

LAKE FORK "The Big Bass Capital Of Texas"



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

"Lines To Get Hooked On"

1 Section

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Free

Vol. 27

April, 2026

No. 319



Dale Washington of Godley landed 13.38-pound ShareLunker 694 on Lake Fork Saturday afternoon February 28th.

Lake Fork Bumps ShareLunker Collection

"Every Legacy Class entry tells us something about the health and potential of a fishery, including the quality of its habitat and forage base," said Natalie Goldstrohm, TPWD coordinator for the Toyota ShareLunker program. "We're thrilled to see these

(See Lake Fork Bumps....
Continued on Page 5)



Lake Fork Tournament Fishing Competitor accused of cheating.

Cheaters Never Prosper

By Don Hampton



There was more activity at the 1st Annual Lake Fork Lure Tournament that is always watched for by all Tournament Directors

A Willow Park, Tex-
(See Cheaters Never....
Continued on Page 4)



Lake Fork guide Whitt Smith caught this lunker of a bass fishing Lake Fork. Weight not provided. C.P.R.



Austin from Lindale, Texas was fishing Lake Fork with guide Whitt Smith when he caught this really nice hawg. C.P.R.



Lake Fork guide Tom Evans was fishing on Lake Fork when he caught this really nice bass weighing 10.75-lbs. C.P.R.

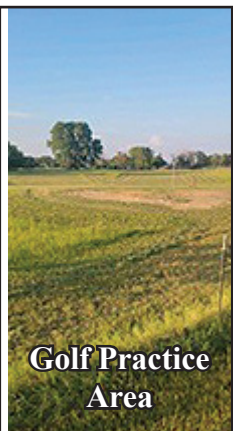
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"Goodness Snakes Alive!"

By: Don Hampton

When it comes right down to it Bubba is not the bravest man in the world, especially when it comes to snakes. Believing in the Bible and "The Good Lord" like he does he believes that those belly crawling, scaly, forked tongue critters are just evil. When it comes to a snake crossing Bubba's path, he would much rather choose a different direction or else go back the way he came at a very rapid pace. Bubba has probably choked more snakes with trail dust than he has killed with his shotgun. He hates snakes so much he has even passed up some of his favorite fishing holes because a snake was there and it takes a lot for him to do

something like that.

Now that you have an idea how Bubba feels about snakes, you can multiply that by ten and come up with how afraid Bubbette is of snakes. She won't even watch a television show where snakes are involved. She sees one in a movie and she is grabbing for the remote control faster than Bubba could run away from one.

Men are funny creatures though, and Bubba will be the first to laugh at himself. When women are present, men are always brave. For one reason or another, a man can mask his fear with so much macho bravado that women think of them as their sole protector. Such was the recent case of the snake on the flagpole.

Bubba had just left for

work and hadn't gone more than five miles from the house when his mobile phone rang. Bubbette was on the other end of the line in a panic. He couldn't understand a word she was saying in the first part of the conversation so he pulled his truck over to try and calm her down before proceeding any further down the road. He knew Bubbette was going to mow the yard while he was gone and the only thing he could figure out was that something was wrong with the riding lawn mower or else the house was on fire. It turned out to be neither.

When Bubba calmed Bubbette down enough so she could speak... all she could say was, "Snake, flag pole, snake, big snake, flag pole!!!" Bubba

knowing her like he does ciphered this out real well. He knew it was time for him to put on his macho brave hat and come to her rescue. Another thing that makes Bubba get brave when coming to Bubbette's rescue is he knows she will reward him with her delicious buttermilk battered fried chicken. Bubba will get real brave for some fried chicken.

Bubba got his courage up and told Bubbette he was coming back and would be right there to take care of the situation. He was not prepared for the sight he saw when he drove into his yard. All his fears of snakes were pushed aside by the comical scene

he was greeted with.

There was Bubbette standing on the seat of the lawnmower with his 410 shotgun in one hand and a hoe in the other. Bubba was smart enough on this occasion not to laugh.

When Bubba asked where the snake was, Bubbette would point first with the hoe and then with the shotgun. Bubba was pretty quick to relieve her of the shotgun and in all of his bravado thinking how those belly crawling, scaly, forked tongue critters are just evil, tracked the snake down and shot it. I guess he probably shot it about twelve to fifteen times. Bubba likes to do things right and this way

he figures he rid the world of a little evil.

Bubba walked back to Bubbette looking like the conquering hero returning from war with his gun on his shoulder. He probably would have been greeted as such if he hadn't said, "There ya go sug'dumplin... all taken care of! Oh yeah, what's for supper tonight and when you go to Wally World to pick up some chicken, will you get me some more shotgun shells?"

Well, she got him the shotgun shells in case any more snakes showed up, but I think he had bologna sandwiches that night!!

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Cheaters Never Prosper (Continued from Page 1)

as man was arrested Sunday, March 8th after Texas Parks and Wildlife Game Wardens said he altered the weight of a largemouth bass he caught at Lake Fork.

Curtis Lee Daniels, 45, of Willow Park, Texas was released Monday from the Wood County Jail on a \$20,000 bond on a charge of violating a fishing tournament and state law.

Daniels entered a largemouth bass in a Lake Fork fishing

tournament under the slot of 16" weighing 3.59-pounds. The size and weight of the female bass raised suspicion. A metal-detecting wand alerted staff to the potential presence of a foreign object, prompting organizers of the inaugural Lake Fork Lures Fishing Tournament to contact Texas game wardens. Game wardens performed a necropsy (cut the bass open) on the bass and dis-

covered the weights. The fish was found to have three 3/4-ounce fishing weights in its stomach; The same weights were also found in Daniels's boat. As one can tell from the photo on the front page, the bass was a female full of eggs soon to be hatched on the bed. This would also have an effect on the bass population of this great reservoir. The overall prize for the tournament would have been

over \$10,000, according to officials making the charge a Third Degree Felony Offense.

Daniels was charged with a Third Degree Felony and booked into Wood County Jail. Daniels could face up to 10 years in prison and \$10,000 in fines. Other penalties include license revocation and civil restitution, according to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

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Lake Fork Bumps ShareLunker *(Continued from Page 1)*

reservoirs contribute again in 2026. It's encouraging to watch that progression, and we appreciate the anglers who help us capture and celebrate these achievements."

Dale Washington of Godley landed 13.38-pound ShareLunker 694 at Lake Fork a day in March. This is his second overall Legacy Class catch. Washington submitted his first on April 10, 2007, 13.05-pound ShareLunker #436 from legendary Lake Fork. At the time, 13-plus-pound largemouth bass were picked up through the month of April by the program. Washington's 2007 ShareLunker was a recapture of a fish caught one year earlier by Robert Jones of Clute. Washington's first fish also set a record for the number of eggs from a single ShareLunker spawn, which was 50,697 in 2007.

