

LAKE FORK "The Big Bass Capital Of Texas"



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

"Lines To Get Hooked On"

1 Section

www.fishguidenews.com

Free

Vol. 28

November 2026

No. 326



21st Annual Berkley Big Bass Tournament

By Don Hampton

The 21st Annual Berkley Big Bass Tournament was held on Lake Fork on October 17th and 18th. Over 1200 anglers representing numerous states came

to try their luck to win some of the money to be given away.

Mother Nature was not kind to the anglers this year. A northern had blown in previously lowering the water temperatures with strong

north winds. This combined with the lake turning over made it difficult on Saturday. Sunday was somewhat different with the wind out of the east.

Although there were (See 21st Annual.... ..

Continued on Page 9)



Andru Tacina from Aubrey, TX weighed in this Lake Fork hawg weighing 10.85-lbs. topping out over 1,200 other anglers in the Berkley Big Bass Tournament held on Lake Fork October 17 and 18. Winning \$1,000 hourly and a 2026 Skeeter ZX-200 outfitted bass boat.



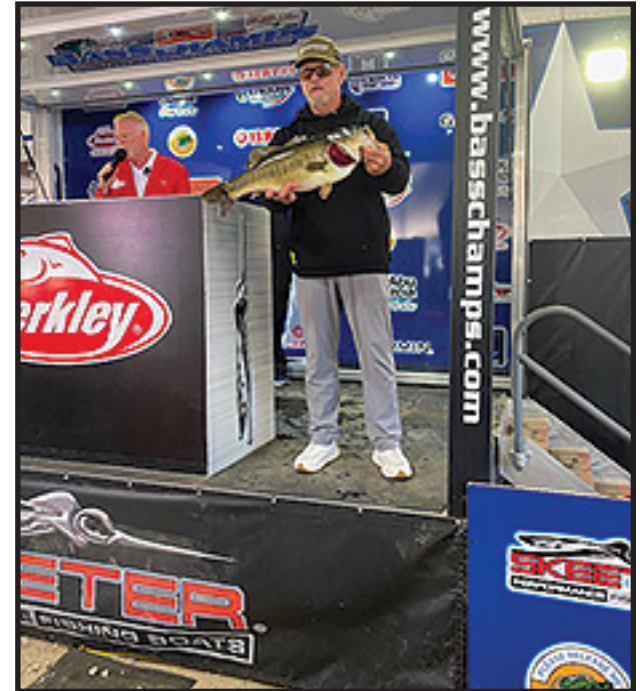
Brent Cantrell from Streetman, TX. weighed in the heaviest bass under the slot during the Berkley Big Bass Tournament on Lake Fork weighing 2.70-lbs. winning him not only hourly money to take home but also a 2026 Skeeter ZX-150 outfitted bass boat.



Devin Bushland from Allen, Texas caught this Lake Fork hawg weighing 9.20-lbs. in the Berkley Tournament.



Lane Miller from Paris, Texas caught this Lake Fork hawg weighing 8.85-lbs. in the Berkley Tournament.



Brian Brown caught this Lake Fork hawg weighing 8.19-lbs. in the Berkley Tournament. (More Berkley Photos on Page 13)

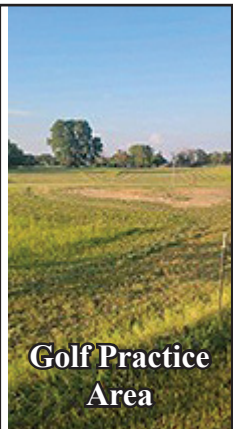
RV LOTS FOR LEASE



Beautiful Lake Views
Large Lots With Concrete Pads



Walking Trails



Golf Practice Area

Abundant Wildlife For Scenic Pleasure

Caney Point RV Resort Call Roger For Info #903-524-5311

Now Leasing ~ Big Waterfront Lots
Kiddie Water Park Right Across Road!
Located on the North End of the 154 Bridge
that crosses Lake Fork. \$100 Discount 1st Year Lease
Doggie Play Areas - Golf Practice Area

Want a Wonderful World?? Live Like Christians!!

Yes, It's That Easy! Try It!

The Largest Lots on Lake Fork - Big 12'x 65' RV Pads
2 Miles of Shaded Walking or Jogging Trails
Through the Woods on These Scenic Trails
Full Hook-ups, 70 Amp Electricity,
Security Gate, Paved Roads & Street Lights
Have Fun on Your Electric Golf Carts
Enjoy Looking at Many Deer and Other Wildlife
Relax at Pavilion With Friends- Fish Off Our Pier

Owned By Christian American

Owner on Property Call For A Tour Today!!

"WE ARE THE BEST!!"



Relax at Pavilion With Friends
Fish Off Our Pier
Concrete Boat Ramp



Bubba Thinks Everyday Should Be Thanksgiving

By Don Hampton

The four most important things in Bubba's life are God, family, country and of course, fishing. Imagine the last one!! I know this to be true because I have seen a sign in his house that reads "Fishing isn't a matter of life or death, it is much more important than that!" Bubba doesn't fish to live, he lives to fish! According to Bubba that is the order of importance in his life. The way he feels, if he loves the first three with all his heart and unwavering dedication, fishing is allowed. Always, no matter how strong the desire to be on the lake, the first three always come first.

In most everyday situations, if you asked Bubba what he would do, unless extremely serious, he would say, "Have a BBQ sandwich, drink a few beers and celebrate life." If it were a semi-serious situation he would counsel you...saying something like, "Go fishing, relax, give it some thought and the answer will come to you!" In matters of extreme importance he has only one answer, "Trust in God and country, for the Lord helps those who help themselves!" This is probably the best answer anyone could apply to any given situation.

Bubette has told Bubba many times that he does have a way at

times of being painfully honest. Just recently in a conversation he was having with another fellow fisherman he remarked, "I love all bodies of water except those darn pity-puddles. A lot of people swim in them but nothing can survive and prosper in them. They are always filled with self-remorse and pity. People sink into them and expect others to pull them out. At that time they quit helping themselves and just become dependent." To my way of thinking this was the most profound statement I had ever heard from Bubba.

Bubba has a way of comparing life and situations with fishing. He proved this to me

by adding, "The only thing you can catch from a pity puddle is blame. People that swim in them want to blame everyone and everything in life for their problems. What people in these puddles need to do is take swimming lessons or grab their ears and pull themselves out." (Well, that is not quite how Bubba said it, but you get my drift!) Bubba opened my eyes that day and gave me some food for thought that nourished my spirit.

I believe in Bubba's way of thinking. If more people did, the enjoyment of living would be ever present. This shines in Bubba everyday. Whenever you see him he has a

smile and happiness to share. As a matter of fact, sometimes he smiles so much people wonder what he's up to!

To Bubba life is not a mystery that he has to go in search for the answer, it is a gift. Ev-

ery morning when he opens his eyes for another day, it is Thanksgiving and he is thankful for the gift of life.

Maybe we all should make "Thanksgiving" an everyday ritual. "That's what Bubba does!"



Great Ways To Go "Out of Business"

Think Your Location is Your Best Advertisement;
Don't Advertise!

Think Everyone Knows the Services You Provide;
Don't Advertise!

Think Everyone Knows the Merchandise You Carry;
Don't Advertise!

Think Everyone Knows the Specials You Have Listed;
Don't Advertise!

Think Everyone Knows When You Have A Sale; *Don't Advertise!*

Think Time at The Same Location Is Your Best Advertisement;
Don't Advertise!

Think Everyone Knows You Have Trained Staff;
Don't Advertise!

Don't Advertise When...

You Have So Much Business You Can't Stand Another Paying Customer!

You Can't Stand Money or Success!

Or: **WHEN YOU ARE OUT OF BUSINESS!**

If You Are Thinking ...

You Would Like To Stay In Business And Need More Customers, Clients, Income, & Exposure; Think About Advertising In

The Fisherman's Guide News-903-383-7748

Afterall...

This Got Your Attention & Business Advertising & Promotion Is Tax Deductible!

"Where's Your Money Best Spent?"



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

Don Hampton, Publisher/Owner

Member Texas Community Newspaper Association

"The Fisherman's Guide, News You Can Use," is published monthly and is available free through our advertisers, area merchants, Chambers of Commerce, and newsstands in the Northeast Texas area. All rights are reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part without written consent is strictly prohibited.

We welcome manuscripts and/or photographs. Postage must accompany all materials if return is required.

Any erroneous reflection upon the character, reputation or standing of any individual or business will be corrected in the next edition upon being called to the publisher's attention.

For news, articles, or advertising rates contact:

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

538 Private Road 5861 • Yantis, Tx. 75497

Lake Fork call Don: (903) 383-7748 or

Mobile: (903) 360-6994

e-mail: fishnewslakefork@gmail.com

Website: www.fishguidenews.com



2027 Youth Fish Art Contest Welcomes Entries

The Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center (TFFC) has opened the Texas division of Wildlife Forever's 2027 Fish Art Contest for entries. The Texas division of the contest will celebrate 20 years in 2027 thanks to the vision of Mr. Richard M. (Dick) Hart, a conservation leader who helped bring the program to the state. Mr. Hart was a successful business and family man with a passion for fishing, conservation, and TFFC.

It was Hart's belief that educators are the key to encourage and inspire youth conservation education. To honor these educators, the national Richard M. Hart Educator of the Year Award was established in 2022. Educators across the nation can be nominated and recognized for their impact and inspiration of future stewards of the outdoors.

The Fish Art Contest is accepting entries until Feb. 28 as part of an international conservation education program designed to foster youth in-

terest in fish, fisheries, and fishing.

"The Fish Art contest is just one way we can help our students connect with the outdoors," said Darrel Malone, education and interpretation coordinator at TFFC. "As they research their chosen fish species and begin to learn about its habitat, they begin to find a personal connection to their fish. This connection can help inspire the future stewards of our natural resources. The Fish Art Contest is more than just drawing a fish; it is establishing a bond with the outdoors."

