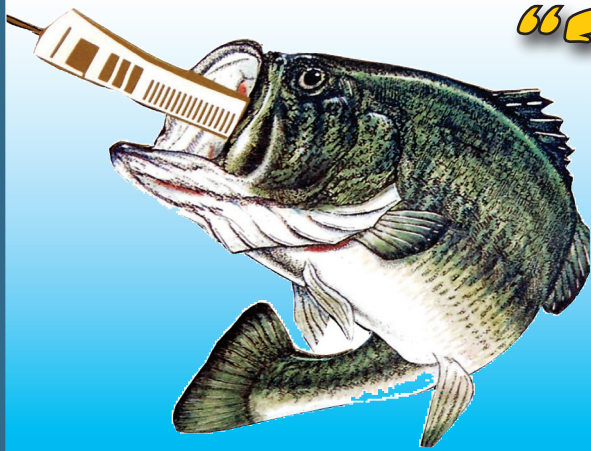


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1 Section

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Vol. 24

November, 2022

No. 279



Dylan Brill from Choctaw, Oklahoma won the heaviest over the slot in the 17th Annual Berkley Big Bass Tournament on Lake Fork with this 7.93-pound bass. For his efforts he took home a Skeeter ZX200 bass boat powered by Yamaha. (Fisherman's Guide Photo by Sue Hampton)



Jimmy Singleton from Godley, Texas won the heaviest under the slot in the 17th Annual Berkley Big Bass Tournament on Lake Fork with this 2.53-pound bass. For his efforts he took home a Skeeter ZX150 bass boat powered by Yamaha. (Fisherman's Guide Photo by Sue Hampton)

17th Annual Berkley Tournament on Lake Fork

By Don Hampton

Once again Mother Nature was not kind to the anglers at the 17th Annual Berkley Big Bass Tournament on Lake Fork. Over 1,000 anglers converged on Lake Fork to participate in the tournament held on October 15th and 16th.

Anglers were expecting Sunday to be the best day fishing, but that proved to be different. Heavy rains and lightening kept many anglers sitting on shore

waiting for the storm to pass. That was the smart ones.

These conditions did not detour the angler's efforts to try and win a portion of the over \$150,000 to be awarded. Though the large bass that Lake Fork is known for seemed to have lock jaw from the front, there were a lot of under the 16" slot in the upper 2-pound range weighed in but not with the heavier weights this reservoir is known for.

On the first day of the tournament there were

four bass that bested the 24" slot. The first two came in the 8 o'clock hour. Michael McKinney from Ninnekah, Oklahoma weighed in a 7.78-pound bass and Danny McDowell from Jena, Louisiana weighed in a 6.51-pound bass. The third over the slot to come to the scales was during the 1 o'clock hour. Dale Gore from Silsbee, Texas weighed in a 6.82-pound bass. During the 2 o'clock hour Dylan Brill from

(See Seventeenth Annual ..
Continued on Page 7)



At their October membership meeting, LFSA answered the needs of 41 young anglers from Grand Saline, Lone Oak and Alba Golden. A total of 123 rods and reel combos, 10 five-gallon buckets full of lures, 10 bags of 4 to 5 tackle boxes full of lures were presented to the three schools to be used by forty-one anglers. Terry Long, the High School Fishing Team Tackle Program Chairman, made the presentations. See LFSA article for more details. (Page 19)



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When It Comes To Thanksgiving, Bubba May Be The Turkey Full of Grace

By: Don Hampton

Bubba isn't an individual that is asked to say the grace much when it comes to meals. Don't get me wrong Bubba considers himself religious and is always thankful to the "Good Lord" for all his blessings. But, come on people, Bubba is Bubba!

If Bubba is asked to say the grace, you never know what kind of thanks you may hear. If he is really hungry you might hear, "Good bread, good meat, God Bless, let's eat, AMEN!" If he is really hungry and not feeling like a bear just out of hibernation and in a good mood you might hear, "Rubby dub, dub, bring on the grub, Yeah God, AMEN!" But, if Bubba has had a snack just before meal time, like tasting the turkey as he is slicing it, get ready for a long winded grace like you've never heard before. During these blessings he would have a country revival preacher squirming in his seat. During this course you might hear Bubbette throw in four or five AMENS. Not because she's filled with the spirit or that she agrees with what Bubba is saying, but rather because she's trying to shut him down. This is something one can really expect to hear at Thanksgiving at Bubba and Bubbette's home.

Each year at Thanksgiving and Christmas, Bubba is the designated turkey smoker. He does smoke a mean turkey and all his relatives think he is the best

and his smoked sweet potatoes and oyster dressing is a culinary delight also. The bad part of this is that the cook tastes his cooking before he will serve it. If you thought this would spoil his appetite, you are wrong. This just puts him at the table not being hungry as a bear and it being Bubba's household the Thanksgiving blessing belongs to him.

The beginning and the end of his grace are book worthy. It is just all of those things in the middle that will have you starving before the last AMEN. Believe me when he says, "AMEN", there is a chorus of "AMENS" around the table and a 'Thank God' or two. I think those are just because he is finally finished.

He will start by thanking God for all the blessings he has bestowed on his family and friends. He asked him to bless this great country we live in and for all the soldiers that defend our freedom and way of life. He will thank God for the food they are about to partake of and that he will nourish it to the goodness of their bodies, but then Bubba will say thanks for everything he feels important.

He is liable to start off by thanking the "Good Lord" for Lake Fork and all of the good lakes he has fished throughout the year. He'll be thankful for his sharp hooks, strong line, and prized possessions such as his rods and reels. He'll put in how much he appreciated the fish biting and that they might on

his future trips be as hungry as some of his kinfolk are getting at the table during his blessing. He will thank the Lord for his boat, motor, electronics and as always for his pick-up truck. He'll be thankful for the weather, the tournaments he won, the great guide trips he has been on, and on, and on, and on! Sometimes during these blessings Bubba would run down the EVEREADY Bunny! I do believe he would stretch them out more if he wasn't afraid his food would get cold!

Bubba is pretty smart in a sense the way he explained it to me. He said, "I've got a captive audience! No matter how long I say grace, none of my kinfolk are going to get up and leave a table full of good vittles!"

When Bubba finally says "AMEN", I think the chorus of "AMENS" is basically because everyone's so glad he's finally come to an end, but probably to drown out Bubba putting in a P.S.

Bubba always finishes his prayer with sincere thanks. He is thankful for his life, his wife, his family and friends, for the great country we live in, and that all may be blessed with the Lord's spirit.

Isn't that something we all should put in our prayers!

"Happy Thanksgiving from our home to yours!"

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6 Ways to Prevent Costly Roof Repairs This Fall

By Brooks Beeler

Don't neglect your roof this fall. Frequently, when we have an unusually long, dry summer, roof maintenance is the furthest thing from our minds—a few things to consider.

1. Keep your roof clean and free of debris – This time of year, leaves and pine needles begin to fall. When debris builds up on your roof, it tends to collect in the valleys and near eaves at the roof's edge. A valley is a bad place for debris to gather. Imagine the debris creating a dam where water can back up when it rains. When this water backs up, it can run under the shingles and cause a leak. Also, if the debris accumulates long enough, it can begin to rot, damage the shingles, and rot out of the decking. Be careful when getting on a roof that has debris on it. Debris can be very slippery, and you can find yourself on the ground in a hurry.

2. Inspect and clean your gutters and downspouts – Like your roof, debris can accumulate in your gutters quickly this time of year. Don't think of this as a, one and done. It may be nec-

essary to clean your gutters every week or two between now and when the leaves quit falling. When your gutters are full of debris, and it rains, it can cause them to overflow. Sometimes this overflow can cause water to run back into the cornice, and over time it will rot out the fascia and soffit.

3. Inspect your vent pipe covers – All faucets, toilets, and washing machines need to be vented through the roof. These air vents allow your plumbing to function correctly. These are the number one place for a roof to begin leaking. There are several different kinds of vent pipe covers. One type is lead. Oddly enough, squirrels love these. The government has banned lead in paint, gas, and other things for humans. Squirrels, however, didn't get the memo. They chew these things up like crazy. You would think all they eat are nuts and lead vent pipe covers. Another type of vent pipe cover has a neoprene or rubber middle. These can crack over time. In either case, if these are damaged, they need to be replaced immediately. In most cases, this will take a professional roofer.

