LAIKE FORK "The Big Bass Capital of Texas





#### **By Don Hampton**

For all of you tournament anglers now is the time to start off with a great pay-out tournament. The 7th Annual Ford Mega Bass Tournament will be held on Lake paybacks for the top 15 Fork on March 22nd.

This great tournament has the largest single day pay-out of any tournament. The tournament is conducted by BassChamps and will be held out ble to win prizes from of Lake Fork Marina.

The angler that catches the heaviest bass of each of the seven fish the tournament and or call 817-439-3274.

paid hours will be taking home a 2015 Ford F-150. The heaviest bass caught in the tournament will not only be taking home their Ford F-150 but also with a Skeeter ZX 200 behind it. There will be hourly places each hour guaranteed regardless of the number of entries, plus a Biobor and Tshirt bonus. Early entries received before March 11th are eligi-Costa, Chevron, Rigid, Abu Garcia and more.

If you are coming to

did not early entry, you can also enter at the tournament headquarters. Registration time on Friday March 20th will be from 5 p.m. until 7 p.m., Saturday March 21st from 12 to 7 p.m. and Sunday March 22nd beginning at 5 a.m. Entry fee is \$160 per person which includes \$10 cash/check discount. No checks will be accepted on site.

If you wish more information on this great tournament, see the ad on page 24-A or go to www.basschamps.com



# Texas Trails Bassmasters of Lake Fork

### **By Don Hampton**

The Texas Trails Bassmasters of Lake Fork will be hosting their 31st Semi-Annual Lake Fork Open Tournament on March 21st. Tournament headquarters will

be Oak Ridge Marina located on Hwy. 154. This is a fund raiser tournament for the club that assists them in their youth, conservation, social and club functions. This is one club that truly supports, promotes, and pro-

tects Lake Fork. Most of the directors on the board of "The Wish to Fish Foundation" are members of this club.

You will help with your support by coming out on March 21st

(See Texas Trails.... Continued on Page 5-A)



Eva Mack from Alba caught this nice bass on Lake Fork while giving big bass lessons to her husband Butch! C.P.R. (Courtesy Photo Pay-Back Anonymous)

## Life Changes and so does Bubba and Bubbette

#### **By Don Hampton**

As is with life, everything and everyone goes through changes. Such is the way with Bubbas'.

There have been jokes cracked about Bubba wi and Bubbette's favorite source of entertainment being a bug-zapper and a six pack of beer. so You could sit around a bug-zapper and hear exclamations like, "Wow, that must have been a really big one," or "Holy Cow, it really fried that one!" pir

The bug-zapper will still serve its purpose and the six pack will remain, but now there is a better source of entertainment for Bubba. He found at one of the many boat shows he attends a bug zapper tennis racket that runs on batteries. Bubbette admits it is good exercise for Bubba. He will run around the yard imitating John McEnroe's back swing chasing bugs. He even shows some of the same attitude when Bubbette makes him quit chasing her, the dog and cat around the house. He is smart enough not to touch any of them with it when it is turned on! The cat would scratch him, the dog would bite him, and he doesn't even want to think about what Bubbette would do to him.

Bubba hasn't given up his singing bass. He still keeps enough batteries around the house to keep it singing. This bass looks just like a wall plaque replica bass and when you push the button, it starts singing. That is right, a singing bass that does two songs, "Don't Worry, Be Happy", and "Take Me to the River, Throw Me In The

Water." Bubbette is about to put a catch and release on that toy of his. You may see that one at Goodwill or she may take it to the river and throw it in the water! When this does happen it will be one bass Bubba won't be able to catch!

You might wonder why Bubba has been so intrigued with this novelty item for so long? It's just a recording! Not so! As the music starts, the bass starts flap-

As the music starts, the bass starts happing its tail to the music and in certain segments of the song the bass turns its head to face you and with lips moving, sings to you.

Well this to Bubba, even at his age, is amazed, and six pack or not, he thinks this is one of the funniest things he has ever seen. Everyone I know has seen one, either owns one or is in search of one. If you are in search of one, you can find them at Bass Pro Shop. They say laughter is the best medicine and I think this keeps Bubba young at heart because he laughs every time it plays. This is just another example how times change

and with them even Bubbas and Bubbettes change.

Here are some classic examples of just Bubbas Bubbettes change... how and In their younger years they had long long hair... now they for hair: Entertainment was Frank Zappa... now it is the bug-zapper' Before, all about it was а Keg... now it's all about an EKG; Earlier it was Acid Rock...now it is Acid Reflux;

The goal of those days was to find a new "Hip Joint"...now it is trying to get a new hip joint; Then it was about getting life insurance... now it is all about keeping your own life insurance; Then it was the President's struggle with Fidel...then it was a President's struggle with fidelity; and now we are back to Fidel;

The one constant in life is, things are going to change. If we accept the changes and keep our sense of humor, the strength we gain will make us all a better person.





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Dage 3-A



## **Spring Breaking at Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center**

an inexpensive, rewarding family vacation during spring break need look farther than the Texas Freshwano ter Fisheries Center (TFFC) in Athens.

Located just 75 miles southeast of Dallas, 100 miles east of Waco and 180 miles north of Houston, TFFC is a one-tank round trip for about 10 million of you.

TFFC offers free fishing with paid admission for channel catfish and rainbow trout with no license, bait, tackle or experience required, and from March 14 until the end of rainbow trout season in late April, visitors can harvest trout for free. Daily limit is five trout per person. Anyone wishing to harvest trout should bring an ice chest and ice.

Visitors will also want to check out the center's 300,000 gallons of aquaria featuring native Texas fish. There are some truly monster fish on display, including largemouth bass weighing more than 15 pounds and alligator gar weighing 200 or so. All the aquaria can be viewed from a covered walkway, and indoor exhibits include a fishing museum, a freshwater fishing hall of fame, displays showing how fish are spawned

Families looking for a place to have and raised and a well-stocked gift shop. As an added bonus, this year's Fly Fish Texas event falls in the middle of spring break. You can come to TFFC on March 14 and learn to tie a fly, cast a fly and catch a fish all in the same day. The event is put on by volunteers from fly-fishing clubs all over Texas and is free with paid admission. Food vendors will be on site every day from March 10 through March 14, making it easy to spend the whole day at TFFC. Visitors are also welcome to picnic in the areas provided, and Athens--where the hamburger was invented (yes, really!)--has plenty of restaurants.