Out on Lake Fork, Washington had been

fishing for three or four hours and had caught a few fish, but the bite wasn't great. Washington then decided to change things up a bit with his approach.

"It was around 2 p.m. and I decided I was going to try and fish a tree line," said Washington. "I'd been throwing a jig all day but decided I would pick up a chatterbait and literally on the second cast on this tree line, this fish hit it and the fight was on at that point. The fight was pretty phenomenal. Thankfully, I had it on braid because when it hit, it took off. I was fishing by myself and had a rough time getting my net on it because it was so big. I was finally able to get it in the net, put it in the bottom of the boat and I almost passed out at that point."

Washington knew it was well over 10 pounds but not exactly how heavy it was. He called a friend who was on another boat

to let him know about the catch and asked him to come to his location. They weighed the fish on Washington's scale and when it registered over 13 pounds, they headed to Lake Fork Marina to get a verified weight.

"The experience with the ShareLunker program was great," said Washington. "Natalie told me exactly what to do. We took really good pictures and they were there within an hour or hour and 15 minutes to collect the fish. I think you all [TPWD] have done a great job and I think Lake Fork is really on the comeback because it went through a little slump there. I think with the grass growing back the fish are really getting healthy again and you are starting to see a lot more eight, nine, ten, eleven-pound fish and hopefully some more 13 pounders and bigger. I think you all have done a great job."

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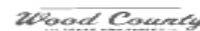
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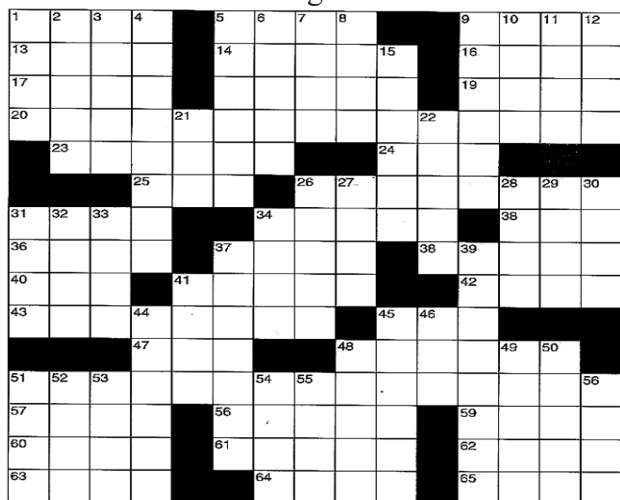
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"April is Upon Us!"

By Whitt Smith

April is upon us and it is the heart of the Bass spawn. The Full Moon and the New Moon cycles will usher in new waves of shallow Bass. April is a time to slow my roll. Bed fishing and shallow cover "dobbing" become the norm to



CLUES ACROSS

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Container for shipping | 38. Wrap |
| 5. Strikebreaker | 40. Wreath |
| 9. City in Northeastern Uruguay | 41. Pacific islands |
| 13. Basis for sauces | 42. Surfaced |
| 14. Trapped | 43. Points |
| 16. Slang term for "yes" | 45. Temporary military housing |
| 17. Impulse | 47. Gov't agency of U.S. |
| 18. More scarce | 48. 2000 Yankees vs. Mets contest* |
| 19. Rundown neighborhood | 51. "Constant as ____,"
Shakespeare |
| 20. Feeling of elation | 57. Halo |
| 23. A covered passageway | 58. Charles Brit author 1814-1884 |
| 24. Hole puncher | 59. City south of Moscow |
| 25. Decorate a cake with frosting | 60. Streetcar |
| 26. Branched | 61. Belgian city |
| 31. Missing soldiers | 62. October 15 and March 15 |
| 34. Awards | 63. Otherwise |
| 35. Edgar Wilson ____, American
Humorist | 64. Any habitation at a high altitude |
| 36. Competent | 65. French cookery |
| 37. Abnormal breathing | |

CLUES DOWN

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Leg shank | 31. Characteristic of a man |
| 2. Artery | 32. Wild mountain goat |
| 3. Fructose, for one | 33. Settled down |
| 4. Training by multiple reps. | 34. An account of incidents or
events |
| 5. Walk | 37. Wed again |
| 6. Wading bird | 39. Esthetic |
| 7. Affirm | 41. Melon, cucumbers, pumpkin |
| 8. About aviation | 44. Rechristen |
| 9. I | 45. Unbelief |
| 10. Like an eel | 46. Vase |
| 11. German physicist, Max ____ | 48. Passover feast and ceremony |
| 12. UK abbrev., "On Her
Majesty's Service" | 49. Opus |
| 15. Gentle | 50. Starchy food made of dried
orchid tubers |
| 21. Cavity | 51. ____ Gallery |
| 22. Type of cheese | 52. Throw forcefully |
| 26. Purposes | 53. Geological times |
| 27. Afresh | 54. Used for insect sterilization |
| 28. Japanese waist pouch | 55. Hurry |
| 29. An unfledged or nestling
hawk | 56. Tear down |
| 30. Sandy piece of seashore | |

Answers on Page 21

put big Lake Fork Bass in the boat.

For bed fishing, the good Ol' Texas Rig will do most of the work. I like to rig it by first placing a bobber stop on my Seaguar InvizX 20# line, then a 5/16 or 3/8 tungsten bullet weight and a 4/0- 5/0 straight shank hook. I usually put a craw style bait on it. If their nipping at it, I'll put a smaller one on or cut the bait down.

A Shakey Head craw/ baitfish bait or a Power Shot bat clean-up, some days.

The Power-Shot is just a heavy version of a drop-shot rigged on casting gear with heavier weight, bigger hook and bait and short leader.

A wacky worm and lightly weighted Fluke type bait can be magic casting around and near shallow cover this month. Somedays you'll have to fish SLOW and even slower to get bit. Toward the end of the month, a swim jig can be a real blue-chip player on outside grass lines and any bushes in the water.



April is usually the busiest month of the year here, so be careful, patient, respectful and have an enjoyable time on the World Famous Lake Fork. Good luck, and as always, reach out if I can be of any assistance.

If you are interested in booking a trip with me on Lake Fork, you can contact me at 972-743-2046 or go to my website [www.lakeforkbig-](http://www.lakeforkbig-bass.com)

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The Pierce Brothers, Michael Scherer to be Inducted into the Texas Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame

The Texas Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame has announced the inductees for the class of 2026 – the Pierce brothers (Clayton and late brother Jason) of Alba and Michael Scherer of Houston.

