

# LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

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Bassmaster  
Classic



Super Bowl  
of bass fishing

FULL COVERAGE  
Pages 13-16

## INSIDE HUNTING



A rule that wild hogs must be tested for diseases before they can be moved to a game ranch has upset hunters and ranchers.

See Page 6

## FISHING



The black drum run has started. See where they are catching them and where they aren't.

See Page 8



While some areas of the state are reporting high activity, late winter cold fronts and low water conditions in other areas are delaying or even shutting down the white bass run.

See Page 8

## NATIONAL

A blog essay under the heading of "Assault Rifles For Hunters?" has resulted in the resignation of a popular outdoors writer.

See Page 4

## CONSERVATION

Tom Bedell has been awarded the 2007 BASS Outstanding Achievement Award.

See Page 5

## INDEX

Bassmaster Classic	Pages 13-16
Game Warden Blotter	Page 10
Fishing Report	Page 22
Product Picks	Page 20
Heroes	Page 26
Weather	Page 24
Wild in the Kitchen	Page 24
Outdoor Datebook	Page 19

# Big bass days here again



March ushers in Texas' big bass season. Amateur anglers across the state hope to land a lunker largemouth as spawning bass enter shallow waters. And big March tournaments, like the BASS Elite Series and FLW Stren Series at Amistad Reservoir have the pros chomping at the bit. Above, Mary Delgado holds an 8-pound beauty caught at Amistad. Photo by David J. Sams.

## Public land deer harvest down, but not out

'Body mass and horn  
mass were down'

BY BILL MILLER

Public land deer hunters managed some success stories, although the overall success rate was down from past years.

Wildlife Management Area managers said respectable bucks were taken last season. Mark Mitchell, assistant area manager at Mason Mountain WMA near Mason, said his area's best white-tailed buck's Boone & Crockett score was about 138. He added, however, that there were several bucks still roaming the property that would score around 150.



DRY DAYS: Hunters on public lands fared no better this season as in the past when lands were dry, but some good deer were still taken.

"In the Hill Country, a 150-pointer on open range is a pretty good deer," he said.

Chip Ruthven, area manager for the Gene Howe WMA near Canadian and Matador WMA near Paducah, said one of his hunters bagged a mule deer from

See PUBLIC, Page 12

## THE SNAPPER ZONE

Know the  
rules for  
overnight  
trips

BY DAVID SIKES

A hefty fine levied on a pair of Port Mansfield snapper anglers has shed light on a confusing and obscure area of federal fisheries regulations.

The concept of possession limits for fish was not lost on these longtime lower-coast anglers. They were aware that in Texas waters, state regulations generally allow for twice the daily limit of most fish when anglers return from a two-day outing.

And this rule does indeed apply to red snapper caught in state waters, which is within about nine



RULES FOR REDS: Different rules apply in state and federal waters on snapper possession limits.

See SNAPPER, Page 21

## Refuge rift awaits court clash Neches River reservoir plans in limbo

BY MARK ENGLAND

Whether you'll be hunting or fishing along the Nechoes River as it flows through East Texas will be determined in a courtroom.

State water boards claim dibs on the land, saying Dallas will need it to quench its thirst in 60 years. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service main-

tains it has authority to build a refuge sheltering migratory birds in the hardwood bottomlands along the Nechoes.

Technically, the disputed land is already the Nechoes River National Wildlife Refuge, after USFWS Director Dale Hall signed off on the proposal last June 11.

However, it presently consists of

See DISPUTE, Page 21

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**NATIONAL**

# Writer resigns after firearm heat

## Blog statement on military-style rifles for hunting draws fire

Hunting writer Jim Zumbo, following a firestorm protesting a posting on his blog for Outdoor Life magazine, resigned from his position with the magazine.

Zumbo was a contributing editor to the magazine and host of a hunting television show.

Zumbo wrote he was coyote hunting in southeastern Wyoming testing a cartridge when his guide told him that AR and AK military-style rifles were becoming popular hunting weapons.

Zumbo said he was surprised, and had only ever seen one of them used for hunting in his lifetime.

Under the heading of "Assault Rifles For Hunters?" he described these rifles as having no place in hunting.

Zumbo wrote, "Sorry, folks, in my humble opinion, these things have no place in hunting. We don't need to be lumped into the group of people who terrorize the world with

them, which is an obvious concern. I've always been comfortable with the statement that hunters don't use assault rifles. We've always been proud of our 'sporting firearms.'"

The post added, "This really has me concerned. As hunters, we don't need the image of walking around the woods carrying one of these weapons. To most of the public, an assault rifle is a terrifying thing. Let's divorce ourselves from them. I say game departments should ban them from the prairies and woods."

The internet came alive with reactions to Zumbo's post.

Before Outdoor Life shut Zumbo's blog down three days later, more than 3,000 comments were posted. Other Web site blogs reported unheard-of numbers of comments.

Gun-rights advocates voiced their opposition. Anti-gun advocates embraced Zumbo's words, saying that even an influential hunter was calling to ban more guns.

Outdoor Life, responding to subscription cancellation threats, said in a statement that the magazine is a "a steadfast supporter of our Second Amendment rights, which do not make distinctions based on the looks of the firearms we choose to own, shoot and take hunting."

Remington Arms, facing negative feedback including boycotts, severed all sponsorship ties with Zumbo.

"Remington has spent tens of millions of dollars defending our Second Amendment rights to privately own and possess firearms," it said in a statement.

Remington expressed regret at the termination of a long-standing relationship with a "well-respected writer and life-long hunter."

Shooting organizations voiced their concerns. "Jim's comments are as unfortunate as they are inappropriate," said National Shooting Sports Foundation president Doug Painter. "No one should divide

firearms into good-gun, bad-gun categories."

Mossy Oak, Cabela's, and the NRA also severed their ties with Zumbo.

Zumbo apologized quickly for his choice of words and his call for the gun ban, both on national radio and on his blog before Outdoor Life shut the blog down. Zumbo's blog post was headlined, "I was wrong, BIG TIME."

He went on to recount his 40 years of NRA membership and the United States Sportsmen's Alliance, an organization, which, he wrote, "actively fights anti-hunters and animal rights groups for hunter's rights." He also told readers he had plans to go hunting with an AR-style rifle to give them a try.

Some came to Zumbo's defense.

"Jim has for over 40 years been doing the right things ... supporting all the right causes to promulgate, preserve and protect the heritage sport of hunting," said Patrick

McHugh, president of MPI Outdoors. "Jim gave freely of his time, his reputation and his credibility to a myriad of organizations who profited greatly off his reputation and now all that is for naught because of one mistake..."

Others continued to press their criticisms. "A recent comment by Jim Zumbo, a writer for Outdoor Life Magazine, indicating his dislike of AR-15 Rifles for hunting purposes is a disgrace to American gun owners," wrote Randy Luth, president of DPMS/Panther Arms. "His apology is not accepted by this company."

Zumbo resigned from his position with Outdoor Life, and the resignation was accepted.

"We regret this turn of events," Outdoor Life said in a statement, "as Mr. Zumbo has been a good friend to this magazine and lifelong advocate for hunters and hunting rights."

*Compiled from staff reports.*

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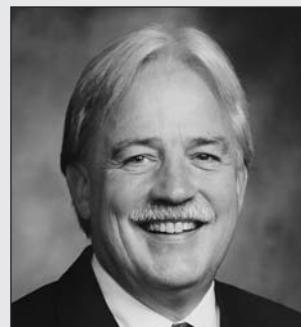
**CONSERVATION****2007 OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT AWARD****Bedell lands BASS honors**

For his contribution to the sport of fishing by improving the quality of fisheries nationwide and protecting angler access to these waters, Tom Bedell has been awarded the 2007 BASS Outstanding Achievement Award.

This marks the first year for the award, which was presented during the 2007 Bassmaster Classic.

Bedell returned to Spirit Lake, Iowa, in 1979 to help revitalize his family's fishing tackle company, Berkley.

"Fishing is something that is so important to so many people," Bedell said. "And everything we've done has been to help people get more enjoyment out of it, whether that means catching more fish, getting more people to take part in the sport or protecting our waters so



'Fishing is something that is so important to so many people.'

— TOM BEDELL

that future generations can use them.'

Bedell was recognized for founding the Future Fisherman Foundation, helping to form the Sportfishing and Boating Partnership Council and the Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation, chairing the American Sportfishing Association Freshwater Government Affairs Committee, and for his contributions to National Fishing And Boating Week.

*A BASS report.*

**NOAA out to end overfishing**

NOAA Fisheries Service is developing new methods to assist regional fishery management councils in developing measures to end overfishing in all U.S. commercial and recreational fisheries by 2010.

This deadline is a new require-

ment under the reauthorized Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 2006.

Overfishing still occurs at various levels in 48 fisheries in U.S. waters.

The new law requires all fish-

eries to be regulated under annual catch limits, with accountability measures to ensure that catches do not exceed the limit. The new law also elevates the importance of following scientific advice in fishery management decisions.

*A NOAA report.*

**Southern Company earns NWTF conservation award**

The National Wild Turkey Federation presented Southern Company with its Energy for Wildlife Achievement Award.

Energy for Wildlife is a membership-based certification program for all energy companies with the primary goal of enhancing wildlife habitat on company-owned, managed or influenced lands. These lands include power line and gas rights of way, plant sites, forestlands and other prop-

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**HUNTING**

# Sights set on a gobblin' spring



**TURKEY TIME:** Hunters will soon take aim on a new turkey season. The question remains, will the birds cooperate?

## Hunters brush up on turkey tactics as new season nears

With the turkey season opener quickly approaching, hunters often recall their successes and, maybe more often, their frustrations from past seasons. "Call-shy," "henned-up" and "hung-up" gobblers top many lists.

Realtree Pro Staffers and champion callers Ricky Joe Bishop and Walter Parrott, along with Realtree Road Trips host Michael Waddell and Realtree Outdoors producer David Blanton offered their tips on dealing with these wily birds.

Turkey hunters are sometimes too quick to blame a lack of success on "call-shy" gobblers. Gobblers already with hens and gobbling jakes often lack the nerve to make a final approach. Unless you see them you never know.

Nevertheless, the modern increase in turkey hunting pressure does create extremely wary, call-shy gobblers. The best tactic is a complete change-up.

Move into your hunting area by

*See TURKEY, Page 23*

**'You're talking about a caged animal that will tear your arm to a nub, and you're supposed to draw blood from its neck?'**

## Trappers, guides not high on the hog rule

**Foes: Disease-testing regulation could hurt game ranching**

By BILL MILLER

A regulation aimed at preventing the spread of feral swine diseases in Texas has riled hog trappers and hunters who say it's too restrictive and unfairly shifts profits to a handful of slaughtering companies.

But officials for the Texas Animal Health Commission say Rule 55.9, enacted in 1992, is an essential tool in keeping swine brucellosis and pseudorabies from reaching domestic livestock.

The rule says, in part, that wild hogs must be tested for the diseases before they can be moved to a game ranch, unless they are taken directly to a slaughter plant where the potential spread of the disease ends with the pigs' slaughter.

Hunting guides, and the trappers who supply them, argue that game ranches with sturdy high fences could serve the same purpose. They

suggest that the TAHC approve ranches as "final destinations for slaughter."

A Sunset Advisory Committee, however, reported in April 2006, that TAHC has no clear authority to enforce the rule, and it recommended the agency get that clarified by the Legislature.

In the meantime, opponents of 55.9 are clamoring against it, saying game ranches will be ruined if the rule prevents them from receiving new hogs.

Kevin Ryer, who operates a Web site that sells hog gear, claimed the required blood tests are especially burdensome and difficult to do.

"You're talking about a caged animal that will tear your arm to a nub," he said, "and you're supposed to draw blood from its neck? That's just another form of bankruptcy."

Ryer's [texasboards.com](http://texasboards.com) carries a forum that rallies against Rule 55.9.

Participants complain TAHC-approved hog buying stations throughout the state only cater to a few slaughter companies, which just pay for hogs weighing 80 pounds or more.

Ryer said these companies might agree to take the smaller hogs for



**IN FOR A FIGHT:** Hunters hog-tie a small boar in South Texas. Selling live wild hogs is becoming more popular and bringing in good prices. Photo by David J. Sams.

slaughter, but if they don't plan to sell the meat, the trapper gets paid nothing; he just doesn't have to deal with the little hog any more.

