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1 Section

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No. 321



Shane Smith from Texarkana, TX., won heaviest bass in the 21st Annual Legend of Lake Fork Big Bass Tournament with this 10.50-pound bass winning him \$40,000 plus hourly cash payout.



Tim Bolton from Yantis, TX., won heaviest bass under the 16" in the 21st Annual Legend of Lake Fork Big Bass Tournament with this 2.57-pound bass winning him \$30,000 plus hourly cash payout.



Royce Farmer, Sr. from Ft. Worth, TX., was a very happy man for getting his entry in early for the Legend Tournament. For his name being drawn in the early incentive he won \$20,000 to be happy for.



"Prayers for Larron Tenorio!" He is a dedicated angler in Legend Tournaments and a Vietnam Vet. Larron had a vehicle accident in Arkansas coming to the tournament and broke his spine. Operation was a success on Tuesday 5/19 and is now in recovery. Bless you my friend.



Dewayne Lingle from Grand Cane, LA, was the first fish over weighing 9.59-lbs. during the 7-8 o'clock hour on Friday.



Randall Lee with grandson Miles Wilson from Stuttgart, AR, weighed in this 8.09-lb. bass in the 7-8 o'clock hour on Friday.



Ethan Vestal from Canton, TX, weighed in this 7.04-lb. bass during the 10-11 o'clock hour on Friday.

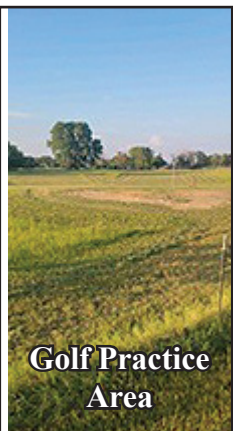
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"Hats Off To Bubba & Hats Off'ed By Bubbette"

By: Don Hampton

Bubbette has always liked decorative borders around the top of the walls where it joins with the ceiling. Bubba does too! It is just their definitions of an attractive border are two worlds apart!

When Bubba and Bubbette first met, the borders in her house were a pretty shade to match the carpet with just darling little flowers and butterfly prints throughout. Bubba's was 463 baseball caps lining the wall throughout the house. These caps lined the ceiling joints throughout his three-bedroom house. These caps, side by side, lined the living room into the kitchen, down the hall into the bedrooms and the bathrooms. No space at the top of any wall was blank. Before he moved, it took him a week to fill the nail holes and repaint the walls.

At first Bubbette pretended to like this macho decoration of Bubba's, but we know the real truth because Bubba is no longer in charge of interior decorating and his cap collection is minimal.

Bubba had a cap that advertised businesses, products, festivals, carnivals, you name it he had a cap for it. If he'd worn most of them he could have gone for years without being seen in the same cap twice. But, we all know what the largest majority of the caps had on them! That is right, fish!

Bubba had a cap for the kind of hooks he used, the lures, the line, the type of boat he had, the motor, his bass clubs, you name it! If it was fishing related, he had a cap that had something to say about it. I think he was hoping fishing tournaments would start being double-headers!

Bubba's love for caps began at an early age when he would push his little cap down over his eyes pushing his ears out so far it was comical and walk to the pond catching grasshoppers with a cane pole over his shoulder. He uses much more expensive items than a cane pole now, but he still occasionally catches grasshoppers to fish with and his love for a cap has never diminished, especially since his hair has begun to!

Bubba has had a lot of people try to discourage him from wearing caps all of the time. (You will not see Bubba without a cap on.) Most would use the old "cliché" wearing a cap would make you lose your hair sooner. Well, Bubba had seen pictures of his ancestors in the photo albums and knew his hair was doomed with heritage. He knew without a doubt his hair might go

but baseball caps would always be around. The way he feels about this is, his fishing caps displaying his favorite lures, rods, lines, fish or whatever he has on them, looks a lot better than some of the wigs and toupee's he has seen some guys wear. To his way of thinking a toupee is a cap without a brim and besides it probably sheds and don't let the dog get hold of it. Bubba's remark on this one was, "I take my cap off for the National Anthem, Pledge of Allegiance, prayer and when I go to church. I think it would be funnier than all get-out if they had to take off their little hairy cap!" I have to agree with him on

this one, it would be funny.

As for the hair implants, he has seen some of those that his friends got at the place he calls "Hair R Us". He thinks those resemble hair on old dolls belonging to his daughter he had to throw away. They shed too! He doesn't like the "Hair R Us" definition of "Plugs". To his way of thinking the only plugs in his life are the ones good for fixing a flat or topwater baits. To Bubba's way of thinking, this seems painful and expensive when really all they need is to get a cap.

Bubba's inventory in the cap department has really been depleted since his marriage to Bubbette. Her interior decorating does not allow for Bubba's cap

collection as a ceiling border. Not to be remorseful, Bubba is understanding. Even though Bubbette still collects her ceramic angels, he can't have a cap collection. Now he is limited to just a few and if the number begins to grow in the collection, somehow certain ones seem to disappear. "Funny how things happen that way." All of that is fine with Bubba because now he has a new hobby that Bubbette can't get to when it's locked up in his boat! That's collecting "Fishing Stuff"!!

"Hats off to Bubba" now has a complete new meaning for him. To Bubba it means Bubbette has off'ed all his caps in a garage sale.

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22nd Annual Legend of Lake Fork Big Bass Tournament

By Don Hampton

Excitement ran high over Lake Fork at the 21st Annual Legend of Lake Fork Big Bass Tournament.

Over 680 anglers representing 19 states converged on Lake Fork. A few of the states represented were Nebraska, Colorado, Washington, Wisconsin, Florida, Georgia, Alabama, Iowa, Kentucky, Indiana, North Carolina, and New Mexico. One angler even flew in from Alaska to fish the tournament.

Lake Fork being a slot lake, meaning anything between 16" and 24" cannot be brought to the weigh-in, the tournament rule is no bass can touch 16". The reason for this rule is not only to protect the anglers but also because we give a grand prize away for the heaviest under 16".

