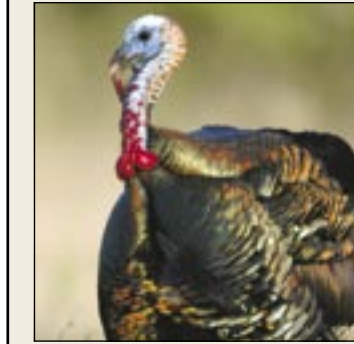


LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS



Turkeys incoming

Hunters around the state are calling in gobblers and filling their turkey tags. **Page 6**

★ April 10, 2009

Texas' Premier Outdoor Newspaper

Volume 5, Issue 16 ★

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INSIDE HUNTING



New rules for dove?

North Zone dove hunters might have a longer season, and Central and South hunters might see an increased bag limit. **Page 6**

Comal Co. sausage

Deer hunters in Comal County have a hot way of sharing experiences: dried sausage. **Page 6**

FISHING



Flounder, gar, cats

Texas anglers have new regulations for flounder, alligator gar and blue catfish. **Page 8**

A record mullet?

Scott Lindner owns the title of mullet master for his 10.375-pound catch. **Page 9**

CONSERVATION



Lavon nest boxes

The Allen chapter of DU recently installed wood duck boxes at Lake Lavon. **Page 4**

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Reusable redfish lures

Give old, beat-up lures a second life

By Danno Wise
FOR LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

Redfish anglers looking to stretch a dollar need look no further than their tackle box. Artificial baits are often regarded as disposable. Although no lure lasts forever, most have a function beyond their originally intended use. With a little imagination and a bit of tweaking, many popular lure models can enjoy a second life.

The transitions are easy and many are obvious. It's usually just a matter of getting in the habit of reusing lures in different ways before tossing them out.

One alteration is trimming straight-tail jerkbaits. Saltwater jerkbaits are all effective for redfish and other species. Most often, when these baits get beat up, it's the head that suffers the dam-

INSIDE
■ Redfish report:
Weather pounds
Texas coast.
Page 8



BEATEN BUT NOT BROKEN: Artificial shrimp and other redfish lures may be modified for other uses after being damaged by redfish or other bait-busting fish. Photo by David J. Sams, Lone Star Outdoor News.

See **REDFISH**, Page 15

Riddle of the rattler

Snake hunters give tips for serpent success

By Thomas Phillips
LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

Let's see, dove season's done, deer season, too. Turkey season is on right now, but maybe that's not your thing.

Hogs are everywhere, yes, but maybe you shot one (or more) of those at your deer feeder.

What to hunt now is a good question, and it might also have something to do with animals that hang out at the feeder: rattlesnakes.

"It's a good hobby, a good sport for some people," said Herbert Hoover, a rancher and oil field worker in Fisher County who has been hunting diamondback rattlesnakes for 50 years. "A lot of people are scared of snakes. I've hunted all my life, and I'm not scared of snakes. But I'm aware of what they do. It's a pretty scary thing."

Several thousand pounds of rattlesnakes are gathered every year at roundups around Texas and oth-



SLITHER: Eric Timaeus Jr., right, shows off a western diamondback rattlesnake he caught with his father. Eric Sr. is one of the top snake hunters in the state, often catching some of the largest rattlers around. Photo by Erich Schlegel, for Lone Star Outdoor News.

er states. They pour from boxes and cans into large pits, where they join with hundreds of other slithering beasts.

One by one they are milked for their venom, decapitated and butchered.

Before they arrive at the roundup, snake hunters collect them in dens and crannies across the rugged landscape, and they generally employ similar methods for catching and keeping some of the most dangerous animals on the planet.

Wake-up call

To catch rattlesnakes, hunters use gasoline fumes and long-handled hooks and tongs.

Hoover uses tongs to pick up snakes and lower them into a box.

Once he finds a den, he will collect any snakes outside and then turn his attention inward.

Using a mirror, Hoover casts light inside. Sunlight

See **RATTLESNAKE**, Page 22

License prices could increase

Plan would raise cost to hunt, fish

Texas Parks and Wildlife commissioners proposed increasing fees for hunting and fishing licenses and boat registration by more than 5 percent at their meeting last month.

Fees would increase 5 percent and be rounded up to the nearest dollar. The resident freshwater fishing package would increase from \$28 to \$30. The resident hunting license would increase from \$23 to \$25. And the Super Combo hunting and fishing license would increase from \$64 to \$68.

See **FEES**, Page 15

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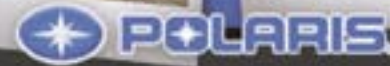
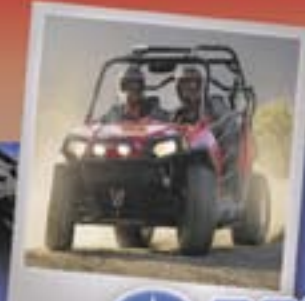
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CONSERVATION

DU chapter helps wood ducks

Group looking for assistance

To provide nesting cavities for wood ducks in North Texas, the Allen Chapter of Ducks Unlimited recently installed 11 wood duck boxes at Lake Lavon. Committee members, including two green wings (children under 17), donated all the materials, built the boxes and erected them along a shoreline around and in the lake near Mallard Park on the eastern side. The chapter worked with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to determine the best locations for the boxes.

The boxes need to be cleaned out and resupplied with cedar shavings annually to entice birds to reuse them the next year. A youth group is being sought to take on the responsibility starting next winter before nesting season.

Wood ducks are one of a few species of waterfowl that nest in tree cavities. With development, loss of native wetlands, flood control and the frequent cutting down of dead trees with cavities, the boxes provide additional nesting habitat for local birds.

— Allen DU report



BIRD HOUSE: Volunteers Ryan Love, left, and Brad Yearwood secure a wood duck nesting box on a tree over the water at Lake Lavon. Photo by Scott Brown.

Conservation News in Brief

Dinner successful for Park Cities QU

The Park Cities Quail Unlimited banquet again topped the nation in funds raised for quail research, education and youth programs.

More than 720 people attended the banquet, raising \$328,231 in net proceeds, the second largest ever for QU. The amount was topped only by last year's event.

T. Boone Pickens will serve as chairman emeritus, and Matt Perry-Miller will be banquet chair in 2010.

— Park Cities Quail Unlimited report

bring this new hatchery to East Texas," said Carter Smith, TPW executive director. "He knew many people from all walks of life, and he helped bring together the regional coalition that made this project possible."



Parker

The \$27 million hatchery is expected to be completed early next year and be able to deliver 4.5 million fish annually for stocking.

— Texas Parks and Wildlife report

Hatchery named for commissioner

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission passed a resolution naming the new fish hatchery being built near Jasper the John D. Parker East Texas State Fish Hatchery after the late commissioner from Lufkin, who died Jan. 26.

Parker supported the creation of the new hatchery, calling it "a wise investment, which will benefit all Texans for many years to come."

"Commissioner Parker helped

Seguin warden is Officer of the Year

Game Warden Tracy Large of Seguin was named the Texas Wildlife Law Enforcement Officer of the Year by the National Wild Turkey Federation.

In addition to his law enforcement duties in Guadalupe County, Large presents programs to schools and organizations. He coordinates activities that introduce youth, novice hunters and novice anglers to outdoor experiences.

— Texas Parks and Wildlife report

Grant money, partnerships will help boost wetlands on Texas coast

Ducks Unlimited was awarded a North American Wetlands Conservation grant to enhance more than 5,728 acres of wetland habitat in Chambers and Jefferson counties along the Texas coast. Partners contributed more than \$2 million to match the \$1 million received from the federal grant.

The project will restore high priority wintering habitat for waterfowl and other migratory birds within the Chenier Plain of Texas.

"These habitats support a rich diversity of wildlife species," said Todd Merendino, DU's manager of conservation programs for Texas. "The planned restoration activities will partially compensate for the region's degradation and loss of fresh and intermediate marshes and prairie grasslands and will maximize waterfowl and other migratory bird values on the project areas by improving breeding, migration and wintering habitat."

Under the proposal, partners will restore and enhance 5,728 acres of wetlands and associated transitional upland habitats.

Grant funds will also be used to restore and enhance 2,639 acres of coastal marsh at McFaddin National Wildlife Refuge, Anahuac NWR and J.D. Murphree Wildlife Management Area.

— Ducks Unlimited report

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NATIONAL

Peru eases restrictions with groups' guidance

More than 100 native species now huntable

Peru passed groundbreaking legislation that will allow sportsmen to hunt more than 100 species of wildlife, including big game and bird

species found only in that nation, thanks to the efforts of hunters and conservationists.

The legislation establishes a framework where hunting provides conservation funding and wildlife awareness in Peru, a system similar to that found in the United States. Earlier hunting laws restricted even the most law-abiding citizens from complying, no methods to fund wildlife conservation activ-

ities existed in Peru, and many species were poached to near extinction.

The National Wild Turkey Federation, the Peruvian Hunters Association and the Central Peru Chapter of Safari Club International worked to legalize hunting and create formal conservation guidelines for more than five years.

"The new regulations provide for the sustainable use of wildlife and

usher in a new era of sport hunting and management not only in Peru but also in Latin America," said J. Thomas Saldias, founder of the Peruvian Hunters Association.

Besides allowing local and international hunters to obtain licenses more easily, the new hunting regulations also allow hunters to legally export trophies from Peru and impose a five-year jail sentence for convicted poachers.

Though Peru is not home to wild turkeys, the country offers a multitude of huntable birds, including quail, partridge, doves, pigeons, ducks and geese. Big game such as South American white-tailed deer, puma, wild goats, collared peccary, capybara and gray brocket, which are similar to deer, may be available for hunting.