Consequently, Ryer said, Rule 55.9 allows conditions that could allow a feral hog "black market." He said also it creates a monopoly for the slaughter companies, which don't have to abide by the TAHC rule for trappers.

Only one slaughter company

could be reached for comment, and its vice president said he had not yet heard any of the complaints about Rule 55.9.

But Dick Koehler of Fort Worth-based Frontier Meats said animal health at his facility is monitored by an on-site veterinarian from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, as required by federal law. The company sells exotic meats, including wild boar, throughout the world.

As for a monopoly on feral swine, Koehler said, "I don't quite understand where they're going with that. I certainly don't have any first-hand experience with it."

Dr. Bob Hillman, the TAHC's executive director, said he is frustrated by the complaints.

"The allegation that we're in cahoots with certain companies is an outright falsehood," Hillman

*See HOGS, Page 23*

## Arrests made in theft of military night-vision devices

**Equipment stolen from National Guard unit**

By BILL MILLER

A Texas National Guard member and five hunting buddies are accused of stealing military night-vision devices to poach deer in five north Texas counties, according to reports.

The arrests on Feb. 15 and 16 capped a four-month multi-agency investigation in Wise, Montague, Jack, Parker and Tarrant Counties, said Maj. Butch Shoop of Fort

Worth, who oversees game wardens in those counties.

The wardens were joined by Wise County Sheriff's deputies, investigators for the Texas National Guard and members of Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's "special operations" unit, Shoop said.

All four night vision devices, which cost about \$4,200 each, were recovered by investigators, Shoop

said during an interview. He confirmed the equipment was stolen from a National Guard unit that was supporting U.S. Border Patrol agents near Laredo.

Investigators don't believe the suspects used the night vision devices for anything other than hunting deer and hogs at night, Shoop said, but it was a relief to get the equipment back.

"With those things in the wrong hands, they could also be used for burglaries or theft," he added. "If they got night vision, the sky is the limit on what they can do besides hunt."

Shoop declined to discuss specifics because the investigation was still under way, but he credited Wise County Game Warden Chris Dowdy for developing the case on

the six suspects who "were known to run in the same circles."

"There's a lot of folks out there who don't like illegal hunting," he said, "and (the suspects) were just known to be illegal hunters. (Dowdy) investigated them enough to know when they went hunting. It was good investigative work on his part."

Other wardens and investigators pitched in after Dowdy learned the group was poaching in more than

*See THEFT, Page 12*

# 'Crane' shooters

## Decoy incident disrupts hunt

BY CRAIG NYHUS

Payton Estes of Silverton, while guiding sandhill crane hunters in Floyd County, got the scare of his hunting career.

"I had four hunters with me, and we were a few birds short of a limit," he said. "I saw two trucks stop on the county road. Then I saw a gun barrel. I stood up in the blind and waved, but they let out four or five rifle shots."

It turned out the people in the vehicles thought the decoys, often called "stuffers," were the real thing.

"The decoys are full taxidermy mounts," Estes said. "Some are set like feeders and some are sentries."

The realistic nature of the decoys is unquestioned. "You can't tell the difference unless you're right there," he said.

"Sometimes when the birds land in the decoys it's tough to tell which is which."

The blind used by the hunters is designed for concealment, too, as sandhills have extremely keen eyesight. "It's like a grass hut blind — you're trying to be invisible to the birds," he said.

Hunters have stopped to look at the decoys. "When I see a vehicle, I get up and wave," Estes said. "But no one has ever shot at the decoys."

The hunters with Estes were obviously taken aback. "They didn't know quite what to do," he said. Fortunately, Estes said, the direct line from the vehicles to the decoys was parallel to the blind and hunters.

Hunting for sandhills typically takes place on land leased by the guides or outfitters.



**THE PREFECT DISGUISE:** Stuffer decoys in a West Texas field look like the real deal.

"We always let them know the night before that we'll be hunting there," Estes said. "I don't really know what else we could do."

The shooters actually came out to the field

quickly caught up with the vehicles, and discovered he had dealt with these hunters before. "Actually, there were three vehicles and eleven hunters," he said. "They were

then try to shoot the coyotes on the run.

Collins said the hunters initially said they were just coyote hunting, but after he advised of his intention to charge all of them, they turned in the shooter. "Charges were filed including illegally shooting from a public road," he said.

People shooting from a roadway happens occasionally, according to Collins, "but it's usually varmint hunters spotlighting at night. It's important for everyone to understand that's illegal in Texas."

Estes and his hunters, although rattled, continued the hunt. "We went ahead and finished our limit," he said. "Then I had to go and identify those guys."

### 'Sometimes when the birds land in the decoys it's tough to tell which is which.'

— PAYTON ESTES

to talk with Estes after the event. "I guess they were hoping I wouldn't call the game warden," he said.

Hale County Game Warden Mark Collins

coyote hunting, but obviously shot in to the crane decoys." Collins said the hunters had been shooting into playa lake areas indiscriminately to scare out coyotes, and would

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**FISHING**

# AND THE BEAT GOES ON



**HEAVYWEIGHT DIVISION:** Brian Holden holds a 52-pound black drum caught on cracked crab. Photo by David J. Sams.

## Black drum run a spring fling on Texas coast

BY KYLE TOMEK

**S**pringtime anglers are discovering a new breed of fishing along the Texas Coast.

Spring season winds often churn bay waters for days leaving speckled trout and redfish enthusiasts scratching their heads.

The exciting black drum run can pick up the slack. "Typically, from

late February to the end of April, black drum congregate in large numbers in channels while making their spring migration," said Mark Redd, a pastor in LaPorte who specifically targets black drum each spring and a regular to Galveston's North Jetty. "This happens usually when water temperatures escalate somewhere around 60 degrees."

Big black drum are the target. "The largest we have caught in recent

years was 60 pounds," he said.

Redd swears by cracked crab as the bait of choice. "Crab is most effective for us when fished on the bottom during the black drum run," he said. "The top shell is cracked off and the meat is cut in halves."

Captain Jake Reaves selects the upper coast of Texas when guiding charters for black drum.

"I get excited every year during the run," he said. "I finally get to part

from my leaky waders and sit in the sun."

"During the run, I generally average about 20 fish a day along channels and transitional zones of the fish."

Using a 4- to 8-ounce egg weight, 50-pound test, and a circle hook, Reaves claims the most important factor for enticing the black brute to bite is getting the bait to the bottom.

*See DRUM, Page 12*



**CAUGHT IN A RUN:** Max Montague wears a big smile after catching a white bass.

## Sandies off and on

White bass runs across state vary from action to doldrums

BY CRAIG NYHUS

Early March usually signals the peak of the awaited white bass run in Texas.

These early spawners head upstream in rivers and creeks off Texas reservoirs, and their aggressive nature makes them easy and economical targets.

Bank fishermen can have as much success as boaters, and equipment needs are simple: A rod and reel with some small lures or minnow can do the trick.

But predicting the peak of the run is a little like predicting Texas weather. Often, the best barometer of success is noting the numbers of cars parked near the rivers or streams, which usually is a telltale sign the run is on.

Reports across Texas are varied, with the late winter cold fronts and low water conditions in some areas delaying or even shutting down the run. Fishermen in other areas are reporting fast and furious action.

On the Sabine River north of Toledo Bend Reservoir, the

*See SANDIES, Page 9*

# Anglers 'season' spinnerbaits to taste



**SHAPING UP:** Baits are "conditioned," connected to a vehicle's antenna by cable ties.

## Sandies

*Continued from Page 8*

white bass run is in full swing, especially near sand bars.

"It's been wide open for about three weeks," said Mike Wheatley of Mike's Fishing Adventures in Jasper. My wife and some customers caught and released over 100 fish up to 3 pounds by 11 a.m."

The best baits have been Roadrunners. "We have been using a Roadrunner head with a Stanley Wedge Tail minnow. The Wedge Tail gives it a different action, when you fish it slow, the tail is still moving," Wheatley said.

Wheatley said the best areas have been near Logan's Port and River Ridge RV Park.

The bank fishermen have been doing well, too. "People have been taking a john boat out to the sand bars and then fishing from the bar and doing real well," Wheatley said.

Up the nearby Angelina River near Sam Rayburn Reservoir, the run is on as well, with reports of sand bass success on Roadrunners worked around underwater brush and sloughs upriver from Marion's Ferry Park.

## ShareLunker No. 429



**STEPHEN CAREY** of Fords, New Jersey, caught this 13.23-pound largemouth bass from Lake Fork on March 3. The fish was 25.5 inches long and 21 inches in girth and became entry No. 429 in the Budweiser ShareLunker program.

## Modification techniques vary with conditions – a tweak here and there

BY JOHN N. FELSHER

After decades of professional bass tournaments, one might think every improvement in lure design had already hit the market. However, fishermen love to tinker with their toys.

"I modify everything I fish," said Gary Klein, a professional bass angler from Weatherford. "One of my favorite techniques is a high rate of retrieve. In a high-speed retrieve, a spinnerbait will roll unless the wire is bent correctly. Where the wire comes out of the head, I put my thumb and bend the wire up. I'm actually pushing the eyelet back so the blade hangs farther toward the back of the hook, but does not touch the hook."

Besides changing the shape of spinnerbait wires, anglers might shorten the wires, add more blades or change the configuration of blades. Some add a dash of color, especially bleeding red around the head for extra enticement. Some add weights or rattles to increase the noise, sink rate or vibration and make them more noticeable.

Some anglers "season" spinnerbaits to increase the sounds they make. One angler hangs several new spinnerbaits off the mirrors of his pickup truck then hits the interstate. When the truck

**'If the fish are just nipping the skirt, I add a big treble hook trailer when I'm fishing in clear, open water.'**

— GARY KLEIN



accelerates, the wind turns the spinner blades, causing them to squeak, creak and groan. A few miles at 70 miles per hour adds years of "conditioning" to any blade.

Other anglers add juicy tidbits to spinnerbaits to increase the taste, silhouette, scent or action. Probably the most common temptations include pork rind "frogs" in assorted colors or plastic trailers. Curly tails from used plastic worms make excellent spinnerbait trailers.

"I use a Strike King pigtail pork trailer in shallow water," said Denny Brauer, a former Bassmaster Classic winner from Camdenton, Mo. "It gives baits more buoyancy and great action. In a plastic trailer, I use a little split-tail, but usually, I don't throw anything, but that pigtail. I match the color. If I'm throwing a chartreuse spinnerbait, I use a chartreuse trailer."

Many anglers add a second

"trailer" hook to normally single-hooked spinnerbaits. Although these snag more frequently in heavy cover, they also hook more fish, especially when fish short-strike bait skirts.

To keep the trailer hook in place, they cut a plastic disk out of a milk jug with a hole punch, putting the trailer hook on the main hook and pushing the main hook through the plastic disk to keep the trailer hook in place.

Some people use two plastic disks, one before and one after, to lock the trailer hook in place.

Other anglers go to more trouble than just adding a hook, changing the hook configuration entirely.

"If the fish are just nipping the skirt, I add a big treble hook trailer when I'm fishing in clear, open water," Klein said. "Sometimes, I turn a single hook upside down so that it runs down instead of up."

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# GAME WARDEN BLOTTER

## DOUBLE WHAMMY

• Leon County Game Warden Danny Flores received a call regarding possible illegal hunting. Contact was made with a female who had stopped to turn around on the county road. She advised she was picking up her husband. While Flores was talking with the woman, he observed a man crawling under a fence. Upon questioning, the man advised he was hunting hogs and didn't have a hunting license. The man received citations for no hunting license and trespassing on agricultural property. The woman received citations for no driver's license and expired registration. Cases pending.

## DRIVING INTO TROUBLE AT HIGH RATE OF SPEED

• Jefferson County Game Warden Vu Nguyen was working McFaddin Wildlife Refuge and observed a truck enter the refuge at a high rate of speed. Nguyen followed the truck onto the beach where he observed it perform doughnuts for several minutes. When the truck re-entered the roadway, the warden stopped the vehicle and when questioning the two occupants, the odor of alcohol and marijuana were evident. They admitted to having alcohol but denied any drugs being present. Nguyen searched the vehicle and noticed the dashboard was loose. When he pulled the dashboard up, a small bag of marijuana was found in the vent. Citations issued.

## GOOSE HUNTERS LAND IN TROUBLE BY CHANCE

• Harris County Game Warden Derek Spitzer caught two men goose hunting without a valid hunting license and appropriate stamps. The subject said they decided to take the chance of not getting checked by the game warden instead of purchasing a license. Cases pending.

