules and must agree to abide by them (by signing the entry form) while competing in this TTB event.
29. Contestants will be subject to polygraph test. Failure to take and/or pass such a test will result in disqualification.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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

Entry Application

Early Entry fee of \$40 must accompany mailed entry and must be postmarked on or before Mar. 14, 2026 to Texas Trails Bassmasters, 538 PR 5861, Yantis, TX 75497, or you may pay \$45 at tournament headquarters before starting time of tournament. \$10 extra for Big Bass (Optional). Print clearly.

Name: _____

Email: _____

Address: _____

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

Contestants Signature _____

Minor's Release: Signed by _____ Parent/Guardian

TTB USE ONLY

Entry # _____

Entry Fee _____

Big Bass _____

Cash _____ Chk# _____

Guidance on Federal Airborne (Continued from Page 5)

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

wildlife, fishing or boating violation in progress, please call 1-800-792-GAME (4263) immediately and report it to Operation Game Thief (OGT), Texas' Wildlife Crime-Stoppers Program. You can also text your tip by sending the keyword TXOGT plus your tip to 847411 or through the Texas OGT App, available for iOS and Android devices. Dispatchers are available 24/7.



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Public Access Lease Opening for Guadalupe River Trout Fishing

Texas anglers have access to a premier location for rainbow trout fishing during the peak of the winter stocking season thanks to a Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) "no fee" access lease on the Guadalupe River.

Camp Huaco Springs, located between New Braunfels and Sattler, features nearly a half mile of bank access along alternating pools and riffles on the Guadalupe River. Anglers can use the bank, which is gently sloped and rocky, or wade fish both upstream and downstream to take advantage of a low-water dam at the upper end of the property or a deep pool at the lower end. They can also launch non-motorized boats, canoes, kayaks or other floatable devices for the purpose of fishing. "This lease location provides great bank angler access to river trout fishing coupled with gorgeous Guadalupe River scenery," said Patrick Ireland, San Marcos and Austin District Super-

visor for TPWD's Inland Fisheries Division.

Public access opened Dec. 5 and is available through March 7 from 30 minutes before sunrise to 30 minutes after sunset. TPWD will stock this and other sections of the Canyon Tailrace (Guadalupe River downstream of Canyon Reservoir) with close to 20,000 rainbow trout during weekly stockings from early December through late January. This total includes 5,050 trout provided by the Water-Oriented Recreation District of Comal County (WORD) to supplement TPWD's efforts. Stocking locations include Guadalupe Park below Canyon Dam, the third and fourth river crossings on River Road and Camp Huaco Springs. The Guadalupe River Trout Unlimited Chapter (GRTU), a partner of TPWD, also stocks rainbow trout throughout the river during the colder months. The GRTU trout are typically larger than TPWD stock. Anglers should check the 2025-26

Trout Stocking Schedule online before fishing to confirm the date and to find other winter trout stocking program angling locations and tips.

Camp Huaco Springs falls under statewide trout regulations, so anglers may keep up to their daily bag limit of five trout with no minimum length limit. Trout anglers 17 years of age and older will need a valid fishing license that includes a freshwater fishing endorsement.

Anglers may find access to the river in other areas being stocked with trout, but should note that special regulations and limits are in effect starting 800 yards downstream from the Canyon Dam release to the second bridge crossing on River Road.

Camp Huaco Springs is located at 4150 River Road in New Braunfels. For more information, or to find leased River Access and Conservation Areas (RACA) on other rivers in Texas, visit the RACA program website

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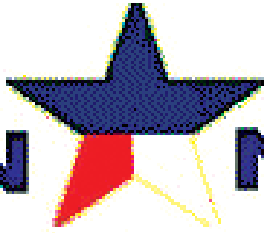
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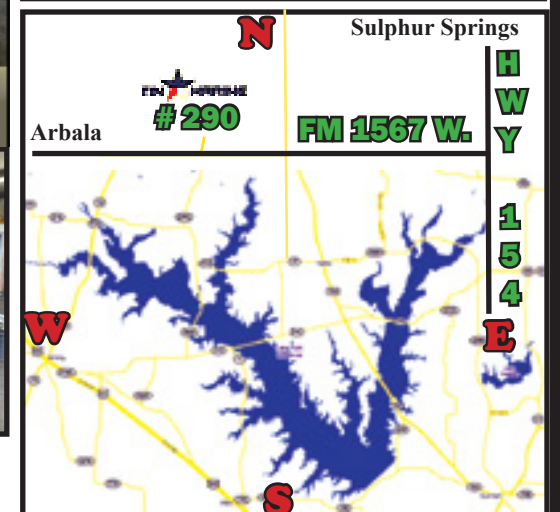
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We the People
We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do hereby constitute this Federal Government.