— National Wild Turkey Federation report

National News in Brief

Third-grader bags new state record catfish on Mississippi

On his first day of spring break, 10-year-old Dakota Hinson of Natchez, Miss., had a record-breaking day on the Mississippi River when he landed a 95-pound blue catfish March 20.

The fish was 55 inches long and 41 inches in girth, and it beat the old state record by 2 pounds. It was caught on cut shad near Adams County.

Hinson was fishing with his cousin Earl Stafford and family friend David Renfro on the Mississippi River south of Natchez.

"We're always excited when a state record gets broken," said Ron Garavelli, Mississippi Department of Wildlife and Fisheries fisheries bureau director. "It's even better when one of our younger anglers is the one getting the big fish."

The fish has been certified as a new state record and was donated to the Mississippi Museum of Natural Science in Jackson to be studied.

— Staff report



RECORD CAT: Dakota Hinson, 10, of Natchez, Miss., caught the state record blue catfish on the Mississippi River south of Natchez. The fish weighed 95 pounds, beating the former record by 2 pounds, and Hinson caught it using cut shad.

bass list when they reeled in bass tipping the scales at over 14 pounds.

Tim O'Connor of Oklahoma City landed his 14-pound, 1-ounce bass Feb. 27 from a private pond in Pottawatomie County using a jig and craw setup. He released the fish.

And on March 7, Jeremiah Johnson of Bristow landed a 14-pound, 5.9-ounce bass from Wetumka Lake, using a 7-inch Zellmander Carolina rig. The live fish was turned over to Bass Pro Shops in Broken Arrow for display. Johnson's fish also is a Wetumka Lake record.

— Oklahoma Wildlife Department report

Big bass season starts with two 14-pounders in Oklahoma

Texas isn't the only state producing big bass this spring. Two Oklahoma anglers made the states' top 20 largemouth

★ Texas' Premier Outdoor Newspaper ★

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HUNTING

Gobbling begins despite wind, storms

Some mature toms approach hunters silently

By Craig Nyhus
LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

Gobbling activity was on and off in much of the state as turkey hunters hit their calls with the season now open statewide. Hunters reported that the jakes and younger toms provided most of the noise, with mature gobblers often coming to the calls and decoys without a peep in many areas.

Liz Foster of Dallas took two young-

sters out for the opening youth weekend near Archer City, and Taylor Bates of Pineville, La., and Max Piegrass of Dallas took good toms.

"They were gobbling and gobbling," Foster said. "It was cold, it snowed and it was windy. But the hunting was fantastic — lots of 3-year-olds."

The next weekend was a different story. "It was horrible — extremely windy," she said. "The hens aren't interested but the gobblers are trying — I just don't think they like to make much noise when it's so windy."

A tom came in silently for 10-year-old Tyler Mack Johnson of Del Rio, who hunted with his father on their 110 acres north of town. The tom strutted and finally gobbled after Johnson's father, Rog-

er, made a soft cluck. The 25-yard shot was true on the mature tom with an 8.5-inch beard and one spur of 1.75 inches.

Bob Lowry of Horseshoe Bay hunted near Round Mountain during a thunderstorm and harvested a gobbler with a 10-inch beard.

"When it started thundering, they started gobbling, and I called in three big ones," he said.

Charlie Stockstill of Albany hunted near Vernon and saw lots of henned-up toms.

"We saw plenty of jakes again this year, too," he said. "The jakes and toms would respond to calls but they didn't come in."

See **TURKEY**, Page 21



FIRST TOM:

Gus Wheeler, 12, of San Antonio, right, harvested his first turkey in the South Zone. The gobbler's beard measured 9 3/16 inches. Wheeler was hunting with his friend Max Westheimer and his father, Jim, on their ranch near Pleasanton.

Dove rules might loosen statewide

Season would be longer in North Zone, limit raised in Central, South

By Thomas Phillips
LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

Proposed regulation changes would give all Texas hunters a 70-day season and 15-bird bag limit for mourning dove statewide.

Texas Parks and Wildlife commissioners gave tentative approval to the plan, which must also be approved by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The new season length and bag limit would add days for hunters in Texas' North Zone. There, the season has been 60 days.

The 10 extra days would be added as a winter split season, and the season dates would match the Central Zone: Sept. 1 through Oct. 25 and Dec. 26 through Jan. 9.

Commissioners also want to change the opening date for the South Zone from the first Friday after Sept. 20 to the Friday nearest Sept. 20 but not before Sept. 17. Federal rules prohibit opening the season in the South Zone before Sept. 17.

The proposal has dove season in the South Zone set for Sept. 18 through Nov. 3 and Dec. 26 through Jan. 17. The bag limit would be 15 birds with not more than two white-tipped doves.

The Special South Texas Whitewing Area would open to white-winged dove afternoon-only (noon to sunset) hunting Sept. 5-6 and 12-13, Sept. 18 through Nov. 3 and Dec. 26 through Jan. 13.

The daily bag limit in the SSTWA is 12 birds, not more than four mourning doves during the first two weekend splits and two white-tipped doves. Once the general season opens the aggregate bag limit would be 15.

Another change is also proposed for the SSTWA: a boundary adjustment. TPW proposes removing parts of Starr and Jim Hogg counties and placing them instead in the South Zone.

The move is a response to landowners in the area, said Corey Mason, TPW's program



MORE DOVE: Hunters throughout Texas could see less restrictive regulations next season. The Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission is considering lengthening the season in the Nor

leader for doves and cranes.

North Zone hunters would have a longer season, and hunters in the Central and South Zones would have their bag limit increased from 12 birds to 15.

Central and South Zone hunters could have not more than two white-tipped doves in their bag limit.

Dove regulation changes follow new US-FWS guidelines under consideration for

managing the migratory game birds. The Adaptive Harvest Model of management has been used for ducks for 10 years, and it incorporates population and harvest information in devising season structures.

Sausage contest sees tons of trophies in Comal County

Hunter-cooks judged for recipes, racks at fundraiser

By Ralph Winingham
FOR LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

Call him the "Big Link" or "Sausage King." Bob Voss has claimed the title as the best dried venison sausage maker in the county known across the country as the German Wurst Capital.

Although he holds some of the secrets to his savory links close to the vest, the winner of the ninth annual Comal County Big Buck Contest Banquet dried sausage competition offered two tips for his fellow linksters.

"We use chile tepin peppers and use wild hog in a 50-50 mix with our venison," the 66-year-old Voss said after winning the sausage crown over 33 other contestants in the annual competition.

Chile tepins — round red peppers native to Texas — have a heat rating of 50,000 and 100,000 Scoville

units, putting them close in heat to habanero peppers.

"We pick them at our ranch in Encinal, where we get our deer and hogs," Voss said. "Normally, we make about 1,000 to 1,500 pounds of sausage every year."

He added that the family recipe for dried sausage dates back to his parents. He has been making it for more than 45 years.

The sausage contest was one of the highlights of the annual banquet March 29 at the New Braunfels Civic Center. The banquet pays tribute to the trophy animals taken

in the area during the past hunting season.

In addition to the awards for trophy animals, the contest raises about \$6,000 each year for local charities, provides eight \$1,000 scholarships to local youngsters and donates about two tons of meat to underprivileged families in the area.

"The sausage contest was created as a fun way to see who has the best dried sausage recipe — about everyone who hunts here makes dried sausage," said Sandy Nolte, a former winner and the spokeswoman

for the event's board of directors.

"One year, we had 41 entries, but the average is about three dozen," she said. "Everything must be made from scratch with your own seasonings."

Judges for the sausage contest, Moe Schwab, Dennis Vrana and Jim Hafer, said they rate each entry in areas such as consistency, toughness and flavor.

"Every entry is different," said Schwab, who has been on the judging panel every year the contest has

See **SAUSAGE**, Page 21

Bill would open bow season to crossbows

Opponents: Archery will be harder

By Thomas Phillips
LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

A bill moving through the Legislature would allow hunters to use crossbows during what is now the archery-only season every fall.

Rep. Mark Homer, D-Paris, the bill's sponsor, said a 65-year-old constituent of his asked him to try to change the regulations because he had become weaker as he aged and had trouble using a bow.

Draw weights on bows can make them difficult for people with physical weakness or disabilities to use. Crossbows are allowed during the rifle season, and disabled hunters may use them during the archery season.

Homer met with Texas Parks and Wildlife, which suggested he widen his bill to allow all hunters, not just those 65 and older, to use crossbows.

"We think it enhances the season," Homer said.

The Lone Star Bowhunters Association opposes the change.

Adding crossbow hunters would increase hunting pressure, making bowhunting more difficult, and it would impinge on the tradition of having a separate bowhunting season, said Jack Jetton, the association's president.

Crossbows are more accurate at greater distances, Jetton said, giving hunters who use them an advantage over bowhunters.

"That's why the archery season was put in October, to give us an opportunity before hunting season started," Jetton said.

Homer said crossbows offer a negligible advantage, if any, and the benefits outweigh

the opponents' complaints. Allowing crossbows would give hunters another option, increase sales tax revenue and provide another opportunity for families to spend time together outdoors, he said.

"I just think there are so many positives that go with it," said Homer, who hunts with a rifle but has never hunted with a crossbow.

The state estimates taking in an additional \$153,000 per year in sales of stamps for hunting during the archery season, according to the financial statement accompanying the bill. The estimate assumes about 26,000 more hunters will buy the \$7 stamp every year. (Part of the stamp cost goes to the vendor and to pay for the electronic transaction.)

The bill passed the house with one vote in opposition, from Rep. Larry Phillips, R-Sherman, who represents Grayson County, the only county in the state where deer may only be hunted with bows, no matter the season.



CROSS OVER CROSSBOWS: Opinions vary on the effects of allowing crossbows to be used during bow season. Photo by Bob Hood, for Lone Star Outdoor News.