With all the sudden thunder storms that have

happened as of late all were worried about the weather's effect. God was good to us and the weather stayed nice, only the strong winds were a hazard. Anglers reported a lot of bass being caught in the slot but as we all know, they are great to catch but do not help in a Lake Fork tournament. It was disappointing for the anglers that brought those slot fish to the scales and had to learn that DQ in a tournament does not stand for Dairy Queen

On Friday there were seven bass over the slot of 24" brought to the scales. In the first hour, 7 to 8 o'clock, two overs were brought to the scales. Dewayne Lingle from Grand Cane, Louisiana weighed in a 9.59-pound bass. Also, in that hour Randall Lee with his grandson Miles Wilson from Stuttgart, Arkansas weighed in an 8.09-pound. In the 10 to 11 o'clock hour Ethan Vestal from Canton, Texas weighed a 7.04-pound only to be

bumped to second place when Shane Smith weighed a 10.50-pound bass. In the 11 to 12 o'clock hour Thomas Bates from Jessieville, Arkansas weighed in an 8.68-pound bass. In the 12 to 1 o'clock hour Tyler Dennis from Mesquite, Texas weighed in a 6.91-pound. In the 1 to 2 o'clock hour Garrett Golden from Avinger, Texas weighed in a 7.89-pound bass.

On Saturday there were three over the slot bass brought to the weigh in. It began in the 8 to 9 o'clock hour. In this hour Jeff Jones from Yantis, Texas weighed in a 10.04-pound bass. The next over the slot bass was weighed in during the 12 to 1 o'clock hour by Robert Davis from Crowley, Texas and weighed 7.38-pounds. In the 1 to 2 o'clock hour Jason Jones from Cooper, Texas weighed in a 7.43-pound bass.

On Sunday there were four overs weighed

(Continued on Next Page)

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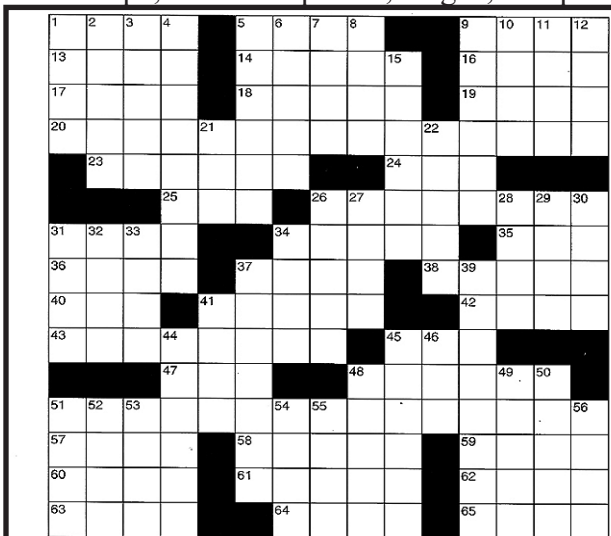
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"June Giants!"

By Whitt Smith

June means Schools of Big Bass grouped up on offshore structure, which leads to some big bags of bass. These bass migrate to hard spots and bottoms, such as road beds, shell bed humps, extended points, ridges, and pond



CLUES ACROSS

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Optimism | 37. The central part of the earth |
| 5. Comes to pass | 38. Oliver __, author |
| 9. Char | 40. Episodic or semantic (abbr.) |
| 13. Terminated | 41. Transactions |
| 14. Liaison | 42. Sediments |
| 16. Groundless | 43. Rayons |
| 17. Jai __, sport | 45. Ten liters (abbr.) |
| 18. Ceremonial or emblematic staff | 47. Macaws |
| 19. Tributary of the Colorado River | 48. Type of bribe |
| 20. "Advancement of Learning" author | 51. Punch (slang) |
| 23. Flexible | 57. Circle of light |
| 24. Swiss river | 58. Type of jelly |
| 25. Business auditor (abbr.) | 59. Dark bluish black |
| 26. Loman, for one | 60. Polite interruption sound |
| 31. Goidelic language of Ireland | 61. Meaningless sound |
| 34. Georges __, French philosopher | 62. Condition requiring relief |
| 35. Someone who is highly skilled | 63. Biological groups |
| 36. Constrictors | 64. School organizations (abbr.) |
| | 65. Mastery (Scottish) |

CLUES DOWN

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Type of avocado | 30. Strip of land projecting into a body of water |
| 2. Eurasian primrose | 31. City 3000 B.C. |
| 3. Oyster's gift | 32. College army |
| 4. Buildings | 33. Unchanged |
| 5. Castro's capital | 34. Alone |
| 6. Cylindrical spikelike inflorescence | 37. Romance language |
| 7. Cochon de lait | 39. Conceding |
| 8. Tall evergreen of Japan and China | 41. Cutty __ |
| 9. Cuban exports | 44. Washington city |
| 10. Of an ode | 45. Moves rhythmically |
| 11. Quick tempo (abbr.) | 46. Kilo yard (abbr.) |
| 12. Inadequate in quantity | 48. Indian monetary unit |
| 15. The exchange of goods | 49. Ship |
| 21. Knock | 50. Red pear-shaped tropical fruit |
| 22. Yellow edible Indian fruits | 51. African stimulant plant |
| 26. Infections | 52. Ryukyu Islands city (Japan) |
| 27. Greek god of war | 53. Genus of spiny shrubs |
| 28. Spice made from the nutmeg seed | 54. Employee stock ownership plan (abbr.) |
| 29. Feel pain | 55. Utter with anger or contempt |
| | 56. English park |

Answers on Page 21

dams for example. Often times they set up off to the side of such structures, so electronics can be key in determining this.

This means it's time to break out the good Ol' Texas Rig 10-inch worm on a 1/2 or 3/8 OZ weight and 5/0 round bend offset hook. I cast this on 20 lb. Seaguar InvizX, normally.

Other great lures include a Magnum Shakey Head rigged straight tail worm 7" or larger, Jig, Carolina Rig and Deep Crankbaits. The deep Crankbait is often the best one to cast in there first to trigger the biggest, most aggressive Bass.

However, there will still be Bass lurking in shallow cover this month. They'll be stalking bedding Bluegill in protected flats and pockets. Topwater such as poppers and frogs will often pick them off, as well as swim jigs, swimming worms, etc. I like to fish poppers on 30 lb. braided line and upgrade the hooks



and split rings. On the frogs, 50 or 65 lb. braided line because I'm casting it directly into and next to vegetation.

The lake level has risen a little bit recently and sits -1.99 feet below full pool as I type this. Yesterday we caught Bass from 2 feet to 18 feet and this will continue in June.