Contest participants must submit a completed online entry form and an original illustration of a fish from the curated freshwater and saltwater lists available on the Texas Fish Art Contest webpage. Educators can use a group entry form to save time. Entry categories include kindergarten, grades 1-3, 4-6, 7-9, and 10-12. Applicants in grades 4-12 are also required to submit a one-page creative writing piece. Students may submit

only one entry per year. Entries must be in 2D format and scanned as digital submissions only no later than Feb. 28.

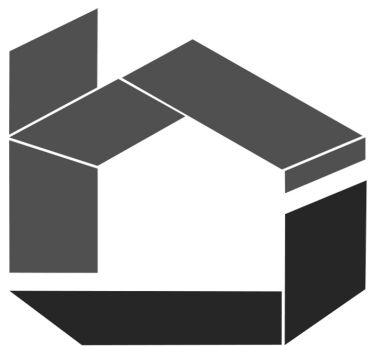
The Texas Fish Art Contest's Special Species Award showcases a focus species or set of species. In 2027, the species chosen is the American eel. Information on the American eel can be found on the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's (TPWD) American eel fact sheet web page.

One winner will be chosen from all entries and spotlighted at the TFFC. Students must correctly label their artwork and have the fish be identifiable as the correct focus species, but do not need to submit additional paperwork for consideration.

Texas winners are awarded scholarship investment, featured in an exhibit at the TFFC, invited to a family fishing celebration to recognize their

(Continued on Next Page)

Roofing is just the **PEAK of
our home and repair expertise.**



**beeler
roofing**

ROOF AND REPAIR SINCE 1976

Give Brooks Beeler a call for a free
roof inspection or quote!

www.BeelerRoofing.com

**Jobs BIG or SMALL -
We do it ALL!**

We do:

- New Roofs
- Roof Repairs
- Complete Re-Roofing
- Metal Roofs for Manufactured Homes



PLUS! We also do:

- General Construction and Repair
- Fencing
- Decks
- Window Installation
- Window Replacement

903.347.8484

achievements and featured in TPWD's Fish Art Contest Flickr album.

Additionally, winners will earn automatic entry to Wildlife Forever's national contest. Texas students may choose to enter national specialty awards with fish not found in Texas; however, they will not be eligible for Texas state awards due to the one entry per student limit.

Educators who wish to have their students enter the 2027 contest can find entry forms, rules, guidelines and more on the TFFC Fish Art Contest website.

The Fish Art Contest is sponsored nationally by Wildlife Forever, Bass Pro Shops, Rapala, U.S. Forest Service, Guy Harvey Ocean Foundation, Great Lake Fishery Commission, Yamaha Right Waters and the International Game and Fish As-

sociation. Statewide support is provided by the Friends of the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center.

Located in White Bear Lake, Minn., Wildlife Forever is a nonprofit, multispecies conservation organization dedicated to conserving America's wildlife heritage. Working at the grassroots level, Wildlife Forever has funded conservation projects in all 50 states, committing millions of dollars to "on-the-ground" efforts. Wildlife Forever supports habitat restoration and enhancement, land acquisition, research and management of fish and wildlife populations.

For more information, visit the TFFC Texas Fish Art Contest website and the Texas Fish Art Program Facebook page.



Scot McDonald from Celina TX caught this 7.70-lb. hawg in the Berkley Tournament.



*Hwy. 69 to Alba North 3 miles
on FM 17 or Hwy 515 to FM 17*

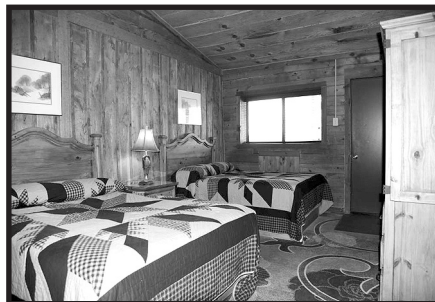
South 3 Miles

"Why Stay Anywhere Else"

2712 N. Hwy. 17

Alba, Texas 75410

903-474-7479



Room Amenities Include:

Refrigerator, Coffee Pot, Microwave,
2 full size beds, flat screen Direct TV,

New Mini-Split AC/Heating Units

Event Center ~ Let Us Host Your Next Event

Motel • RV Park • Guide Serves • Boat Ramp

Boat Storage Units \$45/mo.

Visit Us Online www.gofishfork.com

903-474-7479

I'D SMOKE



Papa T's BBQ

"Two Locations to Tantalize Your Taste Buds!"

Brisket * Pulled Pork * Chicken

Sandwiches * Plates * Loaded Bake Potato

Brisket Tacos * Banana Pudding * More

BYOB

Catering!

BYOB



Alba Location
151 E. Quitman St.
903-765-9016



Mineola Location
417 S. Pacific St.
903-569-7781

Underrated November

By Whitt Smith

November on Lake Fork is one of the most underrated times of the year to target trophy largemouth bass.

As water temperatures drop into the 60s and high 50s, Lake Fork's legendary bass popu-

lation gets the message: winter is coming. Big females go on a massive feeding frenzy to build up energy, trailing massive schools of threadfin and gizzard shad from main lake channels deep into creek arms.

In November, pattern success relies almost entirely on water temperature and baitfish movement.

Early in the month, shad migrate heavily toward the backs of creeks. A square bill or lipless Crankbait is hard to beat. Smaller topwaters can excel for numbers of smaller bass and even a big bite, for fish keyed in on smaller baitfish.

Lake Fork is famously littered with submerged timber and hazardous stumps. Always stay within designated boat lanes when running on plane, especially as fall water levels fluctuate. As I type this, the lake is down 4.96 feet and falling.



Sharp creek bends can be dynamite places to fish as the water continues to cool down.

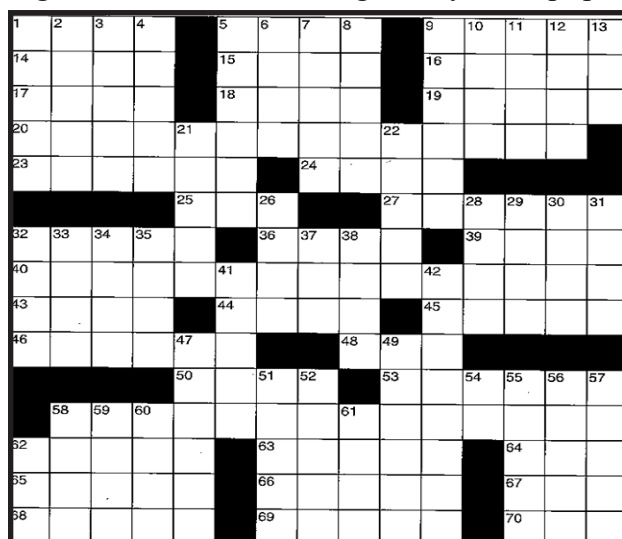
While deer season takes center stage for many East Texans, Lake Fork in November offers some of the best opportunities to land a trophy largemouth without the spring fishing crowds. Tie on a squarebill for the morning shallow bite, keep a Carolina rig ready

for offshore humps, and prepare for some of the hardest strikes of the season!

Happy Thanksgiving!

If you are interest 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.

*Fish Friendly
Practice Good
Sportsmanship
& Help Keep
Our Lake Clean*



CLUES ACROSS

- | | |
|---|------------------------------|
| 1. Spoken in Sulu archipelago | 40. Jet (football) |
| 5. The queen of the gods in ancient mythology | 43. Square measure |
| 9. Behalfs | 44. Romanian city |
| 14. Jai __, sport | 45. Binds |
| 15. Supplements with difficulty | 46. Sits |
| 16. Forearm bones | 48. Unhealthy |
| 17. New Zealand black pine | 50. Brews |
| 18. Salesmen | 53. Came close |
| 19. Small brook | 58. Graham or Groza |
| 20. Blanda and Stabler | 62. Alar |
| 23. St. Francis of __ | 63. Stead |
| 24. Pokeweed | 64. The content of cognition |
| 25. Drop down | 65. Raise an objection |
| 27. Surfaced | 66. Gum |
| 32. Symptom | 67. Sea creature |
| 36. Arthur ____, Wimbledon champion | 68. Boyfriend |
| 39. Tableland | 69. Replete |
| | 70. One |

CLUES DOWN

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Island in the South Pacific | 33. Little (Spanish) |
| 2. Nom de guerre | 34. He fiddled |
| 3. Checks off | 35. Female sheep |
| 4. Garlic mayonnaise | 37. Female sibling |
| 5. Kind of rupture | 38. Progeny |
| 6. Supplemented with difficulty | 41. Cotton fabric |
| 7. Duplicate | 42. Displacement unit |
| 8. State in N.E. India | 47. Public house |
| 9. Check | 49. Go through |
| 10. Herb | 51. Greece |
| 11. Gnarl | 52. Antelope |
| 12. Sense organs | 54. Between Pisces and Taurus |
| 13. Monetary unit | 55. Western event |
| 21. Brazilian palm | 56. Confederate general |
| 22. Henrik ____, dramatist | 57. Enzyme |
| 26. Joyous | 58. Grounds |
| 28. Implements of war | 59. Panchen or Grand |
| 29. Jump | 60. Kind of purse |
| 30. This (Spanish) | 61. Tidy |
| 31. Dashes | 62. Promotional materials |
| 32. Open | |

Answers on Page 21

Jamie's Restaurant

271 CR 1558 * Alba, TX., 903-765-2087

Located at Lake Fork Marina

New Owner * New Attitude

My,
Oh My,
The
Pie!!



Great Service * Great Food
**Breakfast Served Until
11A.M. Daily**

Daily Lunch Specials

Large Menu Selection

Sandwiches * Burgers

Fish * Steaks

& Much More!!

Open Mon. ~ Sat. 5 A.M. ~ 9 P.M.

Sunday 5 A.M. ~ 2 P.M.

New World Screwworm Detected in Hunter-Harvested Elk in Pecos County

On Oct. 21, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) received confirmation of a detection of New World screwworm (NWS) in a hunter-harvested female elk in Pecos County. A sample was collected from the elk and was identified and confirmed as NWS at the ARS Knippling-Bushland U.S. Livestock Insects Research Laboratory in Kerrville.

