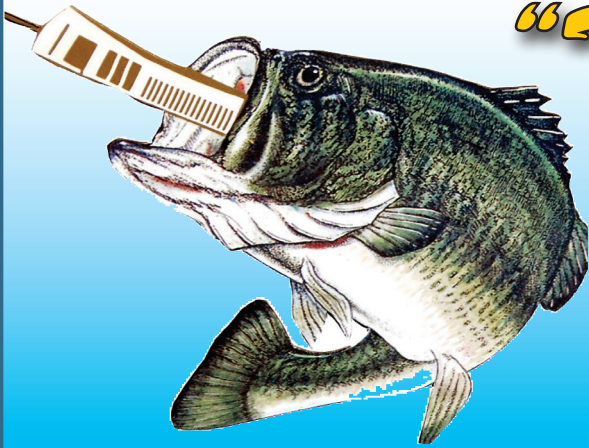


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1 Section

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Vol. 23

April, 2022

No. 272



Seventeenth Annual
LEGEND
OF LAKE FORK
Big Bass Tournament
All Boats, Makes, Models Welcome
May 13, 14 & 15, 2022

Brody Parker, 13 years old from McAlester, Oklahoma outfished over 1430 anglers at the 14th Annual Techron Mega Bass Tournament on Lake Fork with this 11.20-pound hawg to win \$15,000 hourly pay and take home a 2022 Skeeter ZX 200 powered by a Yamaha 200 SHO.

14th Annual Mega Bass on Lake Fork

By Don Hampton

The 14th Annual Mega Bass Tournament held on Lake Fork on March 27th could only be classified as historic. It being the highest paid, one day amateur tournament in existence has the tendency to draw anglers. This year over 1,430 anglers came to test their skills on this great reservoir to try and win

some of the \$20,000 per hour given away with 1st place in each hour winning a check for \$15,000.

In the Mega Bass presented by Bass-Champs the scales are open for a half hour beginning with the 8 o'clock hour and ending with the 2 o'clock hour. The fishing began at 6:30 am and the anglers were ready to make that first cast. Anglers could not ask

for better weather for the tournament. Temperatures started out in the lower 50's but warmed up to 80 degrees by the 10 o'clock hour with winds out of the south ranging from 10 to 15 mph. These conditions helped anglers in their efforts to win with 10 places paid each hour with an additional 2 places for

(See 14th Annual
Continued on Page 4)

By Don Hampton

Anglers get ready for one of the most exciting, fun-filled bass catching tournaments of the year on Lake Fork. Don't worry about getting on the lake! There are at least eleven boat ramps you can launch from.

The 17th Annual Legend of Lake Fork Big Bass Tournament to be held May 13, 14, 15 and hosted out of Lake Fork Marina. All boats, makes, and models are welcome to fish the tournament. You

couldn't pick a better time of the year to catch that lunker bass and win some cash. There will be some big females on the beds, but on the most part they will have already spawned and feeding up with an appetite. At the 16th Annual there were 9 bass over the 24" slot weighed in during the tournament with an 11.17-pound bass taking 1st Place overall and a 2.60-pound bass winning for heaviest bass under 16".

Fishing hours for

the tournament are from 6 am to 2 pm with 11 paid places each hour. To add more fun to the tournament and not break some angler's hearts, the first each hour to be knocked out of 10th Place receives a \$100 gift certificate from one of the sponsoring businesses here on Lake Fork.

For added incentive to anglers there will be three Xpress bass boats given away. For the heaviest bass over the

(See Seventeenth Annual ..
Continued on Page 7)



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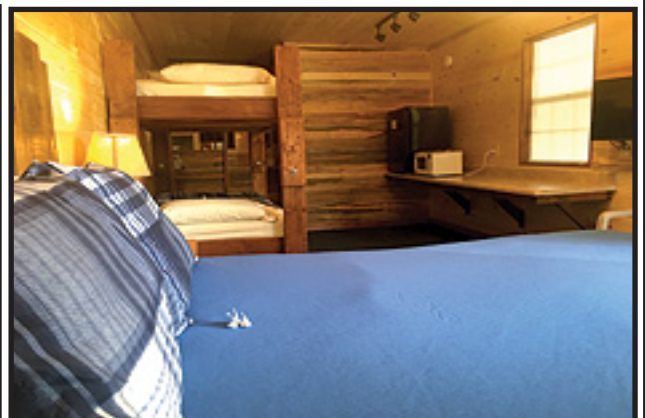
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"Goodness Snakes Alive!"

By Don Hampton

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

snake was there and it takes a lot for him to do something like that.

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

Men are funny creatures though, and Bubba will be the first to laugh at himself. When women are present, men are always brave. For one reason or another, a man can mask his fear with so much macho bravado that

women think of them as their sole protector. Such was the recent case of the snake on the flagpole.

Bubba had just left for work and hadn't gone more than five miles from the house when his mobile phone rang. Bubbette was on the other end of the line in a panic. He couldn't understand a word she was saying in the first part of the conversation so he pulled his truck over to try and calm her down before proceeding any further down the road. He knew Bubbette was going to mow the yard while he was gone and the only thing he could figure out was that something was wrong with the riding lawn mower or else

the house was on fire. It turned out to be neither.

When Bubba calmed Bubbette down enough so she could speak... all she could say was, "Snake, flag pole, snake, big snake, flag pole!!!" Bubba knowing her like he does ciphered this out real well. He knew it was time for him to put on his macho brave hat and come to her rescue. Another thing that makes Bubba get brave when coming to Bubbette's rescue is he knows she will reward him with her delicious buttermilk battered fried chicken. Bubba will get real brave for some fried chicken.

Bubba got his courage up and told Bubbette he was coming back and would be right there to take care of the situa-

tion. He was not prepared for the sight he saw when he drove into his yard. All his fears of snakes were pushed aside by the comical scene he was greeted with.

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

When Bubba asked where the snake was, Bubbette would point first with the hoe and then with the shotgun. Bubba was pretty quick to relieve her of the shotgun and in all of his bravado thinking how those belly crawling, scaly, forked tongue critters are just evil, tracked the snake down and shot it. I

guess he probably shot it about twelve to fifteen times. Bubba likes to do things right and this way he figures he rid the world of a little evil.

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

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

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14th Annual Mega Bass *(Continued from Page 1)*

the T-shirt bonus. The weights of the bass that came to the scales showed the large bass Lake Fork is known for were not in the feeding mode.

During the course of the tournament there were two (2) bass over the 24" slot brought to the scales. Bass under the 16" slot ranged mostly in the upper 2-pound range with the lowest weight of any hour to earn a check was a bass weighing 2.07-pounds.