Good luck, be safe and enjoy this beautiful lake.

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.lakeforkbigbass.com

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Tater Reynolds from Florien, LA, was the first fish over weighing 9.41-lbs. during the 8-9 o'clock hour on Sunday.



Steve Wells from Alba, Texas, weighed in this 8.34-lbs. during the 11-12 o'clock hour on Sunday.



Dillon Owens from Russellville, AR, weighed in this 8.72-lbs. during the 11-12 o'clock hour on Sunday.



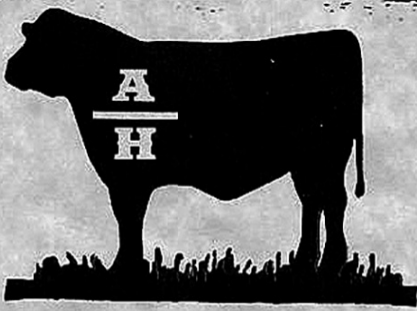
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"The Moon Report"

"June Fishing on Fork"

By Terri Moon

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

The majority of the crappie are "post spawn" and have moved out to structure in 10 to 30 ft. depths. You might find a few late spawners shallower around the new and full moon this month. The crappie are showing up around bridges, standing timber, in creek channels, and brush piles. Don't be afraid to change up your presentation—some days they want the bait moving and other days they want it dead still.

It's sure fun to watch the reaction of the fish on 'Live Scope'! These crappie don't always "SLAM" the baits so you need to be vigilant in watching your line because the sneaky ones will push your bait up and your line will go slack—so, if you not watching, you'll probably miss that fish.

Also, the color jig they prefer can change daily, so keep a good assortment on hand. Right now I am using an assortment of 'Limits Tackle', Skipper Jigs, and Bonehead Stump Bugs. The colors producing now have been: white/and chartreuse, grey/black, electric chicken, and L.S.U. These are all available at Lake



Fork Marina along with all your crappie fishing needs.

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

The next exciting thing happening in June is the "First Class" Skeeter Boat Owners Tournament at Lake Fork Marina, June 5, 6, 7. So, come out to watch the hourly weigh-ins and check out all the vendors. There will be 10 places paid every hour and a chance to win up to \$275,000 in cash and prizes, plus a brand new Skeeter FXR!

Also, there is more exciting news—Sartin Marine has proudly announced that

they are officially a part of the SKEETER BOATS, INC. family! They are now our Lake Fork Skeeter dealer. I'm so happy for them and wish them all the best and to let them know how much I appreciate all they've done to help me in the past to keep me on the water!

Now, some more news—a BIG congratulations to a special crappie guide on Lake Tyler that bought my 2024 Skeeter Solera. There's something special about seeing a boat that's helped create so many memories on the water get a new chapter with someone chasing the same passion for fishing and helping others enjoy the outdoors. I'm thankful my Skeeter Solera is going to someone that loves crappie fishing and guiding.

If you'd like to book a trip, you can reach me at 903-335-0941. Also, you can follow our adventures on my facebook page @TerriMoon.



Chris Semchenko from Garland, TX. weighed in this 8.10-lbs. during the 12-1 o'clock hour on Sunday.

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TPWD Commemorates 20 Years of Collaboration with National Fish Habitat Partnership

Since its inception in 2006, the National Fish Habitat Partnership (NFHP) has collaborated with Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) to deliver nearly 100 fish habitat conservation projects in Texas public waterways.

Backed by more than \$1.2 million in grant funding from NFHP matched 1:1 by contribu-

tions from local project partners, these projects restored, enhanced, or protected more than 26,000 acres of fish habitats in springs, creeks, rivers and lakes of the state. Several public waterways in Texas have been celebrated as NFHP "Waters to Watch," a recognition given to places where local partners are delivering

meaningful conservation actions to ensure fisheries are sustained into the future.

This recognition has included spotlighting of conservation projects implemented at lakes Houston, Conroe, Livingston, Wichita, the Rio Grande, Balmorhea Springs, and the Blanco and Llano rivers.

"TPWD was an early supporter, partner, and collaborator of NFHP and its associated network of Fish Habitat Partnerships, including the Reservoir Fisheries Habitat Partnership, Southeast Aquatic Resources Partnership, and Desert Fish Habitat Partnership," said Craig Bonds, TPWD Chief Operating Officer and member of the NFHP Board of Directors. "As we reflect on and celebrate this 20-year milestone for NFHP, the on-the-ground benefits to Texas public waters and fisheries resources are numerous."

Through grant funding provided by NFHP and the Reservoir Fisheries Habitat Partnership, TPWD and local partners completed fish habi-

(Continued on Next Page)

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tat enhancement projects at lakes Belton, Buchanan, Conroe, Dunlap, Palestine, Livingston, Possum Kingdom, Austin, Canyon, Hubbard, Fork, Buchanan, John Paul Landing, Lewisville and Coleman. All projects centered on sustaining Texas' world-class largemouth bass fisheries. The largest single grant award from NFHP to TPWD was for \$250,000, which supported fish habitat enhancements at Lake Ralph Hall, a new lake still undergoing construction located northeast of the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex.

Those funds were generated through the Bass Pro Shops National Bass Fishing Amateur Team Championships, with proceeds benefiting NFHP and some of the nation's top bass fishing lakes. A multi-lake fish habitat assessment was also supported at lakes Sam Rayburn, Nacog-

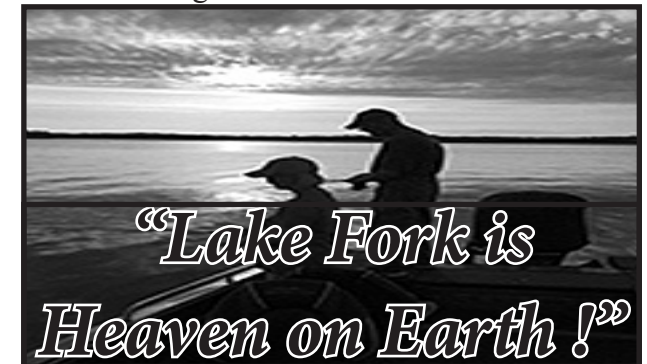
doches, Naconiche, Toledo Bend, Conroe, and Fork that greatly improved understanding of fish habitat use by largemouth bass.