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Action:	Double Action	Double Action	Double Action	Double Action	Striker-Fired
Firing Mechanism	Hammer Fired	Hammer Fired	Hammer Fired	Hammer Fired	Striker-Fired
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
Slide & Barrel Material	Heat Treated 416 Stainless Steel	Heat Treated 416 Stainless Steel	Heat Treated 416 Stainless Steel	Heat Treated 416 Stainless Steel	Heat Treated 416 Stainless Steel
Trigger Pull Weight	9lbs	9lbs	9lbs	9lbs	5.5lbs
Barrel Rifling	1:16R	1:16R	1:16R	1:16R	1:16R
COST	\$299	\$299	\$299	\$299	\$299

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CP	LP	MW	MB	
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"A militia, when properly formed, are in fact the people themselves" whose ability to act in both personal and common defense must be well maintained.

Being Necessary to the Security of a Free State -

Secure in personal liberty (the state of being free), and the governance of a free people (the State securing the rights of a free people).

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

To Keep and Bear Arms -
To own and carry "arms" of whatever type necessary to effectively provide for personal defense and defense against tyranny.

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Shall not be limited, regulated, federally/excessively taxed or encroached upon in any manner.

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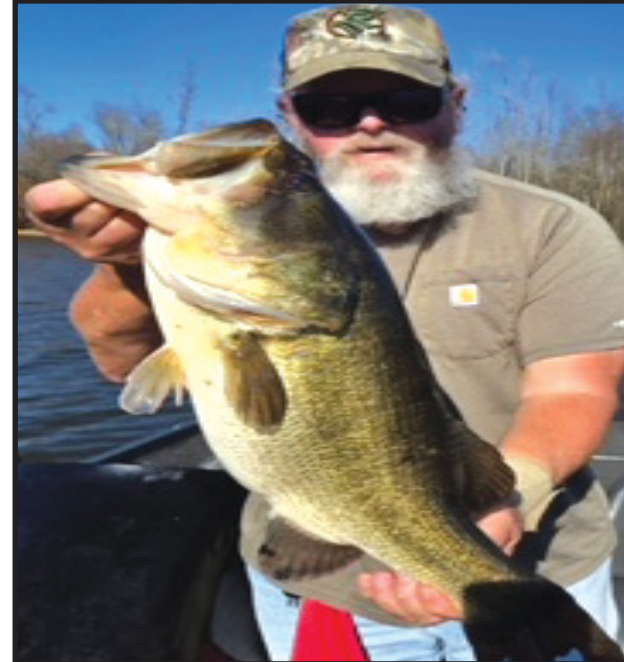
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Ricky Martin from Bels, Texas was fishing Lake Fork with guide Whitt Smith when he caught this hawg. C.P.R.



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



Lake Fork guide Randy Oldfield was fishing on Lake Fork on December 26 when he caught this nice bass. C.P.R.

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May 15, 16, 17, 2026

\$180,000

In Cash & Prizes

Benefiting "The Wish to Fish Foundation"

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

Grand Prizes Include:

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

\$30,000 For the Heaviest Under The Slot, \$20,000 Early Incentive Draw

(Early Entries Only, Received Before April 30, 2026 and must be present to win)

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

BONUS T-SHIRT HOUR EVERY HOUR OF THE TOURNAMENT

For More Information Call: 903-360-6993 or 903-360-6994 Email: fishnewslakefork@gmail.com

**LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING ALL ANGLERS,
FRIENDS AND FAMILIES AT OUR
21ST ANNUAL BIG BASS TOURNAMENT**

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

By Don Hampton, LFSA President

With the New Year upon us members of the Lake Fork Sportsman's Association will hold even truer to 'Protecting, Promoting, Preserving' the Legend that is Lake Fork. The board of directors has changed for the upcoming year, though some are the same. Directors are Don Hampton, President, Jay Simmons, Vice President, Maury Thornton, Treasurer, Peggy York, Secretary, Diane Spradling, Director at Large, Carolyn West, Director at Large, Terry Long, Director at Large.