At last year's Mega Bass Mark Spurgin from McKinney, Texas weighed in

a lunker weighing 15.47-pounds.

This year the weights were extremely different. With all the drastic weather changes we have been having and the low lake levels the spawn of the big ones has been pushed back and delayed. I've the feeling April and May are going to be pole bending months.

In the 8 o'clock hour Michael Lamb from Murfreesboro, Arkansas weighed in a 2.61-pound bass winning him \$15,000. In this hour it took a 2.07-pound bass to get in the money.

In the 9 o'clock hour Jonathan Morale from Heath, Texas weighed in a 2.61-pound bass winning a check for \$15,000. In this hour it took a 2.15-pound bass to get in the money. 10 o'clock hour Lake Fork showed what this great reservoir has to offer. In this hour Brody Parker, 13 years old from McAlester, Oklahoma weighed in a 11.20-pound bass winning a check for \$15,000. In this hour it took a 2.26-pound bass to get in the money. In the 11 o'clock

(Continued on Next Page)



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hour Archie Hayley from Mount Vernon, Texas weighed in a 10.27-pound bass winning him \$15,000. In this hour it took a 2.29-pound bass to get in the money. In the 12 o'clock, Larry Landis from Garfield, Texas weighed in a 2.65-pound bass winning him a check for \$15,000. In this hour it took a 2.22-pound bass to get in the money. In the 1 o'clock hour Shannon Dawson from Magnolia, Texas weighed in a 2.67-pound bass winning him a check for \$15,000. In this hour it took a 2.17-pound bass to get in the money. In the 2 o'clock

hour Jeremy Goodgion from Graham, Texas weighed in a 2.93-pound bass winning him a check for \$15,000. In this hour it took a 2.40-pound bass to get in the money.

Brody Parker's bass weighing 11.20-pounds held up as the heaviest bass caught during the tournament. For his great catch he not only won \$15,000 in hourly cash but also took home a 2022 Skeeter ZX 200 powered by a Yamaha 200 SHO. (To view the large bass that won in the hours see page 13.)

During the course of the tournament, the Lake Fork Sportsman Association did

just an excellent job with their Live Release Boat getting all the bass back into the lake to be caught another day. They are most definitely to be commended for their diligence and hard work they put into "Preserving the Legend that is Lake Fork!"

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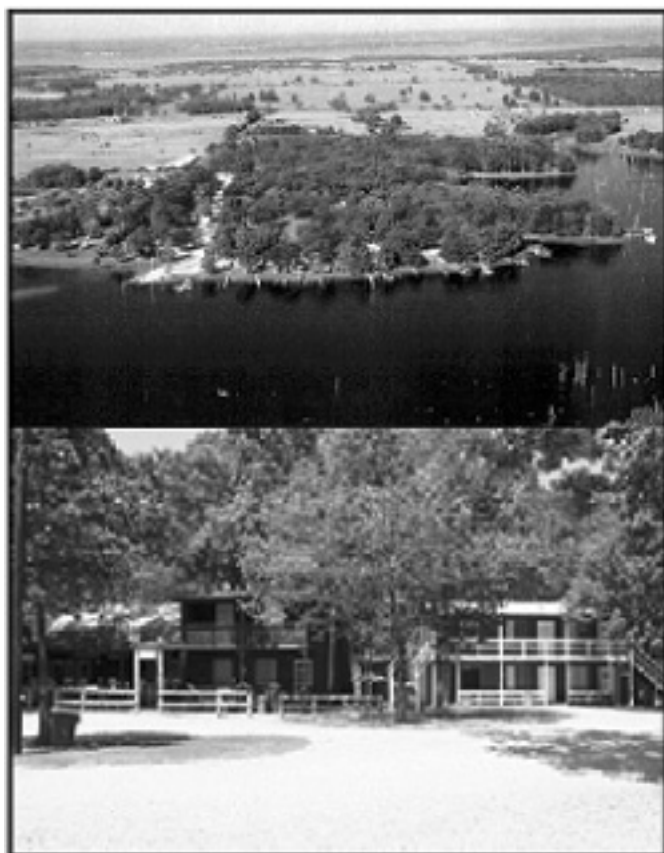
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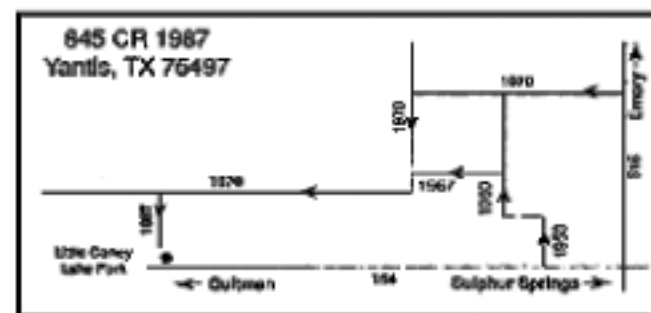
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"Bass are starting to move up to shallow cover!"

By David Ozio

"What a difference a year makes! Last year the lake was frozen now it's six and a half foot low with a prolonged winter. These fish just can't catch a break. Late winter surface temps are just now allowing these big bass to move after being locked up for the duration. As of this writing bass are finally starting to move up to shallow cover and the good times are starting to roll.

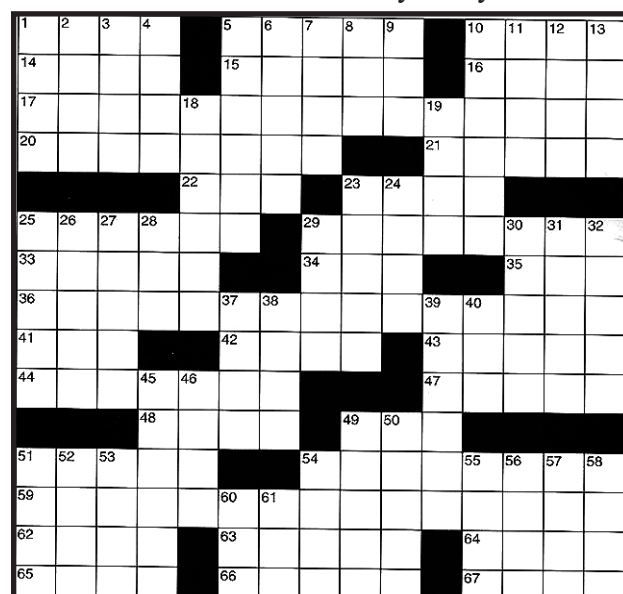
I have heard reports of the first wave of spawners pulling into the shallows late in the month and heard the chatterbait took a few giants to the scales. There were not very many as surface