In collaboration with NFHP and the Southeast Aquatic Resources Partnership, TPWD and local partners completed 35 habitat restoration projects benefitting the clear, spring-fed streams found in the Texas Hill Country, namely the Blanco, Llano, and Pedernales rivers. This included projects that supported flood recovery along the Blanco River and wildfire recovery along the Llano River. Most had a primary focus and restoring habitat for the state fish of Texas, Guadalupe bass.

In collaboration with NFHP and the Desert Fish Habitat Partnership, TPWD and local partners completed fish habitat restoration and enhance-

ment projects at several West Texas creeks and springs, including Alamito Creek, Phantom Springs Ciénega, and San Felipe Creek. Those projects helped conserve several imperiled freshwater fish found in the Rio Grande basin and nowhere else in the world.

To learn more about NFHP, visit their website fishhabitat.org.



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Texas Game Wardens File 74 Charges Against New Braunfels Man

Texas Game Wardens have filed 74 charges against a New Braunfels man accused of illegally killing at least 13 white-tailed bucks in Comal, Hays and Bexar counties between the fall of 2024 and through late summer 2025.

Darrell Maguire, 55, New Braunfels, is alleged to have poached deer over an 11-month period, often shooting the animals with a crossbow from his vehicle, removing only the heads and leaving the carcasses to waste.

The investigation began in June 2025 after multiple white-tailed buck car-

casses were discovered in Comal and Hays counties. Several of the incidents occurred in residential neighborhoods, where wardens recovered crossbow bolts from front yards and porches.

Texas Game Wardens arrested Maguire in September on wildlife and drug possession charges. While executing the search warrant of his residence, wardens recovered evidence they say linked him to multiple poaching scenes.

As the investigation continued, wardens determined Maguire also exceeded the annual bag limit during the 2024

hunting season, allegedly taking five white-tailed bucks over the legal limit in Bexar County.

From June through September 2025, investigators believe Maguire illegally killed at least eight white-tailed bucks in residential areas across Comal and Hays counties.

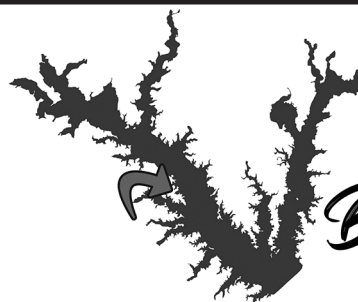
Charges filed against Maguire include:

*Hunting without landowner consent, a state jail felony

*Hunting white-tailed deer at night, a Class A misdemeanor

*Hunting white-tailed deer from a vehicle from a

(Continued on Next Page)



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public roadway, a Class A misdemeanor

*Failure to retrieve and keep white-tailed deer in edible condition, a Class A misdemeanor when committed in conjunction with other Class A offenses

*Possession of a controlled substance PG 1/1B (methamphetamines) 5.86 grams, a 2nd degree felony

*Possession of marijuana, a Class B misdemeanor

Maguire also faces multiple Class C Parks and Wildlife Code violations.

The case remains pending.

About Texas Game Wardens

Texas Game Wardens, within the Law Enforcement Division of Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, are responsible for enforcing laws related to the conservation and management of natural resources and public safety through community-based law enforcement. Their mission is to provide hunting, fishing and out-

door 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 fishing, wildlife or boating violation in progress, please call 1-800-792-GAME (4263) immediately and report it to Operation Game Thief (OGT),



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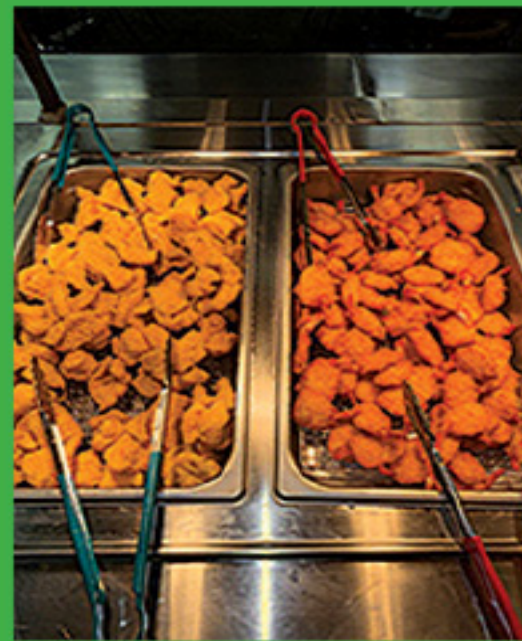
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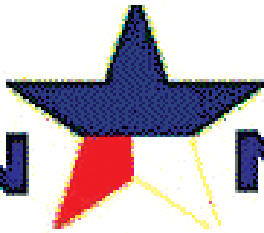
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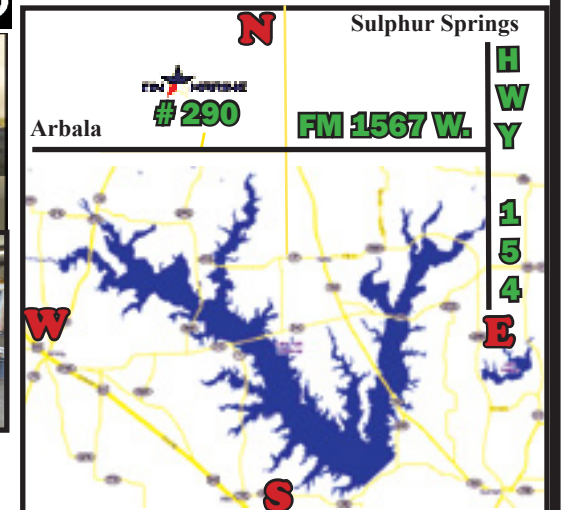


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Thomas Bates from Jessieville, AR. weighed in this 8.68-lb bass during the 11-12 hour on Friday.



Tyler Dennis from Mesquite, TX. weighed in this 6.91-lb. bass during the 12-1 o'clock hour on Friday.



Garrett Golden from Avinger, TX. weighed in this 7.89-lb. bass during the 1-2 o'clock hour on Friday.

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Jeff Jones from Yantis, TX. weighed in this 10.04-lb. bass during the 8-9 o'clock hour on Saturday.