Hunting News in Brief

TPW approves changes in deer regulations

Texas Parks and Wildlife commissioners approved widespread changes to the state's deer management strategy March 26.

The changes expand special buck antler restrictions and liberalize antlerless harvest, further expand antler restriction regulations, increase bag limits and extend the late antlerless and spike season.

In proposing a more science-based approach to deer management, the department identified 33 unique Resource Management Units across the state having similar soils, vegetation types and land use practices it believes will more accurately capture deer population dynamics. The intent is to develop deer season bag limit frameworks based on these units. Implementation will still track county boundaries to avoid confusion among hunters.

Antler restriction regulations were expanded into 52 additional counties where biologists have identified a need to provide greater protection of younger buck deer. Bag limits were increased in several counties, and a general open season was approved for the first time in Dawson, Deaf Smith and Martin counties (three deer, no more than one buck, no more than two antlerless).

Biologists are also received approval, in certain counties, to open some counties to use of muzzleloaders, extending the season in some counties and changing the bag composition in some counties.

— Staff report

Changes to duck limits possible for Texas hunters

The proposed duck season for the 2009-10 season may see bigger bag limits as the three-year Hunter's Choice experiment has ended.

Under the current proposal, which is subject to federal approval, the daily bag limit would be six birds, with no more than five mallards and only two of which may be hens; three wood ducks; two scaup (lesser scaup and greater scaup in the aggregate); two redheads; one pintail; one canvasback and one dusky duck (mot-



DEER CHANGES: New regulations will apply to deer hunting next season. Photo by David J. Sams, LSON.

ted duck, Mexican-like duck, black duck and their hybrids). The merganser daily bag limit would be five in the aggregate, to include no more than two hooded mergansers. The possession limit would be twice the daily bag limit. The proposed season dates are:

- **High Plains Mallard Management Unit**
Youth: Oct. 17-18
Regular gun: Oct. 24-25, Oct. 30-Jan. 24
 - **North Zone**
Youth: Oct. 24-25
Regular gun: Oct. 31-Nov. 29, Dec. 12-Jan. 24
 - **South Zone**
Youth: Oct. 24-25
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- Texas Parks and Wildlife report

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FISHING

Multiple fronts hamper redfish action on coast

Weather testing guides' skills at finding fish

Coastal redfish anglers have had a frustrating spring. They know the fish are there, but the heavy winds often keep them off the water, and two to three cold fronts each week are moving the fish around.

"The fishing for redfish is actually better when the wind is blowing," said Brian Holden of The

Redfish Lodge in Rockport. "They are hitting crabs or cut shad, and smaller fish are hitting shrimp. We're catching the oversized reds on Gulps and Texas Red Killers."

Holden said the windward shorelines are the

See REPORT, Page 16



FISH FINDERS: With cold fronts blowing in two or three times per week, coastal anglers have their work cut out for them to find fish. Photo by David J. Sams, Lone Star Outdoor News.

Flounder regs changed

Bag limit established for alligator gar; blue cats limited on three lakes

Regulations for catching flounder, alligator gar and blue catfish (on three lakes) became more restrictive at the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission meeting March 26. The regulations take effect Sept. 1.

Anglers will still be able to harvest southern flounder all year, but the bag limit and methods will change.

The saltwater fish's population is declining on the Texas coast, down about 50 percent since the 1980s, according to TPW.

New regulations will halve the daily bag limit from 10 fish to five for recreational anglers and 60 to 30 for commercial.

November will see still tighter rules. Flounder migrate from bays to the Gulf during autumn for spawning, and they become easier to harvest during the transition. To curtail take, only recreational anglers will be allowed to catch flounder during November, with a bag limit of two fish, and they may only catch them using hook and line.

Gigging and commercial harvest will not be allowed during November.

The minimum length limit will remain 14 inches.

Alligator gar plans

Commissioners instituted a one-fish bag limit for alligator gar, whose populations across the Midwest and South are in decline. To preempt declines in Texas, where alligator gar flourish, the commissioners implemented a bag limit of one fish per day on the species.

Alligator gar can grow to several feet long and more than 300 pounds. Females reach sexual maturity at about 12 years of age, when they are about 60 inches long. Males mature in eight years at 40 inches.

They require specific habitat conditions for mating, such as flooded terrestrial vegetation, but can live 75 years.

Texas has the best remaining populations of alligator gar in the United States and has a window of opportunity to protect populations and the fishery, said Phil Durocher, TPW's director of inland fisheries.

The bag limit applies to recreational and commercial anglers. Public opinion mostly favored the bag limit. Comments submitted over the Internet favored the bag limit, while comments at public meetings opposed it.

Alligator gar, which often spend time near the water surface, are a favorite target in bowfishing.

The bag limit might have little effect on most anglers, some of whom view the species as a "trash fish." But one commercial fisherman commissioner cited stands to lose a ton of business. More like 19 tons, really.

The fisherman, whom Durocher did not name in his presentation to commissioners but said is from Mercedes, harvested 38,200 pounds of alligator gar last year, selling the meat for about \$2 per pound.

The commission closed the alligator gar season in May in Cooke and Grayson coun-



NEW REGULATIONS:

Above, gigging and commercial angling for flounder will not be allowed in November under new state rules. Left, a bag limit has been approved for alligator gar. Above photo by David J. Sams, LSON. Left photo by Texas Parks and Wildlife.

ties to protect spawning adults. The fish spawn in a portion of Lake Texoma within the Hagerman National Wildlife Refuge and a portion of the lake upstream of the U.S. 377 bridge to the Interstate 35 bridge.

Bigger blue cats

Experimental regulations will be used for blue catfish on three Texas lakes: Waco, Lewisville and Richland Chambers.

TPW will tighten regs from a 12-inch

minimum and no maximum to a 30- to 45-inch slot length limit with one fish more than 45 inches. The daily bag limit will remain 25 fish.

Biologists will monitor the new regulations' effects for five or six years or longer. They hope to increase the number of fish measuring more than 30 inches and increase the number of anglers targeting trophy catfish, Durocher said.

— Staff report

Plans for big bass in use at tournaments

Bass Champs asking anglers to weigh lunkers in early

At the Bass Champs Central Region tournament at Lake LBJ on April 4, Charles Hice landed a 10.28-pound largemouth, the biggest bass of the event. The fish earned the distinction as the first bass weighed in using the tournament series' new Bass Champs Lunker Program.

The new program allows anglers to bring in fish weighing more than 10 pounds to the scales early in an effort to help promote the live release of lunkers back into the lake.

Bass Champs is urging anglers to bring all bass exceeding 10 pounds immediately to the scales, and all bass exceeding 13 pounds will receive a \$500 bonus.

The new program follows their event at Choke Canyon Reservoir on March 28, where several lunkers were brought in, two exceeding 15 pounds. Unfortunately, both of the ShareLunker-sized fish did not survive.

"It's a shame the fish died," Bass Champs President Chad Potts said. "In the 12 years of holding these tournaments, we had never had a ShareLunker."

"That day we had two."

Potts believes the multiple

moves of the fish were a factor. "They had to go back and forth to several tanks at different temperatures — it was just too much stress," he said. "We feel like if we can get them to our tanks healthy, they'll be fine. Our tank is the best there is."

The anglers have all been supportive, Potts said, and he hopes other tournaments will adopt a similar program.

"The anglers can weigh in their fish and then head back out and keep fishing," he said. "We keep the weight recorded and add it to their total."

Texas Parks and Wildlife has been stressing the careful handling of fish for all anglers, including tournament fishermen.

David Campbell, ShareLunker program manager, encourages anglers to handle fish as little as possible, support the head and tail when moving or photographing them, and get the fish to a minnow tank at a marina or ShareLunker holding station as soon as possible after catching the fish.

— Staff report

We feel like if we can get them to our tanks healthy, they'll be fine.

— Chad Potts, Bass Champs president

Redfish angler lands record mullet

Game warden beats former state record by 3 lbs.

By Thomas Phillips
LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

A Texas game warden holds the new state record for striped mullet caught using a rod and reel. Scott Lindner of Corpus Christi was casting a Bass Assassin for redfish and trout when the 10.375-

pound mullet bit. He was fishing in the Lower Laguna Madre in Nueces County.

"It just hit it, and I thought I had a big redfish on," said Lindner, 31. "It's the first time I've ever caught one."

Mullet are generally not targeted as game fish in Texas. Up the coast, however, they are harvested as table fare.

"They're supposed to be really good in Florida," Lindner said.

Lindner was fishing with a friend about midnight when he caught the record, which beat the former

record of 7.19 pounds.

The mullet seemed big to Lindner when he caught it, though he didn't know what the record was. He kept the fish, researched the record and made the application to his colleagues with Texas Parks and Wildlife for the new record.

He had never caught a mullet before but has known other anglers who have, and he uses the fish as bait when targeting big sharks.

He doesn't plan on targeting mullet again with rod and reel.

"This might be the only one I catch," Lindner said.



ACCIDENTAL MULLET: Scott Lindner was casting for redfish and speckled trout when he hooked into a 10.375-pound striped mullet, a new state record. Photo by TPW.

Fishing News in Brief

Biffle takes Dixie Duel with 50 pounds, 13 ounces

Through a series of flipping and pitching casts from a hidden cove, Tommy Biffle of Wagoner, Okla., accumulated 50 pounds, 13 ounces to win the Evan Williams Bourbon Dixie Duel on April 5 at Wheeler Lake near Decatur, Ala.

Biffle topped Casey Ashley of Donalds, S.C., who amassed 46 pounds, 4 ounces for second place.