4. Check for exposed nails or nail heads –

There are a few places on your roof where nails will be exposed. Examples are the final shingle on a ridge cap and the bottom of turbines or vent covers. All exposed nails should be caulked during installation. Caulk wears out over time. If you find any exposed nails, caulk them with good roofing caulk.

5. Visually inspect for missing or damaged shingles – If you find these issues, you will most likely need to contact a professional roofer for repair.

6. Metal roofs – Pretty much all the above applies to a metal roof except for nails and shingles. Metal roofs need to remain clear of debris as well. Metal roofs are not "forever." In some cases, around the twenty-year mark, they might even need a re-screw with oversized screws. The rubber washers can wear out on the existing screws over time. Also, check for loose or missing screws.

This list is certainly not exclusive, but it is great to start by taking care of one of your most significant investments.

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TPWD Encourages Anglers to Report Blotchy Bass Syndrome

Anglers across the nation are asked to report signs of Blotchy Bass Syndrome (BBS) to support research being conducted by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) and West Virginia University (WVU).

Bass Pro Shops is partnering with WVU and USGS to incentivize angler participation through the donation of gift cards for weekly drawings, including \$3,000 in gift cards specifically for Texas anglers.

Anglers are encouraged to report signs of BBS to the MyCatch app. To be eligible for the Texas-specific prizes provided by Bass Pro Shops, anglers who

suspect that their fish has symptoms of BBS must submit photos, name of the waterbody where it was caught, and the date of the catch to Cynthia Fox-Holt (Cynthia.fox@tpwd.texas.gov).

Photos will be accepted through 11:59 p.m. Central Time on Dec. 31, and prize drawings will occur over the course of three weeks in January (Jan. 9 -13, 16-20, 23-27). Each fish an angler enters is one entry for the drawings so individual anglers who submit more than one fish are eligible for multiple prizes.

After scientists joined forces to study the distribution and prevalence of BBS, they

found evidence that it is associated with a virus.

BBS produces black ink-like spots on the skin of freshwater bass species and has been documented in 18 states, including Texas. Even though BBS is associated with a virus, the fish generally appear to be in great condition and are actively feeding. The viruses that cause BBS have never been identified in humans or domestic pets and fish are safe to eat when properly cooked.

For more information about this study and BBS, contact TPWD biologist Cynthia Fox-Holt through email at Cynthia.fox@tpwd.texas.gov



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"Cooler days are finally coming!"

By David Ozio

"Cooler days are finally ushering in to the south and this means "foodfest" for the lunker bass that always seem to elude us on Lake Fork. You would think with the super low water level that bass would be easier to catch but that doesn't appear to be the case. As an example, The Sealy Big Bass Splash and the Berkley Big Bass Tournament were two of the all time lowest scoring events in Fork history. The overs in these two competitions were on par with the past few years but the two pound class fish were few and far between. Why you ask? My opinion is the perfect storm en-

compassed Fork this year with falling water levels, lake turnover and accelerated declining water temps. Where these fish have been hiding is anyone's best guess. The good news is that lake stabilization is right around the corner which will boost the annual feeding binge.

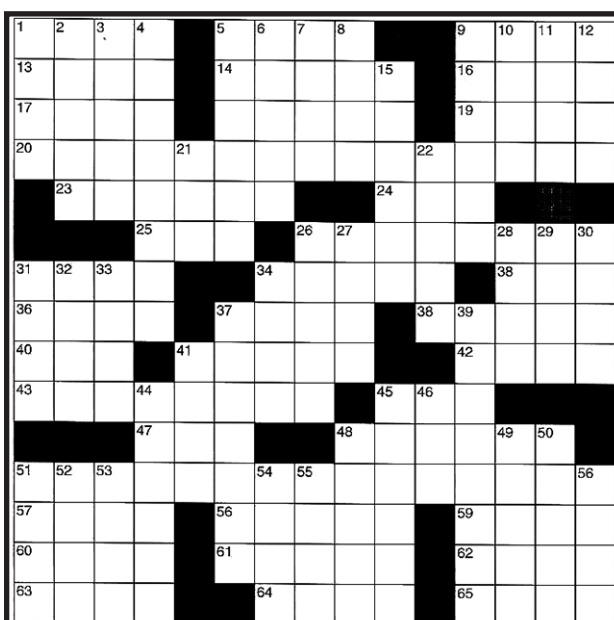
At this point in time, shad population is no issue. Bass have plenty to eat and this could also attribute to the recent lack of bites. The lake is about seven feet low as of this writing with the water quality overall in great condition and the backs of some creeks have ample visibility. Lack of rain in general has not affected the water clarity which ranges from somewhat clear down south to lightly stained in the backs of the main creeks that feed the lake. How you approach the bass will depend upon where you prefer to fish and how far down in the water you can see your lure before it disappears. With this in mind, the shallow bite is ramping up and big bass can be caught in all parts of the lake. Let's start the morning searching for top water fish. Shallow stumps is key to your success and hard underwater surfaces like road beds and pond dams will play a huge roll in your big bass adventure. If it rains and you see extreme off color water, use a noisy bait that stirs up the water. Prop baits are excellent choices



in this case. If the water is only slightly stained in the backs of the creeks and pockets, tie on a Zara Spook, Yellow Magic, Sammy or Whopper Plopper and start covering water. Shad are also moving to the backs of these areas and big bass are right on their tail. Focus on using shad colors on most any lure you throw and hang on for some jolting strikes. Pick out secondary points or small points close to channel swings. All should hold fish. Also, don't be afraid to chunk a Spro frog around any rare vegetation you might encounter. Huge bass can't resist the way they move through the water.

As the sun eases it's way higher into the sky, switch your strategy to baits that descend into the water column. If the water is heavily stained, throw the chatterbait, spinnerbait or squarebill in the same areas. If the water is slightly stained, use a five inch swimbait, swimjig or chatterbait. Sunshine will change the game slightly as the water cools so use a lipless crankbait and key on bank lines and flats. As the water temps degrades throughout the month, switch your lipless colors to gold or red. Now that you have photo's of several great fish during the morning, migrate your way out to deep water and graph the usual haunts, humps, ridges, roadbeds and structure. Fall on Fork has always

(See Cooler days.....
Continued on Page 20)



CLUES ACROSS

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Nasty character | 38. Expressed pleasure |
| 5. Worthless people | 40. Mongrel |
| 9. Whale ship captain | 41. Supernatural beings |
| 13. Sword | 42. Befools |
| 14. Alders | 43. Flour |
| 16. Captain of Yemen | 45. School organization |
| 17. Throw | 47. Annoy |
| 18. Midriff | 48. In a way, decays |
| 19. Adam and Eve's third son | 51. Bassoon, et al. |
| 20. Anything goes | 57. The content of cognition |
| 23. Gazes | 58. Coal tar product |
| 24. French river | 59. Harelike rodent of the pampas of Argentina |
| 25. Needlefish | 60. A spore-producing structure |
| 26. Most scrabbly | 61. Adult male of a wild or domestic duck |
| 31. Free from danger | 62. An individual unit |
| 34. Athapaskan language | 63. ___gate, lengthen |
| 35. After B | 64. Fastener |
| 36. Turkish leader title | 65. King bolete, mushroom |
| 37. Having a cheerless aspect or disposition | |

CLUES DOWN

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Cried | 31. Pouches |
| 2. Moonfish | 32. Chills and fever |
| 3. Put back to zero | 33. Raise |
| 4. Communities | 34. Momentarily |
| 5. Twain character | 37. Condescended |
| 6. Caste | 39. Without practical purpose or intention |
| 7. One | 41. Jai___, sport |
| 8. Hasty pudding | 44. Established by law |
| 9. St. Francis of ___ | 45. Cropped |
| 10. A complex red organic pigment containing iron | 46. Male cat |
| 11. Opposed to a policy | 48. ___Jong, writer |
| 12. Thailand | 49. Related on the mother's side |
| 15. Vascular tissues | 50. Type of bacteria |
| 21. Malaysian Isthmus | 51. Become aware |
| 22. Ancient kingdom | 52. Graven image |
| 26. A Finnish steam bath | 53. He fiddled |
| 27. Strays | 54. Small acid gritty-textured fruit |
| 28. Resound | 55. Czar |
| 29. Shed | 56. Identical |
| 30. Turner and Williams | |

Answers on Page 21



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17th Annual Berkley Tournament on Lake Fork (Continued from Page 1)

Choctaw, Oklahoma brought to the scales the fourth for the day weighing 7.93-pounds.