Robert Davis from Crowley, TX. weighed in this 7.38-lb. bass during the 12-1 o'clock hour on Saturday.



Jason Jones (the other twin) from Cooper, TX., weighed in this 7.43-lb. bass during the 1-2 hour on Saturday.

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

By Don Hampton
LFSA President

May can only be described as another great month for the Lake Fork Sportsmans Association.

We had some very good donations made for our High School Fishing Program. This program helps young students that may not be able to afford the tackle required to bass fish the opportunity to participate in their high school fishing program. On June 11th, members of the association will be meeting with Charles

Pratt of BassPro Shop in Grapevine to receive their donation for the program. After this it is all about cleaning, oiling and putting new line on all the reels to make sure they are in excellent working condition for the students.

If you came out to the Legend of Lake Fork Tournament you may have noticed the new tent the association has purchased. This a great addition to the association exhibiting the professionalism in which the organization does business and greets the

public. Member Volunteers were greeting the public and selling raffle tickets.

The LFSA Live Release Boat under the leadership of Jay Simons did an excellent job handling

the bass in the tournament, with all catches surviving to be released back into the lake in great health to repopulate and to be caught another day making Lake Fork great and growing.



Jay Simons, LFSA Director and Release Boat Captain was presented a donation check to the LFSA Live Release Boat Fund from Don Hampton, Owner/Tournament Director Legend of Lake Fork for their excellent work.



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

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



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June 6 ~ JC Outdoors Solo

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June 20 ~ JC Outdoors Teams

Minnow Bucket

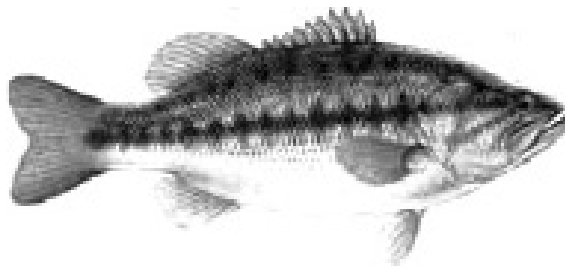
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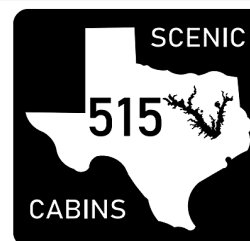
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Houston Toad Recovery Program Efforts Renewed at Bastrop State Park

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) successfully released more than one million Houston toad eggs at Bastrop State Park in conjunction with the Houston Zoo, Amphibian and Reptile Conservancy (ARC) and the U.S.



Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) this spring.

This is the first year of a renewed effort to restore Houston toads back to Bastrop State Park to help recover this endangered species. It's been a decade since Bastrop State Park had a resident population of Houston toads. The toad disappeared in the park in the five years following the catastrophic 2011 Bastrop County Complex Wildfire.

But over a decade of restoration in the park by TPWD has resulted in the recovery of the toad's habitat to the point where conservation partners feel confident a reintroduction will be successful.

The recovery effort reached a milestone this year, with more than one million eggs released into Bastrop State Park. Reintroduction attempts occurred in 2015 and 2019 but were ultimately unsuccessful.

"We got close in 2019," said Paul Crump, TPWD herpetologist, "but this is the most eggs released in a single year to date in the state park."

"This year, the overall program pivoted to releasing eggs in

three sites – two in Bastrop County and one in Milam County," said Matt Lambers, Houston Zoo's Houston Toad Recovery Coordinator. "Each of these sites is managed a little bit differ-

ently. Going forward, we can measure the varying success of these populations to determine what environmental factors are helping them along. Then we can try to replicate the most important of these factors in our other sites and across the state."

How the Project Works

During the fall, adult toads are checked out by the veterinary team at the Houston Zoo. The toads are paired up strategically for 11 weeks. Once the eggs are ready, they are collected and sorted into bags for transport to the release sites. Each week around 200,000 eggs are transported to the release site. At the release site — a shallow pond where wild breeding typically occurs — the bags are acclimated. From there, they are released into the water, where over time, the eggs turn into tadpoles, and the tadpoles turn into toadlets, which begin climbing the bank and into the wooded areas.

"It was really remarkable to see how quickly the toadlets (from earlier releases) developed and moved into the surrounding habitat," said Zach Truelock, Amphibian and Reptile Conservancy (ARC) Private Lands Biologist. "During a light rain, we saw them dispersing away from the pond into the savannah."

"Partnership is a key element of the program," said Crump. "We have funding from USFWS and State Parks, support from Houston Zoo and the Amphibian and Reptile Conservancy for this reintroduction, and we are building off the reintroduction methods used by the team at Texas State University, the Boy Scouts of America, and many others who are part of

the larger recovery program." TPWD, ARC and the Houston Zoo work with a broader partnership network supporting Houston toad recovery that includes the USFWS, Texas State University, the Boy Scouts of America – Capitol Area Council, Pines and Prairies Land Trust, the Fort Worth Zoo, Texas A&M Natural Resources Institute, and a network of private landowners across the species' range.

About the Toad

The Houston toad was among the first amphibians to be listed as a federally en-

(Continued on Next Page)

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dangered species, named on Oct. 13, 1970, under the Endangered Species Conservation Act of 1969, which was later replaced by the Endangered Species Act of 1973. The toad was initially listed due to landscape fragmentation and urban development within its forested habitat, but feral hogs, red-imported fire ants and drought conditions in Texas have furthered the decline in populations.

"Houston toads and amphibians in general serve as an indicator species," said Lammers. "They let us know when habitats are starting to hit an ecological tipping point. The Houston toad is endangered in large part due to poor habitat management. Almost every contemporary conservation question is ultimately a land management question. A well-managed parcel of land that is regularly burned and treated is supportive of deer, turkey, migratory birds, and yes, even the Houston toad."

The prime natural habitat for this toad resides in the grasslands and forests of loblolly pine and post oak, along with sandy soils it depends on for migrating, hibernating and feeding. Critical Habitat, specific areas that are essential to the toad's conservation, was established for the toads as the counties of Bastrop and Burleson on Jan. 31, 1978.