The Pierce brothers own and operate Lake Fork Taxidermy, which creates fish replicas for clients across the world, including replicas awarded to anglers who contribute Legacy Class fish to the Toyota ShareLunker Program. Scherer, program director of Fishing's Future, has shaped angler education throughout Texas with countless volunteer hours through TPWD's angler education program and a multitude of other groups and organizations.

"This year's inductees are incredible ambassadors when it comes to Texas freshwater fishing, and their achievements have had tremendous positive impacts for the sport of fishing worldwide," said Kelly Jordon, Texas Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame selection committee chairman. "The Pierce

brothers are innovators who revolutionized the taxidermy industry with their fish replicas—giving anglers something to commemorate their catch of a lifetime while promoting conservation. Michael has touched the lives of thousands of people through his work on educating anglers across the country and world. He has also been a champion for conservation and making sure we care for and are good stewards of the natural world. The Pierce brothers and Michael were resoundingly selected to be the 2026 inductees, and the Hall of Fame is proud to have them."

More than 30 years ago the Pierce brothers decided to follow their dreams and love of fishing by opening Lake Fork Taxidermy. The goal was to help anglers remember their special catches while at the same time help them become stewards of natural resources. Anglers had limited options for fish replicas when the Pierce Brothers arrived on

the scene with their new venture.

"From a very early age our dad was teaching us conservation," said Clayton Pierce. "We were kids fishing family ponds in Arkansas and always releasing the bass and only harvesting the bluegill and crappie. Releasing any fish infuriated my grandma, so imagine her shock when we started down this career path. It's been an honor to be a part of the many TPWD programs and projects over the years. My late brother, business partner of 32 years, and best friend Jason would be so proud today."

Anglers traveled from all over the country to Lake Fork in search of largemouth bass, and the Pierce brothers were there to help commemorate their catches. They spent countless hours with anglers showing them what quality replicas look like. They traveled to local marinas to measure fish and taught all hours of the day and night in their studio.

(See *Texas Freshwater Fishing...* Continued on Page 16)



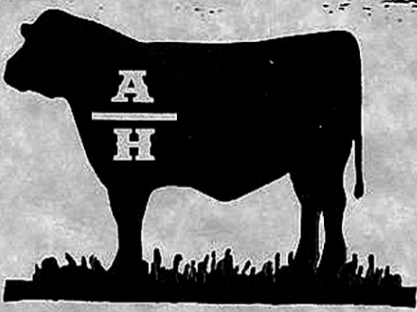
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"The Moon Report"

"Chasing April Crappie"

By Terri Moon

April on Lake Fork is something special. Its that time of year when everything feels alive again – the dogwoods are blooming, leafs are busting out – the days are getting longer and warmer causing the transition of the crappie to move shallow to spawn. The crappie spawn is "ALL" about water temperature. When you start seeing water temps in that 62-68 degree range, things get real in a hurry.

Typically, the spawn kicks off early in April on the north end and progresses south as the lake warms. But remember, they don't all spawn at once. You'll have: fish still staging in deeper water – fish moving up – fish already on beds – and, some that have already pulled back out. That's why April can feel like a roller coaster. One day your catching them in 2 ft. of water, and the next you're back out in 12 – 15 ft. chasing staging fish.

During the spawn, crappie are drawn to shallow cover near spawning flats. The key is finding areas close to deeper water where they can move in and out with changing conditions. Focus on: tree lines, brush piles, creek channels leading into pockets, bridge pilings and shallow structure.

Early in the month, I spend more time in 8 – 15 ft. of water along creek channels. As things progress, those fish



will slide up into 2–4 ft. when conditions are right. When you find them shallow, it can get exciting in a hurry!

April fishing on Fork is all about adapting. A warm sunny stretch will pull fish tight to the bank and shallow cover. But, let a cold front roll through, and those same fish will back off almost overnight. So, don't get locked into one depth. Wind, water clarity, and sunlight all play a role too. A little stained water and wind can actually help push fish shallow and make them easier to catch.

When it comes to spawning crappie, simple still wins: hand tied jigs like Skipper Baits, soft plastics like Lake Fork Tackle baits, and of course live minnows for when the fish are finicky. A slow presentation is key. These fish aren't always chasing – they're holding tight to cover, protecting beds, or staging near-by. Remember: April isn't always easy – you may have to move often –

check multiple depths, and fish through changing weather.

Whats exciting is getting to spend these spring days on the water in my new Skeeter Solera boat, that makes it much more enjoyable for me and for the folks fishing with me. The comfort and stability is off the chart!

I'm so thankful to be able to do what I love everyday, and I truly appreciate the support of great companies like Skeeter Products, Inc., Sartin Marine, Fish-Tech, and of course Lake Fork Marina, that help make those days on the water possible.

I hope you all get the chance to experience Forks spring-time excitement.

If you would like to book a trip, you can reach me at 903-335-0941. Also, you can follow my adventures on my Facebook page, along with seeing the 2026 Skeeter Solera 205, powered by a Yamaha 250. It's a beautiful sight!

Lake Fork's Patriot Sporting Challenge Event Returns to Honor Heroes

Annual charity event raises funds for fallen veterans and first responder families

The Patriot Sporting Challenge's event returns to East Texas on Saturday, May 30, 2026, bringing together caring people for a day of golf, casino games, and fun to support a noble cause. Since its inception in 2017, this all-volunteer charitable organization has raised over \$995,000 to support the families of fallen and severely wounded

military veterans and first responders.

To quote Tom Keenan, owner of The Links at Land's End: "It's a unique opportunity for you to have some FUN all while supporting a great cause—our heroes!"

A Day of Golf, Chips, and Fun

The Lake Fork Challenge consists of a one-day competition where teams of four compete in a 4-person scramble golf format at The Links at Land's

End, with a shotgun start at 8:15 a.m. Following the golf competition, all team participants and their spouses gather for a "Celebration of Patriotism" at the Neon Moon, opening at 2:30pm. The party accentuates "fun" involving casino games (blackjack, Texas Hold'em, craps and roulette,) Sporting Boards and Spinning Wheel of Fortune. The day's experience is accentuated by a

(See Lake Fork's Patriot... Continued on Page 11)



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18th Annual Lake Fork Mega Bass Presented by BassChamps

By Don Hampton

If you catch a mega bass in this tournament, you will take home mega bucks.