This detection highlights the critical role hunters, landowners, outdoor enthusiasts and wildlife professionals play in helping detect and manage the spread of NWS.

"We encourage all hunters and landowners to be vigilant for signs of New World screwworm while they are out in the field this season," said Alan Cain, Wildlife Division Director. "The partnership between TPWD biologists and local hunters and landowners expedited the identification and confirmation of this new detection."

The Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) will

modify a previously established infested zone. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and TPWD are conducting additional wildlife surveillance in the area.

Hunter Harvest Inspection

With the kick-off of hunting season across Texas, all hunters are encouraged to inspect their harvest before field dressing or moving the carcass.

While in the field, hunters should look for animals that may be showing signs of infestation which include:

*Irritated or depressed behavior

*Loss of appetite

*Head shaking

*Smell of decaying flesh

*Presence of fly larvae (maggots) in wounds

*Isolation from other animals or people

Once an animal is harvested, hunters should be sure to inspect:

*Eyes, ears, nose, mouth, genitalia and any mucous

membranes.

*Run your hands along the body of the animal and check the feet and between the toes looking for any wounds that might have a foul smell or maggots.

A video on how to inspect your harvest for NWS is available online.

Hunters and landowners can find additional information in the TPWD New World Screwworm Guide for Hunters and Landowners.

Early detection and reporting is critical. Report all suspected and confirmed cases of NWS immediately.

If you suspect a wild animal has an NWS infestation, contact your local TPWD wildlife biologist or call 512-389-4505.

Report suspected cases in livestock and companion animals: TAHC — Region Office or the Veterinarian on Call 1-800-550-8242.

For more information and resources please visit screwworm.texas.gov.



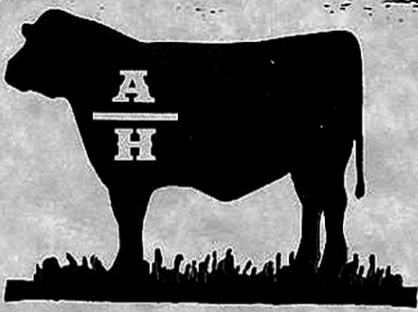
**Alexander's
Meat Market**
903-342-0300
308 E Coke Rd Winnsboro, TX

At Our Location Between Brookshires & McDonald's

Custom Smoking For The Holidays
Deer Processing (Seasonal)

Now Making Summer Sausage, Beef Sticks, and
Smoked Sausage • E.E. Wilson Syrup • Honey • Ribbon
Cane • Sorgham • Moonshine Syrup

A Fresh Selection Just For You!



A Bar H
CUSTOM MEAT PROCESSING

Dispatch * Skin * Quarter
On Your Property.
Hang, Process, & Package
At Alexander Meat Market.
For Pricing Information

Call: Donnie 903-975-5849

or Caden 903-975-5890 *903-342-0300

Lake Fork's Largest & Finest



Motel-Lodges-RV Park
Tent Camping-Boat Ramp
Tackle/Gift Store-Restaurant
Gasoline-Propane-WIFI



**Lake Fork
Marina & Motel**

275 CR 1558 • Alba, TX 75410 • 903-765-2764 • www.lakeforkmarina.com

5 miles N of Alba on Hwy.17

Paul Bacon
Licensed
Master Physical
Therapist

**Lake Fork
Physical Therapy**

AQUATICS * STATE OF THE
ART EQUIPMENT
TREATMENTS FOR:

- * Back & Neck Pain
- * Joint Pain Or Injury
- * Geriatric Ailments
- * Chronic Headaches
- * Pre/Post Op Rehab
- * Sports Injuries
- * Workers' Comp. Injuries
- * Dizziness/Vertigo

903-474-9436
903 E. Lennon St. #101
Emory, Texas

"The Moon Report"

November Crappie Fishing

By Terri Moon

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

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

Electronics make all the difference now. Forward-facing sonar or down imaging lets you see schools clearly, to determine what depths you need to target. In November, crappie are usually suspended 12 - 20 feet down, hovering just above



structure. Once you mark fish, present your bait just over their heads. Keep your movements slow and steady. A gentle lift and pause often outperforms constant motion. If you are vertical jigging, hold your bait still for several seconds between twitches.

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

November is a great month to rely on both jigs and minnows. I use 1/16 and 1/8 oz. jigs depending on wind and the depth I'm fishing. The bait colors that produce in November has been Money Milk, Blue Ice, or any shad color in soft baits, and black/chartreuse, pink/white tail, and electric chicken in hand tied baits.

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

Now - the most exciting November hap-

(See November Crappie.....Continued on Page 22)

21st Annual Lake Fork Berkley Tournament *(Continued from Page 1)*

only 8 bass over the slot of 24" Lake Fork did show out. The bass 16" and under ranged in the high 2-pound category with many ranging 2.50-pounds and higher. This shows what the future of Lake Fork has in store.

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

As in all of Berkley Big Bass Tournaments, there is a Grand Prize of a Skeeter Bass Boat given to the heaviest bass under the slot and the heaviest over the slot. This year celebrating Berkley's 21st Annual they gave a Skeeter ZX-200 for the heaviest over the slot and a Skeeter ZX-150 for the heaviest under. Brent Cantrell from Streetman, Texas won the heaviest under with a bass weighing 2.70-pounds. For his catch he won hourly money and a Skeeter ZX150 powered by a Yamaha SHO and Skeeter built trailer. Winning the heaviest over the 24" slot was Andru Tacina from Aubrey, Texas with a bass that weighed 10.85-pounds that he brought to the scales in the 11 o'clock hour on Saturday. For his great catch he took home \$1,000 in hourly cash and a Skeeter ZX200 powered by a Yamaha SHO and a Skeeter built trailer. Also taking home hourly monies for bass 24" and over was Jacob Callahan from

Yantis, TX. with a 7.79-lb.; Scot McDonald from Celina, TX. with a 7.70-lb.; Chase Owens from Hawkins, TX. with a 7.97-lb.; Lane Miller from Paris, TX. with an 8.85-lb.; Brian Brown with an 8.19-lb.; Devin Bushland from Allen, TX. with a 9.20-lb.; and James Harmon from Kirby, AR. with a 7.91-lb. In the 2025 Berkley Tournament there was only five over 24" weighed in during the course of the tournament. This shows fishing is getting better on Lake Fork.

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

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

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

Hope to see you all on the water.



Whitt Smith
Guide Service
972-743-2046
www.lakeforkbigbass.com



3736 TX. Hwy. 154
Yantis, TX 75497
(903) 309-8465
GoFishLures@gmail.com
Large Selection of Baits & Tackle
Open 7 Days a Week
6 a.m. ~ 6 p.m.



GoFish Cafe * Breakfast Served To 3p.m.
Serving Great Meals
Mon. - Sat. 6 a.m. - 3 p.m. Sun. 6 a.m. - 2 p.m.



GoFish Boat Storage
Best Boat Storage at Lake Fork
Visit online: www.gofish-lures.com

Quail Surveys Indicate Another Quality Hunting Season on the Horizon

Quail season kicked off Nov. 1, and the annual Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) roadside survey signaled good population numbers going into opening day. Good habitat conditions, along with timely rainfall, helped bobwhite and scaled quail production.

"Texas Parks and Wildlife Department biologists covered over 3,300 road miles in early August dur-

ing our annual roadside quail surveys," said Patrick Schutz, TPWD Upland Game Bird Program Leader. "Overall, the numbers were once again in good shape in this year's surveys, and we anticipate a good season for hunters especially in the South Texas and Trans Pecos regions where populations have traditionally been the strongest."

Bobwhite quail faced a mixture of habitat conditions and weather patterns throughout the state which resulted in a fluctuating population by ecoregions. Despite some challenges, most ecoregions had an above average number of bobwhites observed per route when com-

pared to the 15-year average.

In north Texas, public hunting opportunities for bobwhite quail hunting are available at Matador Wildlife Management Area (WMA), Gene Howe WMA, and Teacup Mountain WMA. Teacup Mountain WMA is a relatively new 11,091-acre WMA that is actively being managed for a suite of wildlife, including bobwhite quail. Even though the 2026 survey revealed slightly lower numbers compared to last year, the Rolling Plains will continue to provide solid chances for hunters looking to harvest birds.

In South Texas, the average number of bobwhites seen per route by biologists was 10.17, which is still above the 15-year mean of 9.92. Timely rains and quality habitat conditions resulted in multiple successful hatches being reported in this ecoregion.

(Continued on Next Page)

TK ROOFING REPAIR & COATING SYSTEMS

25 Years in Business

Locally Owned

Specializing in Leak Repairs

All Coatings

Free Estimates

Tim Lambert @ 214-395-1100

email: tim.lambert63@verizon.net

Danny Holder

Lake Fork Guide Service
Licensed Professional Guide

Offering:

Full/Half Day Trips
Individual or Corporate
Trips

Bass * Crappie * Catfish

903-638-3913



Guys & Dolls Hair Salon

**A Salon For The
Whole Family!**

Downtown Alba * WIFI available

129 S. Broadway * 903-765-2420

~Stylist ~ * Rebecca * Amber

*** Samantha * Reygan**



AUTHORIZED SERVICE CENTER
FAST • FRIENDLY • SPEEDY • REPAIRS & SERVICE

"To Get You Back On The Water Quick!"

New & Used Trolling Motors

We Sell New Trolling Motors & Install

5004 FM 17 @ Lake Fork Resort • Alba, TX

Chuck Rizuto, Owner

903-474-3195

Public hunting opportunities can be found at the Chaparral and James E. Daughtrey WMAs.

"TPWD biologists anticipated bobwhite populations to be impacted by the hot and dry weather we experienced this summer," said Schutz. "However, we were pleased with this year's survey results statewide. I encourage taking first time quail hunters out to experience the thrill of a covey rise!"