Biffle found a secluded spot without boat traffic and used a black and blue jig with a lizard trailer. Biffle, who bagged 14-13 on Sunday's final day, said he was fishing in about 6 inches of water on the first day, and the water was stained for the remainder of the event.

"I was more concerned that the river bottom was going to drop, and my area would be dry," Biffle said.

Biffle feels that the water temperature affected the bigger fish. On Saturday, Biffle boated 19-



Biffle

14, the largest bag of the tournament.

"When I caught them really good yesterday the temperature was up about 68 or 69 degrees; today the highest it got was 64," he said.

Ashley moved from 15th to second with a Sunday five-fish limit of 19 pounds, 11 ounces, the final day's heaviest bag. He was using two different sized jerk baits and a jig throughout the event.

Takahiro Omori of Emory finished third with 45 pounds, 10 ounces, followed by Brent Chapman of Lake Quivira, Kan., with 45 pounds, 4 ounces and Mike Iaconelli of Runnemede, N.J., with 45 pounds, 3 ounces.

Waco's Alton Jones led after the first day of competition but fell to 14th.

— BASS report

Survey: Access problems continue for some anglers

Freshwater anglers in increasing numbers are reporting difficulty accessing their favorite fishing spots.

Twenty-three percent of anglers reported that one of their fishing spots has been closed to angling in the past three years, according to a January 2009 survey by Southwick Associates. This compares with 25 percent who reported loss of a fishing location in a similar survey a

year earlier.

The access problem is most acute for freshwater anglers. Of those reporting a loss of access, 74 percent said that they lost a fishing location on fresh water, and 24 percent reported the loss of a saltwater location. Reported access loss results for 2008 were 77 percent freshwater and 17 percent saltwater.

Most anglers continue to fish as frequently as they did before the loss occurred.

— Southwick Associates report

Martin-Wells wins WBT tournament in Alabama

Fighting a relentless current on Alabama's Neely Henry Lake, Pam Martin-Wells of Bainbridge, Ga., landed her fourth win by 7 ounces in the Academy Sports & Outdoors Women's Bassmaster Tour season opener March 28.

Her 38-pound, 10-ounce total bested Tammy Richardson of Amity, Ark., who recovered after a slow first day to finish second with 38 pounds, 3 ounces.

The Coosa River impoundment's current picked up speed as water was pulled through the Neely Henry dam to handle three days of heavy rain.

"Even though I have a very good and strong trolling motor, the current was stronger, so the

whole time I had my foot on it, I was straining from daylight to takeout every day," Martin-Wells said. "If I caught a fish or broke off or had to cull, by the time I got through, I was half a mile from where I had been fishing, so I had to crank up the big motor to get back to my fish."

Martin-Wells used tubes, worms, crankbaits, spinnerbaits and a drop-shot rig.

Emily Shaffer of Mount Juliet, Tenn., the day one leader, finished third with 33-5.

Robin Babb of Livingston finished fifth, and Juanita Robinson of Highlands finished sixth.

— BASS report




Martin-Wells

Boaters World stores close as parent in bankruptcy

Boaters World Marine Centers is closing all its 137 stores nationally as a result of the Chapter 11 bankruptcy filing of its parent firm, Ritz Camera. Ritz Camera also operates photo stores nationwide.


Liquidation sales are underway. Texas stores are located in Lewisville, Webster and Corpus Christi.

— Staff report



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GAME WARDEN BLOTTER

NEW MEANING TO THE TERM 'BAG LIMIT'

A possible commercial fishing vessel in Texas waters on Falcon Lake was reported to Starr County Game Warden Dennis Gazaway Jr. and Bexar County Game Warden Kathleen Stuman. The wardens were near the area and pursued the vessel. Once stopped, many large bundles wrapped in plastic were discovered. The two occupants of the vessel were arrested and the boat and motor were seized along with 1,066 pounds of marijuana.

YOUNG BOATERS COLLIDE ON CANYON LAKE

Two juveniles operating separate personal watercraft were doing donuts and jumping each others' wakes and collided on Canyon Lake, according to witnesses. Comal County Game Warden Brent Satsky investigated. Both were treated at the scene for minor injuries. Satsky confirmed both juveniles had recently completed a Boater Education course. Citations were issued for reckless operation.

SUSPECTS SEEN SHOOTING DUCK, CREATING A SCENE

After checking several anglers on Indian Creek, Rockwall County Game Warden Jenny Simpson heard gunshots down the creek from her location. As she walked back to her truck to head south on the creek, two truckloads of men pulled up and reported that there were two men with a shotgun shooting fish and that they had run them out of the area. Simpson drove to the south end of the creek and approached two older gentlemen who said they had observed the two men with the gun shoot a duck about 45 minutes earlier. Simpson waited for the men with the gun to come back to their truck. As they approached, Simpson met them and confiscated their gun. Simpson

Confession good for the shooter's soul

Two people desiring to "clear their conscience" about a hunting violation called Kendall County Game Warden Mark Nobles to confess. The ranch manager had

allowed a child from out-of-state to hunt under his license.

The youth said he could not sleep or concentrate and finally brought his burden to the ranch

manager. The ranch manager agreed and called Nobles. Both were issued citations for allowing and hunting under the license of another.

called Dallas County Game Wardens Martin Oviedo and Sergio Bazaldua and Collin County Game Warden LeRoy Thompson for assistance. After a search, the wardens located the duck carcass. Charges were filed for hunting in a closed season and littering.

PIRANHAS, SNAPPING TURTLE, FRESHWATER STINGRAY SEIZED

After receiving a tip, Harris County Game Wardens John Rao and Kelly Newman seized a freshwater stingray, two red belly piranhas and an alligator snapping turtle from an individual. Class B misdemeanor charges pending.

NO DISCHARGING FIREARMS FROM ROAD AT LAKE SPENCE

A man was shooting his pistol while parked in the middle of the main entrance to the north side of Lake Spence. Coke County Game Warden Jim Allen and Sterling County Game Warden Michael Jaramillo charged him with discharging a firearm from a public roadway.

LOADING ALLIGATOR WAS THE EASY PART

Two men were reported trying to load an alligator in their truck on a highway in Jefferson County. Game Warden Robbie Smith stopped the men as they came toward him on the highway. A citation was issued for possession of alligator without permit.

HUNTER MISTAKES WHITETAIL FOR EXOTIC

An owner of a hunting ranch in-

formed Uvalde County Game Warden Henry Lutz that a hunter had accidentally killed a white-tailed buck while archery hunting for exotics. The hunter said it was almost dark when he took the shot and thought he was shooting an axis deer. A citation for taking white-tailed deer in closed season was issued, and the deer was seized.

ASSAULT SUSPECT CAUGHT CRASHING THROUGH CEILING

A man with felony warrants for stabbing an individual fled from a local police officer and escaped into the countryside. Brown County Game Warden Travis Allen and Eastland County Game Warden Zach Havens searched for him on foot and using four-wheelers. A call came in that the man had crawled through a doggie door of a residence and was hiding in the attic. The man was apprehended after he fell through the ceiling.

ALWAYS ASK THE BOY

Two men were reported using a cast net on Rowlett Creek to Dallas County Game Wardens Martin Oviedo and Sergio Bazaldua and Rockwall County Game Warden Jenny Simpson. The wardens found a man wet from being in the creek along with a woman and little boy sitting on the bank of the creek. The net was found tucked away in the bank of the creek. Simpson and Oviedo asked the boy where his dad went and the

boy responded that he went up river to throw something. The father returned and cases were filed on the two men.

DEPUTY REPORTS POACHERS WHO SAY THEY WON'T GET CAUGHT

Williamson County deputies stopped four men who were stuck in the median of a highway. The men were crossing the median to park on the other side of the tollway to get to their favorite fishing hole on the river. After the officers issued two citations, they asked the men if they had a fishing license. They said that they did not and were not going to get caught anyway. The deputies contacted Williamson County Game Warden Turk Jones, who later found the men on the San Gabriel River. None of the men had a fishing license, and they were using cast nets to capture gar, carp, turtles, catfish and perch. Cases pending.

LANDSCAPING INVENTORY COMES FROM NATURE CONSERVANCY

Travis County Game Warden Cody Jones observed a suspicious vehicle parked along the highway by Nature Conservancy property. After a short search, a man was located inside the property digging up native plants to use in his landscaping business. Charges were filed, and the plants were returned to the property.

LACK OF LICENSE WAS TIP OF ICEBERG

While working water safety and checking for fishing violations in the

Rio Grande Valley, Region 2 Game Warden Stormy McCuiston and Region 10 Game Warden Dan Waddell seized a bag limit of 60 flounder from two commercial fishermen operating without a license. One of the men was upset and claimed he did not intentionally violate the law and that the oversight was an honest mistake. A violator history check revealed the man had more than 20 prior TPW violations.

MAN FOUND ASLEEP AFTER BRANDISHING HANDGUN AT ANGLER

A complaint about a man who flashed a handgun at a fisherman at Calaveras Lake was received by Bexar County Game Wardens Andy Perez and Roland Fuentes. The man identified was found asleep in the front seat of his truck, and the wardens observed a gun in the vehicle. The gun was secured, and the man, after resisting arrest, was handcuffed and arrested. The man also was on probation for assault.

FISHING GEAR STOLEN FROM LAKE FORK RECOVERED

Two bass boats and 230 rods and reels that had been stolen in and around Lake Fork were recovered in Wood County. The thieves used the trolling motors to exit the marina with two bass boats taken from their slips at Lake Fork Marina. The thieves also hit two marinas and several RV parks by water. One of the boats, with 60 rods onboard, was picked up floating in the middle of Lake Fork by a local guide. The rest of the rods and the other stolen boat were found in a nearby cove. This was the second theft of this nature in the last three months. The first time the thieves got away with about \$50,000 worth of fishing tackle. An investigation by Wood County Game Wardens Derek Spitzer and Kurt Kelley and the Wood County Sheriff's Office continues.