Weekdays at 11:00 a.m., Saturday at 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. and Sundays at 2:00 p.m. a diver hand-feeds the fish in a 26,000-gallon aquarium with a viewing auditorium. Visitors can ask questions of the diver through a live underwater link.

After the dive show, visitors can take a tram tour of the hatchery where TFFC annually raises millions of largemouth bass and channel catfish for stocking into public waters. Most visitors disembark the tram at the far end of the hatchery and walk back along the ADA-compliant Wetlands Trail. This 0.8-mile, wooded trail features an exhibit with recorded calls of wetlands birds and animals, a working beehive with see-through walls, a wildflower area and scads of turtles in the ponds.

All this is yours for the price of admission: \$5.50 for adults, \$4.50 for seniors, and \$3.50 for children ages 4 to 12. For more information, call (903) 676-2277 or visit http://www.tpwd.texas.gov/tffc.

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## Texas Trails Bassmasters of Lake Fork (Continued from Page 1-A)

and fishing their tournament. Fishing hours will be from 6 A.M. until 3:30 P.M. All contestants must be in line by 3:30 official time. It is an individual heavy stringer tournament. Entry fee is \$45 and \$10 for big bass which is optional. This is one club that holds tournaments on this great reservoir that pays back to the anglers 80% of entry fees and 100% of big bass entries. There will be 10 places paid for heavy stringer, and 3 places for big bass. If you are fishing the Ford Mega Bass Tournament the next day, what better way to do your pre-fishing and maybe win your entry fee before it starts. Raffle tickets will be sold for prizes at registration

and weigh-in. Ticket cost is \$1 each, 6 for \$5, or 12 for \$10. If you are not able to fish the tournament, come out and get in on the drawing, show your support and if you're one of the lucky ones, you will take home a nice prize. Texas Trails Bassmasters of Lake Fork have some really great sponsors and will have some great prizes to be given away.

Registration for the tournament will begin on Friday, March 20th from 4 p.m. until 9 p.m. and again on Saturday, March 21st from 5 a.m. until 6 a.m. All contestants must register.

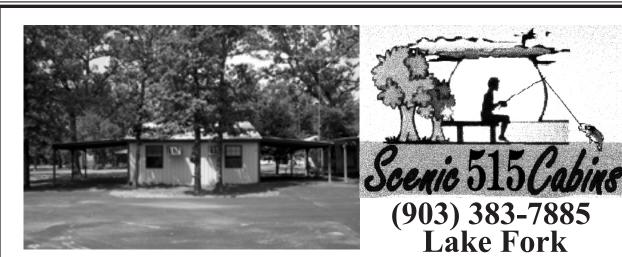
For those of you that might wish to send in an early entry see their ad on page 10-B or go to their website www.texastrailsbassmasters.com If you have been thinking of joining a bass club, you could not find a better one to be a part of. Individual, husband and wife, or family memberships are welcome. If you wish to improve your fishing skills and learn new techniques, this is where you belong. This is one bass club that is known for no arguing or disputes. The top 3 winners of each tournament share their techniques, the bait they caught their winning stringer on and the depth and type of water their fish were caught in. As an added bonus, everyone can use good friends and in this club you will definitely meet some new fishing buddies.

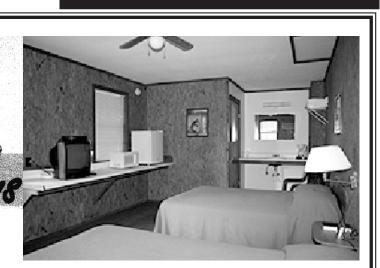
The club's 2015 year has already begun, but there are still 10 club tournaments left in the year, two opens and they are also the official weight masters at Kidfish in June. The only tournament that is held on Sunday other than the end of the year championship is usually the day after the opens. All others are held on Saturday with the members voting on the date and the lake. Membership to join the club is \$30 per person. The club has one tournament per month with a two-day championship at the end of their year. Cost per each tournament is \$25 entry, \$5 Big Bass (optional), with a \$5 progressive pot for a 7-pound or over big bass (also optional) Membership applications will be available at the tournament or go to their website and contact one of the officers.



Lake Fork guide David Ozio braved the weather on Lake Fork and was rewarded with this healthy hawg. C.P.R. (Courtesy Photo David Ozio Guide Service)

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## March on Lake Fork

#### By David Ozio

"Mother nature has really done us dirty over the past few weeks here on Lake Fork. We got to enjoy some mild weather which allowed the water temps to start heading upwards. The bite turned excellent, especially on some of the other local lakes. We had several 36-40 pound bag days and clients were itching to come back and stick a few more giants. Now, as of this past week, look what's happened. We're back in the deep freeze. Seems to me that this is identical to what happened last year heading into March. Can lightning strike twice? It may even be worse.

March is normally the month when the green beasts head shallow to do their business. In preparation, they will feed like scavengers to bulk up