According to the 2026 survey, scaled quail populations continued their upward trend with the average number of birds exceeding the 15-year average in most ecoregions. Late spring rains and excellent habitat conditions in the Trans-Pecos and Edwards Plateau delivered a boost in nesting that resulted in multiple brood observations in both regions.

The Edwards Plateau had the largest increase in scaled quail sightings during this year's August surveys. The average number of scaled quail seen

in the Edwards Plateau was 29.88 per route compared to 14.00 last year, which is significantly above the 15-year mean of 8.38. TPWD biologists expect Black Gap and Elephant Mountain WMAs to provide good opportunities for public hunters in search of scaled quail to harvest.

"Scaled quail have taken full advantage of the quality habitat conditions and rainfall out west," added Schutz. "This should provide ample opportunities this season for those hunters willing to put in a few miles chasing these exceptional birds."

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

Statewide surveys were initiated in 1978 to monitor quail populations and historical data are avail-

able on the TPWD website. TPWD surveys are only designed to provide a representation of bobwhite and scaled quail populations at the regional level and local conditions may vary considerably.

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



"Lake Fork is Heaven on Earth!"

LAKESIDE TROLLING MOTOR



New Location Hwy 154W. at Go Fish
903-383-3232 * AUTHORIZED DEALER

MotorGuide NEVER STOP. **LOWRANCE** **Deka** **Continental** BATTERIES

SALES * REPAIRS * PARTS * INSTALLATIONS
 Here to help with all your trolling motor needs. Repairs: whether it be a bent shaft, an electrical problem in your motor, water in the lower unit, a cable issue, or you just need a part, our experienced tech will have you back on the water in no time. We are an authorized MotorGuide Service Center. We also do repairs on Minnkota and all other makes and models of trolling motors. Sales: We sell all makes and models of trolling motors.

SALES * REPAIRS * PARTS * INSTALLATIONS
Authorized Lowrance Electronics Service Center.



If you don't stand behind our Troops,
 PLEASE FEEL FREE TO STAND IN
 FRONT OF THEM!!

We also sell Lowrance Electronics products, such as Fishfinders, transducers, and accessories. Advantage Program Available Lowrance products are protected by a one- or two-year limited warranty (depending on the product), and supported for an additional three years by the Lowrance 5-Year Advantage Program, which allows customers to upgrade to the latest technology, at a discounted price, in the unlikely event that a product fails or needs repair.

MILLER GROVE CATFISH

ALL YOU CAN EAT BUFFET!



Stacey's FISH FRY

"Established In 1996"

Fried Catfish
Fried & Boiled Shrimp
Home Cut fries * Baked Potatoes
3 Kinds of Hushpuppies * Beans
Full Salad Bar * Banana Pudding
Ice Tea

Open Fridays & Saturdays
4:00 pm - 9:00 pm

903-459-3300

White-tailed Deer Harvest Numbers Expected to be Good for 2026-27 Hunting Season

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) biologists indicate hunters can expect good harvest numbers and opportunities for quality bucks during the 2026-27 season. Following three above-average years of fawn survival, the Texas white-tailed deer population has climbed to an estimated 5.64 million.

"Texas leads the nation in terms of number of deer hunters, annual harvest and deer population," said Blaise Korzekwa, TPWD white-tailed deer program leader. "Even an average year in Texas is worth hunting and those landowners who properly manage the state's natural resources have shown year after year that their management can pay off."

Rainfall and habitat conditions go hand-in-hand and fluctuate seasonally throughout the state. Nearly all of Texas started the spring in some form of drought, but late spring and early summer rain drastically improved habitat conditions. While late spring drought conditions improved throughout much of the state, areas in the Cross Timbers, Ed-

wards Plateau, Eastern Rolling Plains and pockets of the Post Oak Savannah and Blackland Prairie fared better than other regions and should expect a slightly above average season. Pockets of South Texas and the Pineywoods didn't receive the increase in habitat conditions in late spring but did receive rainfall and below-average temperatures mid-summer that should increase fawn survival.

Good Habitat Management Creates Harvest Opportunities

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

Antler growth is directly related to rainfall between April and June, and the improved habitat that follows. This year, hunters should see slightly above-average antler quality for most of the state. Pockets

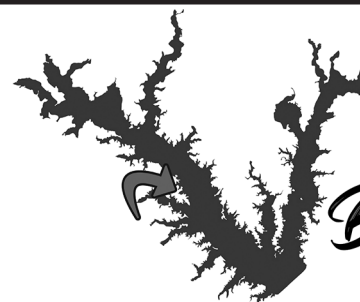
of the Pineywoods and South Texas that missed out on the late-spring rains should expect average antler quality this season. Much-needed summer rain and mild weather helped more fawns survive this year. Ranches that manage deer populations through hunting and improving native habitat will see steady improvements over time.

Although hunters can harvest a mature buck with a quality set of antlers in any area of Texas, there are a few regions of the state that typically produce a greater number of larger antlered bucks, namely the South Texas brush country and the Western Rolling Plains. Average Boone and Crockett (B&C) scores of a buck that is 5.5 years old or older is about 131 inches in South Texas and 133 inches in the Western Rolling Plains. Other ecoregions of the state can also produce exceptional bucks, with each ecoregion producing trophies every year and statewide B&C scores averaging 124 inches if the bucks

(See White-tailed Deer Harvest.....

Continued on Page 20)

Always Think...



Lake Fork Boat & Mini Storage

Boat Storage

12 x 24

12 x 28

12 x 29

12 x 30

Mini Storage

5 x 10

10 x 10

10 x 20

TOLL FREE 1-833-TXSTORAGE

1-833-897-8672

www.BoatStorage.Rent



Chase Owens from Hawkins, Texas caught this Lake Fork hawg weighing 7.97-lbs. in the Berkley Tournament.



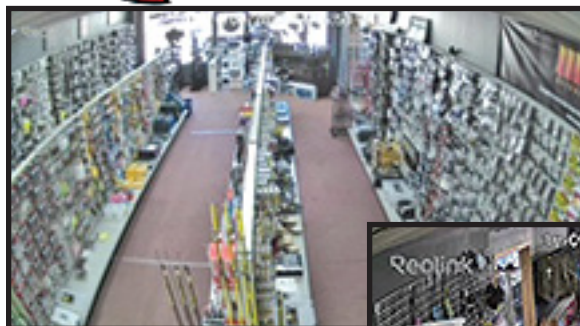
James Harmon from Kirby, AR. caught this Lake Fork hawg weighing 7.91-lbs. in the Berkley Tournament.



Jacob Callahan from Yantis, Texas caught this Lake Fork hawg weighing 7.79-lbs. in the Berkley Tournament.



1058 N Pacific St.
Mineola, TX 75773
903-307-9993

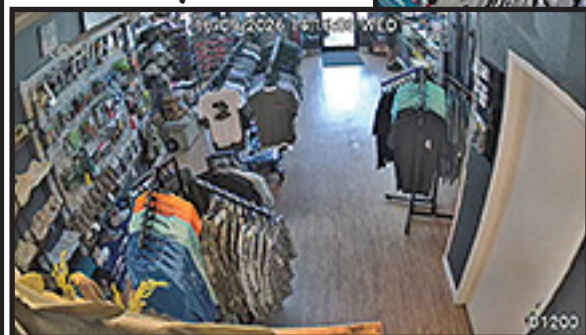


Large Inventory
Fishing Lures &
Tackle

Great Selection
of
Kayaks



All Your Needs
For Apparel &
Hunting
Supplies



FOR SALE:

**LAKE FORK WATERFRONT HOME
LONG BRANCH COVE
665 Private Road 5881 Yantis, TX**



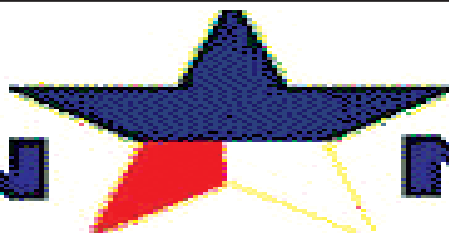
\$880,000

Situated on a 0.95-acre corner lot (with 0.7-acre leaseback), This property has 166 ft. of waterfront, and includes a boat dock with lift that sits adjacent to the private neighborhood boat ramp. This lovely 2,934 sq. ft. all-brick home features 2 bed/ 3 baths, 2 living areas, a large breakfast bar and a formal dining room. Enjoy a 1,420 sq. ft. garage, 2 air-conditioned workshops, 3 multi-level patios, and a 46x11 screened patio area.

For Info: 512-289-1289 scooterbyrum@gmail.com

~ Since 1984 ~

SARTIN



MARINE

~ Since 1984 ~

BULLET
 TOTAL PERFORMANCE BOATS

FALCON
 BOATS

X xpress boats


F215

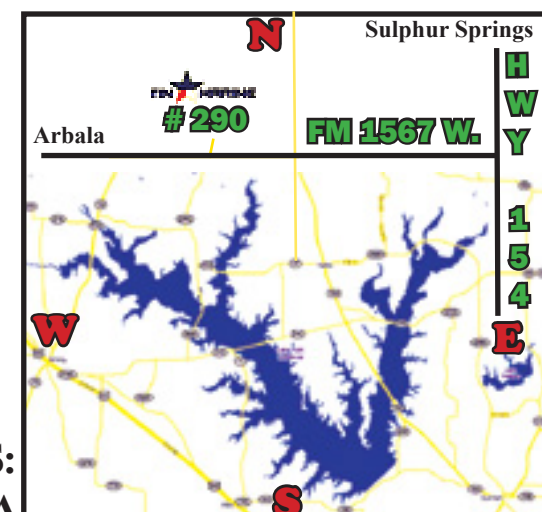


XPRESS BOATS

Let us put you on the water in a super new 2027 iKon, Bullet, Skeeter, Falcon, Xpress, Veranda or a quality used boat!


iKON

SKEEETER
 PERFORMANCE FISHING BOATS

 CERTIFIED MECHANICS
 SERVICE ON ALL MAKES
 & MODELS

www.sartinmarine.com

FINANCING AVAILABLE

Ask About Our Service Specials

903-383-7726 Toll Free 866-920-8331

OPEN TUES. ~ SAT.