temps at that time were still in the upper forties. I surmise the next wave in April will be the biggest by far as the main lake water temps should warm to the upper sixties by the next full moon. This will be game on when the giants will be caught off beds provided you can see them. I feel the bigger giants will be taken when the shad start to spawn. That will happen once the surface temps reach about seventy degrees and there won't be a swimbait left in sight for purchase. Fork is an excellent lake for swimbaits especially when the lake is on the clear side. Unfortunately, the pond is not as transparent as I would like to see but it will do in a rush. There are several large swimbaits being sold around the lake and you can choose the one that strikes your fancy. Huge glide baits have been the recent craze and be prepared to let loose of plenty of cash to wield one of these bad boys. Gizzard shad colors work best for the hard sided lunger catchers and always throw them on heavy mono or stout braid. For the soft plastic versions, use brighter colors for the off colored water and more translucent baits for the clearer water. The next step is determining which hook to rig on these giant plastic bass offerings. I recommend a 10/0 hook for the full



size baits and a 7/0 hook for the minnow size swimmers. From that point you will need to focus on the right depth where the slouches will be hiding and how much weight should be on the hook. Start with no weight and work your way down to a 10/0 weight weighted with 3/4 ounce. This tactic will cover the important levels in the water column and start you on your way. Next is "where"? You can never go wrong with main lake points or secondary points especially if they have a channel swing close by. Use a long rod and keep casting until something gives. It may be your arm but that's why they make Advil.

(See Bass are starting....
Continued on Page 20)



CLUES ACROSS

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Outer garments | 41. Chinese dynasty |
| 5. Way to act | 42. Tells on |
| 10. Take back (informal) | 43. Sharp, narrow ridge |
| 14. Negative (informal) | 44. Horse homes |
| 15. At no time | 47. Events |
| 16. Beige | 48. Incline from vertical |
| 17. Jane Fonda movie (three words) | 49. Golf-club part |
| 20. Landings | 51. Russian city |
| 21. Sustains, in a way | 54. Protestant denominations |
| 22. Conceit | 59. George Clooney movie (three words) |
| 23. Retail event | 62. Rail |
| 25. ____ d', headwaiter | 63. Filmed records |
| 29. Abandoned ship | 64. Lake ____, one of the Great |
| 33. Strayed | 65. Act of apportioning something |
| 34. 007's creator | 66. Faked |
| 35. Volt-ampere | 67. Feline sound |
| 36. "Harry Potter and ____" (four words) | |

CLUES DOWN

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| 1. Pier on a porch | 31. ____ blanche, unrestricted power |
| 2. Niels ____, physicist | 32. Fig and gum |
| 3. Copycat | 37. Mated |
| 4. Partial (prefix) | 38. Emit coherent radiation |
| 5. Anger | 39. Aspects |
| 6. ____ Park, Calif. | 40. Brother |
| 7. Sheep genus | 45. Site of chemical spill |
| 8. Integer | 46. Cleanse with soap and water |
| 9. Work unit | 49. Buckle (obsolete) |
| 10. Add gas | 50. Selected |
| 11. Outside (prefix) | 51. Posttraumatic stress disorder (abbr.) |
| 12. Quarry | 52. Nailed to the underside of a horse's hoof |
| 13. What belongs to us | 53. East Chadid |
| 18. Exaggerate | 54. Motion |
| 19. Competent | 55. Individual unit |
| 23. Hind ends | 56. Open skin infection |
| 24. River in Florence | 57. Set of three |
| 25. Uppers (slang) | 58. Small merganser |
| 26. Saint | 60. Rural free delivery (abbr.) |
| 27. Bird genus | 61. Expresses distaste |
| 28. Two-year-old sheep | |
| 29. Having relatively few calories | |
| 30. Vines | |

Answers on Page 21

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Fish Friendly

Seventeenth Annual Legend of Lake Fork Big Bass Tournament *(Continued from Page 1)*

24" slot caught during the tournament, they will not only be taking home a check for 1st Place in an hour but also an Xpress X21Pro equipped with Yamaha, MinKota, and Humminbird electronics. This is the same type of boat that Bassmaster Elite Pros, Bill Lowen, Harvey Horne, Dale Hightower, and Caleb Sumrall fish the circuit in.

Having been a guide on Lake Fork for 18 years and owned this newspaper for 23 years, I can contest to many

anglers having never caught a bass weighing over 10-pounds. Well, Lake Fork is definitely your best chance to do this. For this very reason when I began this tournament, I wanted an extra incentive for the anglers. This is when my wife and I came up with the great idea to give a grand prize to the heaviest bass under the 16" slot. For the angler that catches the heaviest bass under the 16" mark, they will be taking home a check and an Xpress X19Pro fully equipped.

For those that got your entry in early before April 30th you could also be a big winner. In a drawing of all the early entries, one lucky angler will be taking home an Xpress H20B, 20-foot center console, equipped with Yamaha, MinnKota and Humminbird electronics.

There also will be a T-Shirt hour every hour of the tournament. If the angler has a T-Shirt with him when he weighs his bass and wins 1st Place in the hour, they will get an ex-

tra \$100.

Anglers can also purchase TFO 7'4" MH rods for only \$65 while supply lasts.

For more information on the tournament see ad on Page

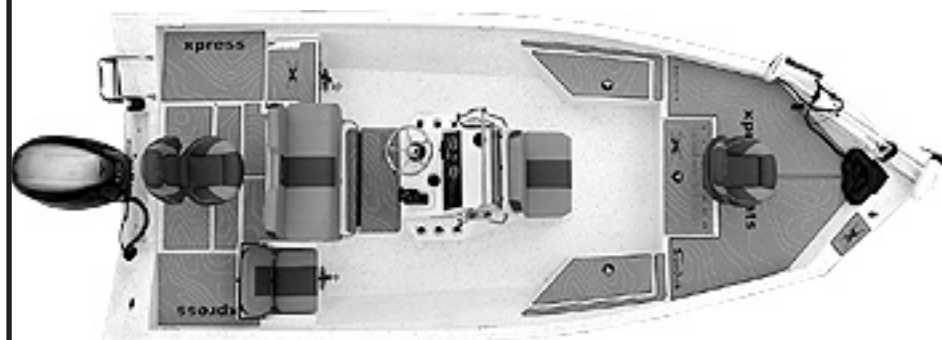
28 or go to www.legendoflakefork.com to download an entry and for all tournament rules. If you should have any questions, you can contact me at fishnews@lakefork.net

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Hope to see you at the tournament or on the lake!