The 18th Mega Bass Big Bass Tournament presented by BassChamps will be held on Lake Fork on April 12th and hosted out of Lake Fork Marina. This tournament is the

highest pay-outs one day tournament in the country.

Fifteen places per hour and a Skeeter Boat is guaranteed regardless of the number of entries.

First place in each hour for the heaviest bass pays \$15,000, second place \$2,000, third place \$1,000, fourth place \$900, fifth place \$800,

sixth place \$700, seventh place \$600, eighth place through fifteenth pays \$500. If you purchase A \$20 Bonus Card it pays additional \$250 to the highest two finishers with a card every hour. There is an ad-

ditional pay out during the tournament for exact weight bass brought to the scales. For the first 2.5-pound exact weight pays \$500, for a 3-pound exact weight pays \$500, for the first 9-pound bass \$500 and for the first 10-pound bass \$500.

For the angler that catches the big bass of the tournament not only will that angler take home \$15,000 in cash but also a new 2026 Skeeter ZX200. For the heaviest bass under the slot weighed in during the tournament that angler will be taking home the hourly prize money plus a new Kubota Sidekick. Weigh-ins will be on the half hour beginning at 8.

Lake Fork is fishing really good, and the lake is only around three feet low from full pool. (See 18th Annual Lake Fork.....)

Continued on Page 21)

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Lake Fork's Patriot Sporting Challenge Event Returns to Honor Heroes *(Continued from Page 9)*

party atmosphere with dinner included. Several supporters involved for their first time last year commented, "I have never seen anything like this and I had an absolutely great time."

The event is limited to 128 participants, with a Patriot Team Entry Fee of \$1,000 for four players. Major medal sponsorship opportunities are also available as well as hole sponsorships, event prizes, flag/sign sponsors, and even corporate matching funds.

As one of our sponsors observed: "The Patriot Sporting Challenge embodies everything we believe in: community, service, and the great outdoors. It's an honor to support an event that unites people to uplift the lives of those who've given everything to keep us safe."

Supporting Heroes and Their Families

The Lake Fork Challenge is a unique concept which in

turn benefits the families of this nation's heroes: veterans and first responders. Proceeds from the 2026 event will benefit several organizations including the following:

Heroes Ranch in Quitman, Texas, which provides outdoor family adventures for injured, ailing, wounded, or disabled heroes

Purple Heart Homes, which provides housing, repairs, and support for veteran and first responder families

Marine Corps League, which also provides daily support for veterans and their families

Camp Agave, which supports children dealing with bereavement and recovery from the loss of a loved one.

Patriot Sporting Challenge proudly sponsors up to (5) children of fallen services members thru Camp Agape's program providing meaningful recovery and support to these grieving children.

Each of these organizations provides invaluable support for heroes who have served and protected the freedoms we all enjoy every day.

"Almost all of these funds stay inside Texas, especially with our support of Heroes Ranch" said Cody Roberson, Executive Director of the Patriot Sporting Challenge Board of Directors.

Grassroots Organization Makes Big Impact

Patriot Sporting Challenge is an all-volunteer 501(c)3 organization founded by East Texas residents passionate about supporting military veterans and first responders.

"I've seen all the different veterans we've worked with that have come out to Heroes Ranch and experience their trophy hunt or catch a trophy bass. I've seen all the smiles on their faces," Roberson reflected. "Just watch-

(Continued on Next Page)

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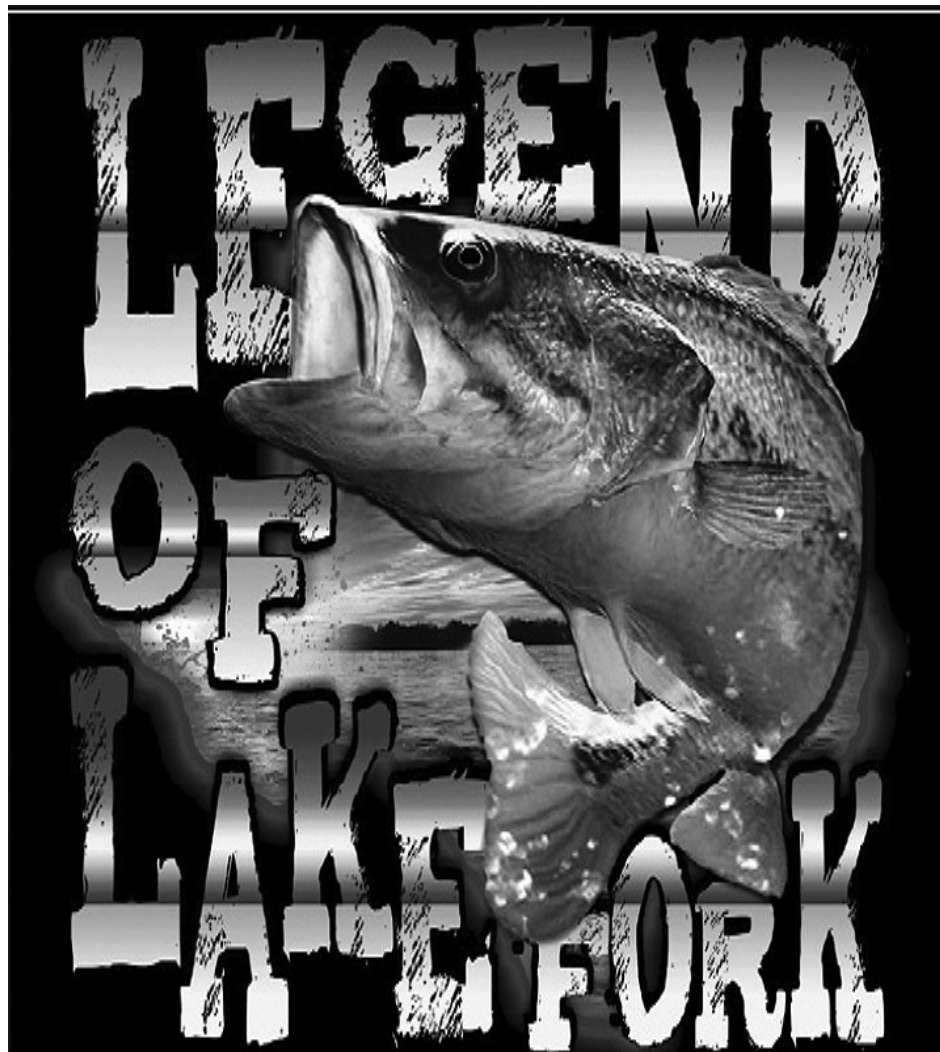
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ing somebody go from a mental state of depression-level to elated excitement, almost a 180-degree turn in personality and demeanor, in such a short period of time because they were outdoors is incredible."