AUTHORIZED SALES * SERVICE * PARTS * ACCESSORIES:

AUTHORIZED DEALER FOR: GARMIN * HUMMINBIRD * MINNKOTA



290 FM 1567 WEST



Grease Monkey BBQ & Grill

9371 FM 515

Alba, TX 75410

greasemonkeybbqgrill@gmail.com

(903) 474-3856

Tuesday - Thursday: 11 AM - 7 PM

Friday & Saturday: 11 AM - 8 PM

Sunday & Monday: Closed



Smoked low, grilled hot, and served with attitude. Grease Monkey BBQ & Grill is serving it up! Full service restaurant, bar and an indoor playground to make sure we have something for every age!

Emory, Texas announced as location for Starlink Team Series B&W Trailer Hitches Challenge Cup Presented by MillerTech

Major League Fishing, the world's largest tournament-fishing organization, announced today that Emory, Texas, will be the host location for the third event of the 2026 Starlink Team Series Presented by Bass Pro Shops season – the B&W Trailer Hitches Challenge Cup Presented by MillerTech, Sunday, Nov. 15, through Friday, Nov. 20.

The B&W Trailer Hitches Challenge Cup Presented by MillerTech is hosted by Rains County and will take place over six days. In keeping with traditional MLF Cup protocols all fishable waters within 60 miles of Emory, Texas, are now off limits to competing anglers. The competition waters for each day are top-secret and only revealed to the anglers when they arrive at the boat ramp each morning. Anglers are driven directly to the day's

competition area launch ramp by their officials. The MLFNOW! live broadcast begins on the water at 9 a.m. CT.

The Starlink Team Series features four Cup events in 2026 – the Patriot, Heritage, Challenge and Summit Cups – each showcasing 12 two-man teams of Bass Pro Tour anglers competing for a share of \$560,000 in prize money across all four events.

All six days of competition will stream live on MLFNOW!, offering fans a front-row seat to every hookset, decision and adjustment as teams explore new fisheries and adapt in real time. The final hour of each day of competition will be broadcast live from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. ET on RFD-TV, and each event will also be featured in a series of six original, two-hour episodes set to premiere on Outdoor

Channel in the first quarter of 2027.

The 12 teams that will compete in the Challenge Cup in Emory, Texas, Nov. 15-20 are:

Team B&W Trailer Hitches:

David Dudley, Lynchburg, Va.
Dylan Hays, Hot Springs, Ark.

Team BUBBA:

Alton Jones Jr., Lorena, Texas
Alton Jones Sr., Lorena, Texas

Team Ferguson:

Drew Gill, Mount Carmel, Ill.
Mitchell Robinson, Landrum, S.C.

Team Knighten Industries:

Keith Carson, DeBary, Fla.

(Continued on Next Page)



714 S. Main St.
Quitman, TX 75783
903-763-5225
Visit Us Online
www.s2marine.com



BLAZER BOAT DEALER

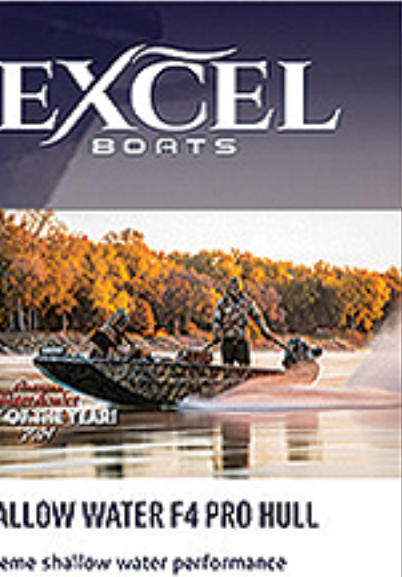


MERCURY
1 On The Water

CERTIFIED TECHNICIAN

PLATINUM ELITE STOCKING LOOSE ENGINE DEALER

"Give Your Boat New Life!"
(Engines In Stock)



EXCEL BOATS

SHALLOW WATER F4 PRO HULL
Extreme shallow water performance



ALLISON
Ultra Performance BOATS

Platinum Elite
MERCURY

YAMAHA

Anthony Gagliardi, Prosperity, S.C.

Team Kubota:

Matt Becker, Ten Mile, Tenn.

Spencer Shuffield, Hot Springs, Ark.

Team Lowrance:

Takahiro Omori, Tokyo, Japan

Dean Rojas, Lake Havasu City, Ariz.

Team Lucas Oil:

Jake Lawrence, Paris, Tenn.

Banks Shaw, Harrison, Tenn.

Team MillerTech:

Dustin Connell, Deatsville, Ala.

Jacob Wheeler, Harrison, Tenn.

Team O'Reilly Auto Parts:

John Hunter, Shelbyville, Ky.

Marshall Hughes, Hemphill, Texas

Team OFF! Deep Woods:

Ott DeFoe, Blaine, Tenn.

Andy Montgomery, Blacksburg, S.C.

Team Star brite:

Justin Cooper, Zwolle, La.

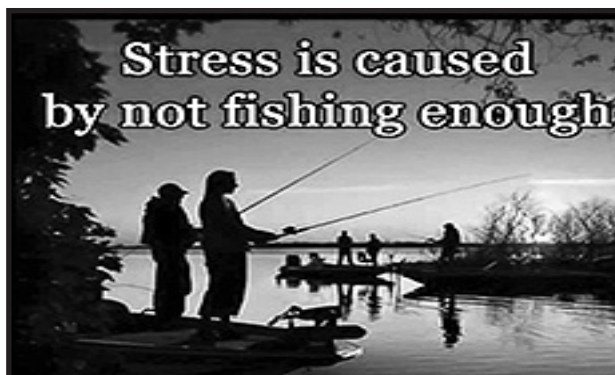
Colby Miller, Elmer, La.

Team YETI:

James Elam, Tulsa, Okla.

Fletcher Shryock, Cleveland, Tenn.

**Stress is caused
by not fishing enough**



**MY FISHING SPOT
IS JUST NORTH OF
NONE-YA-BUSINESS**



**ABOUT A MILE UP
I'LL NEVER TELL CREEK
SMACK IN THE MIDDLE OF
BITE ME COVE**

WIDE-OPEN WATER !



**BOAT RAMP !
BOAT SLIPS !**



BEST TACKLE STORE ON FORK !

**OAK RIDGE
Marina**

SINCE 1981

**RESTAURANT
TACKLE STORE
MOTEL
RV PARK**

BEST RESTAURANT ON THE LAKE !



**WATERFRONT
DINING !**



deps



**MLF HOST SITE !
2020 & 2022 !**

**WEIGH
STATION !**



**REMODELED
ROOMS !**

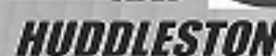


ONLY AT OAK RIDGE!

2949 W. HIGHWAY 154 - QUITMAN TX 75783 - (903) 878-2529

www.oakridgemarina.com

[@oakridgemarina](https://www.facebook.com/oakridgemarina)



KEITECH

ROBOWORM

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

By Don Hampton
LFSA President

At the October meeting our guest speakers were Travis Decker and Jerry Hancock owners/organizers of Crappie Fest 2027 on Lake Fork. Crappie Fest will be held April 2nd thru 4th, 2027. Payouts for the anglers will be greatly increased from previous years. This should also make all of you crappie fishermen very excited. They are also going to have a free fish fry and free live entertainment for the whole family. The heaviest crappie of

the tournament will be worth \$50,000.

Eight of our members attended the Texas Freshwater Hall of Fame Banquet. The 2026 member induction to the Hall of Fame this year were the Pierce Brothers from Lake Fork Taxidermy and Michael Scherer for all their many contributions to the fishing industry. Truly well deserving individuals for all their many accomplishments.

October also marked the end of our fall raffle. We were blessed with an added tournament prior to the ending at the

Berkley Big Bass Tournament. Our volunteers always do an excellent job at representing the association. The drawing concluded the raffle at the closing of the tournament and all the great prizes have been distributed to the win-

ners

If you are interested in becoming a member or just come as a guest, our meetings are held the 2nd Tuesday of each month at Jamie's Restaurant beginning at 6:30 pm.



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

Rods, reels, tackle, and fishing-related equipment are needed to support the High School Fishing Tackle Program sponsored by Lake Fork Sportsman's Association. LFSA requests donations of new and used fishing articles that will be cleaned, assembled, and refurbished. Items will be further donated to area high school fishing teams. Call Don Hampton, 903-360-6994 or Ken West, 903-752-2016 for more information or to arrange a donation.

Lake Fork Sportsman's ASSOCIATION
Preserving The Legend

Meetings are held the 2nd Tuesday of each month beginning at 6:30 pm at Jamie's Restaurant off Hwy. 17N

"Wish To Fish Foundation"

903-383-7748

Needs Your Help!!!

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

We'll take over from there!

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

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



Martins

FISHERMANS INN
2933 West SH 154
Quitman, TX 75783
903-878-2137

Family Owned & Operated
P.O. Box 653

www.lakeforkfishermansinn.com
CABIN RENTALS • RV PARK

Bev's Fish Creations & Waterfowl Taxidermy

903-473-4529

Replicas ~ \$20 per inch

Ducks ~ \$425

Lake Fork Tournament Schedule Nov. thru Jan.

2027

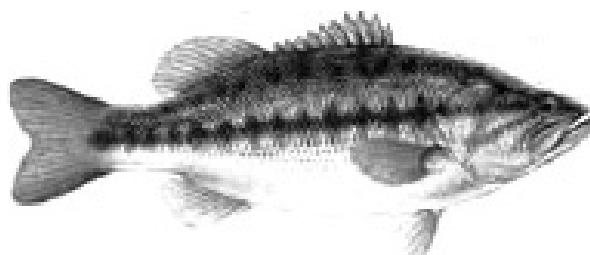


November

NO NOTIFICATIONS AS YET
FOR SCHEDULED
TOURNAMENTS
IN NOVEMBER

December

Dec. 5 ~ JC Outdoors Teams
Minnow Bucket



January

NO NOTIFICATIONS AS YET
FOR SCHEDULED
TOURNAMENTS
IN JANUARY



Jamie's Restaurant

"My Oh My The Pie"

903-765-2087

Tony Stout

Outdoor Staining & Painting

DECKS • DOCKS • PATIOS • PORCHES • FENCES

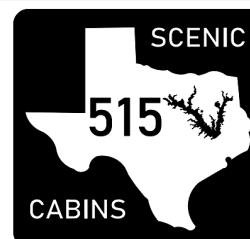
Pressure Washing Available...