On Sunday the second day of the tournament Mother Nature showed her force. In the 8 o'clock hour only 12 bass came to the weigh-in with a 1.99-pound bass winning \$1,000 for angler Mason Crow from Broomfield, Colorado. A bass weighing .81 pound placed twelfth.

As the weather cleared and the wiser anglers got on the lake there were three over the slots weighed in. Both of these came in the 11 o'clock hour. Michael Copeland from Frankston, Texas weighed in a 6.73-pound bass and Hoyt Johnson from Elkhart, Indiana weighed in a 6.47-pound bass. The third one for the day came in the last hour of the tournament. This bass weighed 7.71-pounds and was caught by Jacob Johnston from Greenville, Texas.

In the Berkley Big Bass Tournament presented by Bass Champs there is also a Grand Prize for the heaviest bass under the slot. Jimmy Singleton from Godley, Texas won this. In the 12 o'clock hour he weighed in a 2.53-pound bass. He not only won \$1,000 for first place in the hour but took home a Skeeter ZX150 powered by a Yamaha SHO.

Dylan Brill's bass weighing 7.93-pounds held up as the heaviest over the slot caught in the tournament. He made his wife happy when he not only took home \$1,000 for first in the hour but also the Grand Prize of a Skeeter ZX200 powered by a Yamaha SHO. According to all records this is the lightest Lake Fork bass to win a Grand Prize in a tournament.

Berkley pays twenty places per hour. First is \$1,000 and cash payments through 10th place, 11th through 15th receives an Abu Garcia Reel, and 16th through 20th receives an Abu Garcia Veritas Rod. If an angler catches an exact weight bass using an Abu Garcia reel, they receive a bonus check. Only one bass was caught in the exact weight category using this reel. That bass was caught by Bill Guzman from Austin, Texas in the 2 o'clock hour on Sunday and weighed an exact 2.50-pounds. For his catch he won the bonus check of \$1,500 plus his hourly 2nd place check of \$500.

In all it was a great tournament even though the bass didn't cooperate as many anglers wished, more than a few went home with more money in their pockets.

Chad and Jeff and the crew of BassChamps did an excellent job in conducting the tournament.

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

To view more pictures from tournament see Page 15.



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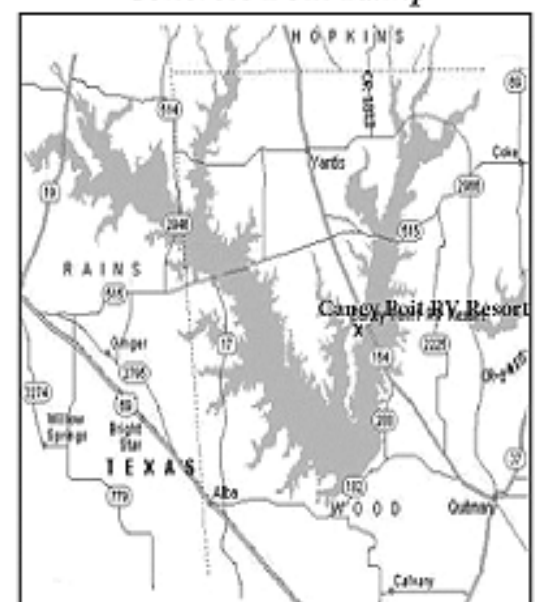
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"The Moon Report"

Novembers "Highs and Lows"

By Terri Moon

Once again I'm starting out with some sad news. Lake Fork guide out of Lake Fork Marina, Aaron Von Rosenberg, suffered another massive heart attack recently and didn't survive. Our hearts are broken for his sweet wife Jodie who works at the Lake Fork Marina store. We are praying the angels surround her and carry her during this devastating journey. "Rest In Paradise" Aaron – we will miss your smiling face and your passion for fishing!

Wow – the "Highs and Lows" of life can sure give you "whiplash" some days! But, I'm so grateful for all the blessings that seems to show up when you need them the most! A special thanks to all of my friends and family that showed up to help me move a mountain of Mama Novas things in Missouri. Also, thanks to my customers for understanding my absence. It's so good to be back in Texas! But, I sure had to hit the ground running. My new Skeeter Solera 205 with Yamaha 250 boat was ready to pick up – wow is it beautiful! (You can see it on a video on my facebook page). "Thank You, Thank you" everyone at Skeeter Boats for ALL you do for the fishing industry!



Thank you Fred and Kathleen at Diamond Sports Marine for helping me with all my Skeeter needs! Also, I sure appreciate Bryan, Billy, and Richard at Sartin Marine for always being there for me with all my trolling motor and depth finder issues.

Speaking of depth finders, I have to thank Clyde McAfee for helping me keep my units updated and saved over the years, and thanks to Lynn Roller for his help with converting my waypoints and livescope issues.

Wow – it seems to take an "army of angels" to keep me going! One more angel to thank – Clint Granger for helping me unload my 2020 Solera to transfer to the new one. I'm so excited to get my livescope mounted so I can get back on the water. Due to design changes, the mounting bracket I had would

not work. Thank you Jay Fergeson in Lees Summit, MO for referring me to Seelite mounting brackets in Russellville, AR. It's supposed to arrive tomorrow!

I was sure hoping our lake level would have improved while I was gone but darn, it's lower than when I left! It makes me a little nervous to head out in a new boat with these "low" levels but hopefully we'll get some much needed rain soon.

The best part of this time of year the water temperatures have started to drop triggering the fall migration. That sends the crappie into "feeding frenzy" mode. They will follow the baitfish back up the creeks following the same routes they took in the spring. So, if your crappie have disappeared, you might want to look

(See The Moon Report....
Continued on Page 21)



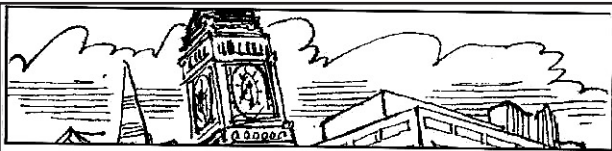
Kevin Connelly caught this nice bass while fishing Lake Fork with guide Cody Broadway. C.P.R.



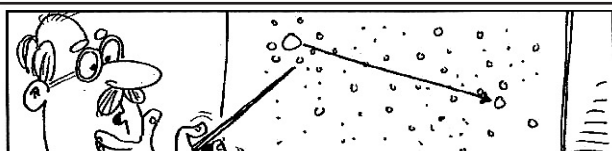
Garrison, 16, from Tulsa, OK, caught his PB on a Spinning Rod with guide Whitt Smith on Lake Fork night fishing. C.P.R.



Eric Oakley, from Grand Junction, Colorado, stuck this beast on 10/2/22 on a jig fishing with guide Whitt Smith. C.P.R.



London's Big Ben is named after Sir Benjamin Hall, the Chief Commissioner of Works when the bell was cast.



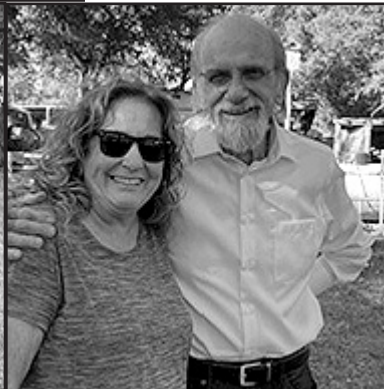
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David Yoskowitz Named TPWD Executive Director

David Yoskowitz, Mexico Studies at Bell. Ph.D. was named executive director of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department recently at a special meeting of the TPW Commission in Austin, Texas. Yoskowitz is currently the senior executive director and Endowed Chair for Socioeconomics at the Harte Research Institute for Gulf of

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. Commissioners took action to accept the recommendation of the search committee in a public meeting. The search committee included TPW Commission Chairman Arch Aplin, and commissioners Anna Galo, Jeffery Hildebrand, and Oliver

Bell. "As an avid outdoorsman, David lives the mission of TPWD," said Chairman Arch "Beaver" Aplin III. His business and economic acumen in the field of our cultural and natural resources will suit TPWD perfectly. David will continue a culture of inclusion with stake-

holders and staff at the agency. Sixteen years at the Harte Institute in Corpus Christi has been a wonderful training ground preparing David to be our new executive director. Carter Smith will be missed immensely, but I could not be happier handing off the baton to David Yoskowitz."

At Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, Yoskowitz served in many roles including professor of environmental economics, associate director for research, policy and development, Endowed

Chair for Socioeconomics, and since 2020 the senior executive director of the Harte Research Institute for Gulf of Mexico Studies (HRI). His experience as an economist and his interest in critical environmental and natural resource issues paved the way for collaboration with natural science colleagues to study the links between environmental and human well-being with a particular focus on the resilience of the Gulf of Mexico region. During his time in Corpus Christi, Yoskowitz and the

HRI team of scientists and researchers worked to develop science-based solutions for pressing fisheries, watershed, coastal, and ocean challenges.

"It's such an honor to join the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and a privilege to work alongside the talented women and men throughout the agency that dedicate themselves to conserving the natural and cultural resources, and the outdoor legacies, that make Texas such a special place," Yoskowitz said. "As a lifelong

(Continued on Next Page)

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outdoorsman, a father, and someone who has spent the last several years of my career working toward creating a better future for the Gulf of Mexico, the TPWD mission is near and dear to my heart. I am incredibly grateful for the work I've done for the last 16 years at the Harte Research Institute for Gulf of Mexico Studies and at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, and that work has really been about developing the science, as well as some of the solutions, that help support TPWD's mission and philosophy. I'm so excited to now be a part of the implementation of that science for present and future generations of Texans."

Yoskowitz's passion for pursuing connection with the natural environment reaches back to younger years when he fought forest fires and gained an appreciation for the connection between humans and nature. Yoskowitz spent much of his career as a leader on the Texas A&M Corpus Christi campus, with research extending his presence through much of North and Central America including Cuba, Nicaragua, Belize, El Salvador, and Mexico.

"This is bittersweet news for the Island University, as Dr. Yoskowitz has been an integral part of a highly successful and dedicated

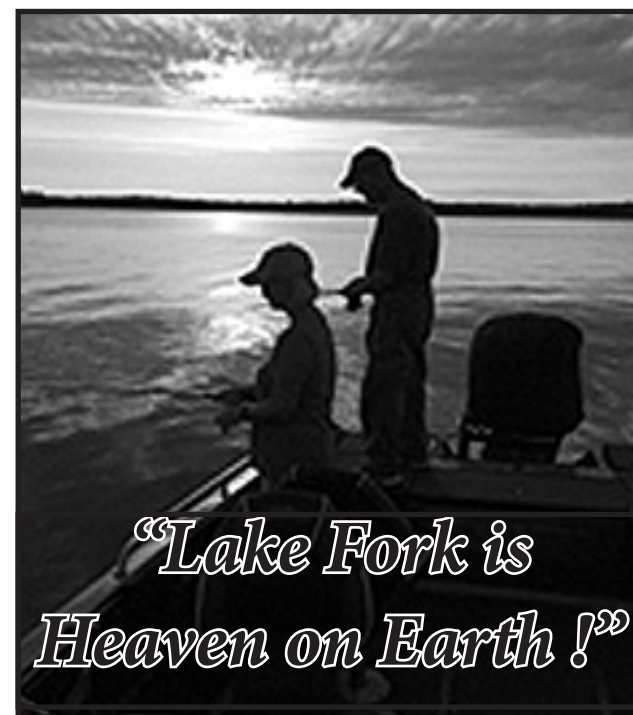
team at the Harte Research Institute for Gulf of Mexico Studies (HRI)," said Dr. Kelly M. Miller, President & CEO of Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi (TAMU-CC). "At the same, this is an amazing opportunity for him, and his appointment to such a prestigious role brings a great deal of pride to our campus. We appreciate his service and look forward to a continued relationship with him in his new role."

Yoskowitz served as the chief economist of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (2014 – 2015) where he helped develop the agency's first Social Science Vision and Strategy. He also served on the National Research Council Committee on the Effects of the Deepwater Horizon Mississippi Canyon-252 Oil Spill on Ecosystem Services in the Gulf of Mexico. He previously sat on the Socioeconomic Scientific and Statistical Committee for the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council. He serves on the Board of Directors of Indifly, an organization dedicated to using recreational fisheries to create sustainable livelihoods for indigenous peoples around the world.

Yoskowitz earned a Ph.D. in Economics and an M.A. in Economics from Texas Tech University, and a B.S. in Economics and Finance

from Bentley College.

Carter Smith, TPWD's current executive director, announced his retirement in June after almost 15 years of leading the department. Smith's retirement will be effective in January 2023. Yoskowitz will be working closely with Smith, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission, and other TPWD executive staff on transitioning into the role in the coming months.



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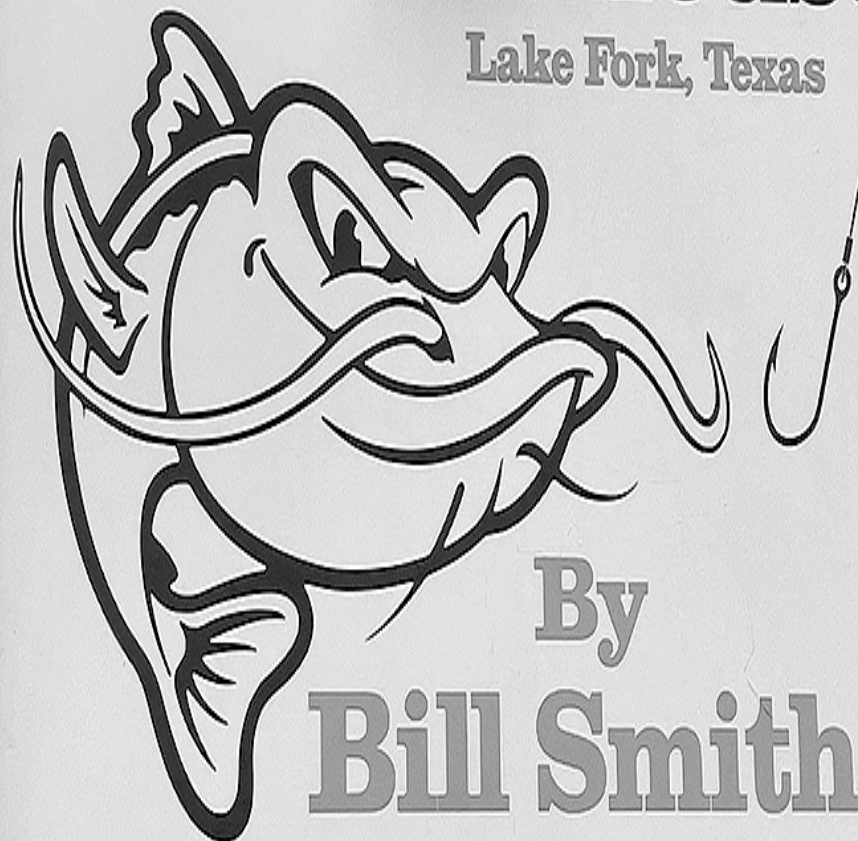
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Habitat Conditions Could Present Challenges for Waterfowl Hunters this Season

Dry conditions across the state could pose some challenges as waterfowl hunters gear up for the start of the new season. Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) biologists indicate habitat conditions are not ideal for ducks and duck hunters in many parts of Texas. However, weather pattern changes in addition to timely cold fronts and significant rain events could help improve hunter's fortunes.

The United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) completed its May Waterfowl Breeding Population and Habitat Survey for the first time since the start of the

COVID-19 pandemic. Unfortunately, the survey revealed that most duck species saw substantial decreases since the last survey, conducted in 2019. Drought conditions over most of the prairie-parklands, the most important breeding area for ducks coming to Texas, played a significant role in the decline. Blue winged-teal and redheads are the only duck species that saw population increases since 2019.

"The drought that occurred in 2020 and 2021 had a large impact on duck hunting success in Texas," said Kevin Kraai, TPWD Water-

fowl Program Leader. "Last year, Texas observed a significant decrease in total duck harvest compared to the previous hunting season. The total estimated duck harvest was down 41 percent in 2021 compared to 2020."

Currently, most of the state is well below seasonal precipitation averages, except for South Texas and parts of the Texas Panhandle. These conditions across the state haven't been seen since the record drought in 2010.

Typically, when there is less water spread out across the landscape, it

(Continued on Next Page)



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concentrates birds in areas where hunters tend to be waiting, increasing hunting success. However, ducks are very intolerant of excessive disturbance and move on quickly after hunting begins if habitat conditions don't improve substantially before or during the hunting season.