CLUES ACROSS 1. Featured dish 38. Pharaoh was one 41. Volcanic mountain in Japan42. Hymenopterans Oats 10. Herringlike food fish 44. Sharp, narrow ridge found in rugged mountains45. Affixed (biology) 14. Car African river
 Organized-crime head 17. Speculated 20. Followers 48. Becomes 49. Unstressed-stressed 50. Chinese Muslim 21. Jumpers22. Crunches federal numbers 51. Bosnian ethnic group 54. With embellishment 22. Crunches federal numbers
23. Greek portico
25. Abode of God and the angels
29. Vettical spar for supporting sails
33. Joe \_\_\_\_\_, British actor and playwright
34. Compass point
35. Characters in 1 inch of tape (computers) 59. Living dangerously 62. Snake pose 63. Raccoonlike mammal of Central and South America 64. Remove the edges from 65. & & & (computers) 36. Name of God 66. Substance produced from pine 67. New England river **CLUES DOWN** 1. Joseph \_\_\_\_\_, stage producer 29. 12 inches (plural) 2. Little comic character 30. True firs 3. Essential oil obtained from flowers 31. Slew 32. Prongs 4. Miniatures 37 Pea stem (British) 5. About a South American mountain system 39. Local church community 40. Denotes three 6. In \_\_\_\_, made in glass 7. Root of "out" 8. Born 43. Long, projecting nose 46. Greek prophetesses 47. Romanian city 9. Branch 10. Utter a cry 11. Maori war dance 48. Bush's state capital 50. Country on Hispaniola 51. Prevents harm to creatures 52. \_\_\_\_gate, lengthen 53. Foray Caricatured 12. Carrenting 13. Intersperses
18. O'Neill, playwright
19. Medicinal plant
20. Dirdcalls 54 the night before Christmas Semiaquatic salamanders 56. Turkish monetary unit 57. \_\_\_\_\_ Clapton, musician 24. Card having three spots 25. Georgetov 26. Wipe out Georgetown team 57. Clapton, musician
58. Showing
60. Company that rings receipts
61. Any thick, messy substance 27. Greek mountain28. Swearing to the truth Answers on Page 21-A

for the ordeal. Around the full moon, you will usually see bass all over the shallows trying to pair up as nature has called them to do. Water temps hover around 53 early in the month and escalate as we get closer to spring. Now to reality! This last Arctic blast will push water temps back to the mid to low 40's, depending upon where you are on the lake, and thrown us all a huge curve ball, again. This means that the fish will stay staged for an extended period and hold just off the spawning flats. All this being said, they won't be impossible to catch and, in fact, set the stage for the anglers to meet up with a Share-a-Lunker.

Let's talk strategy. March will have two phases due to this unruly chill. The first half of the month will probably still fish similar to February. We have been catching some quality studs on points and around creek bends. Jigs, Texas rigs and drop shots have dealt out the most pain to the bass. Blk/ Bl, redbug and bamabug have all been great colors on the creeks. Crankbaits in gizzard shad, chartreuse or white have done the damage on the points. The 6XD, DD22 and DD16 have done well in targeting the staging fish which are holding in 15ft of water. The sunny days have seen the jerkbait come to life with the focus mainly on shad colors. This should continue through mid month and then the latter half will scream game on in the shallows, es-



pecially on windy, sunny days. Bring on the A-rig, squarebill and swimbait. Any variation of white will work on the aforementioned rigs. Experiment with bait size to see what the fish want that day. Once rigged, put your head down, and cover water. The more wind on the bank, the better.

The last half of the month will also mix well with the Carolina rig. You will want to fish this on the days that offer no wind and/or overcast. Focus on points that have either wood or shell. The lizard or baby brush hog will be the bait of choice fished on a long leader and a 3/0 hook. It's all about timing at this time of year. Pull up to a good point, fish it for twenty minutes and then repeat

> (See March... Continued on Page 20-A)



Dage 7-A

## **Eggheads to Thrill Tastebuds at TFFC April 11**

Local lore has it that the hamburger as we know it was invented by an Athens resident, Fletcher ("Old Dave") Davis, at his Athens café in the 1880s and introduced to the world at the 1904 St. Louis World's Fair. A reporter for the New York Tribune wrote from the fair of a new sandwich called a hamburger, "the innovation of a food vendor on the pike." While the food vendor was never named, enough evidence existed that the person was none other than Fletcher Davis of Athens, Texas, that the 80th Texas Legislature adopted a resolution naming Athens as "the Original Home of the Hamburger."

Fast-forward a century and you find people cooking hamburgers and almost everything else on Big Green Eggs, ceramic cookers with devotees from coast to coast. Put the two together and you get Green Eggs and Ham...burgers, a friendly gastric get-together known to most as an Eggfest, which will take

place April 11 at the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center (TFFC) in Athens. Participants will come from across the country to showcase their personal recipes, meet with fellow Eggheads, and share some great food with the crowd. (In addition to regular admission to TFFC, there is a \$5 fee for tasting.) Proceeds from tasting fees benefit TFFC education programs. Visitors can also go fishing, see a diver hand-feed fish, and walk our Wetlands Trail.Avariety of vendors will be on hand with kitchen and grill-related products.

Individuals interested in owning a Big Green Egg may purchase once-used eggs at substantially discounted prices following the event.

A listing of cooks, vendor registration forms and other details about the event can be found at www.athenseggfest.wordpress.com. Green Eggs and Ham...burgers is sponsored by Morrison Supply, Paragon Distributing, Brookshire's, TFFC and First State Bank--Athens.



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## Moon **Report**" **"The** Springtime "Set Back"!\_\_\_

## **By Terri Moon**

It's been a roller coaster ride of ups and downs with the weather and the fishing! It seems like just when you figure them out and everything is moving in the right direction, then here it comes wind, freezing rain, sleet and 3 to 4 inches of snow! It can be pretty disheartening. I can't wait to see the sunshine again! The few warm ups we've had triggered a few crappie into their pre-spawn transition of staging up the creeks, seeking warmer water and following the baitfish. I'm so ready for the fish to leave deep water! If we get a few days of stable warmer weather the next two weeks – hang on - it's gonna get fun! This time of year is when I really appreciate my Lowrance HDS-12 because first you have to find the fish! The Lowrance "down scan" and "side imaging" "PRICELESS" are when chasing these



pre-spawn crappie.

Start checking creek channels at the mouth of the coves and isolated timber in 20 to 30 ft. depths. Look for baitfish schools and target your depths accordingly. As the water temperatures begin to rise back to the mid 50's, then check on up the creeks at those 12 to 20 ft. depths. (The crappie will generally suspend 6 to 12 ft.) Just keep watching your graph. It will show you how deep the fish are moving through!

While I'm thinking of it, don't forget starting March 1st the ten inch minimum length law goes back in effect for Lake Fork. I think it's going to be an all - hope you're awesome spring. The crappie we've

been catching have been really nice! We are also catching some big white and yellow bass. We even had one day when all we caught largemouth were bass! I must admit it sure was fun on the Shimano 5 ft. ultralights! Even better was that all 4 species were hitting our Bobby Garland crappie baitsblack and pearl shad and chartreuse and pearl on 1/16 oz. jig heads. I guess, "bottom line", we are just waiting on the water temperature to reach that 55 to 60 degrees - then it's time to pull out those slip bobbers! I can't wait!!! My best to you

staying

warm!