In the upcoming year there are many new ideas to come forth in improving our lake, not only to make it safer for visitors but also to assist our businesses and individuals that live and fish on the lake with all their families. We will also be open to any and all suggestions that anyone might have for improvements. All of our members are truly dedicated to accomplish all that is possible to insure its greatness for future generations to come. Lake Fork is a true treasure we have

for this area and deserves all of our care and concern. If you live on the lake or just love fishing here, you should dedicate some of your time and energy by becoming a member of the LFSA.

Our meetings are generally held on the second Tuesday of each month beginning at 6:30 pm at Jamie's Restaurant located in Lake Fork Marina off Hwy. 17. In January because of the winter hours at Jamie's we will be having the meeting on Thursday, January 8th. Many of the members come at 5:30 to enjoy a great dinner before the meeting begins. This month our guest speaker will be Jake Norman, TPWD Marine Biologist of Lake Fork. He will discuss the condition of the lake. I invite everyone to come, meet the members and enjoy a learning social event. Our February meeting will be February 10th with guest speaker Cassandra Gann with CrappieFest.

If you would like to become a member of the great organization and help preserve the legend that is Lake Fork, you can contact me at 903-360-6994 or email fishnewslakefork@gmail.com. Hope to see you!



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



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

"Wish To Fish Foundation"

903-383-7748

Needs Your Help!!!

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

We'll take over from there!

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

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



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Preserving The Legend

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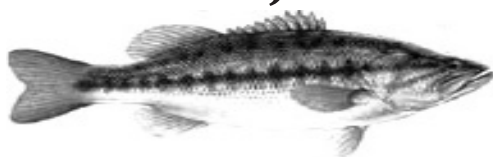
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Lake Fork Tournament Schedule Jan. thru Mar.

2026



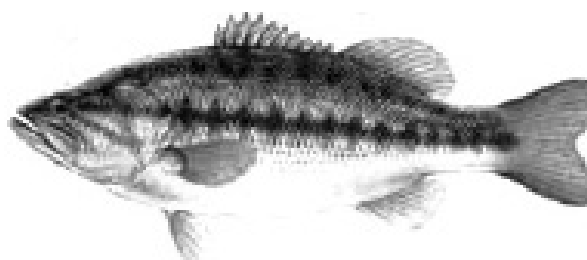
January

Jan. 31 ~ JC Outdoors Solo
Minnow Bucket



February

Feb. 21~ BassChamps Team
Lake Fork Marina
Feb. 28 ~ JC Outdoors Teams
Minnow Bucket



March

Mar. 7 ~ JC Outdoors Solo
Minnow Bucket
Mar. 21 ~ Tex. Trails Open
Oak Ridge Marina
Mar. 28 ~ JC Outdoors Teams
Minnow Bucket



Jamie's Restaurant

"My Oh My The Pie"

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Tony Stout

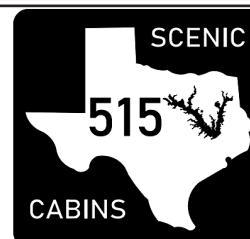
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"The Tiny Child Rig on Lake Fork!!" (Continued from Page 6)

weedless rigging and finesse nature, is the ElazTech material allows the worm to stand tail up at all times. I prefer to use a mushroom head nail weight because it

transmits more feel of the bottom or cover I'm fishing the Tiny Child Rig through. Don't let the name of this rig or its small size fool you, it catches all sizes including Big Bass! The name of the rig comes from the fact that it's so simple to use and catch them with that even a tiny child could use it. So, if you're interested in a new rig to try when it's tough and your usual set-ups aren't working, give the Tiny Child Rig a try and I think you'll like the results. I hope this helps put more Bass in your boat in 2026 and feel free to reach out if I can be of assistance in any way. *Happy New Year!*



Rigged 'Tiny Child Rig'

The Fisherman's Guide News
Our email has changed it is now
fishnewslakefork@gmail.com



Results with the 'Tiny Child Rig'