Beyond its charitable mission, the Patriot Sporting Challenge has become an important economic driver for the region, attracting visitors from across Texas and beyond to experience this unique event.

How You can Get Involved

For those interested in forming a Patriot Team, being a Major Medal

sponsor, supporting the event at any level, or willing to volunteer, contact the organization through any of the following methods.

- Visit the website at PatriotSportingChallenge.org
- Email PatriotSportingChallenge@gmail.com
- Call or text 830-385-1412
- Mail registration form and check payable to: Patriot Sporting Challenge, PO Box 205, Yantis, TX 75497

As the event enters its eighth year, the organization remains focused on their core mission: honor-

ing the sacrifice of American heroes by providing tangible support to those they left behind.

"No battle is fought alone," the organization's materials remind supporters. In Northeast Texas, that sentiment has translated into hundreds of thousands of dollars raised and countless lives touched through the generosity and dedication of all its supporters. You have no idea how important your support is, you can make a difference! JOIN US ON MAY 30th, HAVE FUN ALL WHILE SUPPORTING A GREAT CAUSE!

(Photos Next Page)



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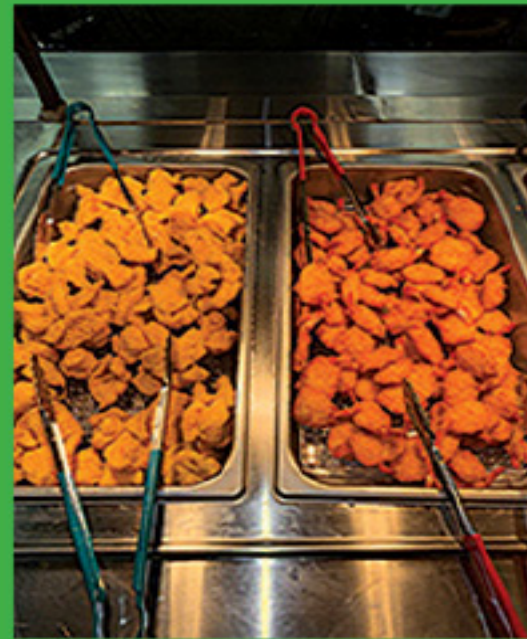
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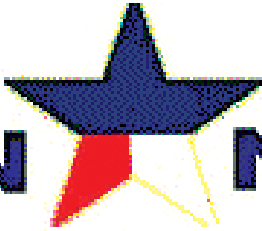
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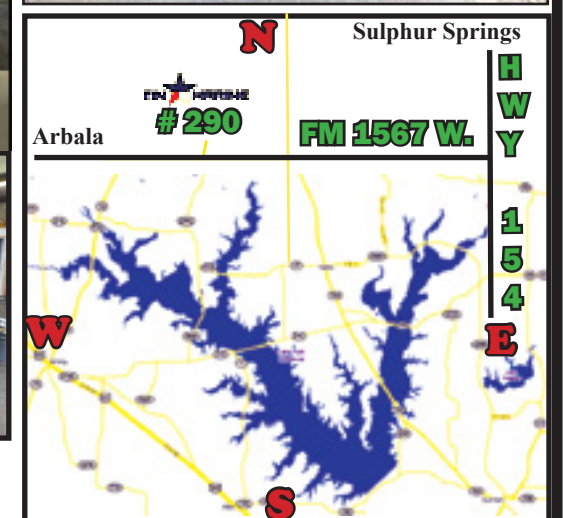
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Barry Emerson was fishing on Lake Fork when he caught this really nice bass weighing 10.12-lbs. C.P.R.



Barry Emerson was fishing on Lake Fork with guide Danny Holder when he caught this really nice bass weighing 10.28-lbs. C.P.R.



Lake Fork guide Whitt Smith was fishing on Lake Fork on 3/18 when he caught this over the 24" slot, bass weighing 9.46-lbs. C.P.R.

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Texas Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame *(Continued from Page 7)*

The Pierce brothers' philanthropic efforts extended to a multitude of charities and organizations. They donated fish replicas to patients at St. Jude Hospital and the Make a Wish Foundation along with young anglers at Camp Bass. The Pierce brothers also provided donations and auction items for projects at the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center.

They conducted seminars on fish replicas at bass clubs and boat shows, and fish replica painting seminars through the Texas Taxidermy Association. The brothers have also played an integral role in the emergence of catch and release and fish conservation in Texas. In total, they have aided in the return of more than 20,000 fish to the water thanks to collaborating with anglers for fish replicas.

"Supporting Texas fisheries has always been a part of who we are at Lake Fork Taxidermy, whether it be making replicas for the Texas Freshwater Fish-

eries Center or the Toyota ShareLunker program, it's just part of who we are, but it's nice to be recognized," said Pierce. "It always seemed like such a shame to see those big bass harvested for skin mounts and not released for someone else to catch. That's why we really worked hard to make such beautiful replica mounts that look better and last longer. It saved big bass for others. We didn't fully realize how much of an impact our work would have on conserving Texas' big bass. We just knew it was the right thing to do."

Michael Scherer is the program director of Fishing's Future, which has a mission to reconnect youth to family, strengthen family relationships, reconnect families to nature and teach environmental stewardship. Additionally, the program aims to increase awareness for the protection, conservation and restoration of the nation's aquatic natural re-

sources and increase participation in recreational angling.

Throughout his life, Scherer has strived to be a good steward of the environment. This can be seen through his involvement in Scouting America's 'Leave No Trace' program. It is also apparent in his volunteer work with local school districts.

"I'm still kind of numb from receiving the call from Kelly Jordon, chairman of the Texas Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame selection committee," said Scherer. "I do not do this work for me. It's always for families, teachers and students. When I took the call, my mind started racing. It was like somebody noticed what I was doing. Maybe something I said at a presentation or changed somebody's life or career path. You just don't think like that because you don't think about yourself or the word 'me.' It's about everybody else."

In 2014, he worked with the Hutsell Elementary *(See Texas Freshwater Fishing.... Continued on Page 20)*



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

By Don Hampton
LFSA President

It was an active month for the Lake Fork Sportsman Association. We would like to welcome our newest members, Tim Weaver and Lesa Waggoner. They have already volunteered at our various functions to assist in 'Protecting, Preserving, and Promoting' the Legend that is Lake Fork.

During the month of March our booth and volunteers were present at the Lake Fork Lure Tournament and

the Annual Crappie Fest. At both events we welcomed all residents and visitors. We also explained how the association works for the future of our great reservoir. With the greet-

ing the association is selling raffle tickets for some great prizes. The sponsors help the LFSA to accomplish the great things they do for the lake.