### 10th Annual School Archery Championship Draws Record 1,600 Kids, 63 Schools to Belton March 4-5

From 63 schools across Texas, 1,664 students in grades 4-12 will gather March 4-5 at the Bell County Expo Center for the 10th annual Texas-National Archery in the Schools Tournament and Scholarship Championship. That's up 23 percent from last year's 51 schools, and college scholarships have doubled to \$20,000. What's driving the growth?

Clearly, the pop cultural allure of movie star Jennifer Lawrence taking aim in two Hunger Games films has fueled youth interest in archery. Of kids going to the March 4-5 tournament, 704 are girls. But the movie alone can't explain the program's mushrooming popularity, say those involved.

"It's an opportunity for kids who are not necessarily athletes to participate in a sport that is in the Olympics," says Burnie Kessner, the Pied Piper of Texas youth archery, for the past 8 years Texas Parks and Wildlife Department archery coordinator.

From little schools like Maud ISD near Texarkana, to big ones like Pearland High School outside Houston, to remote places like San Vicente ISD at Big Bend National Park, kids and parents are coming to Belton. But it's a LOT of big schools from big suburbs around Houston, Dallas-Fort Worth and other cities.

"Yeah, most kids saw the Hunger Games, and now they can go to school and do the same thing. But it spreads in lots of other ways. Sometimes kids who did archery in junior high will go to a high school where they don't have it, and those kids and their parents ask for it. It also spreads through PE (physical education) teachers. In the past 10 years, we've had PE teachers who taught archery get promoted to a principal or health and PE coordinator position, and they'll spread it to an entire school district."

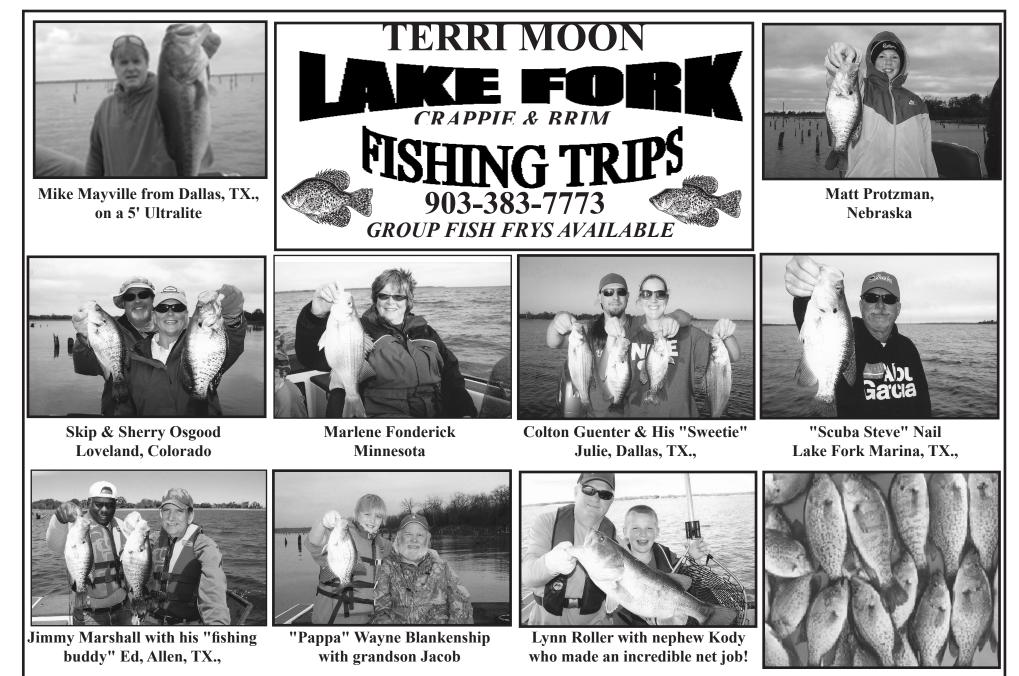
And there's money on the table. This year, total college scholarship awards will be double the amount for each of the past 4 years. Since 2011 the total has been \$10,000; this year it will be \$20,000. For those competing March 4-5, college scholarships will go to the top five male and top five female high school archers, along with trophies, ribbons, and t-shirts in all categories. First place male and female archers in each division receive Genesis bows, and the high scoring male and female archer will receive a limited edition Genesis bow. Door prize drawings will take place throughout the day. Only schools that teach TX-NASP archery as part of the in-school curriculum and shoot a qualifying score in the State Qualifying Tournament are qualified to compete in annual March tournament. The qualifying tournament was held last Dec. 2-19, when more than 2150 students from 80 Texas schools participated.

First place teams in each division are automatically qualified to attend the national tournament in Louisville, Kentucky. Additional teams may attend with qualifying team scores, and First-10th place male and female individual winners in each division qualify to attend.

NASP® is a non-profit foundation able to operate only by support from a variety of generous donors including medal-level sponsors; Mathews Archery, the National Wild Turkey Federation, Morrell Targets, The Block, and Rinehart Targets.

Toyota is the primary sponsor of TX-NASP and the program is part of the state's hunter and bowhunter education efforts, programs that are supported from the sales of archery equipment through "Federal Assistance in Wildlife Restoration" efforts.

For information about the Texas-National Archery In The Schools program, contact Burnie Kessner with Texas Parks and Wildlife Department at burnie.kessner@tpwd.texas.gov or (979) 862-7341.