RVs, Homes, Vinyl, Brick, Concrete, Etc.

Good Work • Fair Prices

903-782-5694

Quitman, TX 75783



8372 W. FM 515 Yantis, TX 75497

903-383-7885

**Alexander's
Meat Market**

903-342-0300

308 E. Coke Rd. Winnsboro, TX

eto
East Texas Optical, Inc.
2476 West Highway 154 • Quitman, TX.,
903-878-2451 or 800-442-8266

Buy One pair of eyeglasses

Get 2nd pair 1/2 OFF

Open: Mon. ~ Fri. 9 A.M. - 6 P.M.

Saturday ~ 9 A.M. - 1 P.M.



Paul Bacon
Physical Therapist

903 E. Lennon St., Ste. 101
Emory, TX 75440

(903) 474-9436
fax (903) 473-3170

WEIGANT

FIBERGLASS

COLLISION REPAIR

903-932-2905

**Cocina
PERALTA'S
Mexicana**

Family Owned & Operated
with four locations to serve you:

Grand Saline 310 W. Garland St. 903.962.3949	Quitman 607 South Main 903.763.5020	Winnsboro 813 South Main 903.342.5303	Pittsburg 507 South Greer Blvd. 903.856.2959
--	---	---	--

24 hour Service Credit Terms Available

**Monte Coleman's
DISCOUNT BAIL
BONDS**

Quitman, Texas • 407 Stephens
Right Across From Wood County Jail
Fast & Honest Service

(903) 763-4844

White-tailed Deer Harvest Numbers Expected to be Good (Continues from Page 12)

survive to 5.5 years of age.

New World Screwworm

New World Screwworm (NWS) was confirmed earlier this year in Texas and hunters are strongly encouraged to monitor wildlife by using trail cameras and while hunting this season. Any signs of a NWS infestation should be promptly reported to the local TPWD biologist to allow for quick action by all agency partners to aid in the eradication of NWS.

In the early 1900s, NWS drastically impacted white-tailed deer populations, and Texas wouldn't have a thriving deer population or current deer management if proper NWS management had not occurred. Information on how to inspect your harvest for NWS is available online.

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

Chronic Wasting Disease

Landowners and hunters play an important role in managing Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) and can reduce its impact by managing populations, properly discarding unused carcass parts, reporting sick deer and voluntarily testing.

Hunters are reminded to review the TPWD website and Outdoor Annual app to review this year's season dates, bag limits

and information about proper carcass disposal. Hunters following these regulations are allowed to debone carcasses to help prevent the accidental spread of wildlife diseases.

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

Ecoregion Highlights: Edwards Plateau

The Edwards Plateau, commonly called the Hill Country, has the highest deer population in the state with an estimated 1.973 million white-tailed deer

in this ecoregion alone. Severe drought conditions in 2022 lowered the region's population to 1.514 million white-tailed deer in 2023. Since then, consecutive years of exceptional fawn survival helped the population to steadily increase. Hunters looking for opportunities to see lots of deer this fall should put this area on the priority list.

The area around Llano and Mason counties (Deer Management Unit 6) has the highest deer density in the region. Doe harvest is especially important in this area to relieve pressure on food resources.

Despite what seems

like perpetual drought conditions every spring, the Edwards Plateau has received adequate rainfall in recent years and is a great deer hunting region, especially for hunters looking for quantity of animals. It consistently produces one of the highest hunter success rates in the state.

South Texas

The South Texas Plains ecoregion is known for mature bucks and above average antler quality relative to most other areas of the state. For hunters seeking a once-in-a-lifetime trophy, South Texas is often regarded as the premier big buck destination.

Estimates show a population of nearly 478,000 white-tailed deer, and although drought conditions can limit growth from year to year, the population has been trending upward with slow growth over the last two decades. More-often-than-not drought conditions in South Texas leads to erratic fawn crops that keep population growth at a slow pace and require good habitat management and population management practices to produce the quality of deer South Texas is known for.

Lake Fork Ranch Resort



RV Park and Cabins

903-473-8784 • 306 PR 7332 • Emory, TX., 75440

Hwy. 515 to Rains CR 3330 Turn North 1.8 miles

Cabins • Sleeps 3

Aminities Include Direct TV

Microwave • Coffee Pot

• Mini-fridge

Lodge ~ Sleeps 5, Duplex ~ Sleeps 6

RV Sites • Lake Front & Lake View Full Hook-Ups

Annual • Monthly • Weekly • Overnight

Covered Pavilion • Restrooms

Fishing Pier with Cleaning Station

Boat Ramp

Playground For The

Children



REEL INN AND LODGE

Reelinnandlodge.com

903-878-2277(BASS) Cozy, Themed Rooms with Lake Fork Fish Decor
2784 Highway 154 - FREE Wi-Fi-Pet Friendly
Quitman, TX 75783 - less than a mile from Lake Fork

Stripping * Sand Blasting
Head Light Refinish
Text or Leave
a Message



903-975-4370

Lake Fork, The Big Bass Capital of Texas

If you fish Lake Fork, you were fishing over a forest.

The lake was impounded in 1980 in East Texas, and the people planning it made a choice most lake builders do not make. They would not clear the hardwood and pine out of the basin. They left most of the timber standing on purpose, to give the fish somewhere to live. Then the water came up over it, and that forest is still standing down there on the bottom today.

Texas Parks and Wildlife will tell you plainly that "submerged timber represents a substantial hazard," and the lake has "numerous buoyed boat lanes" to get boats through it safely.

They did one more clever thing. Just before the dam closed, farm ponds in the basin were stocked with Florida bass, and then the water was allowed to rise right over the top of them.

It worked better than anybody could have hoped. More than sixty-five percent of the Texas Top 50 bass have come out of Lake Fork,

including the state record.

A drowned forest and a few flooded farm ponds, and the result is

the bass lake every bass fisherman in the United States and most of the world knows by name and desire to fish.

Just The Right Answers

Sponsored By:

Wish To Fish Foundation

903-360-6994 www.wishtofishfoundation.com

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

Supply Find

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

NOTEBOOK

PENCIL
PEN
PAPER
RULER
ERASER
TEXT

SCISSOR
STAPLER
PAPER CLIP
GLUE
BACKPACK
LOCK
FOLDER

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



**MUSTANG
RESORT**
Motel, Marina,
R.V. Park and
Professional
Guide Service

Located on Beautiful Lake Fork's Little Mustang Bay on Hwy. 17 ~ 5 miles north of Alba, Texas

Beautiful 10 Unit Motel * Ample Lighted Boat Parking * Comfortably Decorated in Rustic Cedar
* 2 Full-Sized Beds * Cable TV * WIFI
* Refrigerator * Coffee Maker
* Individual Heating & Air Conditioning
* Electronic Security Gate
RV's Daily/Weekly/Monthly/Annually
Annual Boat Launch * Annual Dry Boat Storage
Store * Tackle * Bait * Gas

507 County Road 1550 * Alba, TX., 75410

Call: (903) 765-2548 Fax: (903) 765-3089

Email: mustang@texascellnet.com

Visit on the web: www.mustangresort.com



**First National Bank
of East Texas**

Together, We're Better

Welcome
**All Visitors
& Anglers To Lake Fork
And The Area**

First National Bank of East Texas

417 South Main

Quitman, Texas

903-763-4545

100 NW Loop 564

Mineola, Texas

903-569-1082

1947 FM 2946

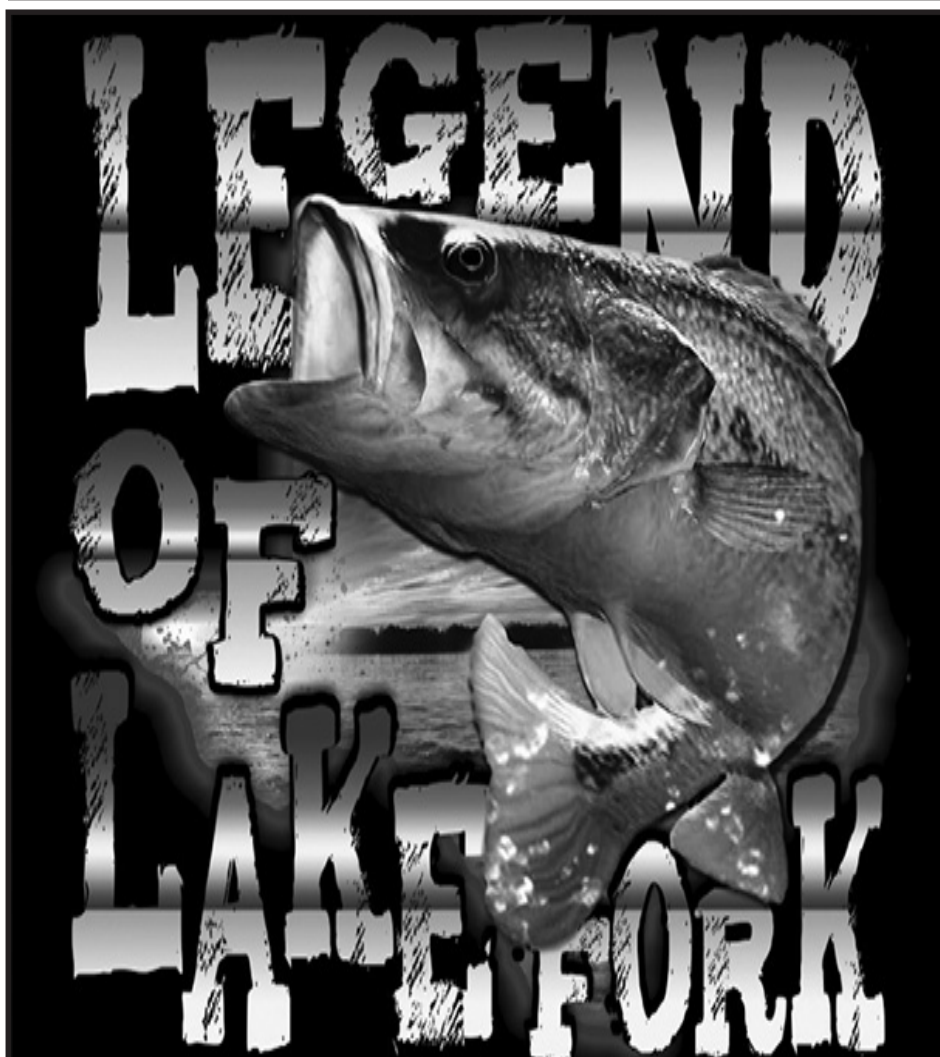
Emory, Texas

903-474-8055

www.fnbetx.com

"Branches of First National Bank
Of East Texas, Gilmer"