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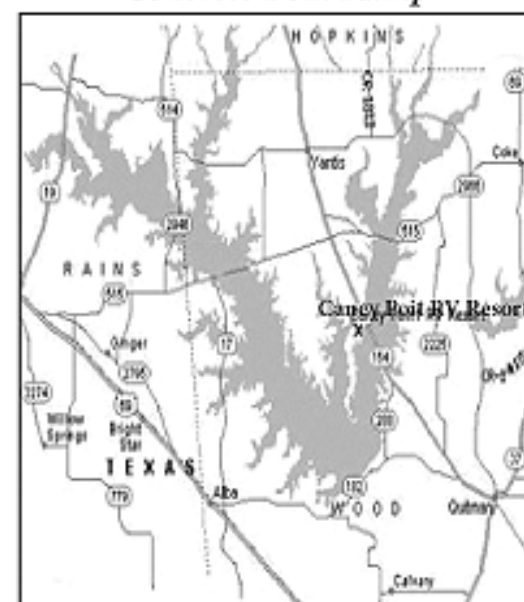
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"The Moon Report"

"April Excitement on Lake Fork"

By Terri Moon

I don't know about you – but, I'm sure ready for some stable weather! March just couldn't make up its mind whether to be warm or downright cold! Those north winds sure hurt especially with mornings dropping into the upper 30's. Just when the water temps start to get right, another cold front would hit – but, these 70 to 80 degree days will rebound it quick and April should be awesome! I'm ready for them to lock in on a bobber pattern! We are definitely a lot later than last year. Plus we are dealing with very low water levels while they make repairs on the dam and bridges. So we are all looking for new spawning areas! We just need a few 60 degree nights to get them to commit to the shallows. It's mainly been males until the last full moon – then some of the BIG girls started to move in. So don't think you've missed it – the next 3 months should be prime fishing.

Also, if you haven't seen Lake Fork at these low levels, it's a good time to check it out. You will be shocked at the amount of timber you've been fishing over or running your boat through! It's a great time to mark hazardous areas on your GPS and areas that look good for future fishing when lake levels are back up. But, PLEASE be safe – even in the boat lanes 6-1/2 foot slack or more in the buoy cables with chang-



ing wind directions can move a buoy toward a dangerous area, so they are not where they should be. Also, be mindful of wind direction in regards to the buoy cable so you don't catch the cable in your prop. You would definitely be done for the day! I've heard some wild stories about that happening when lake levels were down! Just know – its time to be extra cautious!

Once these water temps reach mid to upper 60's, hang on cause you never know what you're going to catch on a bobber – crappie, bass, catfish, white bass or yellow bass – it's all exciting!

Target secondary points to the backs of the coves around isolated stick-ups or brush anywhere from 1 to 8 ft. If water temps drop on a chilly night, back off and check that 8 to 20 ft. This time of year it can change daily. One day they want just a jig – other days they want just a minnow or a jig tipped with a minnow. So don't be afraid to change it up if what your doing isn't

working and a different color might be the answer. Before I forget, if you catch a day without 30 mile an hour winds, check the bridges. You might have to move around a little but there are some big females holding there waiting to stage up.

The baits working for us have been Bonehead Slim-sticks – white/chartreuse or moon dust or black/chartreuse – also, Skippie jigs in chartreuse rubber tails and Limits Tackle in white/chartreuse and orange/chartreuse. Don't forget you can also tightline jigs with a long pole around any bushes or timber, that can be fun too!

I just wanted to let you know how good it is to be back on the water after an extended stay in Missouri getting Mama Nova well enough to travel home with me. Thank you for the continued prayers for her recovery. Love to all my family who are going through some tough situations.

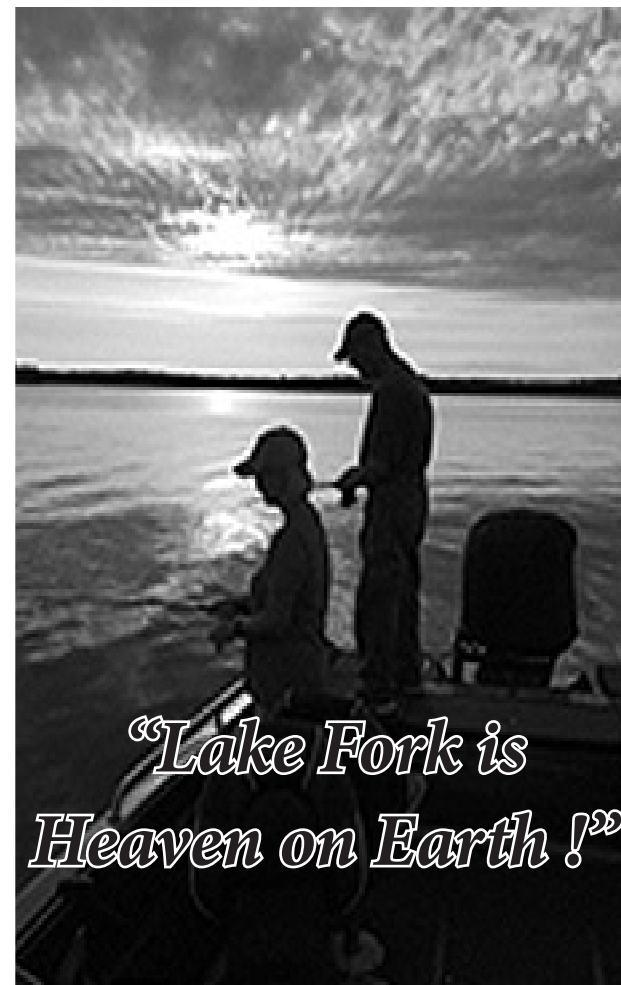
Blessings to all of you!



Hunter Miller, 16 years old from Kansas caught this Lake Fork hawg weighing 9.6-lbs. fishing with guide Danny Holder. C.P.R.



Lake Fork guide Randy Oldfield caught this hawg on a Santone jig with a V&M trailer. Weight not provided. C.P.R.



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As an angler and someone interested in the health of our rivers, lakes and bays, you can play an important role in making sure invasive species can't spread and wreak havoc on these waterbodies. As a reminder during National Invasive Species Awareness Week (NISAW), here are 4 things you should do to help:

- Only Use *Native Gulf* Shrimp as Bait
- Clean, Drain and Dry Your Boat and Gear
- Use Live Bait Where You Catch It
- Never Dump Your Aquarium

Invasive species are non-native to an ecosystem and can cause environmental and economic harm, as well as impact human health and quality of life. They often grow or reproduce rapidly, helping them to infest large areas and become problematic.

In honor of NISAW, the Office of the Governor has recognized the week with an official proclamation. "Each year, a week is dedicated to raising awareness about the dangers of invasive species," said Governor Greg Abbott. "At this time, I encourage all Texans to learn more about the steps Texas takes to control populations of invasive species and how all Texans can help prevent their spread. By continuing to be wise stewards of our natural resources, we can ensure a better and brighter future as we build the Texas of tomorrow." Read our press release for more information.