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Dage 10-A

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## Game Warden Field Notes

The following items are compiled from recent Texas Parks and Wildlife Department law enforcement reports. --Boating While Intoxicated-- Chambers County game wardens were called out on an accident that involved two boats that had collided. There were no fatalities but one of the boat operators was arrested for boating while intoxicated. --Full Throttle Recall-- On Lake McQueeny, a boat operator lost control of his vessel and ran aground, striking a boat dock. While the accident resulted in a total loss of the vessel, there were no injuries. The investigating Guadalupe County game warden found that a throttle recall issue, which had not been addressed by the owner, caused the accident. --Missed a Spot-- When a landowner in Red

River County heard gunshots near his property, he called his local game warden for help. The warden searched several deer camps and found evidence of blood at an unoccupied camp. There, the warden observed that the hunter had made an effort to rake up the remaining debris and place it in a nearby burn barrel. When the warden located the hunter, he had power-washed his vehicle in an attempt to remove blood evidence. After questioning, the hunter admitted to shooting an 11-point buck with his .30-.30 rifle during archery season. Case pending. -- If At First You Don't Succeed ... -- A Titus County game warden received a call from a hunter about a trespasser on a nearby ranch. The hunter approached the trespasser and attempted to escort him off of the property, but the tres-

passer refused and continued across the ranch. The hunter then took video and photos of the male suspect, who was later identified and arrested for Class B criminal trespass and an active felony warrant from the neighboring county. --Who Let the Drugs Out?-- Two game wardens from Gregg and Upshur County were conducting surveillance near their county line when they observed an individual stop near their lo-cation and collect a whitetail buck from the roadway. The subject became increasingly irritable and uncooperative after contact was made. When consent to search was given, the wardens located multiple containers of metham-phetamine, drug paraphernalia, suspected meth lab components and an illegal firearm. The subject was arrested for manufacture

(See Game Warden....Continued on Page on 17-A)





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Dage 13-A



## **Texas State-Fish Art Contest Seeks Entries**

headquartered at the Texas Freshwa- write an essay about it. Complete condeadline for entries in the 2015 State-

in public, private or home schools in winners in each of the four grade-level grades K-12. Students must draw or divisions. First place in grades 10-12 as contest is provided by the Wil-

ter Fisheries Center (TFFC), reminds test details and entry forms can be 7-9 grade levels are \$100 for first; Texas teachers and students that the found at www.tpwd.texas.gov/fishart. \$75 for second; \$50 for third. Student The Toyota Texas Bass Classic Fish Art Contest is March 31, 2015. (TTBC) provides funds for prizes for The contest is open to any student first-, second- and third-place Texas take place on Lake Fork in May 2015.



The Texas State-Fish Art Contest, paint any recognized state fish and wins \$1,000; second place \$750; third place \$500. Prizes in the K-3, 4-6 and art from the Texas contest is featured on TTBC tickets. The next TTBC will

> Additional support for the Texliam Ε. Armentrout Foundation, FishFlops<sup>™</sup> and Friends of the Tex-Fisheries Freshwater Center. as

> The Texas State-Fish Art Contest is part of Wildlife Forever's State-Fish Art Contest. The TTBC also provides a travel allowance for Texas first-place winners to attend the national awards ceremony, which will be held August 21--22, 2015, in Hot Springs, Arkansas.

> Wildlife Forever chooses one outstanding piece of artwork each year for the Art of Conservation Award, and a commemorative stamp featuring the artwork is produced for sale. Proceeds from sales of the stamp are used to fund conservation projects.

> Educators who wish to have their students enter the contest can download the free "State-Fish Art Contest Lesson Plan" at www.statefishart.com. The interdisciplinary curriculum includes lessons and activities, a species identification section profiling each state fish, a glossary and student worksheets.

> Located in Brooklyn Center, Minnesota, Wildlife Forever is a non-profit multi-species 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 "onthe-ground" efforts. Wildlife Forever supports habitat restoration and enhancement, land acquisition, research and management of fish and wildlife populations. www.wildlifeforever.org

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## Citizen's Park Ranger Academy Scheduled for April

If you've ever wanted to be a park ranger or simply wondered about the inner workings of a Texas state park, then consider enrolling in the Citizen's Park Ranger Academy offered this spring in North Texas by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

Students will meet from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. every Saturday from April 4 through April 25. But unlike the inaugural academy held at Dinosaur Valley State Park in 2013, enrollees this April will split their time between Dinosaur Valley and Cleburne state parks. Students must be at least 15 years old to attend without a parent and be prepared to engage in physically demanding activities, such as lifting, hiking and crawling. Results from the first academy show that 15 individuals were trained, leading to seven participants volunteering at Dinosaur Valley, seven applying for TPWD jobs and two being hired. Tony Smith, 29, is one of the new hires. He had worked as an intern and seasonal clerk at Dinosaur Valley and jumped at the chance two years ago to enroll in the first academy to learn more about park operations and potential TPWD career opportunities.

"I had always had an interest in parks, so I figured the academy would provide more opportunity to learn about park operations," Smith says. "We learned about rules and regulations, law enforcement and did a different

hands-on field activity each week, such as a mock search-and-rescue in the park and how to clean out the dinosaur tracks," Smith says.

Smith discovered that his master's degree in history from Tarleton State University was a good fit for working at one of the state's historic sites or parks with a strong historical component and ultimately landed an assistant office manager's job at Bastrop State Park, where he assists with registration, collects fees and helps answer questions for park visitors.

This year's Citizen's Park Ranger Academy features several new elements, according to program director Robert Enckhausen, a park police officer and superintendent of Dinosaur Valley State Park. In addition to learning about such topics as wildland firefighting, park interpretation, search and rescue and law enforcement, he says enrollees will alternate between Cleburne and Dinosaur Valley for hands-on participation in expanded field operations with large equipment usage, an archeological session and a Dutch oven cookoff. And, for the first time, youngsters 13 to 15 years of age may attend with a parent. All activities will be led by park staff and there is no cost to attend the academy. Slots are limited. To learn more about the Citizen's Park Ranger Academy and to enroll, contact Dinosaur Valley's Enckhausen at (254) 897-4588 or via e-mail: Robert.enckhausen@tpwd.texas.gov.

## **Game Wardens Seize Shark Boat**

Texas game wardens have seized a Mexican shark-fishing boat in state waters near the Texas-Mexico border.

Wardens were patrolling the Gulf of Mexico recently for illegal fishing activity when they spotted a Mexican fishing boat moving northbound in Texas waters.