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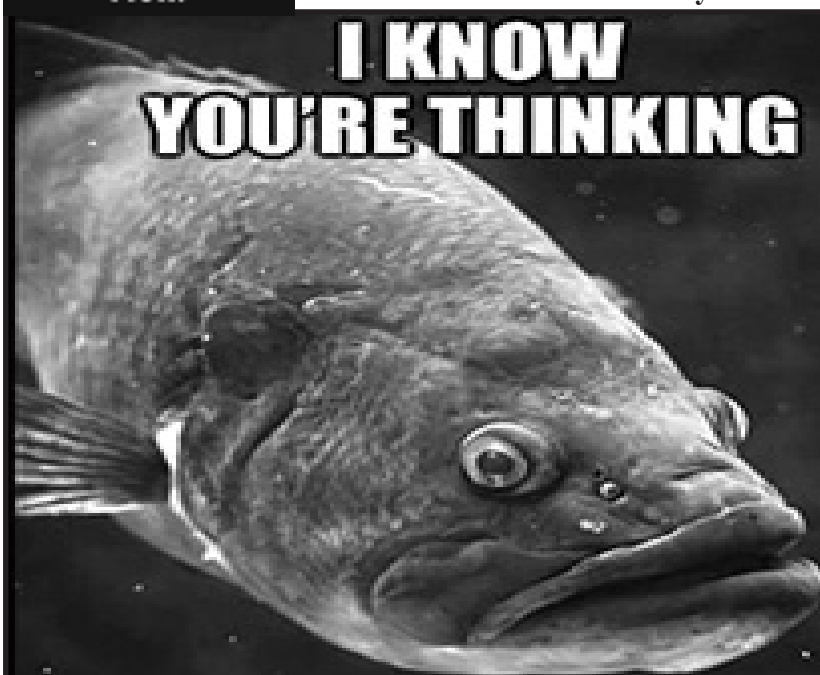
Playground For The

Children



I'M NICER
WHEN I
GET TO
FISH.

I KNOW
YOU'RE THINKING



ABOUT ME

"Lake Fork Crappie January 2026" (Continued from Page 8)

These are also available at Lake Fork Marina.

I don't know about you – but, I'm sure hoping for a milder winter this year (and a little less wind would be awesome!)

Looks like Lake Fork is being celebrated as one of the top crappie fishing destinations along with trophy bass. Lake Fork doesn't disappoint – even in January. You just need to pick a nice day – bundle up, grab some hand-warmers and your gear, the re-

wards are well worth braving the cold! Just keep thinking – Spring is just around the corner! Give me a shout if you want to get on the books for that excitement. You can reach

me at 903-335-0941. Also, you can follow along on my adventures on my Facebook page under Terri Moon – My best to you all and looking forward to seeing you in 2026!

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Around the World Word Find

See how many international cities you can find and circle throughout the puzzle below.

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Game Warden Field Notes

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

—Don't Fence Me In—

Local ranch managers notified local Polk County Game Wardens that an individual, well known in the area for stirring up trouble, trespassed on their property multiple times in the past few months. The landowner turned over footage from multiple game cameras showing the suspect riding through the property on a homemade ATV. Eventually, the ranch