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Only Use *Native Gulf* Shrimp as Bait

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Clean, Drain and Dry Your Boat and Gear

Many highly destructive invasive species like giant salvinia and zebra mussels can be unknowingly spread from lake to lake on boats and gear. You can stop them from hitching a ride with you. Watch this video for how to clean, drain and dry your boat and trailer, as well as your gear like bait buckets and live wells. Love your lakes back

– always clean, drain and dry.

If you store your boat in the water on a lake infested with zebra mussels, it likely has mussels attached – even if you can't see them. We urge you to call our 24/7 hotline at (512) 389-4848 before moving your boat to another lake, and we will provide you with guidance and support to reduce the risk of spreading zebra mussels.

Use Live Bait Where You Catch It

If you catch live bait for your fishing, don't move it from the water body where it was caught. If you purchase live bait from a bait store, keep it in the water you bought it in, and keep the receipt. Once bait comes into contact with lake water, it can only be used on that lake.

Following these guidelines can prevent the spread of zebra mussels whose larvae are invisible to the naked eye and can be transported in lake water, and it can keep fish from being moved outside their native range. In northeast Texas, this will help prevent the unintentional spread of bighead carp or silver carp, which can look a lot like bait fish when they're young.

(See Help Stop Invasive Species.....

Continued on Page 21)

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Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission Awards \$12.5 Million in Local Park Grants to Texas Communities

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission approved more than \$12.5 million in grants to help create and enhance outdoor recreational opportunities.

The competitive grants are allocated to local government entities on a 50/50 reimbursement match basis, and once funded, the sites must remain parkland in perpetuity, properly maintained and open to the public. This will result in more nature trails, native gardens, playgrounds, splash pads, dog parks and sports fields at 26 community parks statewide. The commission, which administers the local park grants program for Texas, awarded projects in various categories based on community popu-

lation and scope.

Urban Outdoor Recreation Grants are reserved for local units of government with populations of more than 500,000. Three communities received these grants. The Non-Urban Outdoor Recreation Grants fund park projects in municipalities under 500,000. The commission approved awards to projects in 11 communities. The Small Community Recreation Grants serve towns of less than 20,000 and were awarded to 12 communities.

For more information about the local park grants program, visit the TPWD local park grants page.

The grant awards are listed below by region:

Central Texas

The city of Giddings received a \$150,000 small community grant for its Veterans Park Splashpad project. Proposed developments include sitework, splash pad, native landscaping, site furnishings and signage.

East Texas

The city of Baytown is the recipient of a \$749,914 non-urban outdoor grant for its Tompkins Road Park project. Proposed developments include playground equipment, parking, solar lighting, fitness equipment, restroom enclosure and a water fountain.

The city of Gilmer received a \$150,000 small community grant for its Abney Street Park project. Proposed developments include a basketball court, pavilion, restrooms, a trail, a playground, native flower landscaping, horse-shoe pits, a washer court and signage.

The city of Houston received a \$1,250,228 urban outdoor grant for its Charlton Park Improvement project. Proposed developments include site work, a playground, exercise stations, splash pad, chimney swift tower, signage, site furnishings, shade pavilion, walkways, hardscape and native landscaping.

The city of Jacksonville received a \$131,040 small community grant for its Buckner Park Improvements project. Proposed developments include sitework and demolition, playground equipment and sidewalks.

The city of Winnsboro received a \$150,000 small community grant for its Lion's Park

(See Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission Awards....

Continued on Page 15)

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Hour 2 Winner - \$15,000, Jonathan Morale,
Heath, TX - 2.61-lbs



Hour 4 Winner - \$15,000, Archie Hayley,
Mount Vernon, TX - 10.27-lbs.



Hour 5 Winner - \$15,000, Larry Landis,
Graford, TX - 2.65-lbs.



Hour 6 Winner - \$15,000, Shannon Dawson,
Magnolia, TX - 2.67-lbs.



Hour 7 Winner - \$15,000, Jeremy Goodgion,
Graham, TX - 2.93-lbs.



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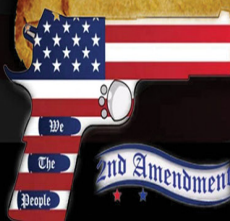
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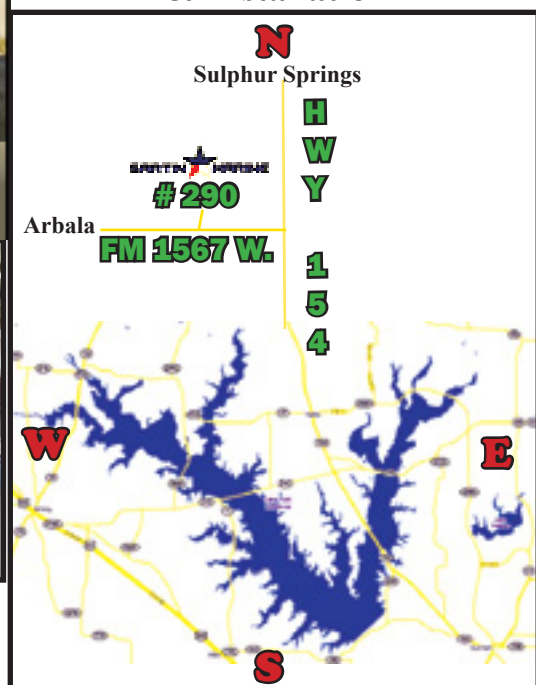
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Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission Awards \$12.5 Million (Continued from Page 11)

project. Proposed developments include site preparation, multi-use sport court, pedestrian trail, site furnishings, native landscaping, signage, playground equipment and lighting.

North Texas

The city of Celina received a \$750,000 non-urban outdoor grant for its Old Celina Park Phase II project. Proposed developments include additional inclusive playground equipment, spray fountain, pavilions, shade structures, sports courts, native landscaping, interpretive and TPWD signs.

The city of Dallas received a \$1,500,000 urban outdoor grant for its Crawford Memorial Phase One Signature Park project. Proposed developments include pedestrian trails with accessible bridges, accessible picnic sites with shade structures, exercise complex, restrooms, site furnishings and signage.

The city of Dalworthington Gardens received a \$50,000 small community grant for its DWG Playground project. Proposed developments include playground equipment, a safety surface and signage.

The city of Denton received a \$621,563 non-

urban outdoor grant for its Villages of Carmel Park Property project. Proposed developments include site utilities, landscaping, irrigation, sidewalks, playground equipment and site furnishings.