## TAGGED WITH A \$4,000 FINE

• In December, wardens Dennis Gazaway and Rachel Kellner filed on two Texas residents for furnishing two Arkansas hunters, who did not have hunting licenses, tags for eight deer. The Arkansas residents were fined on for hunting without a license. Cases pending.

# VEHICLE FLEEING AUTHORITIES PLUNGES 50 FEET

• Game Warden Oscar Jaimez was called to assist with a vehicle that had taken a 50-foot drop into the Maverick County Canal System, which runs parallel with the Rio Grande River. The Ford

Expedition was running from law enforcement and made a desperate attempt to flee back into Mexico. The Expedition flipped and landed on its roof, submerged in the canal. Jaimez helped a Border Patrol agent

secure the scene by boat and assisted in taking 500 pounds of marijuana into custody. The driver was taken into custody unharmed, and the passenger ran across the Rio Grande River into Mexico.

One of the Texas residents then bought a replacement license because he needed more tags, and later shot a 10-point buck and tagged it. The violator was fined on for killing a deer without a valid tag. The Arkansas residents paid a total of \$4,000 in fines in a federal court.

## HUNTER IN WRONG PLACE AT WRONG TIME

• Hunt County Game Warden Dale Waters received a call that a man was entering a public lands unit which is archery only. The caller said the man had a rifle with a scope hidden under his camo jacket. Waters contacted the man, who was intoxicated. The man had a .270 rifle, .22 rifle, .22 pistol, a pack with a grunt call, and a rope. He was arrested for public intoxication, charged with several game violations and littering and placed in the Hunt County jail.

## ANGLERS LAND WARNINGS AT WHITE BASS RUN

• The first of several special patrols on the lower Sabine River in District 3 was held during the white bass run. The weather was cold, and the crowd was moderate. Wardens filed 12 standard cases and 8 warnings for various violations.

## STATEMENT SEALS THE DEAL ON DOE INCIDENT

• Falls County Warden Travis Allen got a call from a local landowner stating another landowner saw two doe deer in a tractor bucket around the end of deer season in Falls County. The man who saw the two doe deer did not want to say anything out of fear. The caller gave the location and names of the men. Allen contacted Milam County Warden Mike Mitchell and asked him to

assist with the investigation. After about 31/2 hours of interviews at two different houses, the wardens received statements on four deer being killed throughout the season, one buck in Mason County (untagged), one buck in Falls County (untagged), and two doe killed in Falls County (no open season). The brother-in-law next door gave the statement that sealed the deal on the three deer taken in Falls County. The shooter did have a valid hunting license, but had not used a single tag. Cases pending as well as restitution on the two doe deer.

## ANGLER LURES IN CITATIONS WITH "ROACH" IN TACKLE BOX

• Tarrant County Game Warden Michael McCall was checking bank fishermen along the West Fork of the Trinity River when he found a man in possession of undersized crappie and sand bass. While inspecting the fish, he noticed a small "roach" in the man's tackle box. At the man's pickup, more drug paraphernalia in his wife's makeup bag was discovered. Citations for possession of drug paraphernalia and undersized fish were issued. Cases pending.

## TRAP REMOVAL LEADS TO CLOSED SEASON VIOLATIONS

• After a week of removing crab traps from the Galveston Bay complex, Galveston County Game Warden Kevin Webb has initiated the process of filing on six commercial crab fishermen for the violation of crab fishing during the closed season. Cases pending.

## COMMERCIAL FISHING VESSELS CARRYING ILLEGAL 'GAME'

• Game Warden Martin Oviedo and Jesse Garcia intercepted a Mexican commercial fishing ves-

sel entering Texas waters. The operator of the vessel began to evade, and upon reaching the bank of a Zapata County boat ramp/park, the occupant began to flee on foot. Garcia secured the commercial vessel and observed two large sacks spray-painted in a camouflage pattern. Further inspection determined the two large sacks contained marijuana. Border Patrol and Zapata County Sheriff's Office were informed, and a search for the boat operator ensued. The two sacks combined contained 85 cellophane wrapped bundles of compressed marijuana, totaling 155.5 pounds, with an estimated street value of \$124,400. The marijuana bundles were compressed into various shapes, cylindrical as well as flattened bricks, to facilitate smuggling.

## SIZING UP THE SITUATION

• Galveston County Game Wardens Jim Bob VanDyke and Antone Jackson filed on three individuals for being in possession of 28 undersized redfish, 1 undersized spotted trout, 4 undersized black drum, and 4 undersized flounder. Cases pending.

## MEN JUST CAN'T GET THE STORY STRAIGHT

• Ellis County Game Warden Jeff Powell and Dallas County Game Warden Sergio Bazuldua observed two suspicious vehicles coming out of the Trinity River bottoms. After making a stop on the first vehicle, the driver became very nervous and couldn't get his story straight on why he was there. After getting consent, two large bags of marijuana were discovered in a backpack along with drug paraphernalia. The second vehicle was stopped with the help of Dallas County Warden Norman Terry. The passenger refused to give his name and was

placed in custody; it was later learned he was wanted on parole violations. The men were arrested for felony possession of marijuana and failure to identify. They were transported to Ellis County Jail. Cases pending.

## MEN HOG HUNT THEIR WAY INTO JAIL

• Robertson County Warden Russell Murden placed two men in county jail on trespassing warrants from a case that began the previous month. The two men were caught hog hunting with dogs without landowner permission. After bonding out, one of the men was caught that same night on a different property, once again hog hunting without landowner consent. Cases pending.

## SUSPECT FLEES THE SCENE OF ACCIDENT

• Henderson County Game Warden Audie Hamm received a call from DPS requesting assistance on a possible drowning at Kickapoo Creek. A passing vehicle reported to DPS that a car had smashed through the guardrail and was submerged in the water. Hamm and Anderson County Game Warden Karen Gray arrived on the scene to assist with the recovery. As the situation unfolded, and various agencies were working to begin recovery of the possible drowning victim, it was discovered that the driver of the vehicle had not drowned. A passerby reported a man jumping a fence. He turned out to be the driver of the vehicle, a convicted felon on probation, who had fled the scene of the accident.

## WARDENS TOO WILY FOR COYOTE HUNTERS

• Fannin County Game Warden Eddie Hines and Grayson County Game Wardens Randolph McGee and Dale Moses teamed up in the western part of Fannin County to work a coyote hunt tournament. A total of five subjects were caught spotlighting/hunting from vehicles on a public road. Other violations were no hunting licenses and possession of a canvasback duck in closed season. Cases pending.

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## Drum

*Continued from Page 8*

"I prefer the heavier egg weight to reach the bottom fast."

When the bite turns on, Reaves favors the stronger test to bring the fish to the boat and get the line back in the water at a quick rate.

The black drum run is a favorite of landlocked anglers, as places to fish are easily accessed by vehicle.

"We launch off of the end of the Texas City Dike and have seen many peo-

ple catch black drum right across from the boat launch — as well as at the pier on the end of the dike," Redd said.

Other than the Texas City Dike, Reaves claims Sea Wolf Park Pier and Sylvan Beach Pier are good choices.

For those on the lower coast, reports from the Navy Pier at Ingleside indicate a run is yet to come. But the Aransas Pass Jetty and Fin & Feather Pier, located in Aransas Pass, have reported productive black drum catches.

## Public

*Continued from Page 1*

Matador WMA that scored 140.

Without rain, the parched Texas ranges yielded less nutrition, which diminished antler growth and overall deer weight across the state, the officials said.

A complete assessment wasn't available by late February because a few Wildlife Management Areas were still running some special hunts, but enough data was in hand to see that hunters on public lands did no better than the past two seasons, which were also very dry.

"This year is probably a little bit interesting because of the drought," said Kelly Edmiston, program specialist for Texas Parks and Wildlife. "Body mass and horn mass were down."

The latest figures from Texas Parks and Wildlife show 3,080 hunters harvested 1,331 deer on the WMAs.

Included were 2,367 gun hunters who took 1,213 animals, according to the data. Also, 713 archers killed 118 deer on public land, Edmiston said.

The figures were from 83 of the 95 scheduled drawn public hunts for deer, Edmiston said.

"The total hunter success rate on harvest this year, so far, is 43 percent," he added. "This is a little less than last year, but on par to equal the 2004-2005 season for public hunting."

Range conditions improved dramatically with the rains, but even that had a downside, said Dale Prochaska, a biologist at the Kerr WMA near Hunt.

"When we did have those rains, the forbs just exploded," he said of the range on the Hill Country WMA. "Then the acorns started dropping."



**HARVEST NUMBERS:** The latest figures from Texas Parks and Wildlife show 3,080 hunters harvested 1,331 deer on Wildlife Management Areas this season.

August and September we started having normal rainfall."

For example, at Black Gap WMA near Alpine, home of mule deer and whitetails, 30 bow hunters stuck three deer and 12 gun hunts took four deer, Pittman said.

Further north in the Panhandle, average success rates were reported at the Gene Howe WMA near Canadian and Matador WMA near Paducah.

Ruthven said 24 whitetails and 10 mule deer bucks were taken from Matador, along with 24 does. At Gene Howe, 14 deer fell to guns and another six were claimed by archers.

## Theft

*Continued from Page 6*

one county with high-speed military gear, Shoop said.

"This was a great team effort," said Wise County District Attorney Jana Jones. "TPWD, our local law enforcement and the National Guard cooperated very well in this investigation, identified the alleged culprits and recovered every single missing item of military hardware."

Shoop said he believed the suspects were free on bond. Jones said each has been charged with theft over \$1,500, a state jail felony, punishable by up to two years behind bars and a \$10,000 fine.

National Guard officials declined to comment on what might happen to the accused guardsman because the case is still being investigated.

"It would be just speculation," said Col. William Meehan, Guard spokesman. "But, obviously, we'll take this very seriously, no matter what."

Meehan, however, praised game wardens and deputies for their handling of the case. He noted Guard members and game wardens have worked closely together for years, especially during natural disasters.

"We're fortunate to be in a great team," Meehan said. "We train with them on a regular basis because of their watercraft and special skills."

"The game wardens are always right in the middle."

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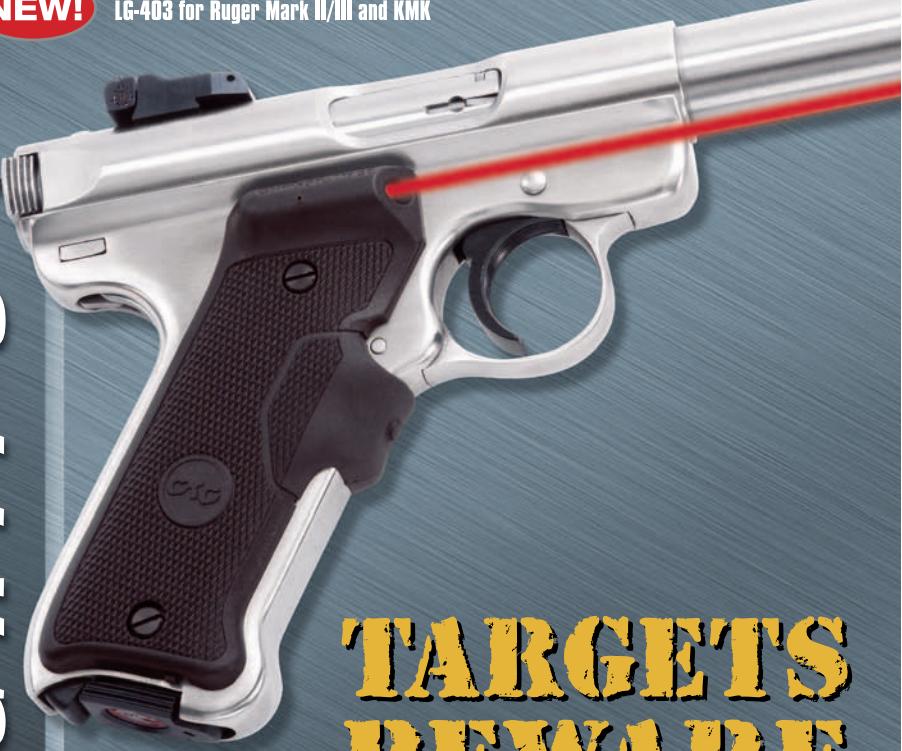
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## 2007 BASSMASTER CLASSIC

# Duckett hauls in crown

Alabama angler becomes first to win Classic in home state

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He accomplished what no Bassmaster Classic angler had been able to in its 37-year history, becoming the first home-state angler to win the Classic and the \$500,000 top prize.