When the wardens, who were operating a 29-foot Safe Boat equipped with twin 250-horsepower motors, attempted to stop the boat its occupants ignored the state vessel and began racing back toward Mexican waters. After a brief pursuit, the wardens were able to pull along the boat and get it stopped.

Two fishermen were arrested and taken to the US Coast Guard station on South Padre Island. The open boat, powered by a 75 horsepower outboard motor, was seized along with illegal long-line fishing gear. Cases are pending.

Sharks, the most common target of these vessels, are harvested not only for their meat, but also for their fins. Shark fins, used for soup, are considered some of the world's most expensive seafood and high demand for it supports a world-wide black market. Marine interests spotting foreign fishing boats, gill nets or long lines in Texas waters are urged to call the Operation Game Thief hotline at 1-800-792GAME (4263), contact a game warden or notify the U.S. Coast Guard.

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www.hideawayharbor.com 1-(903) 383-2733 or 1-(877) 383-5203

#### Dage 16-A

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

#### March 14 at Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center Fly Fish Texas

Learn to tie a fly, cast a fly and catch a fish all in one day during the an- for fly-fishing equipment (Anheusernual Fly Fish Texas event at the Texas Bush Dive Theater at 10:00 a.m.), choos-Freshwater Fisheries Center March 14.

Throughout the day, experienced fly-tiers will be demonstrating and teaching fly-tying in the Anglers Pavilion on a one-on-one basis. In addition, group instruction in beginning fly-tying will be offered in the Hart-Morris Conservation Center classroom beginning at noon. Both are offered on a walk-up basis.

Beginning casting instruction will take place continuously in the Conservation Center parking lot from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. In the Conservation Center Room B, attend fly-fishing 101 at 10:00 a.m. and learn about essential flies for Texas fresh water at 11:00 a.m.

Fly-fishing kayak style will be presented on the shore of the casting pond at 2:00 p.m. Vendors will be displaying and selling fly-

fishing gear, and seminars will brief visitors on where and how to fly-fish in fresh and salt waters for a variety of species. The program will include presentations on flyfishing the Brazos River (3:00 p.m. in the Conservation Center Room B) and history of rainbow trout in North America (Anheuser-Busch Dive Theater at 3:00 p.m.).

Other sessions will focus on caring ing a fly line (Anheuser-Bush Dive Theater at 1:00 p.m.) and fishing the slam of B.A.S.S. in southern rivers (Conservation Center Room B at 2:00 p.m.). Kayak use will be demonstrated on the casting pond. Do-it-yourself fly-fishing for rainbow trout, sunfish and catfish will be available all day in TFFC's ponds and streams. Food service will be available onsite, or attendees may bring a picnic. TFFC's regularly scheduled dive shows will take place in the dive theater at 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. and will be followed by tram tours of the hatchery.

Event sponsors include Sabine River Authority, Dallas Fly Fishers, Temple Fork Outfitters, Red Hat Rentals, Holiday Inn Express Hotel and Suites -- Athens, Friends of TFFC, Cripple Creek BBQ, Danny's Smokehouse Bar-B-Que,

Bah, on the other hand, hes 94.

First State Bank and Super 8--Athens. Show hours are 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. All Fly Fish Texas activities are free with regular paid admission to the cen-

ter. For a complete schedule of activities and seminars, visit www.tpwd.texas.gov/ tffc and click on the Fly Fish Texas link.



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March

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

#### Dage 17-A

## Game Warden Field Notes (Continued from Page 11-A)

or deliver of controlled substance and unlawful carry of firearm. Additional charges and cases pending. --Dude, Where's My Boat?-- A Jefferson County game warden responded to a call about a possible stolen boat and motor recovered from the Neches River. When the boat was towed in and contact was made with the owner, he said he had gotten hung up on a pipe and left his boat. When he returned, he discovered it was missing. The value of the recovery was estimated at \$15,000. --"I'm Sure Glad to See You"-- As a Real County game warden pulled into a hunting camp to check for hunting violations, he was greeted by a hunter who said, "I'm sure glad to see you." When the warden asked why, the hunter replied, "Seeing you reminds me that I have to put my tag on my deer." The deer was already quartered in the ice chest and the cape in a trash bag. The hunter was cited for possession of untagged deer. Case is pending. --Oh Deer-- Two Bandera County game wardens and one Uvalde County warden responded to information about a few deer that had been illegally taken. At the residence, the wardens located meat from a freshly killed whitetail deer. During the investigation, it was learned that two 17-year-old males had killed one whitetail deer with a bow from a public road that night and also killed another whitetail deer by running it over with a truck a few

nights earlier. The Uvalde County game warden obtained written statements from both suspects, and multiple charges have been filed. --Darkness Falls--While a Hill County warden was patrolling Aquilla Lake for ille-gal hunting activity, he noticed a boat re-turning without run-ning lights. As the warden performed a water safety inspec-tion and license check, one of the hunters said he had left his license at his residence. When asked why he wasn't displaying his running lights, the hunter said the lights had broken while traveling to the lake. The warden found that the vehicle and trailer registrations were expired, so citations were issued for failing to produce a resident hunting license and no running lights on a vessel while underway. A warning was also given for the expired registrations. Cases pending. --"For Medicinal Purposes"-- A landowner was watching deer on his property when he heard a gunshot nearby. He called the Montgom-



ery County game warden to report someone hunting without landowner consent. He believed that his neighbor had attempted to shoot a deer. When the warden made contact with the neighbor at his home, he immediately noticed a strong odor consistent with marijuana. After a short interview, the man admitted to growing marijuana plants in his home "for medicinal purposes." Four plants of varying sizes were seized, and the subject was arrested for Class A possession of marijuana. The plants were taken to the Montgomery County crime lab. It turned out that the subject had nothing to do with the original call. Cases pending.