"Bastrop State Park is in the established critical habitat areas for the toad and offers prime conditions that

are ideal for the ongoing Houston Toad Recovery Program and population growth within the park," said Crump. "It's been about 10 years since we had a resident toad population within the park. Our state parks team has done an excellent job with habitat management to improve the property for all wildlife. Because of reduction in habitat quality being one of the top threats to toad populations, the reintroduction would be doomed to failure had the management in the park not been undertaken.

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| 17 | A | L | A | I | 18 | V | E | R | G | E | 19 | G | I | L | A | | | | | | | | | |
| 20 | S | I | R | F | 21 | R | A | N | C | I | S | 22 | B | A | C | O | N | | | | | | | |
| 23 | P | L | I | A | N | T | 24 | A | A | R | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 25 | C | P | A | | | | 26 | A | L | E | S | 28 | M | 29 | A | 30 | N | | | | | | | |
| 31 | E | 32 | R | 33 | S | E | | | 34 | S | O | R | E | L | 35 | A | C | E | | | | | | |
| 36 | B | O | A | S | | | 37 | C | O | R | E | 38 | S | 39 | A | C | H | S | | | | | | |
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| 57 | H | A | L | O | | | | | 58 | A | S | P | I | C | 59 | I | N | K | Y | | | | | |
| 60 | A | H | E | M | | | | | 61 | N | O | I | S | E | 62 | N | E | E | D | | | | | |
| 63 | T | A | X | A | | | | | 64 | P | T | A | S | | 65 | G | R | E | E | | | | | |

Food Find

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

- | | |
|------------|-----------|
| APPLE PIE | ICE CREAM |
| CAKE | MOUSSE |
| CHEESECAKE | PUDDING |
| COOKIES | SHERBET |
| CUSTARD | SORBET |
| FRUIT | SOUFFLÉ |
| GELATIN | SUNDAE |

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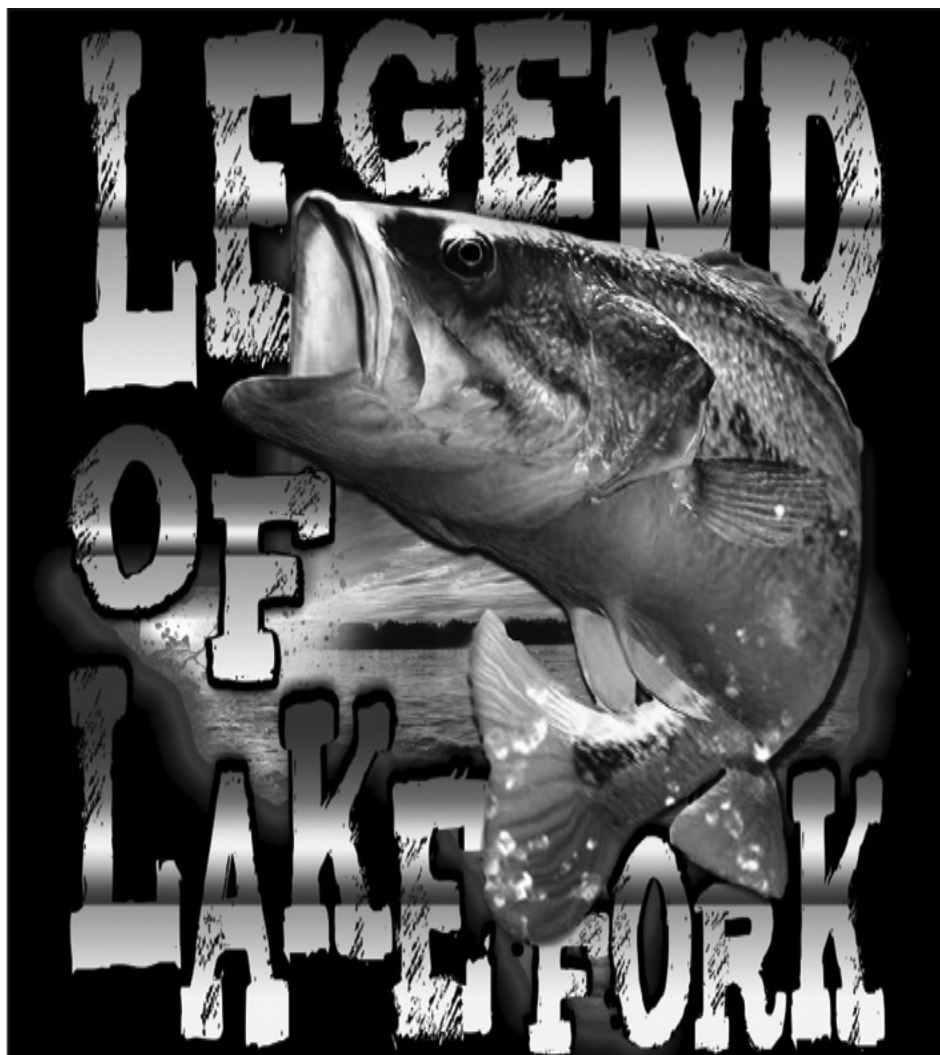
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Game Warden Field Notes

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

—Getting Schooled—
Two Hood County game wardens were alerted by a TPWD Criminal Investigation Division (CID), motion activated camera that was triggered at 6 a.m. by two men in camouflage walking with bow and arrows on Acton School property. The camera had been set up in attempt to catch illegal hunters. When they arrived on scene, the wardens spread out through the wooded area to search for the men. At 10 a.m.,

the camera was tripped again capturing a photo of one of the men exiting the property. One of the wardens ran to a different part of the property and found a vehicle driving through the school parking lot at a high rate of speed. The driver saw the warden and slammed on the brakes. Thinking the warden was one of their buddies, the driver stopped to pick him up. The warden approached the vehicle and the woman who was driving said she wasn't in the area to pick up anyone hunting. After being interviewed further, she revealed she was picking up her boyfriend and his

friend. She was instructed to call her boyfriend and tell him to meet her. The boyfriend told the woman he had left the property and went to the parking lot of a Kroger. After he was detained, he admitted to hunting on school property. He also admitted to hunting with his friend and said he told him to run when they saw the game warden. The TPWD K9 team was deployed and the second man was tracked for a long distance until his scent was lost. Further investigation revealed the second man was on parole and had previous

(Continued on Page 24)



Fire Up a Taste of Summer, Latin Style

By Sue Hampton

The sun is out, the air is warm, and folks can't wait to get outside and shake the last traces of cabin fever. The "official" start of summer is

here and of course, it's not summer without a bit of barbecue!