The Sportsmans As-

sociation awarded Billy Sartin, Sartin Marine, a Lifetime Membership in recognition of outstanding recognition of outstanding assistance, service, and contribution to the LFSA.

The Lake Fork Sportsmans Association has their meetings the second Tuesday of the month beginning at 6:30 pm at Jamie's Restaurant located at Lake Fork Marina.

Rods, reels, tackle and fishing equipment is needed to support the High School Fishing Program.



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"

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Needs Your Help!!!

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

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



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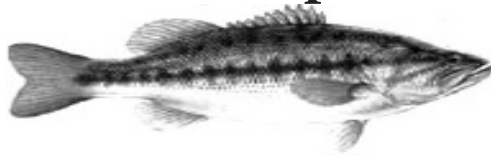
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Lake Fork Tournament Schedule Apr. thru June 2026



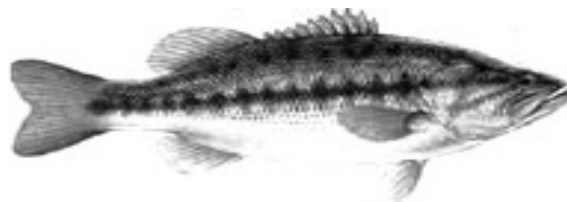
April

Apr. 4 ~ JC Outdoors Solo
Minnow Bucket
Apr. 12 ~ Mega Bass, BassChamps
Lake Fork Marina
Apr. 25 ~ JC Outdoors Teams
Minnow Bucket



May

May 2~ JC Outdoors Team
Minnow Bucket
May 15,16,17 ~ Legend of Lake Fork
Lake Fork Marina
May 20 ~ JC Outdoors Teams
Minnow Bucket



June

June 5 - 7 ~ Skeeter Owners
Lake Fork Marina
June 6 ~ KidFish
SRA Headquarters
June 6 ~ JC Outdoors Solo
Minnow Bucket
June 20 ~ JC Outdoors Teams
Minnow Bucket



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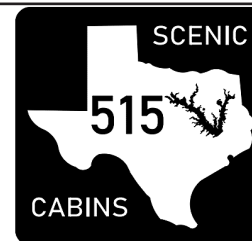
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Texas Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame *(Continued from Page 16)*

School Council to launch the Green Hornets group, which meets four times a year to learn about water issues and conduct a park cleanup. The catalyst for this initiative was a day of fishing that captured



more trash and fishing line than fish at a local community park. Scherer went on to write an instructional guide for anglers entitled "Prevent Monofilament from Becoming the Next Invasive." The guide provides instructions for how to build, install and manage monofilament fishing line collection tubes so that the line may be recycled. The guide is being used across the nation in programs, clubs and colleges.

In 2016, Scherer started the 2nd CASTSolutions program, which collects used fishing tackle and gear that is refurbished, cleaned up and issued to families and other groups to help advance the sport of fishing. He also piloted a program called "First Catch Centers" in conjunction with Fishing's Future and the Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation that brings additional educational fishing opportunities to families.

Scherer teaches angler education events with Fis

training more than 1,200 angler education instructors and contributing more than 8,000 volunteer hours. Scherer has taught more than 1,100 freshwater fishing classes, reaching more than 43,400 youth and nearly 31,000 adults.

"Teaching people how to fish and getting text messages that read 'I didn't catch a fish, we caught a fish!' is what's most rewarding to me," said Scherer. "That's the driving point of everything that I have ever done. It is all about the family and making sure they get out there together."

Scherer has coined the saying, "Teaching today, to catch one tomorrow", which embodies his mission to educate anglers of all ages. For his efforts in teaching others the basics of fishing and stewardship, Scherer received TPWD's Sapphire Award in 2024 and has been honored with the President's Lifetime Achievement Award for Volunteer Service.

"I think what comes to my mind on being inducted into the Hall of Fame is that I need to do more," says Scherer. "I'm overjoyed and deeply honored for my name to be going up on a wall with people that mean the world to me and who helped me grow — my heroes and mentors. That wall is a massive food web of giving, teachable skills, stewardship, giving back, and conservation. That wall is dedicated to individuals who have changed lives and I still haven't been able to fathom that yet. My family and every person I have ever educated, tied a knot with, or caught a fish with are going to be up there with me on that wall. My family today will see me with my heroes, and when my grandkids visit the Hall of Fame, they are going to say, 'That's my Pops.' I just can't get over that, right now, every time I think about it. It's such an incredible honor to be recognized for something that you were just doing because it is how I share my passion."

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ing's Future across the United States. He was certified as a TPWD Angler Education Instructor in 2011, hand, during the COVID-19 pandemic, Scherer adapted the traditionally in-person program into an interactive online experience, which allowed angler education and TPWD certification workshops to continue to be offered. He has conducted more than 100 angler education in-



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18th Annual Lake Fork (Continued from Page 10)

All ramps on the lake are accessible, and anglers will not have any problem getting to their favorite fishing hole.

If you haven't entered online early, on-site registration times will be on Friday April 10th from 5

to 7 pm; on Saturday April 11th from 12 to 7 pm; and on Sunday April 12th from 5 am to 6 am. On sight registration will be held at Lake Fork Marina

the tournament headquarters.

For more information check out the ad on page 28 or go to their website at basschamps.com.

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Grammar Find

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

- | | |
|-------------|-----------|
| APOSTROPHE | PHRASE |
| CLAUSE | PREDICATE |
| COLON | PUNCTUATE |
| CONJUNCTION | SENTENCE |
| OBJECT | SUBJECT |
| PARAGRAPH | SYNTAX |
| PERIOD | TENSE |

X A T E N S E N T E N S
 E P R E C N N E T N E S N
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 N E T A C I D E R P E T
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Game Warden Field Notes

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

—Montgomery County Landowner Ruffles Feathers with Case of Mistaken Identity—Texas Game Wardens received reports from a caller saying they witnessed a bald eagle shot in Montgomery County. The warden spoke to the land-owner who admitted to shooting a hawk that had been harassing his chickens. While searching the property, the warden discovered an injured bald eagle hidden underneath a tarp. The landowner confessed to shooting the

eagle and said he planned to try to fix its wing. The game warden seized the eagle and transported it to a veterinary hospital, where it was evaluated and prepped for surgery to try to repair its broken wing and gunshot wound. Despite best efforts, the eagle ultimately had to be euthanized. After completing the initial investigation, Texas Game Wardens turned the case over to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), which will inquire into the situation further and file necessary charges. "While we never like to see an incident like this occur, we appreciate the caller's prompt actions

in reporting the violation so Texas Game Wardens could investigate and try to give the eagle its best chance at survival," said Col. Ronald VanderRoest, TPWD Law Enforcement Director. "We are grateful for our partnership with the USFWS who will help in the prosecution of this crime and hopefully prevent violations of this nature from occurring in the future."