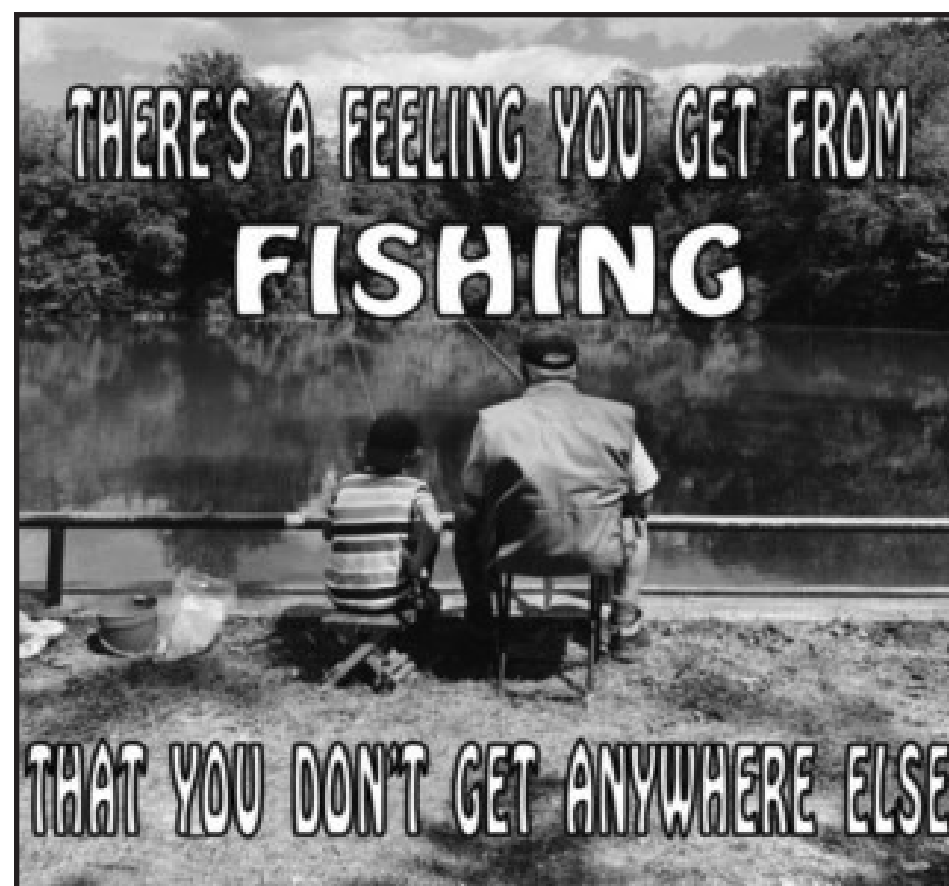
managers caught him in the act and tried to hold him at gunpoint. They were unsuccessful and the suspect fled into the woods, leaving behind his homemade ATV. Concerned the trespasser was utilizing the unusual route to deal drugs in a neighboring subdivision, one of the wardens drove to the suspect's home. Once there, he spotted the suspect outside with two other males. The warden requested backup from a county deputy since the suspect had a track record of fleeing law enforcement. When the deputy arrived, the sus-

pect was working on a vehicle in the yard. Together, they questioned the suspect, who stated he was unaware that he had been trespassing. The warden informed the suspect that he was trespassing because he crossed a fence as well as other barriers into a property that did not belong to him. The suspect was then arrested without incident and booked into the county jail. Case pending.

—What Happens in Vegas...—

Patrolling for wildlife violations, Harris County Game Wardens observed a

(Continued on Page 24)



Slow Cooking: The Solution For Fast-Paced Family Schedules

By Sue Hampton

If your family's schedule is hectic, a quick way to get a home-cooked meal on the table is to have a slow cooker do the work for you. During the day, the

moist heat in a slow cooker maximizes flavors and tenderizes less expensive cuts of meat into a delicious meal that's ready when your family gets home. One of the drawbacks of slow cook-

ers is that they are difficult to clean. Hours of soaking and scrubbing may be needed to remove the baked-on food. That's no longer a problem with Reynolds Slow Cooker Liners, which make cleanup a snap. Just place a liner in the cooker, add the ingredients, cover and set the controls. By dinner-time, a hot delicious meal is ready to serve. When you're done, just toss the disposable liner - no scrubbing or

soaking required.

Slow Cooker Chunky Beef Vegetable Soup

1 Reynolds Slow Cooker Liner
3 cups vegetable juice
2 cups hot water
1 pound beef for stew, cut in 1-inch cubes
8 cups frozen mixed vegetables
2 medium potatoes, peeled and cubed
1 small onion, chopped
¼ cup ketchup
3 tablespoons beef-

flavor instant bouillon
½ teaspoon pepper

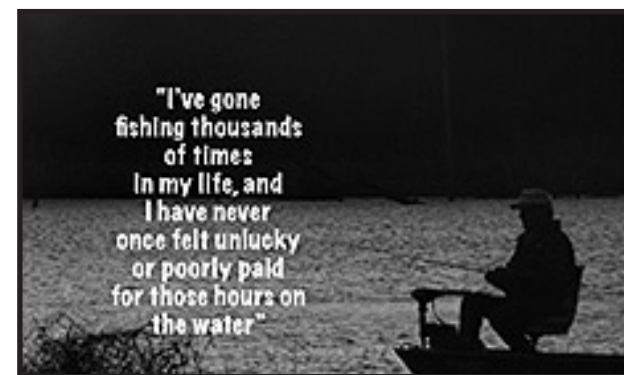
bowl. Add all ingredients. Cook until meat is tender.

Carefully remove lid to allow steam to escape and stir gently. Do not lift or transport liner with food inside. Cool slow cooker; remove liner and toss. Serves 8-9.