In East Texas, reservoir levels are very low due to the dry and hot summer. This can be a good thing when it starts to rain again because vegetation that produces small seeds has grown along the exposed shorelines. When water levels rise and the vegetation is flooded, it will provide a substantial increase in the foods available for wintering ducks.

The Texas coast is one of those places that has been a real hit or miss for hunters. The region still needs a lot of rain as the marshes are very salty, many of the wetlands are dry and the overall amount of freshwater is extremely limited. The hunt clubs and leases that are fortunate enough to have access to water to flood rice fields or wetlands will have an advantage this fall if current conditions persist.

Despite some of the challenges in Texas, there is some good news on the horizon with habitats on the mend up north in key breeding areas.

"This spring, habitat conditions in eastern North and South Dakota were much improved

than the previous two years," added Kraai. "Much of the landscape was not farmed or plowed due to wet conditions, leaving most of the landscape idle and available for excellent nesting conditions for dabbling ducks. The subsequent hatch of ducklings was above average for this very important area for breeding ducks. After two years of significant drought and very poor productivity, this means that there should be more young and vulnerable ducks winging their way south this winter."

The special youth-only duck season along with veterans and active-duty military season occurred

(See Habitat Conditions...
Continued on Page 18)

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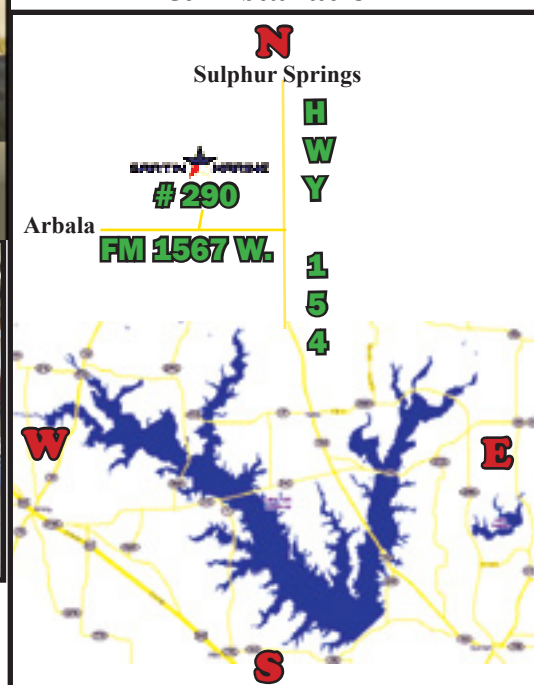
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Michael McKinney from Ninnekah, OK. caught this nice bass weighing 7.78-lbs.



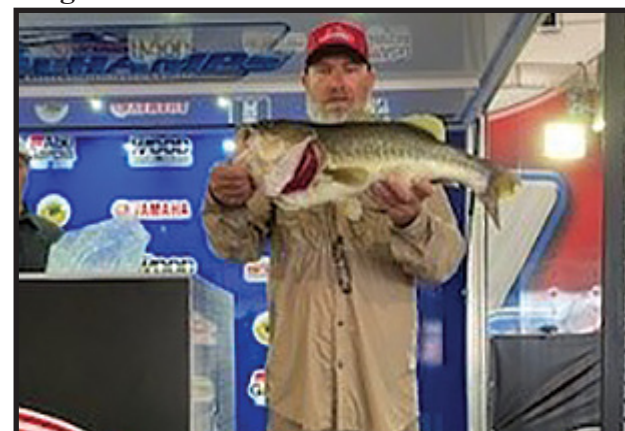
Samuel Lowe, 5 years old, from Emory, TX. caught this nice bass.



Dale Gore from Silsbee, TX. caught this nice bass weighing 6.82-lbs.



Michael Copeland from Frankston, TX. caught this nice bass weighing 6.73-lbs.



Hoyt Johnson from Elkart, IN. caught this nice bass weighing 6.47-lbs.



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Quail Surveys Suggest Uncertain Prospects Heading into Oct. 29 Season Opener

Bobwhite and scaled quail populations continue to battle against drought conditions across Texas as quail season opened statewide Oct. 29. This means hunting opportunities and success will vary throughout the state.

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) biologists completed their annual Quail Roadside Survey period in August, covering more than 3,300 road miles to gather data. Reports of habitat and range conditions ran the gamut for bobwhite quail, but a consistent thread was a decline in habitat quality going into late summer. Outside of a handful of counties in South Texas, bobwhites were few and far between.

"The lone bright spot again this year was the South Texas Plains, the only bobwhite region in the state to see an increase in recorded abundance," said John McLaughlin, Upland Game Bird Program Leader for TPWD. "With a grain of salt, the number of bobwhites observed per route was up from 3.1 to 5.3, but still below the 15-year mean of 9.0. These numbers will provide some comfort to Texas hunters, but the statewide outlook, including the Rolling Plains, again points to tough sledding in 2022."

However, widespread rainfall throughout August and September could impact bird populations. According to McLaughlin, it is possible this late season moisture will improve opportunities for late season

nesting, but it is unknown how well the broods will fair and what their contributions will be to the fall populations.

Scaled quail are better evolved to withstand drought than bobwhites but nonetheless also rely on timely rainfall in the spring and late summer to grow populations. There is some room for hope for good hunting conditions in the Trans-Pecos region thanks to some timely rain this year.

"The foundation on which these populations are built are habitat and annual rainfall, and there are two storylines for scaled quail in 2022: the Trans-Pecos, and everywhere else," said McLaughlin. "The Trans-Pecos continues to be our top producing ecoregion for blue quail and will be one of the few places in the state with room for optimism this hunting season. The benefactor of widely dispersed habitat and timely rainfall this year, the outlook for far West Texas is more promising.

Last year, we observed a decline in scaled quail populations in the Trans-Pecos but the birds that did survive were enough to propel us into the 2022 nesting season and provide a reproductive spark, added McLaughlin.

"The average number of quail observed per route was 13.1 this year, an increase from 4.3 in 2021," said McLaughlin. "While still below our 15-year mean of 16.3, these results represent a shift in the

right direction. Most other ecoregions experienced small gains or losses and were extensions of long-term trends."

Unfortunately, hunting for northern bobwhite and scaled quail in other regions of the state could be a challenge. McLaughlin said a combination of low population numbers, variably poor habitat conditions and below-average rainfall has sunk populations into a hole which is proving hard to escape.

A regional breakdown of this year's TPWD quail index survey for northern bobwhite and scaled quail, including highlights and prospects, is available online.

For county-specific regulations regarding upland game birds, along with information on means and methods, license requirements and more, consult the 2022-23 Outdoor Annual, which was made possible in part by support from Chevy Silverado. Hunters can download the free Outdoor Annual mobile app for iOS and Android.

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation (TPWF), official nonprofit partner of TPWD, sponsors a quail conservation license plate to raise critical funding to enhance quail conservation efforts, including habitat, conservation and education. For just \$30, anyone can put one of these conservation license plates on their vehicle, motorcycle or trailer. For every license plate purchased, \$22 goes to TPWF to support quail conservation.

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Habitat Conditions *(Continued from Page 13)*

in the High Plains Mallard Management Unit Oct. 22-23, followed by youth-only/active-duty military duck season in the South Zone Oct. 29-30 and the North Zone will be Nov. 5-7. Regular duck season in the High Plains Mallard Management Unit opened Oct. 29, in the South Zone on Nov. 5 and the North Zone on Nov. 12. Additional information regarding duck seasons and daily bag limits can be found in the Outdoor Annual.

Light and dark goose season starts Nov. 5 in the East Zone and West Zone. The light geese conservation order season begins in the East Zone on Jan. 30 and on Feb. 6 in the West Zone.

More information regarding goose seasons and daily bag limits can be found in the Outdoor Annual.

Hunters should purchase their new 2022-23 Texas hunting license prior to hitting the field. In addition, waterfowl hunters must have a migratory game bird endorsement, federal duck stamp, and be Harvest Information Program (HIP) certified. Biologists note the importance for those purchasing a hunting license to answer HIP survey questions correctly as these surveys allow biologists to get an accurate sample of hunters so harvest surveys can be delivered to hunters later in the year

from the USFWS.