—Mule Deer Mishap—A Crockett County Game Warden received a call from a ranch hand in Pecos County reporting two hunters illegally harvesting mule deer. The ranch

(Continued on Page 24)



Standard 12V 15AH 1500mAh	
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Discharging Current	10A
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"Add a Spicy Twist to Easter Meals1"

By Sue Hampton

Easter unofficially marks the beginning of the spring season. Brave tulips push their way through the soil

as birds once again return to their roosts. A time for family and fresh starts, Easter celebrations involve looking ahead to warm weather and

gathering around the table to share good experiences. Glazed ham is a popular menu item and often is a favorite.

For a rebirth of flavor, try a new twist on your traditional ham. Jalapeno peppers give just the right amount of zest to the following dish!

JALAPENO HONEY-GLAZED HAM

(Serves 8)

1 - 8 to 10 pound boneless smoked ham, cooked
 ½ cup honey
 ½ cup brown sugar
 ¼ cup bourbon

1 to 2 tablespoons minced fresh jalapeno pepper, or to taste
 2 teaspoons dry mustard
 1 teaspoon ground cloves
 8 to 15 whole cloves

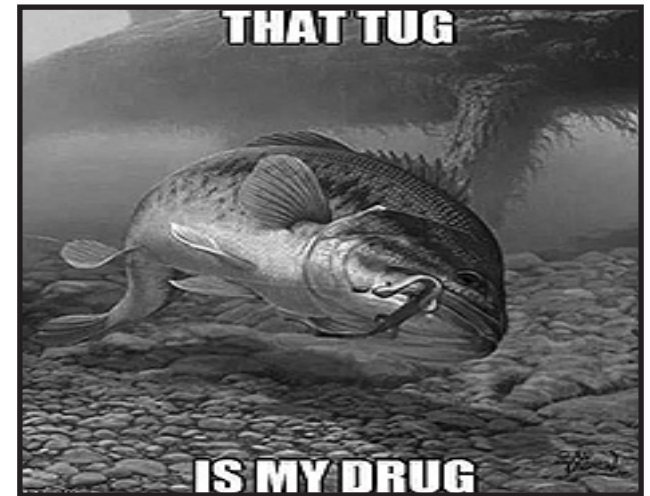
Heat the ham according to the package directions. Remove the ham from the oven 30 minutes before it is done. Score the outside of the ham with a sharp knife in a diamond pattern ¼ inch deep and about 1 inch apart. Combine the honey, brown sugar, bourbon, jalapeno

pepper, dry mustard and ground cloves. Mix well and brush over the outside of the ham. Stick a whole clove in the center of each diamond. Continue baking the ham for 30 minutes, bast-

ing frequently. Let the ham stand at room temperature 10 to 15 minutes before slicing. We are wishing each of you a blessed Easter from our family to yours!



Add a unique flavor to your Easter ham. Jalapeno peppers incorporated into the glaze add a spicy flair to this traditional Easter meal!





Alexander's Meat Market

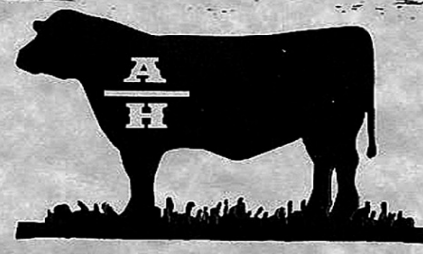
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Game Warden Field Notes (Continued from Page 22)

in question operates under the Managed Lands Deer Program, allowing for extended seasons for white-tailed and mule deer. Hunters could legally harvest white-tailed deer by any lawful means at that time, but mule deer could only be harvested by lawful archery equipment until Nov. 2. The ranch hand reported that the two hunters, who were instructed to shoot only white-tailed deer, had shot two mule deer bucks with modern firearms. Crockett County and Brewster County Game Wardens responded the next day to interview the hunters, who admitted to shooting the bucks at last light when they saw antlers in the brush. They claimed they mistook the mule deer for white-tailed deer and took the shots as soon as the deer stood up. The wardens seized both bucks and issued citations for unlawful means and methods, warnings for taking mule deer out of season and the hunters were charged civil restitution for the two bucks.

–Not the "Reel" Deal– A Bowie County Game Warden received a call about an individual claiming to be an undercover game warden working the Wright Patman

Lake Spillway. The caller said the supposed warden was checking fish and fishing licenses and commenting on the legality of fish being kept. The caller was able to provide a description of the individual and a license plate number registered in Arkansas. Before Bowie County wardens, working with Arkansas Game Wardens, could visit the suspect's house, however, the original caller reached out again to say the supposed warden was back at the spillway, making the same claims. A warden immediately headed to the spillway, where he observed the suspect in action and wearing law enforcement gear, though he was unarmed. As the suspect was heading back to his vehicle, the warden intercepted him for questioning. The man denied all claims, stating he was there because he worked for a road construction company. After getting statements from witnesses, the warden obtained an arrest warrant for the suspect who later turned himself in. Charges are pending.

–Baiting and Blasting– An Atascosa County Game Warden was monitoring a property where illegal hunt-

ing activity was suspected. After hearing several shotgun blasts, the warden entered the property and discovered two men hunting dove over bait. It was during a special white-wing only season and only two mourning doves were allowed per hunter. The hunters were intentionally over their limit of mourning dove and were still actively hunting when the warden arrived. While investigating the incident, the warden looked through feed sacks in the bed of a truck. He was surprised to discover two cleaned out, untagged jake Rio Grande turkeys in an empty feed sack. One hunter admitted to shooting them earlier in the day and had asked the second hunter to dispose of the carcasses, which he had not yet done. The hunters were issued citations for killing turkeys out of season, exceeding the daily bag limit of mourning doves, placing bait to attract and hunting over bait. The illegally taken game was seized and donated. Cases and civil restitution are pending.

–Red Snapper Snag– Calhoun County and Victoria (Continued on Next Page)

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2-YEAR-OLD
WHOSE BLANKIE
IS IN THE WASHER.