Place slow cooker liner inside a 5 to 6-1/2 qt. slow cooker bowl. Fit liner snugly against the bottom and sides of bowl; pull top of liner over rim of



You can save food preparation time by slowing down with a slow cooker!



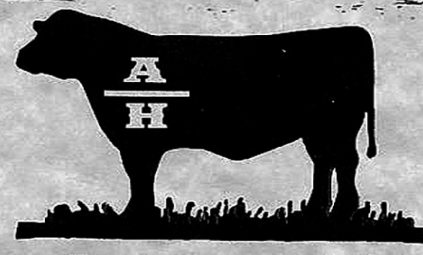

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Game Warden Field Notes (Continued from Page 22)

flashlight beam in the woods and a truck operating erratically on an adjacent private easement road. The wardens stopped the vehicle and contacted the driver. Wearing full camouflage, the driver exited the vehicle immediately with his hands up. What appeared to be a potential road hunting case quickly changed when the driver and their partner stated that they lived nearby and were investigating a prowler after an alert from their farm dogs. The wardens confirmed their house was located just 200 yards away from where the couple stopped. While interviewing the driver, a loaded revolver was located on the center console. A serial number check revealed that the pistol was stolen during a 2006 burglary in Las Vegas. The driver stated he couldn't remember if he was given the pistol or purchased it but denied any knowledge that it was stolen. With no independent charges to file or evidence that the driver was involved or had knowledge of the theft, the couple were released from the scene and the pistol was

seized for return to the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department.

—When Doves Cry— While patrolling late at night, a Bastrop County Game Warden heard multiple shots from a nearby property. As he arrived, a truck exited the property, and he initiated a traffic stop. He immediately recognized the driver as a convicted felon he had previously arrested twice. The driver admitted to multiple guns in the truck and claimed they belonged to the passenger. However, the passenger could not answer basic questions on the firearms like how many or what kind they were. The warden also recovered a fish shocker in the backseat and two freshly killed mourning doves in the bed of the truck. The individuals claimed the doves had somehow fallen out of a tree and into the truck. Altogether, the warden seized seven firearms, one shocking device and two mourning doves. Dispatch confirmed one of the firearms was stolen. The male subject was arrested for unlawful possession

of firearms by a felon and possessing a shocker within a half-mile from public water. The female passenger was arrested on 11 outstanding warrants.

—Where Everybody Knows Your Name— After assisting with a manhunt, a Falls County Game Warden was returning home when another vehicle changed lanes abruptly, almost striking his patrol vehicle. The warden initiated his emergency lights for a traffic stop but it took almost a mile for the driver to pull over to the shoulder. Upon contact, he noticed the driver was under the influence. During the standard field sobriety test, the driver asked several times if he could just be taken home or if someone could pick him up. The warden explained that the test revealed an absolute level of intoxication (three times the legal limit) and he was going to be arrested for driving while intoxicated. The driver became very emotional and sat down on the shoulder, refusing to be placed in the patrol vehicle. With the assistance of

(Continued on Next Page)

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a deputy, the warden spoke with the driver for a few minutes and the driver finally agreed to get in the deputy's patrol vehicle. Once at the jail, staff immediately recognized the driver. Just the week before, the driver had been arrested and released for another driving while intoxicated charge.

—Two Strikes and They're Out— During archery-only deer season, a Coke County game warden received a call from a local rancher concerned that his neighbor was hunting deer with firearms. The warden, who was enjoying the World Series at home on his day off, headed to the ranch. Once there, he set up a concealed area where he could observe any illegal hunting. Just after sundown, the warden heard a high-powered shot about 500 yards from his position. A minute later, he heard another shot. The warden waited, then made his way into the ranch to investigate. As he pulled up to the camp, two men and one woman were quartering two whitetail does. The men admitted to shooting the deer and showed the warden the rifles they used. They produced hunting

licenses with no tags removed and no harvest logs completed. The quartered deer were also missing proof of sex, which was later discovered in a ravine behind the cabin. The warden recovered both deer. Cases were filed, along with civil restitution.

—Catfish Surprise— Trinity County and Angelina County Game Wardens, along with a regional chaplain, patrolled the Neches River, checking for hoop nets. They located one containing about 22 catfish. With bad weather impending, the wardens surmised that the fisherman might check the net later that evening. The chaplain and a warden built a blind to watch for the fisherman's return. The other wardens strategically parked their patrol vehicles and waited. Approximately 40 minutes later, the team in the blind heard a truck pull up and park on the opposite side of the river. The fishermen exited the vehicle, grabbed a prebaited net and threw the net into the river. The net resembled the one found 50 yards away. Wardens initiated contact with the surprised fishermen from both sides of the river. Multiple cita-

tions for illegal means and methods were filed. Cases pending.