22nd Annual Big Bass Tournament

May 21, 22, 23, 2027

**Now Accepting Reservations For
Commercial & Vendor Spaces**

For May 20, 21, 22, 23, 2027

Anglers from all over the nation will be converging on Lake Fork to fish this tournament! What better time to advertise & promote your products, merchandise, or company!

Call Today: 903-360-6994 Email: fishnewslakefork@gmail.com

Game Warden Field Notes

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

--Don't Play the Slots--

A Shelby County game warden was checking fishermen on Lake Pinkston. While inspecting a fisherman's boat the warden observed a livewell with nine bass in it, most were obviously in the slot. On Lake Pinkston, only bass 14 inches and less or 21 inches or greater in length may be retained. Only one largemouth bass

21 inches or greater may be retained each day. After measuring the fisherman's catch, there was a total of seven illegal slot bass. The subject received multiple citations and was educated on the lake's slot limit.

--Following the Paper Trail-- A Cherokee County game warden stopped a flat bottom boat on Lake Palestine that was running well after dark with no navigation lights. During the stop, the warden discovered other violations, such as no fishing license and possession of headed and tailed

fish on board the vessel. One subject had a hunting license, but no fishing license. When asked about the deer the subject had killed last season, as a buck was documented on his harvest log, the subject responded that he had shot a doe. After some more questioning, the warden received information that led him to believe the subject's stepfather had possibly shot a deer and used the subject's tag. Wardens set up an interview with the subject and his stepfather two days later. It was determined that the

(Continued on Page 24)

November Crappie (Continued from Page 8)

penings is that it's time for Lake Fork Marinas "Customer Appreciation" month specials! They discount the price of rooms, plus 25% off all tackle, gifts, and clothing. It's a great time to stock up on baits, and do your holiday gift shopping. If you haven't been to their tackle store, you will be amazed at what you'll find there. It's a shoppers paradise! Get your rooms booked by calling 903-765-2764.

As the days grow shorter, the bite will slowly move deeper, but for now, November crappie are thick, hungry, and ready for anyone willing to put in the time. It's a great time to enjoy the fellowship of friends on the water! If you are thinking of chasing some crappie, you can reach me at 903-335-0941.

Happy Thanksgiving!!

My best to you all!

Fish Friendly

Practice Safe Boating

If you would like

**"THE
FISHERMAN'S
GUIDE NEWS"**

Delivered to you, a friend, or relative's home for 1 year (12 Issues)

For Only \$35,
Send check or
Money Order

Name & Address to:

The Fisherman's
Guide News
538 PR 5861
Yantis, TX.,
75497

Men Take Center Stage in the Kitchen

By Sue Hampton

Today's families try to balance the household chores. As a result, you'll find more men in the kitchen creating culinary delights. In fact, November 2 has been deemed National Men Make Dinner Day, and if your hubby, brother, father or male

friend is planning on being around the skillet and stove, insist that he do his share of kitchen duty.

Perhaps your man is not as adept with the tools of the kitchen, and creating a four-course feast is a frightening event for him. A quick and easy appetizer may boost his spirits. Have him try this recipe!



Shrimp wrapped in bacon are a tasty way for a man to showcase his culinary skills!

Bacon-Wrapped Shrimp With Onion Marmalade

(Yield: 6 servings)

12 shrimp (about 1 pound), peeled, with tails left on

12 thin slices smoked bacon

1-1/2 cups Onion Marmalade (see below)

Prepare a grill. The temperature should be medium-high. Clean and devein the shrimp. Wrap bacon tightly around each shrimp. Preheat the oven to 500 F. Place the shrimp on the grill and cook them for 5 minutes. Turn them over and cook an additional 5 minutes. The

bacon should be browned and crisp. Make sure the shrimp do not catch on fire from the bacon drippings igniting. Remove the shrimp to a sheet pan and place them in the preheated oven to finish cooking for 4 minutes, or until the bacon is cooked. Serve two shrimp with 1/4 cup of marmalade per person as an appetizer.

Marmalade:

2 large red onions

2 large yellow onions

4 bunches scallions, green part only

3 tablespoons olive oil

1-1/2 cups balsamic vinegar

1/4 cup brown sugar

Kosher salt to taste

Freshly ground pepper to taste

Peel the onions and trim the root ends. Stand each onion on its root end and slice through the center top to bottom. Continue thinly slicing each half in this fashion to produce thin, semicircular julienne slices. Slice the green part of the scallions into thin slices. Heat the olive oil in a large skillet over medium heat. Add all of the onions and scallions and toss to coat with oil. Saute until onions begin to soften. Cover the pan and cook until they are wilted. Remove the lid, increase the

heat, and add the vinegar. Cook until the vinegar reduces by one half, stirring occasionally. Add the sugar and stir well. Taste the mixture; it should be sweet and sour. Onions have different amounts of natural sugar at different times of the year, so the amount of sugar may need to be adjusted to taste. Reduce to low heat and continue cooking the mixture until the liquid is almost absorbed and the marmalade is thick, about 10 minutes. Remove from heat and serve. Store any extra in a jar in the refrigerator; it will keep up to a week.



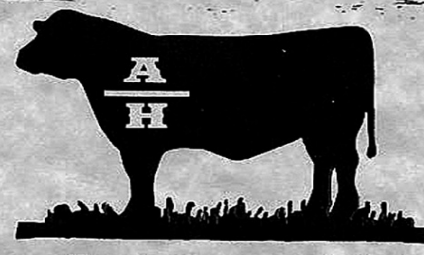
**Alexander's
Meat Market**
903-342-0300
308 E Coke Rd Winnsboro, TX

At Our Location Between Brookshires & McDonald's

Custom Smoking For The Holidays
Deer Processing (Seasonal)

Now Making Summer Sausage, Beef Sticks, and
Smoked Sausage • E.E. Wilson Syrup • Honey • Ribbon
Cane • Sorgham • Moonshine Syrup

A Fresh Selection Just For You!



A Bar H
CUSTOM MEAT PROCESSING

Dispatch * Skin * Quarter
On Your Property.

Hang, Process, & Package
At Alexander Meat Market.

For Pricing Information

Call: Donnie 903-975-5849

or Caden 903-975-5890 *903-342-0300

Game Warden Field Notes (Continued from Page 22)

subject's stepfather, who did not possess a valid hunting license for the season, shot a spike buck behind the house and tagged it with his stepson's tag. It was also determined that the stepson had shot a doe, behind their house, and never tagged it. Numerous citations and warnings were filed. Cases pending.

--Gator Poacher Caught-- Henderson County game wardens investigating a possible poaching case involving a huge alligator that was taken on Kickapoo Creek were able to locate the shooter and determine that the alligator was in fact taken without landowner consent, was taken by illegal means/methods, and that no permit had been sought after the kill. The alligator measured 12 feet, 6 inches and is one of the largest ever known to have been killed in Henderson County. Cases and civil restitution pending.

--Pass with Caution-- A Bowie County game warden was patrolling near New Boston when he

observed a vehicle coming to a stop in the middle of the road in front of him. The driver of the vehicle motioned for the warden to drive around his vehicle. Believing that the subject may have been having vehicle problems, the warden turned on his red and blue lights and pulled up behind the vehicle and that's when he noticed an expired vehicle registration. A records check revealed that the subject had six active warrants for his arrest. The subject was taken into custody and during an inventory of the suspect's vehicle, the warden discovered a meth pipe and a small clear plastic bag containing a white/crystal-like substance believed to be methamphetamine. The suspect was arrested on the warrants and for being in possession of a controlled substance and possession of drug paraphernalia. Cases pending.

--Cavalry to the Rescue-- A Freestone County game warden patrolling around Fairfield Lake near the boat ramp observed a capsized vessel on

the other side of the lake. Two individuals were in the water trying to swim back to their boat. The warden commandeered a boat from the state park and got help from an off-duty state park police officer and an off-duty Shelby County game warden. The officers were able to make contact with the individuals and pulled them into their boat. The officers recovered the vessel and were able to return it and the individuals to safety. Thankfully, both men were wearing PFDs and neither suffered any injuries.

--Big Turtle Not Hot to Trot-- A Harrison County game warden got a call about a large alligator snapping turtle that had been in the same spot on the river for a couple of days. The warden found the big turtle and was able to get close enough to free him from the trotline on which he was caught.