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ON THE MOVE

Sequoia takes Alaska with confidence, comfort

Toyota's massive SUV has plenty of room, strength

By Peter Mathiesen
FOR LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

Although it may not be the highways of Texas, last summer I had the opportunity to try out a new Toyota Sequoia Limited while driving the interior of Alaska.

For eight days my teenage daughter and I cast for grayling, rainbows and three species of salmon while driving more than 1,500 miles of less-than-hospitable blacktop roads. And to really find out how comfortable this truck was, we camped inside the SUV for five of the eight nights of the trip.

Our 2009 Toyota Sequoia Limited seated eight passengers and sported the optional 5.7 liter V8 engine rated at 381 horsepower and 401 pounds of torque. The six-speed automatic transmission posted fuel economy ratings of 15 miles per gallon on city streets and 18 miles per gallon on the highway.

With its large footprint, engineers are always faced with the challenge of creating a platform with some snap. In this case, although the truck wasn't gut-wrenchingly fast, it is pretty snappy for the amount of steel that's rolling down the road. The Sequoia is capable of owning the passing lane. Our trip had the truck completely full of gear, and the truck was responsive, to say the least.

Large SUVs are all about space.



TOUGH TOYOTA: The Toyota Sequoia Limited handled the rough roads of interior Alaska smoothly and with plenty of power and storage capacity. Photo by Peter Mathiesen, for Lone Star Outdoor News.

In the case of this loaded SUV, all the back seats reclined into a flat bed with the push of a few buttons. The space was large enough for two sleeping bags with wide pads. Living in the truck was pretty sweet, with ample compartments there for stuff. The myriad pockets helped keep our daily camping accessories surprisingly organized.

The headroom and legroom were nearly cavernous. And even if you're a plus-size guy, or relegated to the back or third seat, you'll be in good shape on a long trip.

As for fuel consumption, it's pretty simple. If you have a lead foot in the city, you're going to suffer. On the highway, if you can keep it to about the 70 miles an hour mark and use even acceleration on the pedal, you'll get more than 17 mpg.

One of the most impressive features on the Limited is the push-button ride adjustment system that can turn this 6,030-pound truck from a soft, highway "limo" ride into a tight, reasonably agile performer. Enough so, driving at

midnight on the Parks Highway, I was able to dodge a wayward cow moose that precariously got within inches of the truck.

In addition to the big V-8 and the ride adjustment, the impressive braking gave me the confidence to pull and move a 3,500-pound trailer for an outfitter with ease.

All of these features also contributed to an impressive off-road experience with the Sequoia. If the truck could fit on a trail, it could climb extremely well for its size — even on loose rock. The truck

Toyota Sequoia Limited

Engine
5.7L 381 hp V8. Std.
Horsepower (@rpm) . . . 381@5600
Torque (@rpm) 401@3600
Displacement (cc) 5663
Bore X Stroke 3.70 X 4.02
Compression Ratio 10.2:1
6-Speed Auto. OD: Std.
City/Highway (mpg) . . . 13/18

Interior
Max. Seating 8

Exterior
Wheelbase 122.0
Length (in) 205.1
Height (in) 74.6

Safety
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Side Airbags Front Std.
. Rear N/A
Side Curtain Airbags . . . Std.
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Trunk/Cargo (cu ft) . . . 28.4
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HEROES

FRANK HARRIS III of Shreveport, La., shot this turkey on the Pease River in Cottle County with a Winchester Model 21 12-gauge double-barrel shotgun.



PAT KORCZYNSKI caught this 25-inch speckled trout while wade fishing near Rockport.



KYLER DE LEON, 5, of San Benito landed this 24-inch redfish while fishing out of Port Mansfield.

MICHAEL LAWSON caught this 10.47-pound bass at Lake Ray Roberts. Lawson, who works at the Bass Pro Shops in Grapevine, donated the fish to the store's aquarium.



SAM HOLDEN caught this 25-inch redfish on shrimp.



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Truitt Clark, 6, of Round Rock shot this 12-point buck while hunting on his grandfather's low-fenced property in Lavaca County. Truitt had harvested his first buck, a 3-pointer, in Caldwell County two weeks earlier. The deer was the first 12-pointer ever harvested on his grandfather's property, a 50-acre tract he has owned for more than 30 years.

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Fees

Continued from Page 1

The increase corresponds with rising operational costs at TPW, said Gene McCarty, TPW's deputy executive director for administration. The last increase came in 2004, and before that the last increase was in 1996.

Since 2004, TPW's operational costs have increased 6.1 percent, McCarty said.

"We have a tendency to wait a fairly long time, and we have a tendency to make large increases," McCarty told TPW commissioners at their meeting March 25.

Registration fees for most boats would rise using the same formula. Fees for boats less than 16 feet in length would increase from \$30 for two years to

\$32. Boats 16 to 26 feet long go from \$50 to \$53.

Bigger boats, however, would see bigger increases. Boats from 26 to 40 feet long would see fee increases from \$70 to \$110, and boats longer than 40 feet would go from \$90 for registration to \$200.

Boat registration fees are paid every two years.

Commissioners considered the sagging economy when proposing the fee increases, Chairman Peter Holt said.

"We're going to be sensitive to the citizens of the state of Texas," he said. "We're trying to be very fair about this."

The wallets of waterfowl hunters may take an additional hit. Legislation introduced in Congress proposes increasing the cost of the Federal Duck Stamp from \$15 to \$25 next season.

— Staff report

Redfish

Continued from Page 1

age. For its second life, anglers simply cut off the elongated tail portion. The tail can then be used as a spinnerbait trailer or paired with a light jig head for use as a sight-casting bait.

An artificial shrimp also lends itself well to life after death. Even after it has been bitten to

the point where eyes and other appendages go missing, life still remains. By cutting off the head and trimming a slight bit of the shrimp's belly, an artificial shrimp can be turned into an excellent short tout for sight-casting to reds. It's also an effective lure for flounder.

This money-saving option hasn't escaped the attention of Capt. Rolando "Gonzo" Gonzalez.

"I really use my DOA Shrimp until there's nothing left," said Gonzalez. "I start out using them with the factory-rigged hook. After we catch a bunch of fish and the body starts sliding off the hook too easy, I take that hook out and hook it in the head — just like a live shrimp. Then, when it's too beat up to use that way anymore, I cut off the tail and use it as a tout for redfish and flounder."

Saltwater spinnerbaits also lose their luster after extended use — at least their skirts do. The head, wire and blade usually survive and can be put back in service by removing the fac-

tory-rigged skirt and replacing it with a soft-plastic tail.

Bucktail jigs, effective for bull reds around the jetties, suffer from shredded bucktail material (along with the thread wraps used to secure it in place) from fighting redfish. Rather than tossing the entire bait, anglers can cut away fouled hair and wraps and either re-tie with new material or thread on a soft-plastic tail.

After we catch a bunch of fish and the body starts sliding off the hook too easy, I take that hook out and hook it in the head — just like a live shrimp.


— Capt. Rolando "Gonzo" Gonzalez

A more extensive reclamation project involves full-bodied swimbaits. Often used for bull reds around the jetties and on the beachfront, this swimbait is fitted with an oddly shaped hook and weight combination. When the bait becomes too beat up to fish, the hook-weight can be pulled from the body. Once the attached rattle chamber is taken out, the unique hook-weight makes for an excellent standup jig when fitted with a soft-plastic tail. This is an outstanding combo to use in potholes and sand flats.

Capt. Pete Martinez has certainly learned how to stretch his swimbaits.

"I have tried that trick of using the hook and weight from inside the body," he said. "It's like getting an extra jig head once the body gets torn up."

Redfish anglers will still buy new lures, but by modifying baits once they've outlived their original purpose they can have twice as many options.



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Report

Continued from Page 8

key, but the constant change is making finding the fish a challenge.

"They are on the shorelines in Mesquite, Carlos and St. Charles bays," he said. "The fronts, though, are keeping us on our toes — you have to go and find them every few days."

In Copano Bay, the redfish haven't been as cooperative.

"We can catch a lot of rat reds," said Alan Skrobarcek, a Rockport guide. "But overall the redfish are a little slow and that's unusual for this time of year. The fish are very shallow and there aren't many in the bay. The winds are good but the fluctuating weather is bad; we're getting two northers every week."

Skrobarcek said when redfish can't be found, they simply turn their attention to black drum.

"The black drum fishing is outstanding," he said. "We're catching them in 2 feet of water — sometimes even in 7 to 8 inches — their backs are out of the water."

In high-water conditions, some anglers were fishing blind for reds.

"The fish were real scattered," said Kris Kelley of Castaway Lodge in Seadrift. "We worked the traditional areas and covered lots of water."

A drop in the tides had Kelley happy.

"The water fell back out, and it's back to normal," he said. "The reds are in the shallow real estate — the airboat helps."

Kelley lamented that the high winds are keep-



REDFISH: Bill Jarboe shows a fish caught on a Booyah Samurai spinnerbait. Photo by David J. Sams, LSON.

ing the customers away.

"The fish are still biting, but 30- to 40-mph winds don't get people too excited about fishing," he said.

Near Port Isabel, the reds have been traveling in schools.

"We see big groups in Cullen and South bays and at the Goswell Flats," said guide Carlos Garcia. "You can see them moving ever so slowly even in the murky water. And these are nice, big sows anywhere from 29 to 36 inches."