This recipe for strip steak featuring a tangy horseradish parsley mojo is sure to get your fires going. A taste of Nuevo

Latino cuisine that's perfect for your warm weather kickoff. The dish is as easy to prepare as it is to enjoy. So pull on your favorite apron and get grilling!

STRIP STEAK WITH HORSERADISH-PARSLEY MOJO

Horseradish awakens the flavor of many cuts of beef, but this strip steak, with the Worcestershire background, stands up to the pungency of the mojo. Any leftover mojo can be used to dress up a roast beef sandwich. It also complements salmon and

oven-baked potatoes.

4 inch piece of fresh horseradish, peeled and finely grated

1 cup finely chopped flat-leaf parsley

½ cup finely chopped chives

6 shallots, finely chopped

Juice of 3 lemons

2 tablespoons white distilled vinegar

¼ cup vegetable oil

½ teaspoon ground cumin

Salt and freshly ground black pepper

6 8-to 10-ounce strip steaks, cut 1-1/4 inches thick

3-tablespoons Worcestershire sauce

Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper

Grilled onion rings, to serve

1. To prepare the mojo, thoroughly mix all the ingredients in a bowl, cover and refrigerate.

2. At least two hours before you plan to grill, season both sides of the steaks with the Worcestershire sauce and salt and pepper, and place on a plate in the refrigerator.

3. Prepare a hot fire in the grill.

4. Lay the steaks out over the hottest portion of the grill and cook for 2 to 3 minutes per side to sear in the juices. Then move

to a cooler spot over the coals (medium heat) and continue to grill for 3 to 4 minutes per side for medium-rare, until the meat is bright pink inside.

5. Mound some of the onions on each serving plate. Place the steaks over the onions on the plates and serve with mojo on the side.



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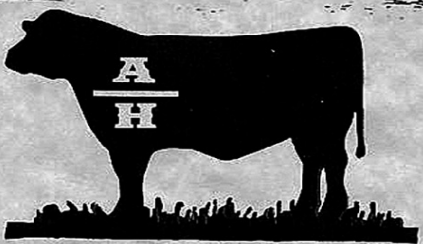
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Game Warden Field Notes (Continued from Page 22)

convictions for hunting without landowner consent and his hunting license was suspended. Evidence was collected and the subject was later arrested on a parole blue warrant. The investigation is ongoing.

-No Regrets- A Henderson County game warden was contacted by a local landowner about some duck hunters who had been hunting during the closed season split. The landowner was able to provide the warden with the license plates of the suspected duck hunter's vehicles. The wardens responded to the location but were unable to find the suspected duck hunters. As the investigation continued, the wardens were able to track down the hunters at their residence. During an interview, one of the hunters admitted to duck hunting and was proud to say it was his "best morning ever." After the investigation was over, it was clear the hunters were new to duck hunting and were unaware of the split.

-SoFISHticated Operation- With the assistance of CID, Bexar County game wardens set up a buy with

an individual attempting to sell six steaks of yellow-fin tuna for \$200. A time and location were set up and the wardens sat and waited outside of an HEB for the seller to show up. As they waited, they saw the seller standing outside the doors with a dog and a blue bag in a basket. As the wardens approached the man, he gave the dog to a woman and went inside the store. The woman then began to walk into the parking lot with the blue bag. Wardens then went up to the woman and asked where the man went. She said the man went inside of the store to shop. The wardens searched the blue bag and found the tuna steaks. One of the wardens went inside to retrieve the man and, once outside, he was interviewed. The man did not have the proper licenses to sell aquatic species. The individual was educated about the sale of aquatic species and issued a citation. The tuna was seized to be donated. Cases pending.

-Fast and Furious- A Bell County game warden received a call from a fisherman on Lake Stillhouse

about a boat driving around and shooting at ducks. The warden, with assistance from an additional Bell County game warden, were able to stop the individuals as they were pulling out of the boat ramp. Upon further inspection, the individuals had more than 20 violations and had killed two buzzards along with three coots. Some of the violations included no hunting license, utilizing lead shot, rally and disturb, hunt from a watercraft and no migratory duck stamp, just to name a few. Wardens issued multiple citations.

-Stop Lying, it's the Pits- A Hardin County game warden and a game warden cadet were fueling up at a gas station near Kountze when they noticed a man in a nearby truck putting ice in a cooler and struck up a conversation. They learned the man was putting ice on a quartered deer he had just harvested, so they asked to see the head and the tag. The man explained he had left the head and the tag back at his hunting camp. When asked for his hunting license, he produced a license

(Continued on Next Page)

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without any missing tags. The warden followed the hunter back to his deer lease to retrieve the deer head and complete the investigation. A citation was issued for possession of an untagged deer and a warning for failure to complete the harvest log. Case pending.

—Don't Mess with Texas Armadillos— A miscreant who found and tortured an armadillo, and then posted a video on social media of the despicable act now faces serious time behind bars thanks to the investigative efforts of a pair of Texas game wardens. After learning of the incident, game wardens made a criminal animal cruelty case by securing videos and other evidence, statements and an arrest warrant that landed the young man in jail. The defendant's plea deal on two separate charges, including burglary of a habitation and the animal cruelty case resulted in a 6-year sentence on both charges to be served concurrently in state prison.

—Hiding in Your Dirty Laundry— A Houston County game warden received a call concerning possible illegal hunting activity in the Germany community outside of Crockett. The warden proceeded to the house in

question and as he pulled into the yard, a female made a beeline to the front door of the house and closed the door behind her. In the front yard was an ice chest with a large 6-point buck's head on it. The warden knocked on the door and asked the female to come back outside, but got no response. He then walked around the house and discovered another deer head, and a Liberty County jail offender ID card nearby with the female's photo on it. A criminal database search found her to have two active felony arrest warrants. The warden, with help from a local sheriff's deputy, searched the immediate area near the home, but was unable to locate the suspect. Texas Department of Criminal Justice tracking dogs were called in to assist, and after a couple hours, the dogs followed a scent trail back to the original house where the warden found the woman hiding underneath a pile of dirty laundry wedged between a washer and dryer. By this time the hunters who were the focus of the initial visit had returned and received citations for no hunting license and numerous warnings. The female suspect was booked on the outstand-

ing warrants.