County Game Wardens conducted an offshore patrol out of Port O'Connor aboard the PV Birmingham to detect undocumented federal charter boats along the nine-mile line. During a routine water safety and fisheries inspection, they found a recreational vessel illegally in possession of 11 red snapper in federal waters during the federal closure. The red snapper were measured and photographed for evidence before being donated to those in need.

–Hook, Line, and Felony– Amarillo District Game Wardens were patrolling Southeast Park Lake in Randall County when they observed a man fishing from a dock. As they approached, the man and his female companion quickly attempted to leave the area. When questioned, the man admitted he didn't have a fishing license. While running his information through dispatch, wardens learned the man had a felony parole violation warrant. They arrested him without incident and transported him to the Randall County Jail. After the man was booked into jail, wardens returned to their patrol truck and checked the passenger seat where the man had

been sitting. One of the wardens discovered three plastic baggies that had been stuffed into the lower portion of the seat, containing approximately 20 grams of a crystal substance that appeared to be methamphetamine. Upon questioning the man, he admitted to having previously used methamphetamine but claimed his girlfriend had placed them in his possession. The man was charged with possession of a controlled substance and tampering with physical evidence in addition to the parole violation.

–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 land-owners' family were amazed how situation 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.

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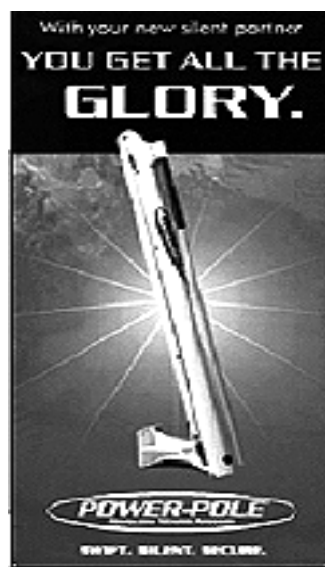
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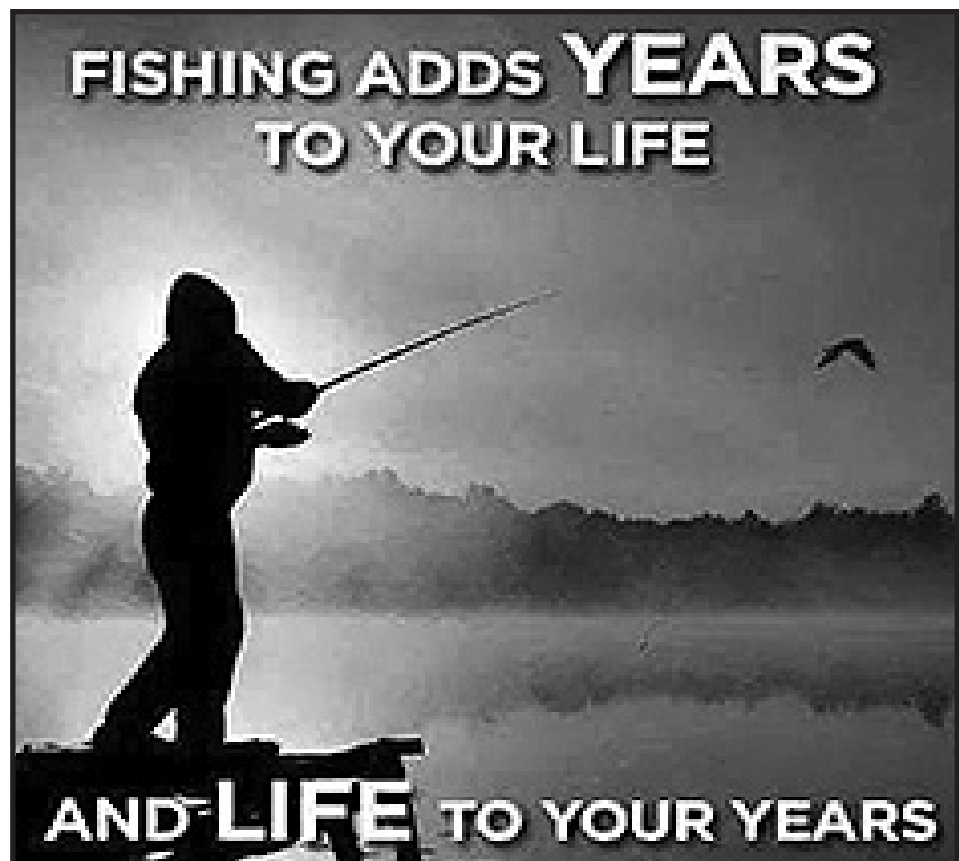
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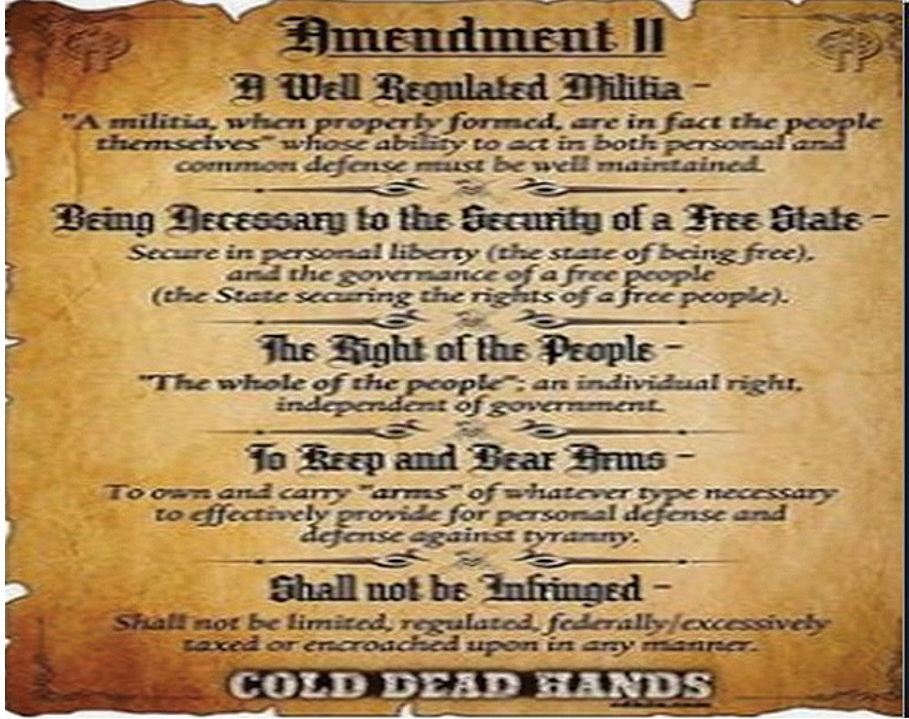
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