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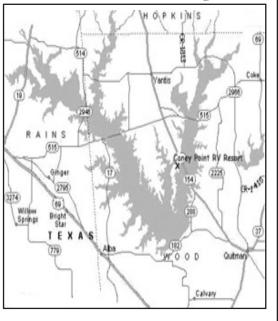
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## "Pack of Knowledge" Tips for Targeting Big Bass Part 2"

#### **By Andrew Grills**

Last month I discussed the jig design. Head shape, colors and sizes are important decisions before hitting the water. So be sure to take a look at that last month's article if you would like more information about selecting the right jig. I will have the article posted in the Fishing Reports section on my website: http://lakeforkguideandrewgrills.com. This month I will



discuss the when, where and how to fish a jig. As with any lure, you need to know when to fish it, where to fish it, and how to fish it. These factors are extraordinarily important when jig fishing, especially on Lake Fork. The vast amount of standing timber can make it seem like searching for a needle in a haystack. There are also times to put the jig down and opt for a different approach. My goal is to help you narrow it down and simplify what many find to be a difficult technique to learn.

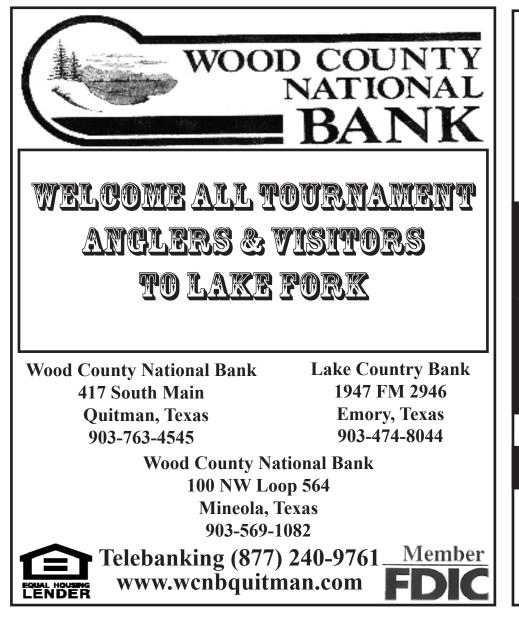
In my opinion, fish seem to bite jigs best during the colder months leading up to the prespawn period. A football jig is a major player here throughout the summer, however we are focusing on a traditional pitching jig for now. I usually check the jig bite in late October, but it doesn't seem to become a viable pattern until mid-November. The early jig season is usually very productive because the fish aren't seeing jigs go by on a daily basis and don't seem as conditioned to the technique. I continue to fish a jig regularly throughout most of March, but when the water warms and fish are comfortable venturing from ledges towards spawning areas the effectiveness of the technique seems to wane. An increase in fishing pressure may have something to do with it or it could be a transition in their primary forage base. I have had customers

catch some really big fish later in the spring on jigs, however the numbers of bites are much lower and there seems to be better ways to catch them.

As for determining where to fish a jig, I try to imagine the lake has zero standing timber and look for structure bass that they should be relating to in the winter and early spring. The stumps are just a bonus as cover. Fish use areas such as points, secondary points, and creek channels as they stage on their way to bedding areas. They then use the stumps as cover for safety and ambush of prey, but keep in mind they are there because of bottom contour, not cover.

I find that sharp breaks are most productive throughout the cold periods. Bass seem to want to be close to deeper water as cold fronts are passing through on a regular basis during the winter. You will find this on the edges of points and secondary points, but most importantly along the creek channels. Creek channels are highways for the bass and baitfish as they travel to their springtime haunts, and they provide deep water access as well. Ditches and drains are just as important to pay attention to. Any area with a low spot where water would run to the original channel prior to impoundment is likely to hold some fish.

(See Pack of Knowledge...Continued on 19-A)





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

#### Dage 19-A

## Pack of Knowledge (Continued from Page 18-A)

Often, the hardest channels to read are the best. We can usually look at the standing timber and get a good idea where the creek channel is. The gap in heavily timbered areas, leaning stumps (as leaning stumps often lean over the creek), and the presence of live oak stumps can help you identify the original creek channel. Live oaks are often the biggest stumps in a given area and grow near a water source. Built in maps or map chips on your depth finder can sometimes point you in the right direction, however they are rarely accurate as to the exact location of the channel. I also pay attention to where the trot lines and jug lines are set if I am in an unfamiliar area, as they can sometimes help lead you to the channel. Learning how a particular channel runs takes time and patience, but it is worth the effort. Being near the creek channel, drain, or ditch isn't enough. I have found that boat positioning is a critical factor in success. I like to keep my boat in the deeper channel and cast to the top of the ledge and bring the jig back as it rolls over the tree roots descending down into the channel. If the low spot or channel is too narrow I will position the boat outside of the channel and cast across it, making sure to work down the outside bends. The outside bends often have the steepest ledge due to the original current flow prior to impoundment. I always get excited when fishing the outside of hard channel bends, as these seem to be prime big fish hangouts.

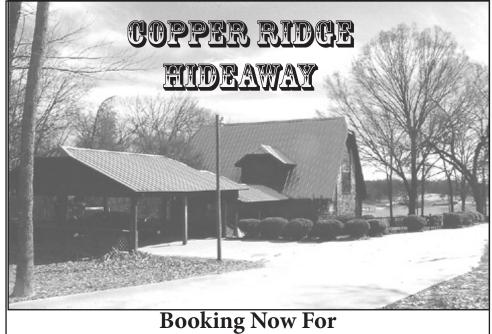
Creek channel fish can be in a wide range of depths. In any given creek, I believe there will be small wolfpacks of prespawn females staging in various areas along the way. Some may feel comfortable where the channel is 8' deep and the top side of the ledge is 4-6', and others may be in areas where the channel is as deep as 25' closer to the mouth of the creek. The key is the ledge. I feel that the pre-

sentation is a matter of confidence. Most anglers I have guided or fished with tend to fish a jig much faster and with more of a hopping motion than I do. I find that an extremely slow crawl works best for me. Even though I'm creeping the jig along, I still feel the bite is a reaction bite, in that most of my strikes come as the jig rolls over a root or branch. With the slow approach, it gives you the opportunity to sneak the jig up to the bass without it feeling or hearing it coming. Often, if I work through an area slow-ly garnering a few bites, I will go back through it with a more aggressive "stroking" type retrieve to see if I can pick up a few more reaction bites.