The 46-year-old Bassmaster Elite Series pro brought in the final round's biggest five-bass limit — 17 pounds, 13 ounces — to climb up from fourth place.

His three-day total of 48 pounds, 10 ounces was enough to hold off California angler Skeet Reese by six ounces.

Reese, who was participating in his seventh Classic, brought in a limit of 15 pounds, 14 ounces, but it was not enough to secure his first Classic championship.

Second-round leader and two-time Classic champion Kevin VanDam of Kalamazoo, Mich., fell to third. Indiana's Terry McWilliams, a representative of the BASS Federation Nation, the grassroots organization of BASS, finished fourth, and Gary Klein of Weatherford rounded out the top five.

Duckett sealed his dramatic victory with the Purolator Big Bass of the Day for which he earned a \$1,000 premium — a 6-pound, 9-ounce largemouth — caught at 2 p.m.



**A FIRST:** Classic winner Boyd Duckett celebrates with his 6-pound, 9-ounce largemouth as Terry McWilliams realizes he lost his lead. Photo by James Overstreet, ESPN Outdoors.

"I'm so proud I brought the Classic title to my home state," he said. "It's every angler's dream to be able to get here and to win it is just fantastic."

Duckett was one of the pre-Classic favorites because of his extensive experience on Lay Lake. He used a lipless crankbait and flipped a Berkley Powerbait Chigger Craw into grass.

Duckett caught most of the spotted bass on the Rat-L-Trap, working it very slowly.

"I was fishing it almost like a jig — I'd throw it out and let it go down, and then just barely crawl it across the bottom," he said. "Those early fish are spooky and they won't chase it."

"If it's just bouncing along, they'll come and get it."

After reaching his limits of spots, he flipped the Chigger Craw, focusing on shallow areas that the big females would choose as spawning grounds, then moved back out

to the first patch of grass.

Reese, competing in his eighth Classic, was disappointed at his second-place finish.

"Second hurts, it really does," said Reese, who also caught his limit of bass on a Berkley Chigger Craw. "You don't get that many opportunities to win a Bassmaster Classic. This was a golden opportunity this week. But I won't say I let it slip away because I fished the best I could."

*A BASS report.*

# Texans top state entries at Classic

## Four from state cast way into the final day of competition

BY JOSH WARD

It may have felt like a road game at times, but Texas' competitors in the 2007 Bassmaster Classic on Alabama's Lay Lake had plenty of fellow statesmen joining them in the 50-angler field.

Texas had the most representatives in this year's Classic with nine, one more than the Alabama contingent that included the winner, Boyd Duckett.

Texas had four anglers fishing on the final day, including Weatherford's Gary Klein, who led Lone Star contestants.

### 5th Place GARY KLEIN

Weatherford  
**44 pounds, 5 ounces**

Gary Klein has been close in more than a few Bassmaster Classics. The closest he came was 2003 when the California transplant finished second, his highest finish ever in the event.

Klein came out of practice with one strategy — the only one he'd need. Klein picked up a flipping stick and fished a 3/8-ounce SPRO jig and stuck with it, searching for the subtle bite that would see him catch both big largemouth and spotted bass.

Early in the day, Klein worked deeper water to secure his limit of five fish and would work the rest of the day trying to upgrade — especially with a kicker largemouth.

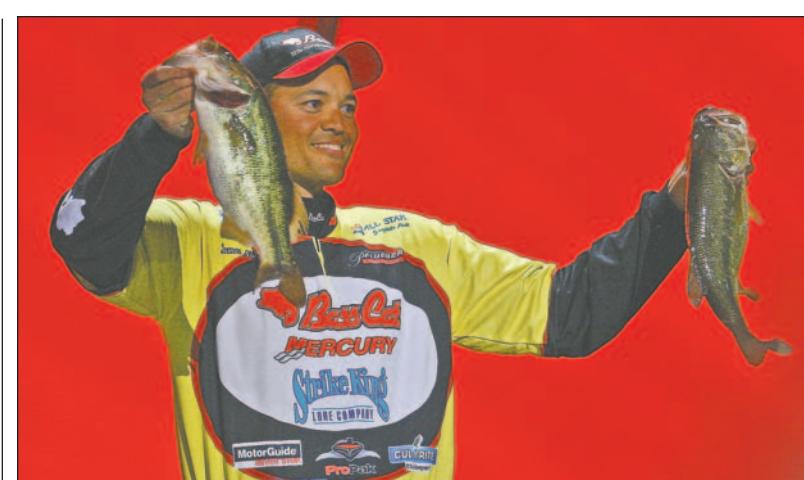


**GOOD DAYS, BAD DAYS:** Gary Klein shows his disgust on the tourney's third day after he couldn't find the big fish, but the Weatherford resident finished in the top five. Photo by James Overstreet, ESPN Outdoors.

But by day three of the tournament, with a severe storm front making its way out the area, he couldn't locate the big fish he needed to make a giant leap in the standings.

**HE SAID IT:** "If you've got me on a jig bite this time of year and I've

got a flip stick in my hand all day, I'm going to be a threat. Anytime I fish I feel like I've got a chance. But I leave tournaments — good ones, bad ones — behind me. I just try to catch them one day at a time because that's all you can do."



**ROOKIE SHOWS WELL:** James Niggemeyer was all smiles in his first Bassmaster Classic. Photo by James Overstreet, ESPN Outdoors.

### 17th Place JAMES NIGGEMEYER

**Van  
35 pounds, 13 ounces**

A rookie making his first appearance in the Bassmaster Classic, James Niggemeyer quickly adopted the mentality of any Classic veteran — he went to Alabama to win.

Like most of the anglers, he had a promising practice period and found good numbers of fish. During the competition, Niggemeyer covered a lot of water. He secured his limits, mixed bags of largemouth and spotted bass, in a flat, pond-like area in the back of a cove where he threw

shad-patterned spinnerbaits until mid-morning.

Once the water warmed up, he would flip jigs and creature-style baits in the heavy mats, where he got his biggest fish. Knowing that it would take an unprecedented 25-pound sack on the final day for him to win, Niggemeyer focused on getting the big bite on day three, but couldn't make the leap into the Top 10.

**HE SAID IT:** "The Classic is everything I thought it would be and more. It's obviously the pinnacle of the sport and making it to the Classic has increased my desire to get there again even more. I'm happy win my 17th-place finish for my first Classic and now I'm focusing on getting everything ready to go compete in the Elites."

*Continued on Page 14*





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## 2007 BASSMASTER CLASSIC

*Continued from Page 14*

**44th Place**

### Kelly Jordon Mineola

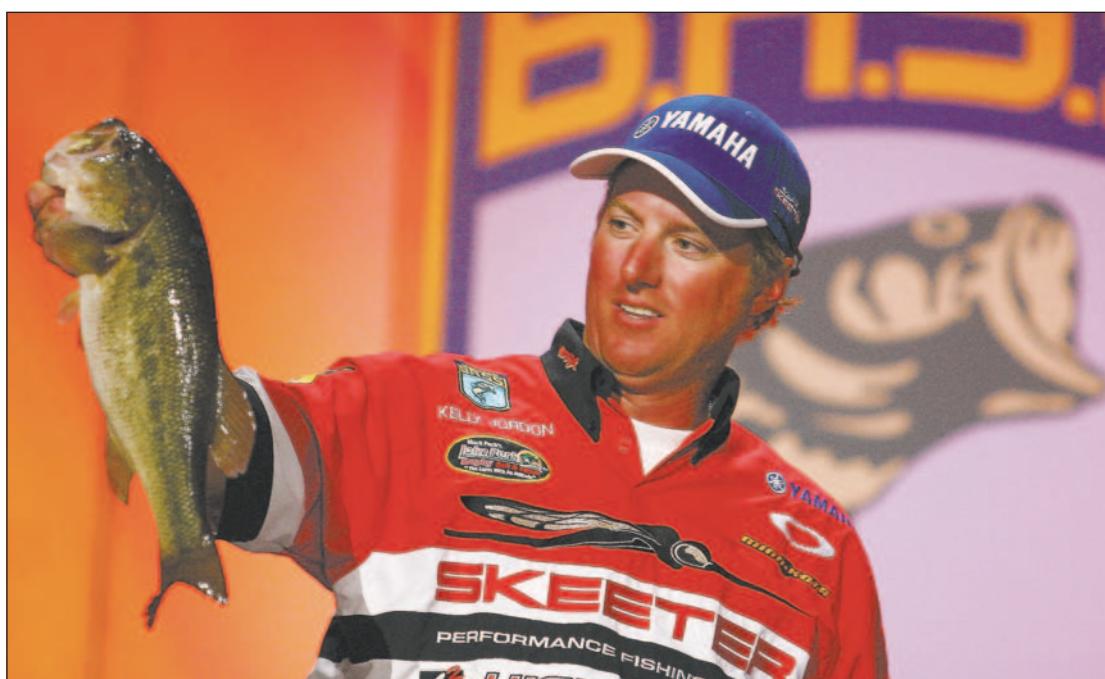
**16 pounds, 5 ounces**

Things couldn't have gone much better for Jordon while practicing for his fifth Bassmaster Classic. While cruising the waters of Lay Lake trying to locate a winning pattern, Jordon cruised into a pocket where — by his estimate — more than 100 largemouth bass, ranging from 2 1/2 - 8 pounds, were stacked up on the bank. Little did he know other anglers had found similar situations; those tournament-clinching fish would disappear sometime between

the end of practice and the beginning of the tournament.

While alternately searching in vain for his lost fish and trying to make the cut, Jordon threw Lucky Craft jerk baits in deeper water as well as a green pumpkin, 7-inch Lake Fork Tackle Co. Twitch Worm.

**HE SAID IT:** "I spent the entire tournament trying to find those fish and never did. I got locked in on those large-mouth because I knew I could win on those fish. I had a feeling that something might happen and they might not be there when once the tournament started — it was just too good. They were stacked in there like an aquarium. I won in practice though, but lots of guys found fish in practice."



**TOUGH TIME:** Kelly Jordon had some good moments in practice, but missed the cut. Photo by James Overstreet, ESPN Outdoors.

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### WOMEN'S BASSMASTER TOUR CHAMPIONSHIP

## Georgia angler wins inaugural

Pam Martin-Wells of Bainbridge, Ga. captured a wire-to-wire victory in the inaugural Women's Bassmaster Tour Championship at Lake Mitchell in Central Alabama.

Anchored by two big largemouth bass, Martin-Wells' five-fish limit weighed 15 pounds, 8 ounces on the final day of the three-day event for a tournament total of 38 pounds, 7 ounces, more than seven pounds heavier than the nearest competitor. Martin-Wells took home a boat and motor valued at \$50,000 and \$10,000 in cash with the win.

Although Martin-Wells headed into the final day with a 4 1/2-pound lead, she refused to relax even after she had a limit of spotted bass in the livewell by mid-morning.

Instead, she went to her largemouth pattern of flipping grass to ensure none of the other 11 finalists could get close.

"I basically did the same thing all three days," Martin-Wells said. "The difference was that today after I got a limit of spots, the largemouths decided to bite."

Martin-Wells fished various points with a Carolina rig to catch the Coosa River spotted bass. She used a Wave Worm Lizard, Tiki Stick and Zoom Baby Brush Hog. Martin-Wells flipped the grass with a Tiki Stick, Super Hog and jig with a 1-ounce Tru-Tungsten weight to get through the heavy cover.

Sheri Glasgow of Muskogee, Okla., tried to make a run at Martin-Wells, but she knew it would require an exceptional day of fishing. Glasgow finished with 31 pounds, 5 ounces.

"A four-pound lead is really hard to make up," Glasgow said.

Glasgow tipped a Shaky Head with a Zoom finesse worm in green pumpkin with a chartreuse tip.

"If you got it in front of one, it would hit it," Glasgow said. "I just didn't catch enough big ones."

Juanita Robinson of Highlands, Texas, the winner of the 2007 WBT season-opener at Lake Amistad, also made a late run with the second-largest bag of the day at 12 pounds, 15 ounces total to finish third.

*A BASS report.*

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# OUTDOOR DATEBOOK

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[editor@lonestaroutdoornews.com](mailto:editor@lonestaroutdoornews.com)

**March 15:** The 1st Annual Hurricane Creek DU banquet will be at the Lone Star Party Barn in Anna. Contact Matt Sullivan at (903) 712-0099 or [Matt@SullivanLawfirm.biz](mailto:Matt@SullivanLawfirm.biz) for information.