The city of Farmers Branch received a \$750,000 non-urban outdoor grant for its Joya Signature Playground at Oran Good Park project. Proposed developments include playground equipment, LED lighting, native landscaping, interpretive signage and restrooms.

The city of Fate received a \$150,000 small community grant for its Fate Station Park project. Proposed developments include playground equipment with accessible surfacing.

The city of Kaufman received a \$750,000 non-urban outdoor grant for its Kaufman City Lake Park Development and Acquisition project. This project will include land acquisition as well as developments and renovations. Proposed elements include demolition and earthwork, a trail, picnic tables and benches, a pier, playground, pavilion, golf tees and baskets.

The Lancaster Municipal Utility District Number One received a \$500,000 non-urban

outdoor grant for its Lancaster MUD No. 1 Recreation Facilities Park. This project will include land acquisition as well as developments and renovations. Proposed elements include open space preservation, pedestrian trails with a bridge, native plants, picnic tables, playground equipment and a bike rack.

The city of Lewisville received a \$750,000 non-urban outdoor grant for its Neighborhood Park in The Triangle project. This project will include land acquisition as well as developments and renovations. Proposed elements include site prep, interpretive signage, picnic tables, irrigation, pavilion with seating, playground equipment, native landscaping and riparian restoration.

The town of Little Elm received a \$750,000 non-urban outdoor grant for its Cottonwood Park Phase II project. Proposed developments include erosion control, deck, fishing piers, sidewalks, universal design playground, native landscaping, water-wise irrigation, interpretive and TPWD signage.

(See Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission Awards....

Continued on Page 17)



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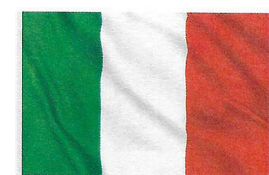
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Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission Awards \$12.5 Million (Continued from Page 15)

The city of Van Alstyne received a \$150,000 small community grant project for its Robert Hynds Memorial Park project. Proposed developments include sitework, a fishing pond, pavilion, amphitheater and native landscaping with irrigation.

Panhandle

The city of Borger received a \$213,775 non-urban outdoor grant for its Huber Park Playground project. Proposed developments include playground equipment, surfacing and project signage.

The city of Bovina received a \$150,000 small community grant for its Bovina Community Park Splash Pad project. Proposed developments include splash pad, picnic tables with covered seating and signage.

The village of Timbercreek Canyon received a \$32,326 small community grant for its Timbercreek Canyon Park project. Proposed developments include playground equipment with accessible surfacing and border.

South Texas

The city of Beeville received a \$75,000 small community grant for its Trevino Park project. Proposed developments include a playground with shade structure, fitness stations, shade shelters, site furnishings, a basketball court and a water fountain.

The Cameron County Parks and Recreation Department received a \$750,000 non-urban outdoor grant for the Olmito Nature Park project. This project will include land acquisition as well as developments and renovations. Proposed elements include playground equipment, pedestrian trails, picnic facilities, piers, bike racks, solar lighting, accessible benches, signage and native landscaping.

Hidalgo County received a \$1,100,511 urban outdoor grant for its Lopezville Park project. Proposed developments and renovations include site grading, drainage, lighting, tennis courts, adult and youth soccer fields, restrooms, a pedestrian trail, parking lot, picnic areas, a pavilion and an all-inclusive playground.

The city of Port Isabel received a \$750,000 non-urban grant for its Laguna Madre Park Renovation project. Proposed developments include a baseball field, sports field fencing, site furniture, grading, infields, outfield hydromulch, irrigation, a restroom, concessions, a trail, fitness equipment, bike racks, a picnic area, habitat and interpretive signage.

The city of Robstown received a \$41,250 small community grant for its Robstown Swimming Pool Renovation project. Proposed developments include replastering and retiling

of the swimming pool.

West Texas

Kinney County received a \$100,000 small community grant for its Kinney County Community Park Development- Splash Pad project. Proposed developments include playground renovations, site furnishings, interpretive signage and a recirculating splash pad.



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New Texas Parks and Wildlife Tyler Regional Complex is Open for Business

As of Monday, March 28, the Tyler community has a new location to service its boating, fishing and hunting needs. Housing divisions including Texas Game Wardens, Wildlife, Inland Fisheries and State Parks, the facility will act as a one-stop-shop for Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) business.

Situated on the Tyler Nature Center Wildlife Management Area, the new facility has been a longtime goal for Texas Game Warden Major Quint Balkcom.

"Creating a large fa-

cility where TPWD staff could work collaboratively and better assist the Tyler community has been in the works for decades," he said. "We are pleased to be fully operational and available to the public."

TPWD offers most services, like hunting and fishing licenses, online, but still offers boat titling and registrations through the facility. Staff are also happy to assist with any TPWD-related inquiries.

While the Tyler complex is open, landscaping and nature trails are still under

construction. Visitors are urged to stay on paved walkways.

"We are excited to be in such a pristine facility, located in a conserved and accessible area," Balkcom said. "Once construction is finalized later this year, TPWD will celebrate with a more formal grand opening."

For information about online services, please visit <https://tpwd.texas.gov>.

The facility, located at 11942-A FM 848 in Tyler, is open 8 a.m. — 4:45 p.m. Monday through Friday.



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By Carolyn West, President LFSA

COVID was not kind to last year's schedule and the eel grass planted in very early 2021 remains in the greenhouse in 2022. The cur-

However, LFSA and the Ag students at Yantis had another lesson to learn. After a year in the same pots sitting underneath the water level in the greenhouse tanks, plants could become rootbound. So, on Wednesday, March 21, the mature eel grasses were removed from the tanks, split into thirds and re-planted in additional pots. Mrs. Cari Mills' second and third period students dug in and did a splendid job of re-potting. Amid comments such as "I don't like to touch worms", "This is the dirtiest I've ever been" and "Look how dirty my ten-

These young people are to be commended for their hard work and dedication to the project. Their instructor, Mrs. Mills, assisted in the planning and execution of the project and, in my mind, showed a Super Teacher's skill working with them. What a great group!

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"Bass are starting to move up to shallow cover!" (Continued from Page 6)

I suspect the lake will still be low heading through April so don't rule out the Carolina rig on main lake points especially following the days right after a cold front. The big bass have a habit of not chasing baits during high pressure so the C-rig will pick up the slack. Magnum lizards, creature baits and even small swimbaits should do the heavy lifting. Choose dark colors for heavily stained water and translucent colors like watermelon red for clearer water on sunny days. Big jigs will also play a roll on these points with the same color schemes as the C-rig. Graph the

points before you make a cast and check for activity. If something shows up on the radar as my clients call it, drop a waypoint and start casting. Also, with cold fronts in mind, don't give up on the shallow fish entirely. You can back out to the first breakline and throw a Texas rig or a senko. Use the lightest line possible under the high skies to get the bites you are looking for. Once you get the bite, you can figure out how to get the beast in the boat.