It's also required by law for hunters to have proof of their completion of a hunter education course. Anyone hunting on Texas public hunting lands are also required to purchase an Annual Public Hunting Permit. Texas has more than 1 million acres of land accessible to the public. More information about these lands and locations can be found on the TPWD public hunting website. Hunters using public lands can complete their on-site registration via the My Texas Hunt Harvest app.

Consult the Outdoor Annual for other season dates and bag limits, including those for "Dusky" duck.



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

Carolyn West, President 2022 LFSA

If you follow LFSA activities, you are aware that the association is extremely active with projects. The month of October was no exception.

At our monthly meeting, Terry Long, Vice President and Chairperson of the High School Fishing Tackle Program, hosted three local fishing teams with sponsors from Alba Golden, Lone Oak and Grand Saline. He awarded them a total of 123 rod and reel combos, 10 five-gallon buckets of lures, and 10 bags of tackle boxes with lures. Forty-one student anglers will be recipients of this year's donation to the local fishing teams. Terry's support team of Pat and Mike Kostial and Cheryl and Bruce Allen received donations of new and used fishing tackle throughout the year from as far away as Europe. Bass Pro Shop this year awarded an amazing amount of equipment from their trade-in annual event.

As a result, Team Sponsors Trish Copeland, Grand Saline, Meagan Burris, Lone Oak, and Stephanie Beverly, Alba Golden, took possession of valuable assets allowing these anglers to be a part of the sport of fishing.

On October 14 LFSA members, Vivian Leopold, Terry Long, Peggy York and Carolyn West attend-

ed the Texas Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame Induction Banquet at the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center in Athens. LFSA was recognized during the ceremony as the 2018 recipient of the award and given a Hall of Fame Pin.

The mission of the Texas Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame is to recognize and honor those who have made a lasting contribution to freshwater fishing in Texas and to foster awareness and appreciation of and participation in the sport of fishing. The 2022 recipient is Gary Klein, co-founder of Major League Fishing. Gary has competed in more than 500 tour-level events in his 40-year professional career. He is a two-time B.A.S.S Angler of the Year (1989 & 1993). He promotes preservation of our waterways and is a spokesperson for the integrity of sport fishing.

The third week of October has been spent working with Alba Golden and Quitman Agriculture students and teaching them how to grow aquatic grasses. This program is an annual one; however, new grasses are being used. For the first time, both schools planted Coon tail which is a free-floating grass that multiplies easily. Water willow was also potted and placed in aquatic tanks. The students will maintain the tanks assuring the greenhouse temperatures are consistent, the water levels are ac-

curate, and the plants are growing as necessary. In the Spring, Texas Parks and Wildlife and Lake Fork Sportsman's Association will assist the students with planting the harvest in Lake Fork, if the water levels return to an acceptable level.

Ryan O'Hanlon, M.S. Aquatic Horticulturalist from Stonefly Aquatic Nursery, delivered the grasses and gave instructions to the students at Quitman High School as they processed the Coon tail and Water Willow into the tanks.

Our members of LFSA are grateful to the students and teachers at Quitman and Alba Golden for their enthusiasm about this program to Preserve the Legend of Lake Fork. Many thanks go to Amy Parks and Paulette Aguilar at Quitman and Richard Lovorn at Alba Golden. We are proud to be a part of this joint effort.



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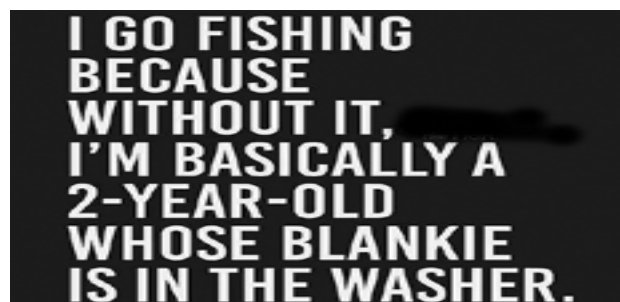


"Cooler days are finally coming!" (Continued from Page 6)

been great fishing for these patterns during the afternoon hours. Flutter spoons, jigging spoons, Carolina rigs, drop shots and football jigs will be the "go to" baits when you locate bass stacked up on any of these features. Pitch out a marker buoy and go to work. Gold is a great color for the spoons and a ten inch worm will get the job done on the C-rig. Blue fleck, redbug, green pumpkin and bamabug are all great colors to start with. The same colors apply to the football jig and I favor the Talon Carolina Worm in redbug for my drop shot. Barfish are the key to these deep spots.

Find those on your graph and the bass will be mixed in with them.

If you are headed out to Lake Fork in November 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 November and some in December. I also have gift certificates available if you have friends or loved one's who have dream't 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 and Instagram at <https://www.facebook.com/Lake-ForkGuideDavidOzio>. I would like to thank Okuma Fishing, Talon Custom Lures, Skeeter Boats, Dakota Lithium's, Hennessey Outdoor Electronics 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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The Moon Report (Continued from Page 8)

shallower. The worst parts of this time of year are the "wicked" fronts that are moving through along with the crazy wind!

I would target 10-18 ft. in 12 to 24 ft. of water. Check creek channels and flats around secondary points. Also, there will be

some nice bream moving into the brush piles and on bridge ledges.

Don't miss out on the November excitement on Lake Fork. It's also Lake Fork Marinas customer appreciation month with 25% off all tackle, clothing,

and gifts, with a bonus of \$65 rooms.

My best to you all and especially to all the "Earth Angels" in my life. (Thank you George and family for house sitting while I was gone!)

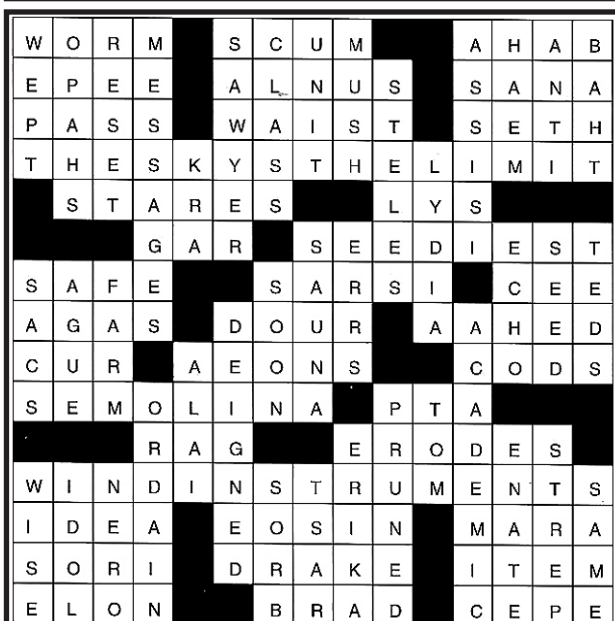
Hugs to ALL!

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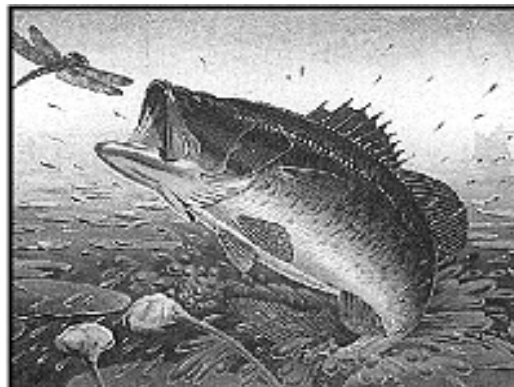
Football Find

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

FIELD GOAL
FIRST DOWN
FUMBLE
GROUNDING
HOLDING
LATERAL
OFFSIDE

PASS
RUSHING
SACK
SAFETY
SNAP
TACKLE
TOUCHDOWN

T A L N W O D T S R I F
A S P S E F R A S A F I
E D I S F F O C A E T E
F I E A L D K S P A N L
F G R C K I L E P W O D
S A P K M S I M B L E G
D O A D I E F I G A L O
F G N I H S U R N W O A
U L S A G D M E I F E L
B A A D I G B N D R P A
E S F U M L L B N O S T
L N E L L A E A U R U A
K P T O U C H D O W N K
C A Y H T G N L R U S C
A S H O L D I N G H I L
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Game Warden Field Notes

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

--Turtley Awesome Tip-- While patrolling Willacy County, game wardens received a tip about a fisherman in Port Mansfield possibly in possession of a live sea turtle. After a brief search of the area, wardens found the vehicle in question and began to inspect the vehicle where they found a live sea turtle in an ice chest filled with water. The sea turtle was immediately seized, and information was

gathered for a federal NOAA case referral. Afterwards, the wardens decided to meet the tipster and discovered the concerned caller was a 13-year-old girl. After hearing that the violator was caught, the young girl was immediately ecstatic. The wardens expressed extreme appreciation to the girl for her quick action and congratulated her for a job well done! Federal case pending.