**March 15:** The Alvin DU dinner will be held at the Alvin KC Hall. For information, contact John Brau at (281) 393-1100 or [Quorum@jbrau.com](mailto:Quorum@jbrau.com).

**March 16:** The Big Thicket Chapter NWTF banquet will be held at Silsbee Volunteer Fire Station. Call Jimmy Balla at (409) 385-2474.

**March 17-18, 2007:** Cabela's in Fort Worth will offer seminars including Fly-Fishing Watercraft demos, Fly-Casting Clinics, and Rigging and Getting Started in Kayaking. For a complete list and times, visit [www.cabelas.com](http://www.cabelas.com) or call (817) 337-2400.

**March 17, 2007:** The Dallas Woods and Waters Club will hold its 28th Annual banquet and fundraiser at the Renaissance Richardson Hotel. For tickets and information, visit [www.dwwcc.org](http://www.dwwcc.org) or call (214) 570-9700.

**March 17 & 18:** Hunter's Education Course will be offered at Bass Pro Shops in Katy. For information, call (281) 644-2200 or visit [www.basspro.com](http://www.basspro.com).

**March 17:** The Dallas Orvis store will host a presentation by Capt. Brandon Shuler covering the ins and outs of preparing for a deep water fly-fishing adventure. Learn tactics used to hook tuna, sharks, and red snapper on the fly. For information, visit [www.orvis.com](http://www.orvis.com) or call (214) 265-1600.

**March 17:** The Dos Llano Longbeards Chapter NWTF banquet will be held at Simon's Bros. Mercantile in



Roosevelt. Call Joe Brooks at (479) 756-7400 for information.

**March 17:** The Harrison County NWTF dinner will be held at Marshall Visual Arts Center. Call Lewis Thomas at (903) 935-5885 for information.

**March 17:** The Pioneer Chapter of N.E. Texas will hold its NWTF dinner at Clarksville High School. Call Lee Lindeman at (903) 427-2244 for tickets and information.

**March 17-March 18:** Turkey Weekend at Bass Pro Shops in Garland. Turkey callers, vendors and calling contest (March 18). For information on the contest and events, contact Lisa Byrn at (469) 221-2617 or visit [www.basspro.com](http://www.basspro.com).

**March 17:** The Second Annual Garland/Mesquite DU Chapter Fun Shoot will be held at Elm Fork Shooting Range. Cost is \$100 per person. Contact Charlie Preslar at (972) 270-8688 or [chaspreslar@tx.rr.com](mailto:chaspreslar@tx.rr.com) for information.

**March 17:** The Bosque County DU dinner will be held at the Clifton Armory. Contact Jay Hutchins at (254) 253-1133 or [brenda.hutchins@clifton.k12.tx.us](mailto:brenda.hutchins@clifton.k12.tx.us) for information.

**March 22:** The Big Country NWTF banquet will be held at the Whitney Theater in Albany. Contact Johnnie Hudman at (325) 762-2121 or [wildlife2@tasney.com](mailto:wildlife2@tasney.com) for information.

**March 22:** The Alamo Chapter NWTF banquet will be held at Alzafar Shrine Center in San Antonio. For reservations and information, call Charlie Klein at (210) 218-5889 or visit [www.alamochapternwtf.org](http://www.alamochapternwtf.org).

**March 22:** The Lake Lavon DU banquet will be held at the Fairview Farms Corral Barn. For tickets and



information, contact Paul Romano at (972) 442-5106.

**March 23:** The Heart of the Hills Chapter CCA banquet will be held at the Kendall County Fairgrounds in Boerne. For information, call (800) 626-4222 or [ccatx@ccatexas.org](mailto:ccatx@ccatexas.org).

**March 23:** The South Texas Chapter NWTF dinner will be held at the Bee County Expo Center in Beeville. Contact Albert Gaitan at (555) 740-2220 or [highvoltk@yahoo.com](mailto:highvoltk@yahoo.com) for information.

**March 23:** The Turkey Roost Chapter NWTF banquet will be held at the Bob Wills Community Building in Turkey. Contact Cody Bell at (806) 423-1276 for tickets and information.

**March 23:** The Williamson County NWTF banquet will be held at the San Gabriel Community Center in Georgetown. For tickets and information, contact Randy Traylor at (512) 630-1989 or [rtraylor@wilco.org](mailto:rtraylor@wilco.org).

**March 23-24:** The Pond Boss Conference and Expo will be held at the Arlington Convention Center. Speakers include private fisheries biologists and consultants from across the U.S., and industry representatives. For tickets and information, call (800) 687-6075 or [info@pondboss.com](mailto:info@pondboss.com).

**March 24:** The Whitetails Unlimited DFW chapter banquet will be held at Embassy Suites at Outdoor World in Grapevine. For tickets and information, call Kevin Harrington at (402) 301-6860 or visit [www.whitetailsunlimited.com/events](http://www.whitetailsunlimited.com/events).

**March 24:** The Canadian River Chapter NWTF banquet will be held at Hemphill County Pavilion in Canadian. For tickets and information, contact Jason McAnally at (806) 323-9198.

**March 24:** The Houston County NWTF banquet will be held at Lovelady City Park in Lovelady. Contact Mike Eason at (936) 544-3555 or [reason3151@aol.com](mailto:reason3151@aol.com).

**March 24:** Texas Women's Shooting Sports will hold its 2007 Ladies Spring Shooting & Outdoor Clinic at Elm

Fork Shooting Park in Dallas. Pistol, rifle and shotgun shooting and fly-fishing instruction will be provided. Register online at [www.txdiva.org](http://www.txdiva.org) or call (214) 733-8687 for information.

**March 24:** The Johnson County Farm Bureau Open Team Bass Tournament will be held at McCown Park at Lake Whitney. Call Don Brown at (817) 558-2848 or (817) 239-4044 for information.

**March 27:** The Texoma Chapter NWTF banquet will be held at Tanglewood Resort. For tickets and information, contact Tom Akins at (903) 464-4442 or [takins@cityofdenison.com](mailto:takins@cityofdenison.com).

**March 27:** The Uvalde Guajolotes Chapter NWTF dinner will be held at Uvalde Country Club. Contact Brad Farr at (830) 592-0742 for information.

**March 28:** The West Houston DU chapter dinner will be held at Chateau Crystale at 2517 South Gessner in Houston. For tickets and information, call Oliver Aldrich at (713) 464-9111 or [olaldrich@sbcglobal.net](mailto:olaldrich@sbcglobal.net).

**March 29:** The Dallas DU Chapter's 1st Annual DU Raffle Night will be at Eddie Deen's Ranch in Dallas. For tickets and information, contact Andrea Hight at (214) 402-4197.

**March 29:** The University of Texas DU banquet will be held at Saengerunde Hall in Austin. Call Dustin at (512) 470-8481 or [croberts@ducks.org](mailto:croberts@ducks.org) for information.



**March 29:** The Colorado Valley CCA Chapter banquet will be held at the KC Hall in La Grange. For information, call (800) 626-4222 or [ccatx@ccatexas.org](mailto:ccatx@ccatexas.org).

**March 31:** The Delta Waterfowl Symposium will be held at Cabela's in Fort Worth from noon to 4:30 p.m. Speakers including Delta Waterfowl president Rob Olson will provide information on ducks, nests and duck production. For information, visit [www.deltawaterfowl.org](http://www.deltawaterfowl.org) or call Matt Reitzell at (817) 714-3172 or Dennis Anderson at (817) 291-5209.



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The **3000 Sport Cuddy** by **Sea Quest** is a 30-foot, 11-inch-long boat with a 10-foot, 11-inch beam. With a fuel capacity of 298 gallons and a maximum horsepower of 500, it will allow anglers a long stay out on the water. The aft deck offers a 40-square-foot fishing platform as well as numerous amenities for the serious angler. Its oversized console provides entry below decks to an aft and forward cabin that sleeps two each. It has an electric head and a pull-out sink. Its MSRP: \$102,864 (base boat), when equipped with Suzuki 225 HP engine. For additional options or for dealers, visit [www.prosportsboats.com](http://www.prosportsboats.com).


**LIGHTER BOOTS:**

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**TALKIN' TURKEY:**

The new **Yella Hammer** by **Knight & Hale Game Calls** takes a huge step forward with new materials and technology that makes for the sweetest friction ever (and realistic turkey talk). According to the company, its new patent-pending integrated soundboard creates incredible resonance and volume, and the new wood/plastic composite pot provides the rich sound of wood with the durability of plastic. The call comes with a Power Tip Striker. It costs \$28.22. For retailers, call (479) 782-8971 or visit [www.knightandhale.com](http://www.knightandhale.com).


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# Dispute

*Continued from Page 1*

one acre, after the City of Dallas, the Texas Water Development Board and the Upper Neches River Municipal Authority (UNRMA) sued — putting what would be a 25,282-acre refuge in limbo until the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Texas in Tyler considers the matter.

"Twenty years ago, we started working with Texas Parks and Wildlife to look for good bottomland areas," said Elizabeth Slown, a USFWS spokeswoman. "We oversee migratory birds and have a strong interest in preserving hunting as a tradition. Texas is a big part of the Central Flyway. The ducks that use it need places to rest, nest and breed. We have to protect areas like this one so our wildlife have places

to exist."

Proponents of the proposed Fastrill Reservoir, which would cover roughly 26,000 acres (including most of the refuge), argue the reservoir was listed on a master plan by the UNRMA in 1961. Dallas would foot the bill to build the reservoir. However, 20 percent of the "yield" would go to the UNRMA.

"There hasn't been a lake built in the state in many years," said Tom Mallory, UNRMA's general manager. "I can tell you that if the drought continues, there are going to be even greater shortfalls of available water. That's why I endorsed the project."

Mallory said Dallas' population is expected to double in 30 years.

"It takes that long to build a reservoir, to get all the permits and whatnot," he said.

Fastrill opponents argue the reservoir would only provide water

that Dallas could buy from other reservoirs or accrue through better conservation practices.

"The water Dallas wants is already available," said Mary Decker, co-chair of the Friends of the Neches River. "There are reservoirs in existence that have it. Dallas wants to control the source."

Decker noted that Dallas' daily per capita water use exceeds that of Houston, San Antonio and Austin.

Dallas and the TWDB declined comment, citing the lawsuit.

Mallory, though, challenges Decker's claim.

"How much of its water use is industrial and commercial and how much is people?" Mallory asked. "It's going to other uses, which are valid uses."

Reservoir proponents say the USFWS ignored alternatives to the Neches River refuge, including a 25,000-acre site below Lake Palestine. Mallory said much of

where the refuge would go is "timbered out." The reservoir itself would also be a boon for migratory birds, according to Mallory.

"They forget to mention that a lake is a pretty good habitat for duck hunting," he said. "Ducks enjoy a lake and its fish. You haven't completely lost the opportunity for habitat that would be conducive to meeting the needs identified by the Fish and Wildlife Service."

Refuge supporters dispute Mallory's contention, saying the land he's advocating as a refuge is mostly upland timber. The trees along the Neches' bottomland, which receives more water, are deciduous hardwoods that produce nuts and berries.

"They're the kinds of trees that provide nourishment to the wildlife year-round," said Janice Bezanson, executive director of the Texas Committee on Natural

Resources. "The pine forests, which tend to grow upland, don't support as much wildlife. The refuge would support not only the wildlife living there, but, also, the migratory birds that spend time on the bottomlands. That's why the Fish and Wildlife Service went to the trouble of identifying bottomland hardwood, and why they're trying so hard to protect the few areas we have left."

The debate is heated locally, said Cherokee County Judge Chris Davis. The commissioners court there approved a resolution supporting the reservoir, although Davis said they mainly want more studies done.

"It's a double-edged sword for me," Davis said. "The dam for the reservoir would be in the middle of the hunting club where I've hunted since I was 17. I like to fish, too, though, so it won't matter to me either way."



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## Snapper

*Continued from Page 1*

miles of shore in the Gulf.

The confusion begins when the anglers venture into federal waters.

It's likely that the somewhat obscure rule allowing for generous possession limits has roots in a time when anglers frequently enjoyed overnight adventures to remote waters.

But for today's offshore anglers, voyages into federal waters that extend beyond 24 hours remain fairly common. So why shouldn't these anglers be allowed to return from a two-day excursion with eight red snapper, the equivalent of two daily limits?