Garcia said the reds are hitting topwaters when the winds are light and artificial shrimp through-

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FISHING REPORT

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BASTROP: Good on chartreuse/white soft plastics and Rat-L-Traps.
BELTON: Good on Rat-L-Traps and spinnerbaits.
BRAUNIG: Good along shorelines and structure.
CADDO: Good on flukes and Senkos.
TRAVIS: Good on Senkos, smoke grubs and Baby Brush Hogs in 5-15 feet.
WEATHERFORD: Good around docks and on the rocky point.
WHITNEY: Good on pumpkinseed spinnerbaits, crankbaits and soft plastics.

WHITE, HYBRID, STRIPER



RAY ROBERTS: White bass are excellent on Rat-L-Traps.
BELTON: Hybrid striper are good on live shad. White bass are fair on minnows.
BOB SANDLIN: White bass are good on slabs and Humdingers.
CEDAR CREEK: White bass are good on slabs and minnows. Hybrid striper are fair on live shad and slabs.
HUBBARD CREEK: White bass and hybrid striper are good on live baits.
STILLHOUSE: White bass are good on minnows near Long Bridge.

CATFISH



BRAUNIG: Channel catfish are excellent on shrimp, liver and stinkbait.
CALAVERAS: Excellent on night-crawlers, shad and liver in 10-20 feet.
LIVINGSTON: Blue catfish are excellent on cut bait and shad.
STILLHOUSE: Channel and blue catfish are very good on minnows.
AMISTAD: Yellow catfish are good on trotlines and drop lines baited with live perch.
ARROWHEAD: Blue catfish are good.

CRAPPIE



LIVINGSTON: Very good on minnows.
SOMERVILLE: Very good on minnows and jigs.
ARROWHEAD: Good on minnows fished at the east side bridges with some fish moving shallow.

ALAN HENRY: Water lightly stained; 52 degrees; 0.01' low. Black bass are fair on shad-colored spinnerbaits and crankbaits along creek channel bends and on white pearl soft jerkbaits, black/blue jigs and live baits suspended in trees. Crappie are fair on minnows and jigs. Catfish are fair on live baits.

AMISTAD: Water clear; 66 degrees; 2.07' high. Black bass are fair but small on green pumpkin, watermelon red and watermelon seed soft plastics. Striped bass are slow. White bass are slow. Crappie are slow. Catfish are slow.

ARROWHEAD: Water lightly stained; 60 degrees; 7.1' low. Black bass are fair on shallow-running lipless crankbaits or swim blade jigs off rocky points and rip-rap. White bass are fair trolling.

BASTROP: Water clear. Crappie are good on minnows and green tube jigs. Channel and blue catfish are good on stinkbait, shrimp and chicken livers.

BELTON: Water clear; 64 degrees; 2.21' low. Crappie are good on minnows under lights at night and on cloudy days. Channel and blue catfish are good on shrimp and stinkbait. Yellow catfish are good on trotlines and throw lines baited with live perch.

BOB SANDLIN: Water fairly clear; 59-64 degrees; 0.31' high. Crappie are good on minnows and jigs in the creeks — good bank fishing. Catfish are good on trotlines. Bream are good on cut nightcrawlers.

BRAUNIG: Water stained; 66 degrees. Striped bass are fair to good on chicken livers and spoons. Redfish to 25 pounds are good on live perch and tilapia. Blue catfish are fair on chicken livers, shrimp, stinkbait and nightcrawlers.

BROWNWOOD: Water stained; 63 degrees; 5.66' low. Black bass are good on black/blue Bass Hogg jigs, Lone Star Perch and Sexy Shad Bass Hogg spinnerbaits. Hybrid striper are slow. Crappie are good on L/I Fishies and tube jigs over brush piles in 1-8 feet and near the Hwy. 279 Bridge. Channel catfish are slow.

BUCHANAN: Water clear; 65 degrees; 16.09' low. Black bass are good on white/chartreuse spinnerbaits and soft plastics. Striped bass are fair to good tight lining live bait and vertically jigging silver spoons. White bass are fair to good. Crappie are fair to good on live minnows. Channel catfish are good on live bait. Yellow and blue catfish are good on juglines.

CADDO: Water off-color; 58-64 degrees; 1.82' high. Crappie are fair to good on jigs and minnows in the creek channel bends. White bass are good on Road Runners. Crappie are fair to good on prepared baits.

CALAVERAS: Water stained; 66 degrees. Black bass to 7 pounds are good on soft plastic worms and grubs around reed beds along shorelines. Striped bass are good on chicken livers, shad and spoons. Redfish to 24 pounds are good on perch and shrimp on the bottom.

CANYON LAKE: Water clear; 62 degrees; 11.83' low. Black bass are good. Striped bass are slow. White bass are slow. Smallmouth bass are good. Crappie are fair on live minnows upriver in 5-12 feet. Channel catfish are fair upriver. Yellow and blue catfish are good on juglines.

CEDAR CREEK: Water lightly stained; 59-65 degrees; 1.36' low. Black bass are fair on red Rat-L-Traps, jigs and drop shot rigs. Pre-spawn largemouths are around the first drop-off. Crappie are fair to good on minnows and jigs.

CHOKE CANYON: Water clear; 67 degrees; 6.28' low. Black bass are good on swimbaits and Texas-rigged soft plastic lizards. White bass are slow. Crappie are good on minnows and fair on jigs at night under lights. Drum are slow. Channel and blue catfish are good on punchbait. Yellow catfish are good on punchbait.

COLEMAN: Water clear; 65 degrees; 6.45' low. Black bass are good on dark soft plastic worms and lizards and fair on spinnerbaits. Hybrid striper are fair on live shad. Crappie are slow. Channel and blue catfish are slow.

COLETO CREEK: Water clear; 78 degrees (85 degrees at discharge); 3.28' low. Black bass are good on soft plastics and

spinnerbaits in 5-8 feet. Striped bass are slow. White bass are slow. Crappie are fair on minnows in 10-12 feet. Channel and blue catfish are good on trotlines baited with perch and liver. Yellow catfish are good on trotlines baited with live perch.

CONROE: Water murky; 0.79' low. Black bass are fair on chartreuse/green spinnerbaits, crankbaits and soft plastics in 5-12 feet. Striped bass are slow. Crappie are good on minnows and jigs. Catfish are fair on stinkbait and shrimp.

FALCON: Water fairly clear; 72 degrees. Black bass are fair on watermelon and chartreuse soft plastics. Striped bass are slow. Crappie are slow. Channel and blue catfish are good on frozen shrimp and cut bait under cormorants.

FAYETTE: Water clear; 66 degrees. Black bass are good on watermelon and gold pumpkin Carolina-rigged soft plastics, crankbaits and wacky worms in reeds. Channel and blue catfish are good on juglines baited with shrimp and shad.

FORK: Water lightly stained; 58-64 degrees; 0.24' low. Black bass are fair

black/blue soft plastics along reeds and timber. Crappie are good on jigs and minnows. Catfish are good on live baits.

LAKE O' THE PINES: Water stained; 59-64 degrees; 0.82' high. Black bass are fair on jigs, Texas-rigged Yum Dingers and jerkbaits. Crappie are fair to good on minnows and jigs. Catfish are fair on prepared baits. Bream are slow.

LAVON: Water stained; 59-65 degrees; 3.66' low. Black bass are fair on Texas-rigged Brush Hogs, red Rat-L-Traps and spinnerbaits. Crappie are fair to good on minnows and jigs in the shallows. Catfish are fair to good on cut bait and stinkbait.

LBJ: Water stained; 66 degrees; 0.50' low. Black bass are good on spinnerbaits and jerk baits. Striped bass are fair. White bass are fair. Crappie are good on jigs and minnows. Channel catfish are good on live bait. Yellow and blue catfish are good on trotlines.

LEWISVILLE: Water off-color; 58-64 degrees; 3.97' low. Black bass are fair on chatterbaits, black/blue jigs, spinnerbaits and Texas rigs. Crappie are fair to good on minnows and jigs. White bass are

good on swimbaits where the birds are working — afternoons better — fish are full of eggs. Hybrid striper are fair on 4" Bass Assassins. Catfish are fair to good on cut shad and nightcrawlers.

RAY ROBERTS: Water stained; 58-61 degrees; 3.04' low. Black bass are fair to good on Boogie Baits and split-shot-rigged fork-tailed. Crappie are good on minnows and jigs in the backs of the creeks.

RICHLAND CHAMBERS: Water off-color; 59-64 degrees; 4.43' low. Black bass are on jigs, Rat-L-Traps, Texas rigs and spinnerbaits. White bass are fair to good on white or chartreuse slabs and shad pattern Bass Assassins on a jighead. Crappie are fair to good on minnows and jigs. Catfish are fair to good on cut shad and nightcrawlers.

SAM RAYBURN: Water murky; 66 degrees; 4.10' low. Black bass are good on Horny Toads and Super Flukes around shoreline grass in 1-3 feet, watermelon red Trick Worms and Senkos around hay grass in 4-6 feet and Carolina-rigged lizards and French fries around scattered hydrilla on main lake flats. Crappie are fair on live shiners and albino shad jigs around willows in 4-6 feet and trolling black/chartreuse roadrunners over hydrilla in 6-10 feet. Catfish are good on juglines baited with prepared bait.

SOMERVILLE: Water clear; 3.21' low. Black bass are fair on minnows. Hybrid striper are slow. White bass are fair on minnows and slabs. Channel and blue catfish are fair on shrimp and chicken livers in the evenings.

STILLHOUSE: Water fairly clear; 64 degrees; 5.41' low. Black bass are fair on minnows, shrimp and spoons. Crappie are good on minnows near Long Bridge.

SWEETWATER: Water lightly stained; 59 degrees; 1.49' low. Black bass are fair on live baits. Crappie are good on minnows and jigs. White bass are good on live baits and chrome crankbaits. Catfish are fair on cut and cheese baits.