--This Buck's For You-- Three game wardens from Sabine County, San Augustine County and Shelby County set up a deer decoy in an area of Sabine

County prone to illegal night hunting. At about 1 a.m., a truck passed the decoy and a voice shouted, "That's the buck!" The truck turned around and slowly rolled towards the decoy and the driver from the vehicle with their rifle, hitting the decoy in the neck. Once they realized it was a decoy, the truck took off and began throwing beer cans out of the window. The wardens stopped the vehicle and detained three people. When they searched the vehicle, the wardens found a rifle and a spent shell

(Continued on Page 24)

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Warm Up to Winter With a Classic Treat

By Sue Hampton

There is just something about homemade treats that can brighten even the grayest days. At no time of year is this more evident than during the cold-weather months. As the holiday season approaches, rich flavors and spicy aromas awaken the senses and warm the soul even as they conjure special memories of family and holidays past.

To take the chill out of your winter days, try your hand at this recipe for "Apple Brown

Betty". Warm and cozy, sweet and fruity, this classic American treat is the perfect accompaniment to an intimate gathering with family and friends or an evening with a steaming mug of tea and a good book. It makes a great Thanksgiving Day dessert, too.

APPLE BROWN BETTY

(Serves 6)

Those frugal New Englanders knew how to pull together a few simple ingredients to make a very warm and cozy dessert dish like this brown Betty.

2 cups coarse, dry, homemade bread crumbs
6 tablespoons butter, melted
3 large Granny Smith or McIntosh apples, peeled, cored and sliced into thick wedges
 $\frac{3}{4}$ cup brown sugar
1 teaspoon cinnamon
 $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon nutmeg
Juice and grated zest of $\frac{1}{2}$ lemon
 $\frac{1}{3}$ cup apple cider
Vanilla ice cream or frozen yogurt
Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Grease 8-inch-square baking dish.

In a small bowl, toss together bread crumbs and butter. In another bowl, toss apples with brown sugar, cinnamon, nutmeg, lemon juice and zest. Spread about a third of the crumb

mixture in bottom of prepared dish. Top with half of apple mixture and another layer of crumbs, then the remaining apples and a final layer of crumbs. Pour in apple cider.

Cover with foil and bake 20 minutes. Uncover and bake 20 minutes longer or until browned on top. Serve with ice cream or yogurt, if desired.

A 'BETTY' IMPORTANT FACT: Apple brown betty is a dessert that dates all the way back to colonial America. A "betty" is a baked pudding, made with layers of sweetened and spiced fruit and buttered bread crumbs. It is usually served with lemon sauce and/or whipped cream.



Try this delicious dessert this Thanksgiving day and blessings from our family to yours!



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Game Warden Field Notes (Continued from Page 22)

casing on the floorboard. The driver was arrested and charged with Hunting from a Vehicle, Hunting at Night and Hunting with an Artificial Light. The passengers received multiple citations. Cases pending.

--BYOB- Bring Your Own Boat--A Trinity County game warden and a game warden K9 handler were patrolling near a boat ramp when they noticed several groups of hunters across the Trinity River shooting every few minutes. As each group returned to the boat ramp, they told the wardens they had not seen very many teal flying. The wardens decided to check the remaining group on the other side of the river but needed a boat. They asked the owner of the marina if they had a boat the wardens could use, and a local resident volunteered his bass boat. The wardens made their way across the river and walked within 50 yards of the hunters. When the hunters decided to pick up their decoys, the wardens made contact with the group. They said they haven't seen teal all morning. When asked about all the shooting, the hunters admitted to shooting various shorebirds. One hunter did not have a hunting license and lead shot was also discovered. Eleven citations and warnings were issued. When the wardens returned to the marina, they were met by the boat owner who was excited to be a part of catching scofflaws.

--Non-Exclusive Access--Two Freestone County game wardens were contacted by a man leasing property for exclusive hunting and grazing rights when he found out the landowner had leased it out to two other people as well. Upon further investigation, three additional people contacted the warden saying they had been given exclusive access to the same property. Overall, the landowner had "exclusively" leased the property to five individuals making about \$18,000 in profits. An arrest warrant was issued and executed charging the landowner with deceptive business practices.

--Caught Red Handed--Two game wardens were inspecting commercial shrimping boats in Galveston County when, during one of their inspections, they located a shrimp sack containing fresh caught red snapper onboard the vessel. Upon inspection of the bag, wardens found 12 undersized red snappers with the largest snapper measuring at about 11 inches in length. The

daily bag limit for red snapper during the season is four fish with a 15-inch minimum length. The wardens issued the captain of the commercial shrimping boat two citations for exceeding the daily bag limit for red snapper and undersized red snapper. The illegally possessed red snapper were seized and donated to a local family in need. Civil restitution is pending.

--The Limit Does Not Exist--Two game wardens were patrolling for dove hunters in La Salle County when they heard multiple shots from a nearby ranch. They began working their way through the ranch when they were greeted by a hunter about to head out for an afternoon hunt. When the wardens asked him how his morning hunt went, he replied that he had done well and reached his limit of 15 doves. Upon hearing his response, the wardens advised the hunter that it would probably be best if he just called it a day. The man was initially confused, but after a

(Continued on Next Page)

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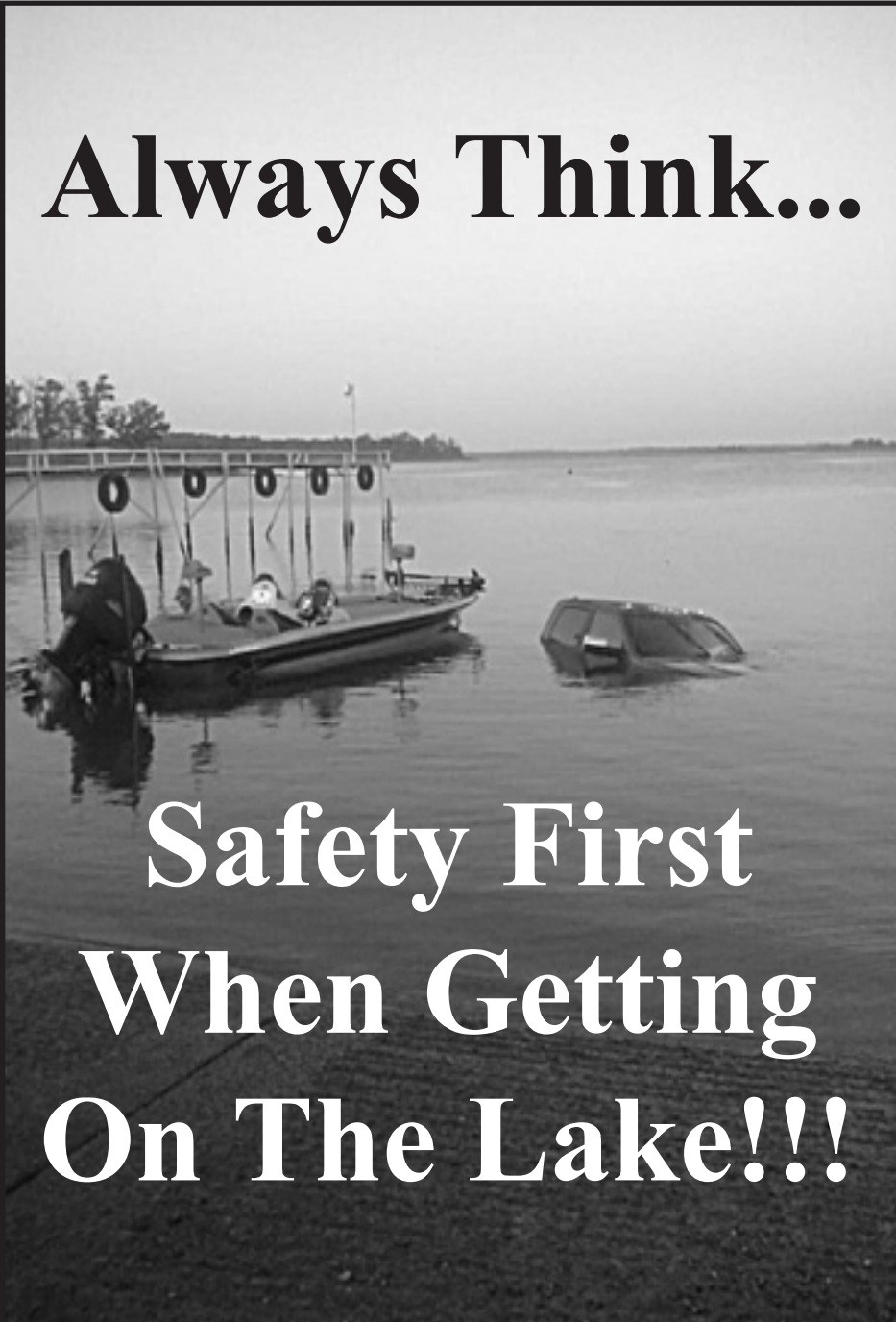