The complex answer is they can, but only if they're fishing from a qualified charter boat or headboat with two captains aboard.

Double limits are against the law for anglers fishing federal waters from private boats, though the regulation is not well-known.

The Port Mansfield party was fishing from a private boat in federal waters. The fine for possessing more than eight red snapper was \$455.

Part of the confusion involves the Texas possession rule. If the Port Mansfield angler had been fishing in state waters, possessing eight snapper would have been legal.

But when asked by a game warden, the anglers told the truth regarding their angling whereabouts.

According to literature published by the fisheries division of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, federal rules include special provisions for anglers on charter boats or party boats, allowing them to possess twice the daily limit of king mackerel, Spanish mackerel and any variety of reef fish, which includes red snapper.

This rule exclusively applies to vessels with two licensed captains and special safety equipment aboard. And only on trips that exceed 24 hours.

One of the captains may be asked to provide documentation of trip length, according to federal agent Rudy Rivera, who covers the lower Texas coast.

For all non-charter trips, non-chartered vessels and other fish species, the posses-



**GET OUT THE RULE BOOK:** Differences in Texas and federal possession limits can create confusion.

sion limit equals the single daily bag limit. In the case of red snapper, this means four fish in possession. And each of these fish must measure at least 16 inches.

Soon federal and state snapper regulations could change. The National Marine Fisheries Service has proposed a two-fish daily bag for red snapper.

While Texas plans to keep its daily bag for red snapper at four fish, Texas Parks and Wildlife officials have proposed changing the minimum length on red snapper from 15 inches to 13 inches. Another proposed change is to require the use of circle hooks for red snapper in state waters.

No changes to the rules are proposed regarding possession limits in state or federal waters.

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## Report: Upcoming waterfowl breeding conditions vary

Ducks Unlimited Canada has released its report on habitat conditions for the upcoming waterfowl breeding season.

While ducks and geese are expected to arrive in Canada over the next several weeks, the conditions of wetlands and available habitat in the provinces are varied.

The researchers report that habitat conditions are good throughout much of British Columbia and the coastal

region continues to experience excellent conditions. Conditions in the parklands of the Prairie Provinces are also good or better and are especially good in Saskatchewan.

However, dry conditions persist in the prairies of Alberta and Saskatchewan and the potential for spring runoff in these areas is limited. Conditions are generally good in the Western Boreal Forest and in eastern Canada.

*A DU Canada report.*

# FISHING REPORT

## HOT BITES LARGEMOUTH BASS



**ALAN HENRY:** Black bass are good on spinnerbaits, crankbaits, soft plastics, Super Flukes, jerkbaits, and jigs.

**CADDO:** Black bass are good on orange belly Rogues and black or grape 6' plastic worms in 3-6 feet around single cypress trees.

**CALVERAS:** Black bass are good on dark soft plastic worms and crankbaits around reed beds and near the park store.

**LIVINGSTON:** Black bass are good on crankbaits and spinnerbaits.

**SAM RAYBURN:** Black bass are good on dark watermelon and pumpkinseed Carolina rigged soft plastics, spinnerbaits, and deep diving crankbaits.

## WHITE HYBRID



**BELTON:** White bass are excellent on minnows and slabs early and late.

**BUCHANAN:** Striped bass are good vertically jigging Pirk Minnows and white Curb's stripers jigs, trolling Gizz 4 crankbaits, and drifting live bait from Paradise Point to Shaw Island in 18 - 28 feet.

**CANYON LAKE:** Striped bass are good on weighted Albino soft jerkbaits under birds in the river, and vertically jigging silver 1/2oz. Pirk Minnows and white Curb's stripers jigs.

**GRAPEVINE:** White bass are good on slabs around humps and points in 20-24 feet.

**JOE POOL:** White bass are good on chrome or white jigs in 20-24 feet around main lake points and humps.

**RAY ROBERTS:** White bass are good on CC jigging spoons and Bomber slabs in 25-35 feet (don't move your rod tip over 6-8 inches when working the bait).

## CATFISH



**BRAUNING:** Channel and blue catfish are excellent on shrimp, cheese bait, cut bait, and liver.

**CALVERAS:** Channel catfish are excellent on liver, shrimp, cheese bait, and shad. Blue catfish are good on cut bait and liver near 181 Cove.

**FAIRFIELD:** Catfish are excellent on fresh shad and shrimp in 12-18 feet drifted on mid to lower lake points and the hot water discharge.

## CRAPPIE



**BELTON:** Crappie are excellent on minnows and slabs early and late.

**CEDAR CREEK:** Crappie are good on tube jigs in 20-25 feet around heavy man made brush piles.

**ALAN HENRY:** Water lightly stained; 40 degrees. Crappie are fair on minnows and jigs.

**AMISTAD:** Water clear; 54 degrees. Striped bass are fair on jigging spoons. White bass are fair on jigging spoons and minnows. Channel and blue catfish are good on cheese bait, shrimp, and nightcrawlers in 60 - 100 feet.

**ARROWHEAD:** Water lightly stained; 48 degrees; 5.5' low. Black bass to 10 pounds are good off rock points, and crankbaits or black/blue jigs 4-7 feet deep near riprap. Catfish are good along upper west side on punchbait or juglines baited with cut shad or carp.

**ATHENS:** Water clear, 49-56 degrees; 1.15' low. Black bass are good on black/blue jigs and plastic worms around man-made brush piles close to docks. Catfish are good on prepared baits fished over baited holes in 12-15 feet.

**BASTROP:** Water clear. Black bass to 5 pounds are good on dark soft plastics and crawfish crankbaits in 8 - 32 feet. Channel and blue catfish to 25 pounds are good on fresh cut bait and nightcrawlers in 25 - 35 feet.

**BELTON:** Water clear; 54 degrees; 6.69' low. Black bass are fair on chartreuse soft plastics.

**BOB SANDLIN:** Water clear; 50-58 degrees; 7.41' low. Black bass are good on crankbaits and plastic worms in 8-12 feet. White bass are good on jigging spoons in 20-24 feet. Catfish are fair on prepared baits on baited holes in 15-20 feet.

**BRAUNIG:** Water stained; 64 degrees. Black bass are good on crankbaits and dark soft plastic worms in the reeds and near the dam.

**BRIDGEPORT:** Water clear; 50-57 degrees; 17.48' low. Black bass are fair on Texas rigged worms and shad pattern medium running crankbaits. Channel catfish are good on cut bait and worms in 15-20 feet in holes baited with soured grain.

**BUCHANAN:** Water clear; 46 degrees; 22.20' low. Black bass are fair on pumpkin finesse jigs with Devil's Tongues trailers, chartreuse crankbaits, and green pumpkin tubes along ledges around the deepest creek points in 10 - 25 feet.

**CADDO:** Water stained to murky; 51-58 degrees; 0.88' high. White bass are good on slabs and spoons in 8-10 feet Channel catfish are good on limb lines.

**CANYON LAKE:** Water clear; 50 degrees; 6.31' low. White bass are fair vertically jigging 1/4oz. Pirk Minnows and white and chartreuse rubber skirted Road Runners in 12 - 20 feet. Smallmouth bass are good on all chartreuse Custom tungsten spinnerbaits, crawfish Rat-L-Traps, and smoke/red tubes on jig-heads on main lake points and bluff ledges in 6 - 15 feet.

**CEDAR CREEK:** Water lightly stained; 50-57 degrees; 2' low. Black bass are fair on spinnerbaits over grass beds in 8-12 feet. White bass are good on chrome jigging spoons and white slabs on main lake humps. Catfish are fair drift fishing with cut shad.

**COLEMAN:** Water clear; 61 degrees; 6.40' low. Channel and blue catfish are good on shrimp and live bait.

**COLETO CREEK:** Water murky; 66 degrees (74 degrees at hot water discharge); 0.15' low.

Black bass are good on watermelon red and watermelon/green soft plastics, crankbaits, and spinnerbaits. Channel and blue catfish are good on trotlines baited with live perch and stinkbait.

**CORNOE:** Water stained; 0.01' low. Black bass are good on blue/black/purple crankbaits and spinnerbaits, and on dark soft plastics. Catfish are good on stinkbait, liver, and frozen shrimp.

**FAIRFIELD:** Water fairly clear; 56-67 degrees. Black bass are good on Texas rigged worms fished around mid-lake points.

**FALCON:** Water stained; 67 degrees. Black bass are good on watermelon red and black/red beavers, Hoodadys and jigs. Channel and blue catfish are excellent on cut bait.

**FAYETTE:** Water stained; 62 degrees. Black bass are fair on Carolina rigged worms on humps and points in 2 - 25 feet. Channel and blue catfish are good on juglines baited with shrimp, liver, and live perch.

**FORK:** Water clear; 50-57 degrees; 3.26' low. Black bass are fair to good on red Rat-L-Traps and white/chartreuse spinnerbaits in 8 feet along main lake grass lines. The deeper bite (18-26 feet) is fair on drop shot rigs. Crappie are fair on minnows in 30-36 feet on the deep flats on the lower end of the lake.

**GIBBONS CREEK:** Water stained. Black bass are good on chartreuse/blue and chartreuse/black spinnerbaits and crankbaits, and on dark soft plastics. Catfish are good on stinkbait, live bait, and frozen shrimp.

**GRANBURY:** Water stained; 0.61' low. Striped bass are fair on silver stripers jigs and minnows. Crappie are good on minnows. Catfish are good on stinkbait and shrimp.

**GRANGER:** Water murky; 56 degrees; 0.48' high. Black bass are good on Rat-L-Traps and spinnerbaits upriver and in the Gravel Pit. White bass are good on white jigs at Dickerson's and near the primitive launch.

**GRAPEVINE:** Water stained; 49-57 degrees; 11' low. Black bass are fair on Carolina rigged plastic worms and shad pattern crankbaits in 8-15 feet. Catfish are good on punchbait and fresh shad in 15-20 feet.

**GREENBELT:** Water lightly stained; 37 degrees; 27.92' low. Black bass are fair on dark jigs and live bait. White bass are fair on live bait and crankbaits. Walleye are fair on live baits.

**HOUSTON COUNTY:** Water stained; 51 degrees; 0.65' high. Black bass to 5 pounds are good on watermelon seed lizards near drop offs and in 6 feet.

**HUBBARD CREEK:** Water lightly stained; 49 degrees; 12.22' low. Black bass are fair on live baits and jigs. Crappie are good on jigs and minnows. White bass and hybrid stripers are good on crankbaits and live baits.

**JOE POOL:** Water fairly clear; 50-58 degrees; 0.09' high. Black bass are fair in 8-15 feet on jigs and drop shot rigs around submerged creek ledges. Channel catfish are good drift fishing fresh shad and prepared baits around points and humps in 10-20 feet.

**LAKE O' THE PINES:** Water stained; 49-57 degrees; 0.2' high. Black bass are

fair on slabs, jigs and spinnerbaits. Crappie are fair to good on minnows and jigs.

**LAVON:** Water stained; 50-58 degrees; 7.46' low. Crappie are fair on live minnows and jigs. Catfish are fair to good on cut bait and Catfish Charlie.

**LIB:** Water clear; 47 degrees; 0.12' low. White bass are fair to good trolling Shad Raps and vertically jigging Tiny Traps and Pirk Minnows under birds. Crappie are fair to good on live minnows and crappie jigs around boat docks.

**LEWISVILLE:** Water stained; 51-58 degrees; 5.68' low. Crappie are fair to good on minnows and black/chartreuse jigs in 15-30 feet around boathouses and bridge columns. White bass are good on jigging spoons in 20-24 feet around main lake points and humps. Catfish are good on cut bait on main lake points and humps in 12-25 feet.

**LIVINGSTON:** Water murky; 50 degrees; 0.04' high. Crappie are good on minnows. Blue catfish are good on cut bait and shad.

**MACKENZIE:** Water lightly stained; 37 degrees; 6.75' low. Crappie are fair on minnows and jigs. White bass and striped bass are fair on slabs and live bait. Catfish are fair on live baits.

**MEDINA:** Water stained; 53 degrees; 36.73' low. White bass are good on live minnows and trolling pearl crankbaits off main lake points in 10 - 25 feet. Catfish to 6 pounds are good on Lewis' Select catfish bait and live shad, and on juglines baited with perch.

**MEREDITH:** Water lightly stained; 36 degrees; 32.2' low. Crappie are fair on jigs and minnows. Walleye are fair on slabs tipped with minnows.