TAWAKONI: Water stained; 58-64 degrees; 4.4' low. Black bass are fair on red or chrome lipless crankbaits, spinnerbaits, jigs and watermelon candy Brush Hogs. Crappie are good on minnows and jigs. White bass are fair to good on white or chartreuse slabs and humdingers. Striped bass and hybrid striper are slow on slabs and live shad. Catfish are fair to good on nightcrawlers and cut shad.

TEXOMA: Water off-color; 58-63 degrees; 0.03' high. Black bass are fair on red Rat-L-Traps, brown jigs and Texas rigs. Crappie are fair on minnows and jigs. Striped bass are good on live shad and Bass Assassins. Catfish are fair to good on nightcrawlers and cut shad.

TOLEDO BEND: Water murky; 63 degrees; 0.93' low. Black bass are good on chartreuse/blue spinnerbaits and shallow running crankbaits around hydrilla beds in 6-10 feet and on camo and watermelon wacky worms and Texas-rigged lizards around docks and shallow cover near secondary points. Crappie are good trolling black/chartreuse jigs over hydrilla beds.

TRAVIS: Water clear; 60 degrees; 26.78' low. Striped bass are slow. White bass are fair on chrome crankbaits and white grubs in 10-28 feet. Crappie are good on minnows and blue/white tube jigs in 10-20 feet. Channel and blue catfish are slow.

WEATHERFORD: Water lightly stained; 59-65 degrees; 6.33' low. Crappie are good in the crappie house and boat slips on small minnows. Crappie and bass are moving into shallow water to spawn. Channel catfish are fair on worms and dough bait.

WHITE RIVER: Water lightly stained; 57 degrees; 28.52' low. Black bass are fair on live baits, pumpkin soft plastic lizards and chartreuse/green jigs. Crappie are fair on jigs and minnows. Walleye are good on live baits and jerkbaits. Channel catfish are good on live baits.

WHITNEY: Water stained; 9.99' low. Striped bass are slow. White bass are fair on silver spoons and minnows. Crappie are good on minnows and pink tube jigs. Catfish are good on live bait and frozen shrimp.

SALTWATER SCENE

NORTH SABINE: Trout are fair to good under the birds when the wind allows on soft plastics. Redfish are good in the marsh on small topwaters.

SOUTH SABINE: Waders have taken quality trout while wading with suspending lures and topwaters. Sheepshead and black drum are good at the jetty on live shrimp.

BOLIVAR: Trout are good on the south shoreline on soft plastics and plugs in the afternoon. A better topwater bite has been enjoyed with the mild temperatures. Black drum are good at Rollover Pass.

TRINITY BAY: Trout are good for drifters working pods of shad and mullet on Bass Assassins, Trout Killers and Sand Eels. Redfish are good at the spillway on crabs and mullet. Catfish are good in Red's Bayou on shrimp.

EAST GALVESTON BAY: Trout are good on the south shoreline on Catch 5s, MirrOlures and Catch 2000s. Whiting and sand trout are good on the edge of the Intracoastal on fresh shrimp.

WEST GALVESTON BAY: Waders have taken good trout in the mud and shell on topwaters and Corkies in the afternoon. Sheepshead and black drum are good at the jetty on shrimp.

FREEPORT: Sand trout and sheepshead are good on live shrimp on the reefs.

EAST MATAGORDA: Trout are fair to good for drifters in the afternoon on live shrimp over humps and scattered shell. Redfish are fair to good in Lake Austin on shrimp.

MATAGORDA: Redfish are fair to good in Oyster Lake on shrimp. Trout are fair on shell and grass on soft plastics. Black drum are fair to good at the jetty on crabs.

PORT O'CONNOR: Trout and redfish are good on topwaters over soft mud in waist-deep water in San Antonio Bay. Marsh lakes have held trout and redfish during the afternoon.

ROCKPORT: Black drum are good in the Lydia Ann Channel on crabs. Redfish are good in the back of Allyn's Bight on plugs. Drifters have taken reds and trout on live shrimp while drifting the edge of the flats.

PORT ARANSAS: Black drum are good in the Shrimboat Channel on crabs and finger mullet. Redfish are good on the East Flats in the afternoon on shrimp and small topwaters.

CORPUS CHRISTI: Trout are fair to good on the edge of the spoils on live shrimp. Black drum are good in the Humble Channel at night on crabs and table shrimp.

BAFFIN BAY: Trout are fair to good in mud and grass on Corkies and topwaters. Black drum are good in the Land Cut on crabs. Redfish are fair at Yarbrough on soft plastics.

PORT MANSFIELD: Trout are fair to good on topwaters around the Saucer. Pods of mullet have led the way to best catches. Redfish are fair to good while drifting pot holes.

SOUTH PADRE: Black drum, redfish and jack crevalle have been taken at the jetty. Trout and redfish are fair to good on the edge of the Intracoastal on shrimp.

PORT ISABEL: Trout and redfish are good in South Bay and Cullen Bay on live shrimp.

HOT SPOT



O.H. Ivie

Water lightly stained; 62 degrees; 12.81' low. Black bass are good on live baits, black/blue soft plastic worms or large tube baits and white pearl soft jerkbaits along grass lines. Crappie are good on minnows and jigs. White bass are good on live baits. Smallmouth bass are good on white spinnerbaits and live baits. Channel catfish are good on live and cut baits.

to good on soft plastics fished in the shallows, chatterbaits and Rat-L-Traps-fish spotted on beds. Crappie are fair on minnows and jigs.

GIBBONS CREEK: Water clear. Black bass are fair on watermelon red shallow diving crankbaits and soft plastics. Crappie are fair on minnows and chartreuse tube jigs. Catfish are good on stinkbait and frozen shrimp.

GRANBURY: Water clear; 1.38' low. Black bass are good on chartreuse/green soft plastic worms with white tails. Striped bass are slow. White bass are fair on minnows and slab spoons. Crappie are fair on minnows and blue tube jigs. Catfish are fair on shrimp and stinkbait.

GRAPEVINE: Water off-color; 58-64 degrees; 7.85' low. Black bass are fair on crankbaits, red Rat-L-Traps and Texas-rigged watermelon candy Baby Brush Hogs. Crappie are fair to good on minnows and jigs. White bass are good on slabs around humps and points. Catfish are fair on prepared baits.

HOUSTON COUNTY: Water stained; 65 degrees; 0.67' high. Black bass to 7 pounds are good on red shad soft plastics, crankbaits and red/purple Brush Hogs near the pump station and on the south side of the lake in 6-8 feet. Crappie are fair on live minnows on the north side of the lake. Bream are fair on live worms. Channel and blue catfish are slow.

HUBBARD CREEK: Water lightly stained; 57 degrees; 2.90' low. Black bass are fair on shad-colored spinnerbaits, crankbaits and live baits along grass lines and

good on jigging spoons and Humdingers. Catfish are good on cut bait and nightcrawlers.

LIVINGSTON: Water fairly clear; 63 degrees; 0.34' high. Black bass are good on crankbaits, spinnerbaits and soft plastics. Striped bass are fair on slabs. White bass are good on slabs, pet spoons and hellbenders.

PALESTINE: Water lightly stained; 58-63 degrees; 0.24' high. Black bass are fair to good on jigs, Rat-L-Traps and Texas-rigged worms. Crappie are fair on minnows and jigs. Catfish are good on nightcrawlers and prepared baits.

POSSUM KINGDOM: Water stained; 60 degrees; 2.87' low. Black bass are fair on white spinnerbaits, dark-colored soft plastic worms or watermelon soft plastic lizards on southern end of reservoir. Crappie are fair on minnows and yellow jigs in Rock, Caddo and Bee Creeks. White bass are fair on silver Rat-L-Traps and white beetle spins in Rock, Caddo and Bee Creeks. Strippers are good on live shad below the dam. Catfish are good on live shad and cut liver.

PROCTOR: Water stained; 66 degrees; 5.07' low. Black bass are fair on soft plastic worms and lizards. Striped bass are slow. White bass are slow. Crappie are fair on minnows in 10-15 feet. Channel and blue catfish are fair on live shad.

RAY HUBBARD: Water off-color; 59-64 degrees; 1.39' low. Black bass are fair on Rat-L-Traps, spinnerbaits, crankbaits and Texas rigs. Crappie are fair to good on minnows and jigs. White bass are

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WEATHER

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Moon Phases



Solunar Table

	Houston	Dallas	San Antonio	Amarillo
4/8	11:08a/4:57a	7:41p/1:30p	11:14a/5:03a	7:47p/1:36p
4/9	11:31p/5:20p	8:01a/1:50a	11:37p/5:26p	8:07a/1:56a
4/10	11:53a/5:41a	8:23p/2:12p	11:59a/5:47a	8:29p/2:18p
4/11	---/6:04p	8:40a/2:29a	---/6:10p	8:46a/2:35a
4/12	12:16a/6:29a	9:01p/2:51p	12:22a/6:35a	9:07p/2:57p
4/13	12:41p/6:53p	9:18a/3:07a	12:47p/6:59p	9:24a/3:13a
4/14	1:09a/7:21a	9:39p/3:28p	1:15a/7:27a	9:45p/3:34p
4/15	1:34p/7:46p	9:56a/3:45a	1:40p/7:52p	10:02a/3:51a
4/16	2:03a/8:16a	10:18p/4:07p	2:09a/8:22a	10:24p/4:13p
4/17	2:29p/8:41p	10:37a/4:25a	2:35p/8:47p	10:43a/4:31a
4/18	3:00a/9:13a	11:00p/4:49p	3:06a/9:19a	3:00a/4:55p
4/19	3:25p/9:38p	11:23a/5:10a	3:31p/9:44p	3:25p/5:16a
4/20	3:56a/10:09a	11:48p/5:36p	4:02a/10:15a	3:56a/5:42p
4/21	4:22p/10:35p	12:16p/6:02a	4:28p/10:41p	4:22p/6:08a
4/22	4:52a/11:04a	12:43p/6:30p	4:58a/11:10a	4:52a/6:36p
4/23	5:17p/11:29p	12:46a/7:01a	5:23p/11:35p	5:17p/7:07a
4/24	5:44a/11:56a	1:16p/7:31p	5:50a/12:02p	5:44a/7:37p
4/25	6:09p/---	1:50a/8:06a	6:15p/---	6:09p/8:12a
4/26	6:33a/12:21a	2:22p/8:37p	6:39a/12:27a	6:33a/8:43p
4/27	6:57p/12:45p	2:59a/9:15a	7:03p/12:51p	6:57p/9:21a
4/28	7:19a/1:08a	3:31p/9:46p	7:25a/1:14a	7:19a/9:52p