Hopefully this information helps give you some confidence in jig fishing. Right now is a great time to catch a giant bass on a jig.

Andrew is a professional guide on Lake Fork and is sponsored by Skeeter Boats, Nautical ZMile Marine Tyler, Costa Del Mar, M-Pack Lures and Simms fishing apparel.





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#### Page 20-A

March

## March on Lake Fork (Continued from Page 6-A)

the process on another point. Hit as many as you can and then start over in the afternoon with the same milk run. At some point in time during any given day, a true slounch will move up to feed. Position yourself there at the right time and you could earn yourself a number in the SAL Program.

If you are headed out to Lake Fork in March searching for the trophy of a lifetime, I would love to be a part of this trophy quest. I still have a few dates open in April and some in May. I also have gift certificates available if you have friends or loved one's who have dreamt of landing a huge

AVID OZIO GUIDE SERVICE 409-782-4269 bass. You can contact me at 409 782-4269 or email me at skeet21c@aol.com. You can follow me on Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/ LakeForkGuideDavidOzio. I post my daily trip results on this page. I run a Skeeter FX21 with a Yamaha 250SHO and would like to thank Skeeter for making my office on the lake the best in the country. I would also like to thank G-Loomis, Shimano and Lowrance for making my job the blast that it is. A special shout out to H&W Marine in Tyler for all their help in keeping me on the water seven days a week, no issues. I hope to see a lot of you on the water. Romans 10:13. "Everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved". I wish all of you a blessed day."

## Practice C.P.R.

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Mark Spaeth caught this nice Lake Fork Hawg fishing with guide David Ozio in February. C.P.R. (Courtesy Photo David Ozio Guide Service)





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

#### Page 21-A

## **Texas Game Warden Day Observed**

Numerous Texas game wardens came to the state Capitol recently to mark Texas Game Warden Day and 120 years of service to the state.

The day was designated by legislative passage of House Resolution 471 by Rep. Kyle Kacal of Austin. The measure notes that Texas Parks and Wildlife Department game wardens trace their beginning to 1895, when the office of Fish and Oyster Commissioner was created by the 24th Legislature. Four years later, in 1899, the Legislature gave game wardens jurisdiction of all public waters, including freshwater streams, lakes. and ponds. Soon, game wardens had jurisdiction over shrimping and hunting.

As the resolution notes, "The name of the agency later became the Game, Fish, and Oyster Commission, and it changed again several times to reflect the expansion of its mission until, in 1963, it merged with the State Parks Board to form the current agency...."

In 1919, there were only six wardens, but their numbers grew as their duties continued to evolve, encompassing such tasks as the promotion of recreational water safety and the apprehension of criminals involved

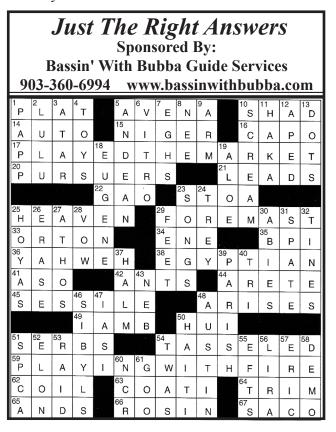
Practice Safe Boating

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in a range of illegal activities in addition to wildlife law violations.

The legislature formally recognized game wardens as state peace officers in 1971. Today, TPWD has some 530 game wardens whose responsibilities have grown to include participation in homeland security initiatives on the state's border with Mexico in addition to their traditional duties.

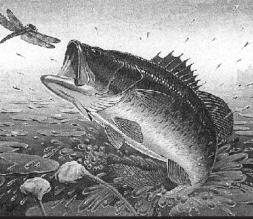
"For well over a century, game wardens have enforced natural resource conservation laws in the Lone Star State, and their vital contributions have earned the deep appreciation of all Texans," the resolution said.



## Medical Search

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

DERMATOLOGIST INTERN NEUROLOGIST NURSE ORTHOPEDIST OSTEOPATH PARAMEDIC						PATHOLOGIST PEDIATRICIAN PODIATRIST PSYCHIATRIST RADIOLOGIST SURGEON THERAPIST						
E	Т	0	S	Т	Е	Т	0	Р	Α	S	Т	
S	S	Т	Ι	S	Μ	S	S	E	Ι	G	R	
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U	D	Ι	Ο	G	Ι	G	R	С	Т	S	С	
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S	Ρ	Т	Α	L	Ο	L	Ι	D	Ι	S	Ε	
Α	Ο	Α	Ρ	0	Т	Ο	S	E	R	Ι	D	
Т	Η	Μ	Ι	Ι	S	Т	Т	M	Т	R	Ι	
H	Т	R	S	D	U	Α	E	Α	Α	Т	Α	
E	R	Ε	Т	Α	R	Μ	Ο	R	Ι	Α	Т	
R	Ο	D	Α	R	G	R	Μ	Α	D	Ι	R	
A	U	R	G	0	Ε	Ε	A	P	0	Η	Ι	
Ρ	S	Y	С	Η	0	D	R	Ι	Ρ	С	С	
Ι	Ν	Т	E	R	Ν	Ε	Μ	Ρ	S	Y	Ι	
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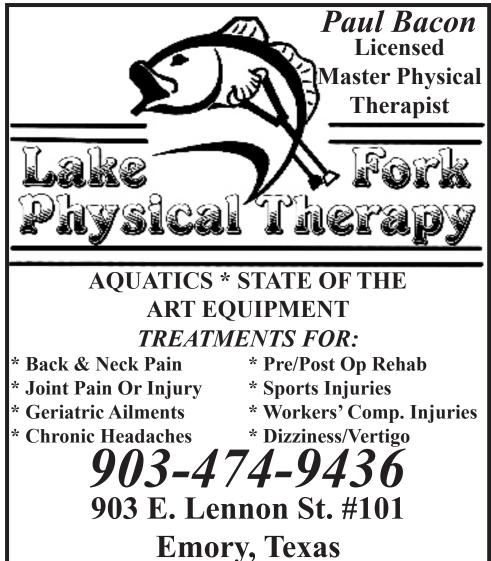
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Dago 24-A

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