—Starting Off the New Year in a Fog— Just after midnight on New Year's morning, a Montgomery County game warden along with a ride-along were patrolling on Highway 59, when they entered a dense fog mixed with fireworks smoke. The warden noticed multiple vehicles were involved in a pile up and activated his emergency lights. Both the game warden and his observer provided basic medical attention and moved all the vehicles' occupants to safety. However, more vehicles continued to slam into the mound of crashed cars. As the warden was providing up-dates to dispatch, another vehicle came crashing into the scene. He was able to toss his mic into the truck, slam the door, and jump out of the way as the SUV that had already hit several other vehicles came skidding by the driver's side of his patrol unit. In total, more than 20 vehicles were involved in the accident before emergency personnel were able to stop traffic ahead of the fog bank. The game warden's truck was the only vehicle on the scene that remained undamaged.

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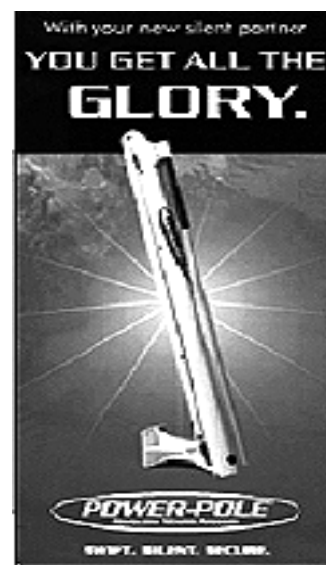
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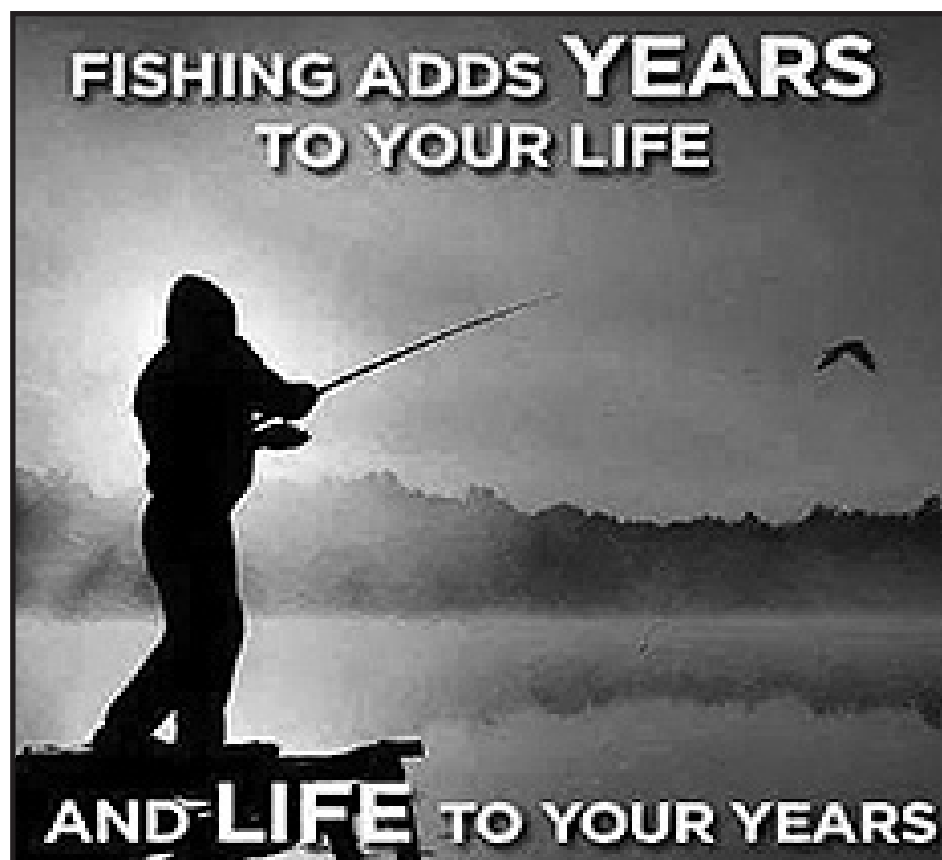
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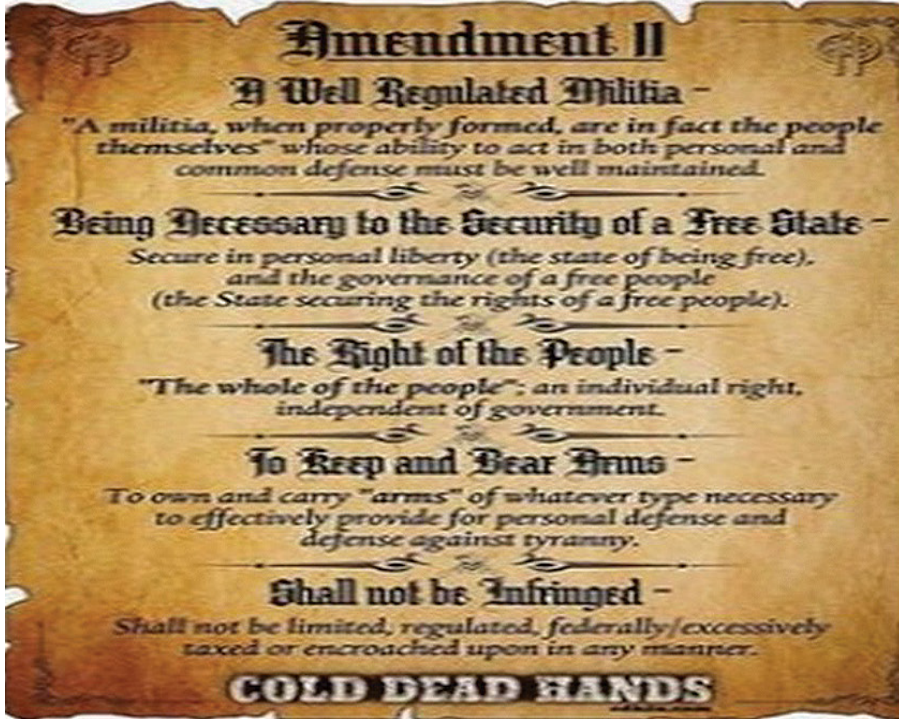
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