If you are headed out to Lake Fork in April searching for the trophy of a lifetime, I would love to be a part of this trophy quest. I also have gift certificates available if you have friends or loved one's who have dreamt of landing a huge bass. You can contact me at 409 782-4269 or e-mail me at skeet21c@aol.com. You can follow me on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/davidoziolakeforkguide>. I post my daily trip results on this page. I would also like to thank Okuma Fishing, Talon Custom Lures and Dakota Lithiums for making my job the blast that it is. 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."



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Help Stop Invasive Species *(Continued from Page 10)*

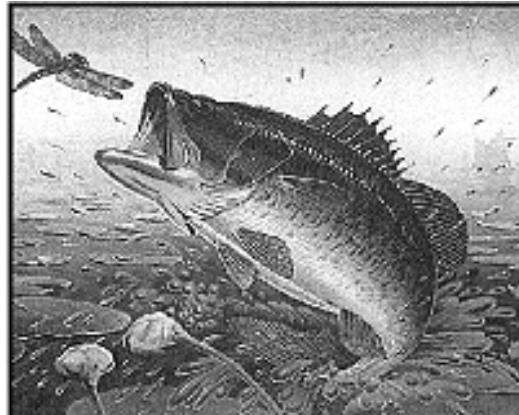
Never Dump Your Aquarium

If you're an aquarium owner, never dump your tank into a natural body of water or flush its contents. Dumping anything out of an aquarium – fish, animals (like snails), or

plants – can have devastating consequences for Texas' natural waterbodies. There are responsible alternatives for disposing of them. Recently, invasive zebra mussels have been found in moss balls sold as aquarium ac-

cessories. Destroy any zebra mussels by simply freezing, boiling or bleaching each moss ball, then put them into a sealed container and throw the container into the trash.

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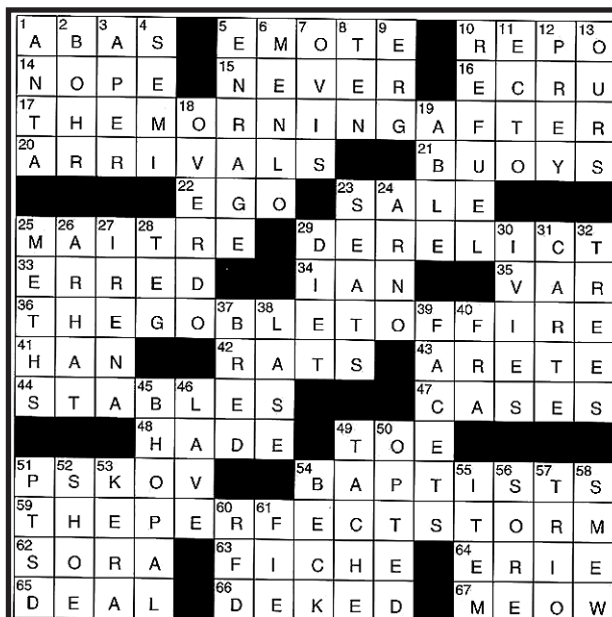
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Game Warden Field Notes

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

--Love the way you lie-- Two Trinity County game wardens received a call about missing boaters, two adults and one child, on the Neches River. When they arrived at the ramp, the wardens found two trucks and an empty boat trailer. Accompanied by a Trinity County Deputy, the wardens searched the river for the missing boat. After a couple of hours, they noticed a light on the deck of a floating

cabin. Wardens made contact and confirmed it was the two missing men and child. The men were fishing from the floating cabin and said they had boat trouble earlier but had since fixed the boat. Once the wardens confirmed that everyone was okay, the men were asked to present their fishing license, and neither's was current. Additionally, the boat was not registered and only had one inflatable life jacket. The warden also found a dead woodpecker the men were using for bait. The men said they were about to head back to the

ramp, so the wardens followed them back to the ramp after they loaded their gear. A small amount of marijuana was found on one individual while the other attempted to start their boat. The warden asked the man to step back out of the boat. While exiting the boat, he intentionally fell into the water. The wardens grabbed the man while he was underwater and could feel his arms underneath him trying to get rid of something. Once they detained him, they noticed an empty holster in his belt. The wardens then found

(Continued on Page 24)

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Canned Pears: Always Ripe and "Pear-fect"

By Sue Hampton

Milder weather not only means blue skies and blooming flowers, it's the start of outdoor gatherings. It's also a great excuse to switch up the menu. Salads and kabobs are favorites during warmer months and canned fruit can easily enhance a recipe. Canned pears are always ripe, ready to eat and contain virtually no fat or cholesterol. So next time you host a get-together, add a little sweetness to the feast with this



A "PEAR-FECT IDEA" for outdoor gatherings is a Blueberry, Pear and Apricot Salad with Almonds. "Happy Easter" from our family to yours!

pantry staple. Try serving Blueberry, Pear and Apricot Salad with Almonds or Barbecued Pear and Chicken Kabobs to family and guests.

Blueberry, Pear and Apricot Salad With Almonds

(Makes 12 Servings)

1 can (15 ounces) pear halves in extra-light syrup

1 can (8-1/4 ounces) pear halves in extra-light syrup

1 can (15 ounces) blueberries in light syrup

1 can (8-1/4 ounces) apricot halves in extra-light syrup

Juice of 1 small lemon

1/2 cup sliced almonds, roasted

Drain both cans of pear halves; slice into bite-sized pieces. Drain apricots; halve. Drain blueberries; divide among salad plates and arrange; arrange pears and apricots as well. Top salads with lemon juice and almonds; serve.

Barbecued Pear and Chicken Kabobs

(Makes 4 Servings)

1 can (15 ounces) pear halves

1/2 cup bottle barbecue sauce

2 tablespoons honey

1 tablespoon Dijon mustard

1 clove garlic, minced

8 kabob skewers

1 red, green or yellow sweet bell pepper, cut into 1-1/2-inch squares

1 pound boneless, skinless chicken breasts or thighs, cut into 1-1/2 inch chunks

Preheat grill or broiler. Drain pears, reserving juice. Cut pears into 1-1/2 inch chunks; set aside. In a bowl, stir together barbecue sauce, honey, mustard, garlic and 3 tablespoons of the reserved pear juice. On 4 skewers, alternate the pear and bell pepper pieces.

On remaining skewers, place chicken pieces. Brush all skewered ingredients liberally with the sauce mixture. Grill chicken skewers over medium coals for 10 minutes (or broil for 5 minutes), brushing occasionally with sauce.