LOCAL NEWS
99.9

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little education on the law he agreed to call it a day. The wardens also checked other hunters on the ranch at a nearby tank when they noticed a large deer feeder in the field directly behind the tank where they were hunting. After inspecting the feeder, the wardens noticed a large amount of corn on the ground as well as dove feathers and shotgun wads that were scattered around. All five hunters were cited for hunting over bait and about 30 doves were seized. Civil restitution is pending.

--Don't You Be My Neighbor-- A Coleman County game warden and a McCulloch County game warden were on patrol when they received a call about three poachers in a dove field belonging to a local outfitter. When they arrived, the outfitter said two of the poachers hopped the fence and took off running back home, and a third man stayed behind. After talking to the man, one of the wardens went over the fence where he found the house and the two poachers who admitted to hunting on the neighboring property without landowner consent. Three shotguns and eight mourning doves were seized out of the field and all three people were arrested and transported to the Coleman County Jail. Cases pending.

--To The Hunter, The Spoils-- Two Liberty Coun-

ty game wardens received information about three local men who had allegedly harvested three whitetail deer in closed season. Since the three subjects were in different locations, a Hardin County game warden assisted with one of the interviews. The wardens split up and contacted all three men simultaneously so they couldn't compare stories. They all admitted to taking the three deer and forgetting to put fresh ice in two of the deer, causing them to quickly spoil in the heat. Charges and restitution were filed for taking whitetail deer in closed season and by illegal means, as well as waste of game for failing to keep them all in edible condition.

--Pepé Le Chew-- The Mount Pleasant law enforcement office received a call from a man in the Winfield area who needed advice. He and his 5-year old grandson were outside and there was a small, young skunk eating food with their cats. His grandson started hand feeding the skunk, and after a minute, the skunk bit him on the finger and toe. The caller wasn't sure how to handle the situation and asked if a game warden should come pick up the skunk. The office clerk advised the caller to take the grandchild to the hospital immediately and told him what to do to have the skunk checked for rabies. Later that week, a local vet office called the Mount Pleasant

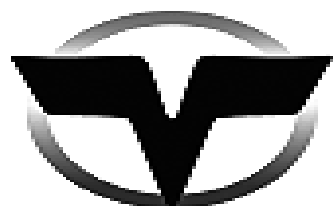
law enforcement office to let them know the skunk tested positive for rabies. The incident was reported to the department of health services and the local sheriff's office.

--Flew Too Close to The Sun-- Cherokee, Anderson and Houston County game wardens executed a search warrant after receiving information about an individual who admitted to a friend he had been shooting deer from the road and confessed to shooting a deer in the Davy Crockett National Forest from the roadway. The individual was also heard saying his "deer season never ends." The Cherokee County Sheriff's Department was asked to assist in the entry of the house because the suspected individual had previously been involved with shooting at police and fleeing. Upon entry of the suspects home, methamphetamine and drug paraphernalia were found along with poor living conditions. Inside the residence were two adult females, one adult male, and two juvenile females ages 9 and 16. Charges filed by the Cherokee County Sheriff's Department included: possession of controlled substance and paraphernalia and endangering of a child - state jail felony. The male individual was also currently on parole at the time of the execution of the search warrant. Game wardens are investigating the poaching of deer.

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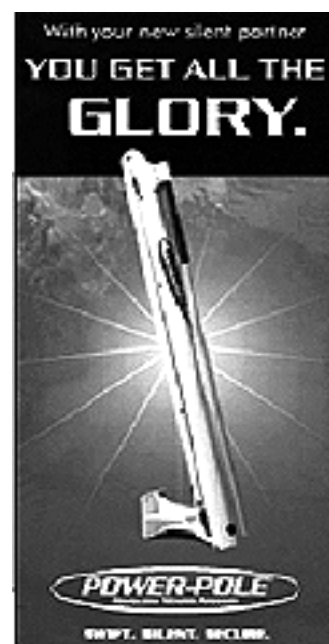
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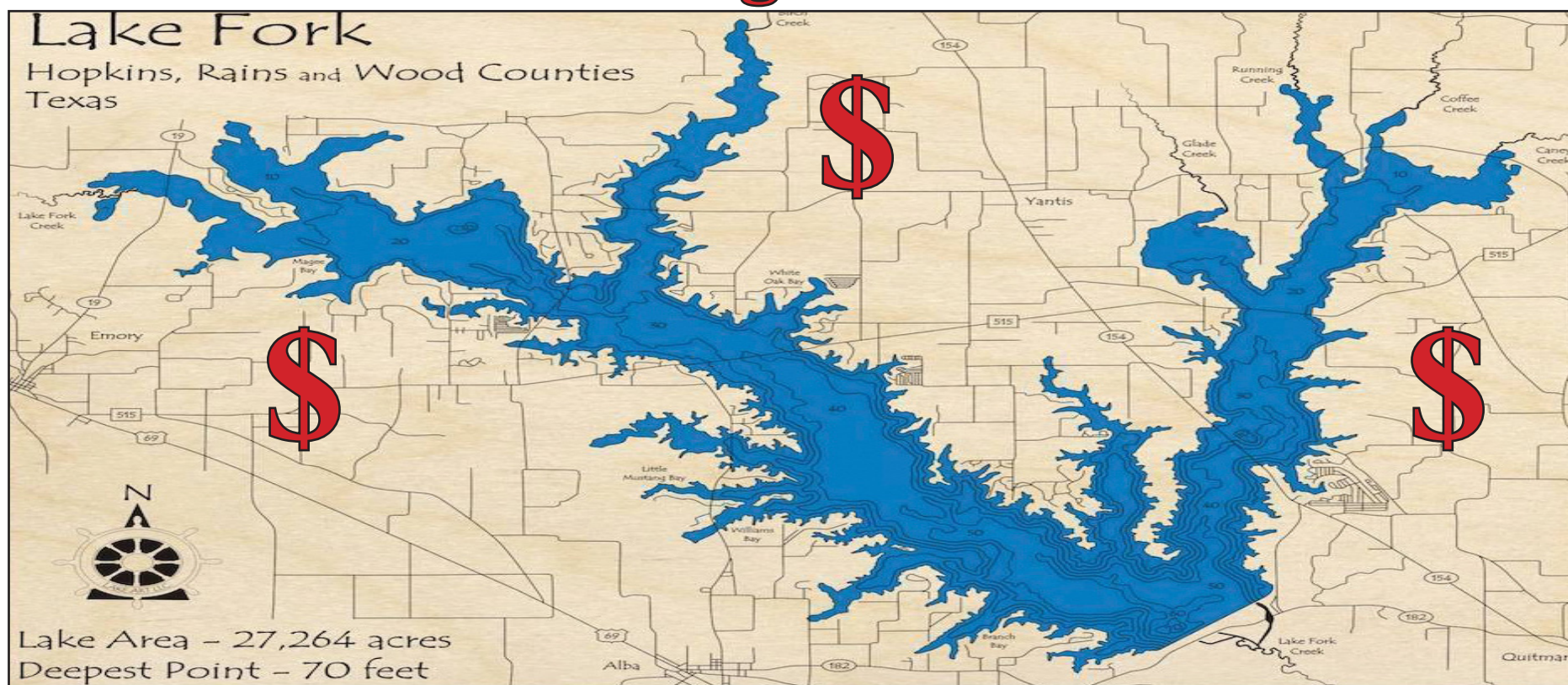


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