—No Ducks on the Pond— An employee with a mobile home park contacted Harrison County Game Wardens to report 18 duck carcasses in the park dumpster. Following a lead from the property manager, wardens identified and located the suspect. The suspect confessed that he attended a guided duck hunt and accepted ducks from two other hunters without a wildlife resource document. Following the hunt, the suspect threw the ducks in the bed of his truck and traveled elsewhere for another hunt the next day. Back at home, the suspect said he no longer felt like cleaning the ducks and threw them in the park dumpster. Multiple citations and warnings were issued for failing to keep ducks in edible condition, possession of ducks without a wildlife resource document, violation of daily bag limit of lesser scaup and over the limit possession. Civil restitution pending.

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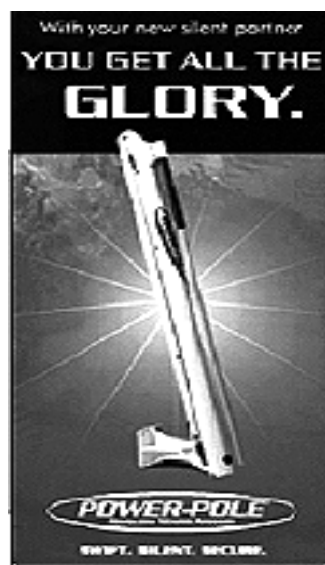
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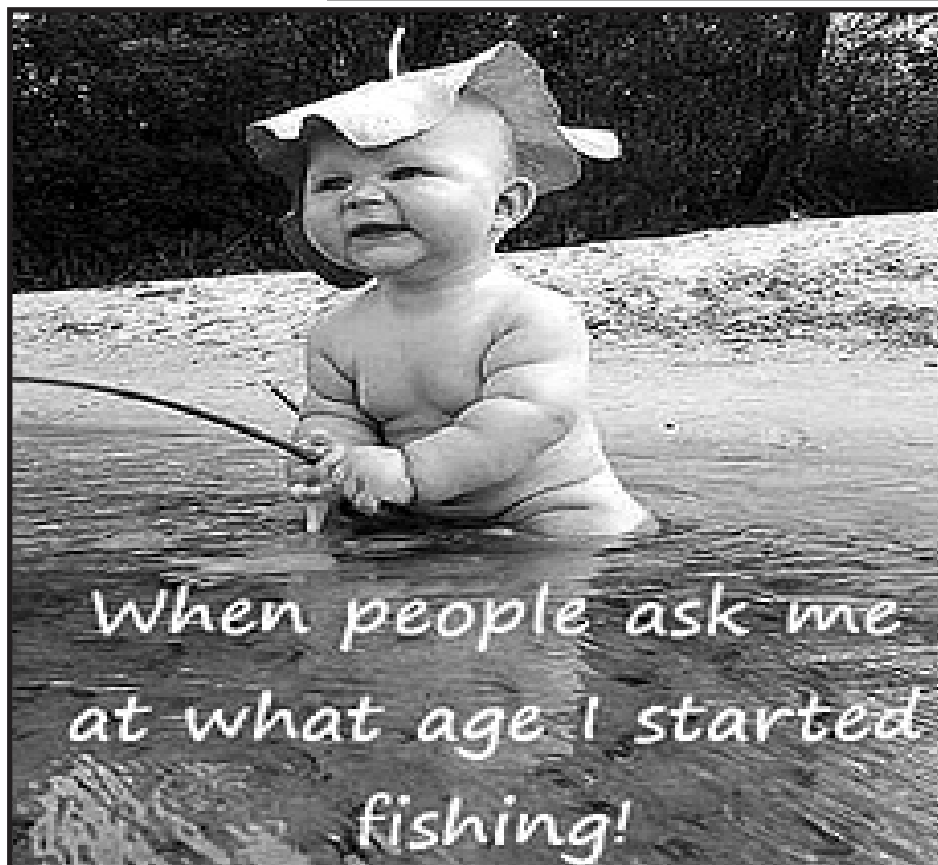
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