**MONTICELLO:** Water off color; 55-68 degrees. Black bass are good on drop shot rigs, Rat-L-Traps, gold jigging spoons and spinnerbaits. Catfish are fair to good on prepared baits.

**NASWORTHY:** Water lightly stained; 49 degrees. Black bass are fair. Catfish are good on live baits.

**O.H. IVIE:** Water lightly stained; 48 degrees; 21.56' low. Black bass are fair on live baits and crankbaits along secondary points. White bass are good on live baits and crankbaits. Channel catfish are good on prepared baits.

**PALESTINE:** Water fairly clear; 49-57 degrees; 0.12' high. Black bass are good on jigs and trick worms in 8-12 feet. Catfish are good on fresh cutbait along channels in 20-24 feet.

**PALO DURO:** Water lightly stained; 33 degrees; 47.8' low. Crappie are fair on jigs and minnows. Walleye are fair on crankbaits and live bait.

**POSSUM KINGDOM:** Water clear; 50 degrees; 2.4' low. Black bass are fair in lower half of reservoir near docks and back of coves on heavy jigs or shad imitation crankbaits with 12.1-lb. bass caught Feb 7.

**PROCTOR:** Water clear; 42 degrees; 8.72' low. Crappie are good on minnows and jigs. Channel and blue catfish are good on shrimp and shad.

**RAY HUBBARD:** Water fairly clear; 49-57 degrees; 1.57' low. Black bass are fair on Texas and Carolina rigged worms, drop shot rigs and jigs. Crappie are fair on minnows and jigs 12-15 feet. White bass are good on slabs.

**RAY ROBERTS:** Water murky; 50-58 degrees; 7.06' low. Crappie are fair around the dam suspended in 40 feet. Catfish are fair to good on punch bait under roosting cormorants.

**RICHLAND CHAMBERS:** Water fairly clear; 49-58 degrees; 6.47' low. White bass are good on white or chartreuse slabs fished close to the bottom in 20-24 feet. Catfish are good drift fishing with fresh shad in 15-20 feet around the 309 Flats.

**SAM RAYBURN:** Water murky; 68 degrees; 0.98' high. Crappie are good on minnows and blue/gold flake tube jigs.

**SOMERVILLE:** Water stained; 59 degrees; 0.07' high. Black bass are fair on jigs.

**STAMFORD:** Water lightly stained; 50 degrees; 3' low. Crappie are fair on jigs and minnows. White and striped bass are fair on live baits.

**STILLHOUSE:** Water fairly clear; 50 degrees; 2.32' low. Crappie are fair on minnows. Channel and blue catfish are fair on minnows and liver.

**TAWAKONI:** Water stained; 50-57 degrees; 8.14' low. Crappie are good on live minnows jigs in 12-18 feet. White bass are fair to good on white or chartreuse slabs fished close to the bottom. Catfish are good on fresh shad and prepared baits in 15-20 feet around points close to the mouth of creeks.

**TEXOMA:** Water clear; 49-57 degrees; 1.44' low. Black bass are fair on jigs and soft plastics fished around boat docks. Striped bass are good on live shad, Sassy Shad and slabs in 20-40 feet. Blue catfish are excellent on cut bait and live shad along the submerged river ledges and adjacent flats.

**TOLEDO BEND:** Water stained; 57 degrees; 2.21' low. Black bass are fair on white and white/chartreuse spinnerbaits in shallow areas. White bass are fair on crankbaits and spinnerbaits.

**TRAVIS:** Water clear; 54 degrees; 34.20' low. Black bass to 5 pounds are good on football jigs, crawfish crankbaits, and dark worms in 8 - 32 feet. Channel and blue catfish to 28 pounds are good on fresh cut bait and nightcrawlers in 25 - 40 feet.

**WALTER E. LONG:** Water clear; 64 degrees. Hybrid stripers are good on minnows and shrimp. Crappie are good on minnows.

**WEATHERFORD:** Water stained; 50-57 degrees; 9.05' low. Crappie are fair to good in the crappie house and boat slips.

**WHITE RIVER:** Water lightly stained; 50 degrees; 27' low. Crappie are good on jigs and minnows. Channel catfish are good on live and cut bait.

**WHITNEY:** Water stained; 7.77' low. Black bass are fair on chartreuse and pumpkinseed soft plastics and Rat-L-Traps. Catfish are good on stinkbait and shrimp.

**WICHITA:** Water clearing; 49 degrees; full at spillway. White bass and hybrid striped bass are good on minnows and orange rooster tails along the dam, near pier poles, and on live shad and a bobber by spillway. Channel catfish are good on along north side of the upper end of reservoir on punchbait.

**WRIGHT PATMAN:** Water fairly clear; 50-57 degrees; 5.42' high. White bass are good on slabs and live minnows.

## HOT SPOT



## CHOKE CANYON

Water lightly stained; 55 degrees; 7.58' low. Black bass are good on watermelon red crankbaits on main lake points early, and later on white grubs and chartreuse soft plastics over submerged structure in 15 - 35 feet.

Channel and blue catfish are excellent on stinkbait and cut shad in 15 - 30 feet. Yellow catfish are good on trot-lines baited with live perch.

high. Black bass are fair on jigs.

**STAMFORD:** Water lightly stained; 50 degrees; 3' low. Crappie are fair on jigs and minnows. White and striped bass are fair on live baits.



**RIGHT ON TARGET:** A hunter takes aim at a gobbler.

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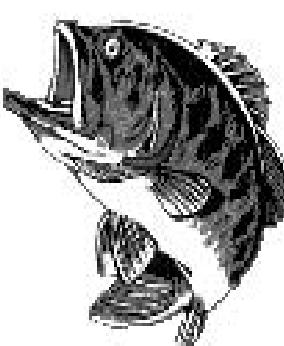
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## Turkey

*Continued from Page 6*

different paths, or better yet, no path at all. Don't always hoot or call from the same places. Switch to call types that aren't popular in your area.

As to calling style, the best general advice is to back off and tone down. Don't use bold, loud and aggressive calls — that's what the gobblers have been hearing all season. Many old-timers merely cluck, not too loudly and not too often.

A gobbler that has survived into the latter part of turkey season is no dummy. To hunt him successfully, you have to be just as cautious as he is.

Henned-up gobblers are one of the toughest challenges in turkey hunting. Hung-up gobblers are a close second. A gobbler with hens may answer your calling, but will seldom leave them. Many times the hens will try to lead the gobbler away. When a gobbler answers but moves away, it indicates he is with hens.

A stationary gobbling bird that simply won't budge is truly hung up. Often he is across a creek or some other obstacle he doesn't want to cross. Sometimes he is in his favorite strutting area and doesn't want to leave.

Frequently the hunter unknowingly encourages the gobbler to stay

put by calling too much, convincing the gobbler the "hen" is on the way.

One strategy for versatile hunters is to change calls or style of calling. Another is to simply shut up and play hard-to-get. The third, and most risky, is to change calling positions to shake the hung-up gobbler loose.

Sometimes it just makes sense to move on a gobbler you are working. This is particularly true of "hung-up" birds that for one reason or another won't come in. However, moving is a risky maneuver because if that bird spots you, your chances are gone.

If you decide you must move, make your plan in advance. Know exactly where you are going and how you are going to get there. Next, make sure you know where the gobbler is and that he can't see you.

Often gobblers will walk back and forth as they gobble and strut. Time your move to when he is farthest away. Moving on a silent gobbler is a bad idea, since he may be on his way. You've decided on this play, so make your move without hesitation.

Finally, don't leave your decoy standing behind. More than one hunter has successfully moved, only to have the gobbler change his mind and go to the decoy left at the first set-up spot. That's the ultimate frustration.

## Hogs

*Continued from Page 6*

said. "Our rules are in place because of those two diseases and those two diseases only."

The Sunset report stated there are 2 million rapidly-reproducing feral hogs in Texas, which amounts to 50 percent of all wild pigs in the United States.

And all of them are potential carriers of diseases that "they can

transmit to domestic livestock," according to the report.

Hillman noted 15 cows in eastern Texas were recently sickened by brucellosis, the bacteria that causes swine brucellosis, and the likely source was feral swine.

In another instance, Hillman said, a rancher had to delay the sale of 80 heifers when two of them tested positive for the disease. The others were allowed to be sold after being quarantined and additional blood tests were done. But, he added, anyone seeking a

modification to the agency's rules can petition its board in writing. Public hearings are subsequently scheduled; the group's next meeting is May 10 in Austin.

If the commission subsequently agrees to let game ranches become "slaughter destinations," Koehler said he didn't think it would hurt his business.

"I think wild boars are just everywhere in Texas," he said, "and I don't think it would put a dent in us. It would be free enterprise."