Add pear-pepper skewers; grill for 5 to 7 minutes (or broil 2 to 4 minutes) more, or until chicken is no longer pink and pears and peppers are heated through. Serve one chicken kabob and one pear kabob per serving.



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Game Warden Field Notes (Continued from Page 22)

a large amount of meth, marijuana and Xanax. In the meantime, an Angelina County warden travelled through deer leases to attempt to get close to the floating cabin. The warden was able to get within a few hundred yards of the cabins and transported the two men and child back to the boat ramp by truck while Trinity County wardens collected evidence. After a second look in the cabin a loaded handgun was located underneath a cot. Both men were arrested, and the child was transported to relatives. Several felony charges will be filed including manufacture and delivery of meth, felon in possession of a firearm and tampering with evidence.

--We Belong Together--Two Throckmorton County and Haskell County game wardens were patrolling near Lake Stamford when they saw a truck suspiciously parked on the county road with its doors open. From a distance, the wardens saw a man walk out of the bar ditch and get into the truck. They approached the vehicle and saw a rifle in the passenger's seat and nearly a dozen snares in the bed of the pickup. The man was interviewed and admitted that he was placing snares and hunting from the county road. A dead coyote that was caught in his snare was discovered a short distance away. The man was also a convicted felon. In addition to multiple class C misdemeanors, cases were filed for hunting from

the public road and the man was arrested for unlawful possession of a firearm by a convicted felon.

--Gesundheit!-- A Real County game warden assisted the Real County Sheriff's Department on a call about a reckless driver that had been pulled over just south of Leakey. After the deputy made contact with the driver, he told the game warden the driver was acting very nervous. While the deputy was running the driver's information the subject sped away and a pursuit ensued. Real County sheriff's office, the game warden, the DPS trooper and the Real County Constable were involved in the pursuit. After pursuing the subject for about 5 miles south of Leakey the subject stopped and fled on foot. The driver ran towards the Frio river and jumped in the river. The game warden drove to the other side of the river to try and apprehend the subject, but the subject made it back across the river. A bystander told the warden where the subject crossed the river again, and

he and the other officers began a search for the subject. While waiting for the Edwards County sheriff's office K9 unit to arrive, the game warden was continuing the search when he heard someone sneeze in the tall grass. The warden began searching the area where he heard the sneeze and shortly after found the subject in a ditch covered up with grass. The subject was apprehended transported to the Real County Jail. The subject said he fled because he was scared and was out on bond. He also had two bags of marijuana stuffed in his boots.

--What Happens at the Lake House--Llano County game wardens responded to a shots fired call with deputies. Multiple callers stated an individual in a subdivision was shooting an automatic rifle at a buoy in the lake near houses and towards boats in the water. A rental house was located with eight people where the shooter was identified. The shooter admitted to hiding the

(Continued on Next Page)

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rifle inside the residence. Consent was given to search the house which yielded the rifle, bags of marijuana, unprescribed Adderall, and psilocybin mushrooms. A total of five people were arrested for charges ranging from possession of marijuana, deadly conduct- 3rd degree felony, and possession of controlled substance 1>4 grams — 2nd degree felony.

--Stop Methin' Around-- An Ellis County game warden received a call from the Cedar Hill police chief to discuss issues and complaints they were receiving on a rural part of the city where their officers couldn't easily access. After the game warden met with the chief and lieutenant, he patrolled the area and located a white truck trespassing with the driver still sitting in the vehicle. A meth pipe was in his hunting jacket and the suspect admitted to waiting on his friend to go hog hunting. The game warden located 1.6 grams of meth in the vehicle and a loaded 30-30 rifle. The suspect was a convicted felon and the rifle came back as stolen out of Montgomery County. The subject was arrested and placed in the Ellis County Jail. Multiple charges pending.

--Extremely Loud & Incredibly Dumb-- While patrolling the San Jacinto River for fishing license violations in eastern Montgomery County, San Jacinto and Montgomery County game wardens

heard a gunshot that sounded extremely close. After looking at a map, they noticed a pipeline about 50 yards away. As they made their way down the pipeline, the wardens noticed a pickup and ATV tucked away into the woods. While approaching the pickup, they witnessed two individuals tucking things into the toolbox of the truck. It appeared they had interrupted what was about to be a hunt without consent case. A bag of hog-wild attractant was found in the toolbox as well as a shotgun with buckshot and a rifle with a thermal scope. The ATV had been reported stolen out of Liberty County, so it was seized for further investigation. The registered owner of the ATV listed a guide on his hunting lease as his primary suspect. The guide just happened to be the same individual who was in possession of the ATV. Charges Pending.

--Lights Out-- A Sabine County game warden observed a truck traveling on State Highway 87 near Milam, Texas with inoperable taillights and license plate lights. The warden initiated a traffic stop on the truck and upon contacting the driver and passenger, the warden located a white-tailed buck deer in the bed of the truck. After a brief interview, the warden was able to obtain a confession from the individuals. The deer was shot from the road with the aid of an artificial light.

Both subjects were arrested for hunting white-tailed deer at night and hunting with the aid of artificial light. Cases Pending.

--Food Truck Bandits-- While returning a recovered stolen game camera from a previous hunting case to the land manager of a local development company, a Montgomery County game warden learned that they had been having theft issues from the active construction areas on some of their development properties. The warden and a Grimes County game warden made a pass through the development while on routine patrol and witnessed four individuals loading thousands of dollars of construction materials into the back of two pickup trucks. When the wardens contacted the group, they claimed that an unnamed friend who worked there told them they could have what they were taking. The land manager was able to quickly contact the construction superintendent of the project who verified that no one other than him had the authority to give away material and he did not give anyone permission to take anything. All four individuals were arrested for theft \$750-\$2,500, a class A misdemeanor. Upon further questioning, the group caught stealing were discovered as the drivers of food trucks for several local developments, including the one they were caught in.

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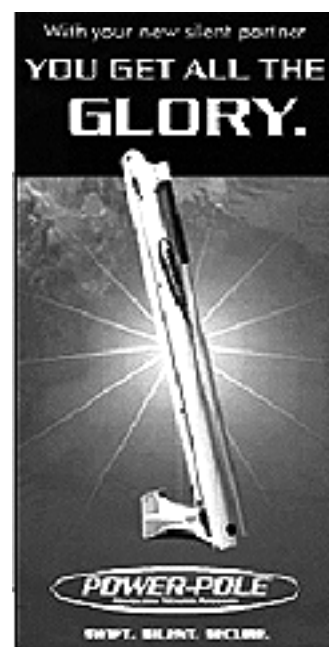
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