--Hog Hunter on the Run?-- A Cooke County game warden was called in to assist with a miss-

(Continued on Next Page)



LOCAL NEWS
1100 AM
KMOO.COM

CENTRAL STORE

LISTEN LIVE

KMOO
BUSINESS DIRECTORY

www.lakeforkoutdoors.com

dsilcox@lakeforkoutdoors.com

Lake Fork Outdoors®

- Personalized Attention
- Day or Night
- Individual or Group Trips
- Instructional Techniques

- Devoted Professional
- Licensed Service
- Full or Half Days
- Seasonal Pattern Fishing

Dan Silcox
1463 Pr. Rd 6395
Alba, Tx 75410

Guide Service

903-780-6595

**I GO FISHING
BECAUSE
WITHOUT IT,
I'M BASICALLY A
2-YEAR-OLD
WHOSE BLANKIE
IS IN THE WASHER.**

ing hunter along the Red River. An adult male had separated from the group during the early morning hog hunt and had not been heard from. The warden deployed an ATV to cover the large adjoining property. Local air support and search dogs were also called in but the subject, who also is believed to have several outstanding felony warrants, was not located.

--Unlawful Boating Warrants Further Investigation-- A Henderson County game warden was patrolling Cedar Creek Lake when he came in contact with a vessel that had expired registration and a non-serviceable fire extinguisher. After further investigation, it was determined the owner of the vessel had an active warrant for criminal non-support. The owner of the vessel was transported to the Henderson County Jail. As the warden continued his water safety patrol, he observed a ski boat driving recklessly near residential boat docks. After several attempts, the warden was able to get the boat to stop. He noticed the driver

and passenger "huddling" as if they were trying to get their story straight. During the contact he observed the operator of the vessel seemed very uneasy and didn't know where any of his water safety equipment was located. Upon further investigation, it was determined the vessel had been stolen back in April. The driver and the passenger were both transported to the Henderson County Jail for Unauthorized Use of a Vessel. The operator also had several outstanding warrants in several different counties.

--Impaired Judgment Call-- Limestone County game wardens were refueling at a local gas station when a car with three females drove up and attempted to flirt with the officers. The driver exhibited several signs of intoxication including slurred speech, bloodshot eyes, and impaired judgment and delayed motor skills. SFST (Standardized Field Sobriety Tests) were performed and the driver was subsequently arrested for driving while intoxicated.

--Paper Trail Snares Suspect-- A Wharton County game warden wrapped up a short-term investigation into the illegal taking of several white-tailed deer by the means of snares. The warden received information from a concerned ranch hand who had come across several snares on a fence line of adjoining properties. Some deer were seen caught still alive, while others were already deceased. The warden documented the locations of the snares and interviewed neighboring landowners, farmers, ranch hands and several hunters with no confessions. He then checked local stores in the community and received a list of names of those who recently bought snares, which included one of the names the warden had already interviewed. With this new information and other evidence, the warden got a full confession from the suspect who admitted to snaring several deer, but claimed he was targeting feral hogs. Cases and civil restitution are pending.

Service Marine on Lake Fork

NOW IN THEIR 35th YEAR OF BUSINESS OFFERING "SERVICE FIRST"

WE WILL FLOAT YOUR BOAT WITH "BIG SAVINGS"

"BE READY FOR BIG FUN ON THE WATER"

MERCURY

YAMAHA



TOHATSU

Feel the Wind™

**Certified Service Center
Mercury, Yamaha, Tohatsu**



2 Stroke Oil ~ Mercury & Yamaha

Hwy. 515 @ 69 Junction

Emory, Texas * 903-473-3909

With your new silent partner
**YOU GET ALL THE
GLORY.**



**Sales * Service
Installation**
With Power-Pole
you can stop your
boat swiftly and
silently with the
touch of a button
and keep your boat
securely in place,
even in heavy wind
and current.

visit us online at:

www.lakeforkservicemarine.com

*Fish Friendly
Practice Good
Sportsmanship
& Help Keep
Our Lake Clean*



Rods, reels, tackle, and fishing-related equipment are needed to support the High School Fishing Tackle Program sponsored by Lake Fork Sportsman's Association. LFSA requests donations of new and used fishing articles that will be cleaned, assembled, and refurbished. Items will be further donated to area high school fishing teams.

Call Don Hampton, 903-360-6994 or Ken West, 903-752-2016 for more information or to arrange a donation.

24 hour Service Credit Terms Available

**Monte Coleman's
DISCOUNT BAIL
BONDS**

Quitman, Texas * 407 Stephens
Right Across From Wood County Jail
Fast & Honest Service
(903) 763-4844

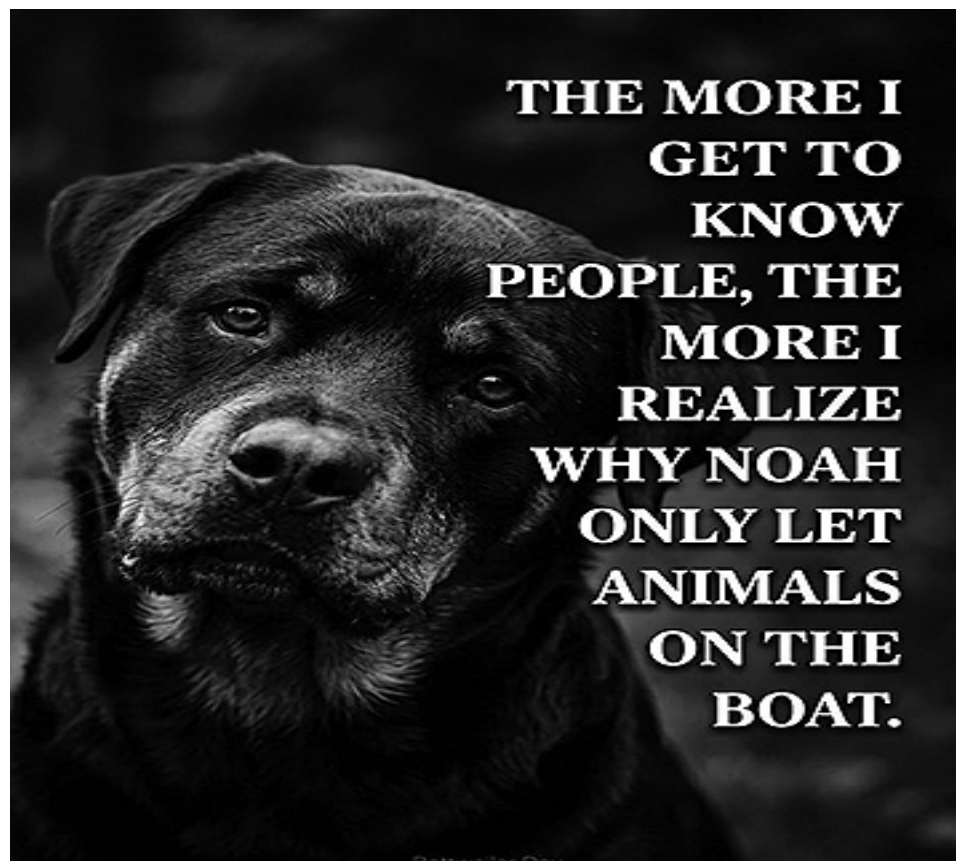
Brian Toliver

Sulphur Springs & Quitman

Your Lake Fork Ford Dealer

1040 Gilmer Street	539 E. Goode
Sulphur Springs, Texas 75482	Quitman, Texas 75783
903-885-0502	903-763-2232

www.ToliverFord.com





22nd Annual Legend of Lake Fork

Big Bass Tournament * May 21, 22, 23, 2027

\$200,000

In Cash & Prizes Benefiting "The Wish To Fish Foundation"

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

HOURLY PAY-OUTS

1ST ~ \$800
2ND ~ \$500
3RD ~ \$400
4TH ~ \$300
5TH ~ \$275
6TH ~ \$250
7TH ~ \$235
8TH ~ \$225
9TH ~ \$215
10TH ~ \$210
1ST OUT \$100 GC

GRAND PRIZES INCLUDE:

\$30,000 FOR THE HEAVIEST BASS OVER THE SLOT
\$20,000 FOR THE HEAVIEST UNDER THT SLOT, \$15,000
EARLY INCENTIVE DRAW (EARLY ENTRIES ONLY BEFORE
APRIL 30,2027. MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN)
ALL BOATS, MAKES & MODELS WELCOME

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL:

903-360-6993 OR 903-360-6994
email ~ fishnewslakefork@gmail.com
website: www.legendsoflakefork.com

**BONUS T-SHIRT
EVERY
HOUR OF THE
TOURNAMENT**

**TFO RODS
AVAILABLE
AT
TOURNAMENT
\$65 EACH**

4TH ANNUAL

NOW OPEN
TO THE PUBLIC

BASS ONLY • 8 WEIGH-INS

KISTLER

**BIG BASS
CLASSIC**

LAKE FORK, TEXAS

ONE DAY ONLY

MARCH 20TH
2027

SRA CANEY POINT
RECREATION AREA

\$500,000*

TOTAL CASH, PRIZES
& GIVEAWAYS

*BASED ON 1,000 ENTRIES

\$250

1-DAY ENTRY

GRAND PRIZE DRAWING

BOAT • MOTOR • TRAILER

\$80,000 MSRP



BOAT AWARDED ONLY IF 1,000 PAID ENTRIES ARE RECEIVED • MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN

HEAVIEST BASS OVER THE SLOT

\$15,000

HEAVIEST BASS UNDER THE SLOT

\$10,000

HOURLY CASH PAYOUT

\$41,200

8 WEIGH-INS • 160 WINNERS • \$1,000 1ST PLACE

MORE WAYS TO WIN OWNER BONUS: 2x HOURLY WINNINGS • TEAM KISTLER: 3x HOURLY WINNINGS • 5 x \$1,000 EXACT-WEIGHT PRIZES • \$100 CAP CASH HOURLY • \$5,000 EARLY-BIRD PRIZE • LADY'S DIVISION • FREE \$300+ BUNDLE

HQ: Lake Fork Tackle Shack, Alba • Authorized dealer: BKON Outdoors, Mineola
Open to the public, excluding guides & pros • Hourly payouts based on 500 paid entries

ONLINE REGISTRATION
BEGINS NOVEMBER

KISTLERRODS.COM/CLASSIC

EARLY-BIRD DEADLINE
DEC 31, 2026