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### TIDES

	High	Low	High	Low	Freeport	High	Low	High	Low	Corpus Christi	High	Low	High	Low
Sabine Pass	5:40 a.m.	11:16 a.m.	4:00 p.m.	11:41 p.m.	3/7	5:41 a.m.	10:46 a.m.	4:01 p.m.	11:11 p.m.	3/7	5:49 a.m.	10:24 a.m.	4:09 p.m.	10:49 p.m.
3/8	6:55 a.m.	11:50 a.m.	3:39 p.m.	—	3/8	6:56 a.m.	11:20 a.m.	3:40 p.m.	11:50 p.m.	3/8	7:04 a.m.	10:58 a.m.	3:48 p.m.	11:28 p.m.
3/9	8:19 a.m.	12:20 a.m.	2:47 p.m.	12:27 p.m.	3/9	8:20 a.m.	11:57 a.m.	2:48 p.m.	—	3/9	8:28 a.m.	11:35 a.m.	2:56 p.m.	—
3/10	9:59 a.m.	1:06 a.m.	2:11 p.m.	1:03 p.m.	3/10	10:00 a.m.	12:36 a.m.	2:12 p.m.	12:33 p.m.	3/10	10:08 a.m.	12:14 a.m.	2:20 p.m.	12:11 p.m.
3/11	2:59 p.m.	3:01 a.m.	—	—	3/11	3:00 p.m.	2:31 a.m.	—	—	3/11	3:08 p.m.	2:09 a.m.	—	—
3/12	3:12 p.m.	4:06 a.m.	—	—	3/12	3:13 p.m.	3:36 a.m.	—	—	3/12	3:21 p.m.	3:14 a.m.	—	—
3/13	3:20 p.m.	5:16 a.m.	—	—	3/13	3:21 p.m.	4:46 a.m.	—	—	3/13	3:29 p.m.	4:24 a.m.	—	—
3/14	3:19 p.m.	6:23 a.m.	—	—	3/14	3:20 p.m.	5:53 a.m.	—	—	3/14	3:28 p.m.	5:31 a.m.	—	—
3/15	3:22 p.m.	7:23 a.m.	11:16 p.m.	7:47 p.m.	3/15	3:23 p.m.	6:53 a.m.	11:17 p.m.	7:17 p.m.	3/15	3:31 p.m.	6:31 a.m.	11:25 p.m.	6:55 p.m.
3/16	3:29 p.m.	8:18 a.m.	—	8:18 p.m.	3/16	3:30 p.m.	7:48 a.m.	—	7:48 p.m.	3/16	3:38 p.m.	7:26 a.m.	—	7:26 p.m.
3/17	12:59 a.m.	9:09 a.m.	3:37 p.m.	9:01 p.m.	3/17	1:00 a.m.	8:39 a.m.	3:38 p.m.	8:31 p.m.	3/17	1:08 a.m.	8:38 a.m.	3:25 p.m.	8:09 p.m.
3/18	2:25 a.m.	9:59 a.m.	3:46 p.m.	9:47 p.m.	3/18	2:26 a.m.	9:29 a.m.	3:47 p.m.	9:17 p.m.	3/18	2:34 a.m.	9:07 a.m.	3:55 p.m.	8:55 p.m.
3/19	3:46 a.m.	10:50 a.m.	3:55 p.m.	10:35 p.m.	3/19	3:47 a.m.	10:20 a.m.	3:56 p.m.	10:05 p.m.	3/19	3:55 a.m.	9:58 a.m.	4:04 p.m.	9:43 p.m.
3/20	5:06 a.m.	11:44 a.m.	4:03 p.m.	11:24 p.m.	3/20	5:07 a.m.	11:14 a.m.	4:04 p.m.	10:54 p.m.	3/20	5:15 a.m.	10:52 a.m.	4:12 p.m.	10:32 p.m.
3/21	6:26 a.m.	12:43 p.m.	4:08 p.m.	—	3/21	6:27 a.m.	12:13 p.m.	4:09 p.m.	11:46 p.m.	3/21	6:35 a.m.	11:51 a.m.	4:17 p.m.	11:24 p.m.
3/22	7:50 a.m.	12:16 a.m.	3:58 p.m.	2:00 p.m.	3/22	7:51 a.m.	1:30 p.m.	3:59 p.m.	—	3/22	7:59 a.m.	1:08 p.m.	4:07 p.m.	—
3/23	9:21 a.m.	1:12 a.m.	—	—	3/23	9:22 a.m.	12:42 a.m.	—	—	3/23	9:30 a.m.	12:20 a.m.	—	—
3/24	11:03 a.m.	2:15 a.m.	—	—	3/24	11:04 a.m.	1:45 a.m.	—	—	3/24	11:12 a.m.	1:23 a.m.	—	—
3/25	12:47 p.m.	3:28 a.m.	—	—	3/25	12:48 p.m.	2:58 a.m.	—	—	3/25	12:56 p.m.	2:36 a.m.	—	—
3/26	1:59 p.m.	4:50 a.m.	—	—	3/26	2:00 p.m.	4:20 a.m.	—	—	3/26	2:08 p.m.	3:58 a.m.	—	—
3/27	2:42 p.m.	6:13 a.m.	—	—	3/27	2:43 p.m.	5:43 a.m.	—	—	3/27	2:51 p.m.	5:21 a.m.	—	—
Port Bolivar					Pass Cavallo					South Padre Island				
3/7	7:55 a.m.	12:03 p.m.	6:15 p.m.	—	3/7	6:58 a.m.	10:34 a.m.	5:18 p.m.	10:59 p.m.	3/7	5:52 a.m.	11:36 a.m.	2:44 p.m.	10:43 p.m.
3/8	9:10 a.m.	12:28 a.m.	5:54 p.m.	12:37 p.m.	3/8	8:13 a.m.	11:08 a.m.	4:57 p.m.	11:38 p.m.	3/8	7:19 a.m.	11:20 p.m.	—	—
3/9	10:34 a.m.	1:07 a.m.	5:02 p.m.	1:14 p.m.	3/9	9:37 a.m.	11:45 a.m.	4:05 p.m.	—	3/9	9:16 a.m.	—	—	—
3/10	12:14 p.m.	1:53 a.m.	4:26 p.m.	1:50 p.m.	3/10	11:17 a.m.	12:24 a.m.	3:29 p.m.	12:21 p.m.	3/10	11:35 a.m.	12:05 a.m.	—	—
3/11	5:14 p.m.	3:48 a.m.	—	—	3/11	4:17 p.m.	2:19 a.m.	—	—	3/11	1:48 p.m.	1:02 a.m.	—	—
3/12	5:27 p.m.	4:53 a.m.	—	—	3/12	4:30 p.m.	3:24 a.m.	—	—	3/12	2:35 p.m.	3:10 a.m.	—	—
3/13	5:35 p.m.	6:03 a.m.	—	—	3/13	4:38 p.m.	4:34 a.m.	—	—	3/13	3:13 p.m.	4:21 a.m.	—	—
3/14	5:34 p.m.	7:10 a.m.	—	—	3/14	4:37 p.m.	5:41 a.m.	—	—	3/14	3:43 p.m.	5:29 a.m.	—	—
3/15	5:37 p.m.	8:10 a.m.	—	8:34 p.m.	3/15	4:40 p.m.	6:41 a.m.	—	7:05 p.m.	3/15	4:03 p.m.	6:33 a.m.	—	—
3/16	1:31 a.m.	9:05 a.m.	5:44 p.m.	9:05 p.m.	3/16	12:34 a.m.	7:36 a.m.	4:47 p.m.	7:36 p.m.	3/16	4:11 p.m.	7:32 a.m.	—	8:54 p.m.
3/17	3:14 a.m.	9:56 a.m.	5:52 p.m.	9:48 p.m.	3/17	2:17 a.m.	8:27 a.m.	4:55 p.m.	8:19 p.m.	3/17	12:09 a.m.	4:09 p.m.	8:53 p.m.	—
3/18	4:40 a.m.	10:46 a.m.	6:01 p.m.	10:34 p.m.	3/18	3:43 a.m.	9:17 a.m.	5:04 p.m.	9:05 p.m.	3/18	2:07 a.m.	9:30 a.m.	3:58 p.m.	9:17 p.m.
3/19	6:01 a.m.	11:37 a.m.	6:10 p.m.	11:22 p.m.	3/19	5:04 a.m.	10:08 a.m.	5:13 p.m.	9:53 p.m.	3/19	3:45 a.m.	10:32 a.m.	3:41 p.m.	9:52 p.m.
3/20	7:21 a.m.	12:31 p.m.	6:18 p.m.	—	3/20	6:24 a.m.	11:02 a.m.	5:21 p.m.	10:42 p.m.	3/20	5:18 a.m.	11:44 a.m.	3:12 p.m.	10:34 p.m.
3/21	8:41 a.m.	12:11 a.m.	6:23 p.m.	1:30 p.m.	3/21	7:44 a.m.	12:01 p.m.	5:26 p.m.	11:34 p.m.	3/21	6:52 a.m.	11:23 p.m.	—	—
3/22	10:05 a.m.	1:03 a.m.	6:13 p.m.	2:47 p.m.	3/22	9:08 a.m.	1:18 p.m.	5:16 p.m.	—	3/22	8:33 a.m.	—	—	—
3/23	11:36 a.m.	1:59 a.m.	—	—	3/23	10:39 a.m.	12:30 a.m.	—	—	3/23	10:24 a.m.	12:17 a.m.	—	—
3/24	1:18 p.m.	3:02 a.m.	—	—	3/24	12:21 p.m.	1:33 a.m.	—	—	3/24	12:12 p.m.	1:19 a.m.	—	—
3/25	3:02 p.m.	4:15 a.m.	—	—	3/25	2:05 p.m.	2:46 a.m.	—	—	3/25	1:34 p.m.	2:28 a.m.	—	—
3/26	4:14 p.m.	5:37 a.m.	—	—	3/26	3:17 p.m.	4:08 a.m.	—	—	3/26	2:29 p.m.	3:44 a.m.	—	—
3/27	4:57 p.m.	7:00 a.m.	—	—	3/27	4:00 p.m.	5:31 a.m.	—	—	3/27	3:05 p.m.	5:01 a.m.	—	—

### MOON PHASES

Last Mar 11	New Mar 18	First Mar 25	Full Apr 2

### SOLUNAR TABLE Major/Minor periods:

Houston	Dallas	San Antonio	Amarillo
3/7	1:24a/7:34a	10:16p/4:03p	1:30a/7:40a
3/8	1:45p/7:55p	10:38a/4:2	

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250 hp	3 Years	\$2,600	Free + \$750 BONUS**
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200 hp	3 Years	\$2,000	Free
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115 hp	3 Years	\$1,000	Free
60-90 hp	3 Years	\$900	Free
50 hp	3 Years	\$534	Free

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250-300 hp	3 Years	\$2,600	Free
225 hp	3 Years	\$2,200	Free
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**\*PROGRAM TERMS AND CONDITIONS:** Y.E.S. Benefit and Credit Benefit available on eligible models only. Consumer Y.E.S. Benefit for purchasing an eligible Yamaha 50 – 250 hp four stroke or eligible 150 – 300 hp HPDI two stroke outboard is a 36 month Yamaha Extended Service contract at no extra cost to consumer. (Choice offered in Florida is a 36 month Yamaha Limited Warranty) NO BENEFIT SUBSTITUTIONS. To be eligible, models must be new (unused, not previously warranty registered) have been manufactured with a model year designation of 2005 or have been manufactured since April, 2005 and sold in the U.S.A. from authorized participating Yamaha outboard dealers in the U.S.A. Limited to eligible outboards in dealer inventory sold, delivered and warranty registered from January 3, 2007 to March 31, 2007. No model substitutions or rain checks will be allowed. All outboards must be warranty registered on YMBS by the dealer in accordance with Yamaha's promotion and warranty registration requirements. Outboards sold/provided for commercial, camp, resort, guide, demo, rental, government agency use, competition, tournament or sponsorship use are not eligible. Yamaha reserves the right to change or cancel this promotion at any time. This promotion cannot be used in conjunction with any other Yamaha offer. Other restrictions and conditions apply. See authorized participating dealers for details.

\*\*Consumer Credit Benefit for eligible 150 and 250 hp four stroke outboards ONLY is a \$750.00 credit based on M.S.R.P towards the purchase of goods and/or services at the authorized participating Yamaha Outboard dealer that sold the outboard.

REMEMBER to always observe all applicable boating laws. Never drink and drive. Dress properly with a USCG-approved personal floatation device and protective gear. © 2007 Yamaha Motor Corporation
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# HEROES



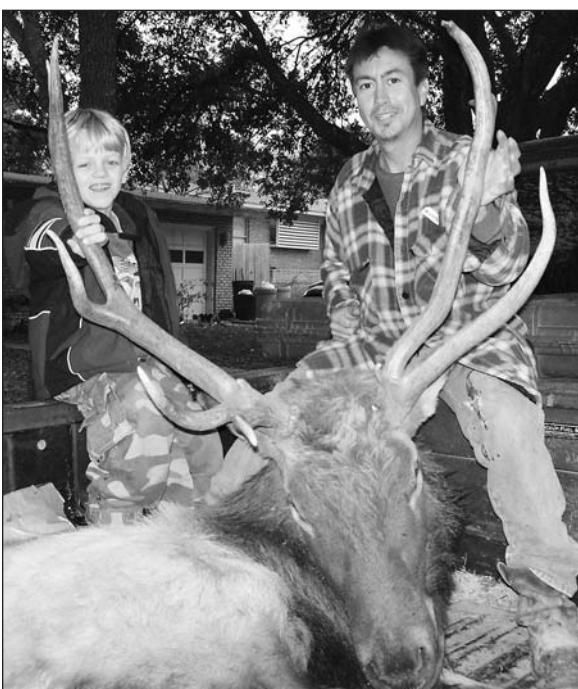
HANNAH SMITH with her second biggest fish, 7 pounds, 4 ounces. Her biggest was estimated to be more than 10 pounds. Both were released.



ROGER SOAPE'S 2-year-old hunting buddy, DELTA, proudly poses with four greenheads and a bluewing teal taken just west of Houston.



LILI SAMS, 13, with her first deer. Taken in South Texas — 11 points, 22-inch spread and a 142 B&C gross score. She shot the buck at 81 yards using a 7mm Mauser.



DAVID G. REINA, of San Antonio, was hunting on his family's ranch in Real County when he took down this free-roaming elk with his .223 caliber. Shown with David is CHRESTON HOUSTON.



From 206 yards, DALTON MORAVITS shot this 115-pound deer with a .270 caliber rifle.

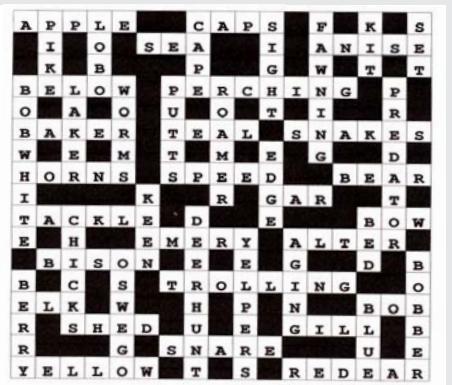


ARTHUR TOSCANO and R.J. NAVARRO, 5, hold up R.J.'s first fish. It was caught and released at a private ranch near San Antonio.



MIKO GARCIA II of Laredo shot his first buck in Webb county. It was a 10-pointer.

**CROSSWORD  
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PAGE 24**



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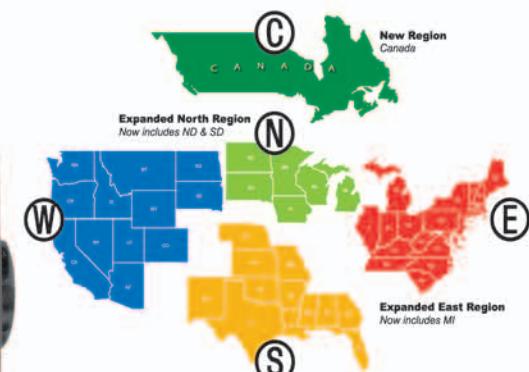
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