Tides

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

Sun and Moon

	Houston	Dallas	San Antonio	Amarillo
4/8	7:03a/7:44p	7:07a/7:53p	7:15a/7:56p	7:24a/8:14p
4/9	7:01a/7:45p	7:06a/7:54p	7:14a/7:57p	7:23a/8:15p
4/10	7:00a/7:46p	7:05a/7:55p	7:13a/7:58p	7:21a/8:15p
4/11	6:59a/7:46p	7:03a/7:55p	7:12a/7:58p	7:20a/8:16p
4/12	6:58a/7:47p	7:02a/7:56p	7:11a/7:59p	7:19a/8:17p
4/13	6:57a/7:47p	7:01a/7:57p	7:10a/7:59p	7:17a/8:18p
4/14	6:56a/7:48p	7:00a/7:58p	7:09a/8:00p	7:16a/8:19p
4/15	6:55a/7:49p	6:58a/7:58p	7:08a/8:01p	7:15a/8:20p
4/16	6:54a/7:49p	6:57a/7:59p	7:06a/8:01p	7:13a/8:20p
4/17	6:52a/7:50p	6:56a/8:00p	7:0	

Lack of life jackets blamed in wave of recent drownings in Texas

Drownings probably could have been avoided with PFDs

Three recent single-vessel boating accidents are causing officials to once again stress the use of life jackets on Texas waters.

Grapevine Fire Department divers retrieved the body of Trevor Dennis Rotzoll, 26, at Lake Grapevine. Rotzoll, of Grapevine, and another man were in a canoe that capsized in about 40

feet of water near Silver Lake Marina. Rotzoll's companion survived.

No life jackets were aboard the canoe, and weather, alcohol and inexperience are believed to be factors in the accident.

A paddleboat capsized in high winds on Lake Lavon when two teenagers ventured onto the lake. The teenage girl, a minor, was able to hold on to the paddleboat as it was blown to the far shore. Her companion, 18-year-old Michael Simmons, of Freeville, N.Y., is missing. Neither teen was wearing a life jacket and, no life jackets were aboard the paddleboat, witnesses said.

On Richland Chambers Reservoir, 17-year-

old Jerrod Rachel was reported missing after going on a fishing trip with his grandfather. Neither man was believed to have been wearing a life jacket.

A game warden recovered the body of 54-year-old Michael Wells Barton of Hickory Creek from the shores of Lewisville Lake. Barton had been missing from his sailboat since March 23. Barton was not wearing a life jacket.

Game wardens in Central Texas recovered the body of Jarod David Dawkins, 27, from Lake Belton. Dawkins had been missing since March 17, when the boat he was on capsized. Another man died in that accident, while three other

passengers survived. Alcohol and overloading of the small boat are believed to be factors in the Lake Belton accident, and neither of the victims was wearing a life jacket.

"We're off to a grim start this boating season," said Game Warden Maj. Alfonso Campos, chief of marine safety enforcement. "Over and over again we're seeing preventable accidents. If people had just exercised better judgment about the weather and their abilities, worn life jackets and — in two cases — been responsible about alcohol use, six lives might well have been saved over the past two weeks."

— Texas Parks and Wildlife reports

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tanks."

"Everybody" includes FLW Tour pros Brandon Coulter and Ott Defoe.

"The Kool Well system is a great asset to me as a tournament angler," said Defoe, who won the 2008 Stren series Southeast tournament at Santee Cooper lake in Summerton, S.C., and has 13 top ten finishes in other tournaments. "It keeps my fish alive and healthy all day resulting in no penalties and no weight loss. Also it is a great tool in our fight for conservation in our fisheries."

Kool Well is a cooling system anglers mount in their boat using the livewell and cooler. It circulates livewell water through a cooling unit that mounts in the cooler and is covered in ice. Rather than throwing ice directly into the livewell, the thermostat regulates water temperature in the livewell and runs the system as needed.

"It's all about making sure we conserve the fish through weigh-in and release," Sorey said. "In the hot



Professional tournament angler Ott Defoe uses the Kool Well system, which was designed with fishing tournaments in mind, to help fish survive long enough to make it to the weigh-in.

These methods have uncontrolled cooling, and bottles in the livewell can harm the fish.

With Kool Well, anglers put the same ice and frozen bottles in the cooler for the Kool Well cooling unit. In the cooler, the ice stays frozen longer than if placed in the warm livewell water.

Because of the cooling unit's small size, the cooler is still used for beverages and food. The unit is placed in the bottom of the cooler, ice is placed on top, and other items go on top of the ice.

"Use the cooler just like always," Sorey said.

Conservation-minded anglers who are glad to be keeping their fish alive longer will also appreciate that no chemicals or chlorine are used in Kool Well.

Anglers can see Kool Well at the Big Bass Splash in Jasper April 15-19.

For more information about the Kool Well system and to order, visit www.KoolWell.com or call (877) 608-7475.

weather tournaments, fish that go in the livewell need to be cooled. Dead fish penalties cause anglers to lose tournament winnings."

Kool Well can drop the water temperature many degrees, but biologists recommend 5 to 10 degrees below the surface tempera-

ture of the lake water as an ideal target.

"Just set the thermostat and let it maintain the temperature all day long," Sorey said.

The system is a better alternative for cooling livewell water than using ice or frozen water bottles.

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San Antonio Coastal Conservation Association
 Fundraiser
 Freeman Coliseum
 (210) 837-5500

Lake Proctor Ducks Unlimited
 Fundraiser
 Melody Oaks Ranch, Priddy
 (325) 330-1833

West Texas Coastal Conservation Association
 Fundraiser
 Midland Country Club
 (915) 553-5396



Brazos Valley Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
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 Bryan
 (979) 845-3863

The Woodlands Ducks Unlimited
 Crawfish Boil
 Rob Fleming Park Pavilion
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Texas Wildlife Association Foundation Quail Conservation Awards
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April 17
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 Victoria Community Center
 (361) 572-3011

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 Missouri City
 Independence Lake
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April 18
Camp County Ducks Unlimited
 Fundraiser
 Pittsburg Civic Center
 (903) 855-7504

Lamar Ducks Unlimited
 Fundraiser
 Beaumont Elks Lodge
 (281) 382-6561
 lamarducks@hotmail.com

Bass Champs South Region
 Tournament
 Falcon Lake, Beacon Lodge
 (817) 439-3274

Boat Safety Check
 Cabela's, Buda
 (512) 295-1122
 Lloyd.carroll@cabelas.com



April 22
Galveston Ducks Unlimited Spring Dinner
 Moody Gardens Convention Center
 (409) 762-9900
 plugin2ce1@prodigy.net

April 23
Tyler Delta Waterfowl
 Fundraiser
 Lone Star Event Center
 (903) 561-9477



Fort Bend Coastal Conservation Association
 Fundraiser
 Fort Bend County Fairgrounds
 (713) 626-4222

Bellaire Ducks Unlimited
 Fundraiser
 The Gatherings
 (713) 501-1286

April 24-25
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 lovelel@hotmail.com

April 24
Operation Game Thief Clay Stoppers Shoot
 Texas Disposal Systems Exotic Game Ranch, Buda
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 gnevents@austin.rr.com

Southeast Texas Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
 Fundraiser
 Beaumont
 (409) 673-2771

Ellis County Ducks Unlimited
 Fundraiser
 Ellis County EXPO Center
 (214) 673-7264



April 25
Ducks Unlimited Duck Jam in Aggieland
 Festival
 Wolf Pen Creek, College Station
 (512) 829-4520
 www.budweiserduckjam.com

Top of Texas Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
 Fundraiser
 Amarillo
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Cherokee Bass Tournament
 Clements Scout Ranch, Athens
 (903) 818-2287
 john.bray@scouting.org

Midland/Odessa Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
 Fundraiser
 (432) 687-1819

Bass Champs North Region
 Lake Fork tournament
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Sabine County Ducks Unlimited
 Fundraiser
 Fin & Feather Resort on Toledo Bend
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Winnie-Stowell Ducks Unlimited
 Fundraiser
 Winnie-Stowell Community Building
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April 30
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Fort Worth Coastal Conservation Association
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Turkey

Continued from Page 6

Drought conditions are causing hens to travel long distances in pockets of South Texas in search of suitable nesting habitat. In one area in McMullen County, a hunter reported the only things green were the mesquite leaves.

Lone Star Outdoor News hunted in Erath County, where the jakes were noisy and responding to calls, although many preferred to stay with the hens. The toms, though, stayed quiet and simply appeared without notice at the decoys. One double-bearded tom was harvested near mid-day.

Sausage

Continued from Page 6

been conducted.

"Some people put in too much red pepper or too much garlic," he said. "The consistency should be fine, but not too fine. We want sausage, not baloney."

Each judge cuts a thin slice of the numbered entries and takes a tiny taste before determining if the sausage makes the grade.

"There are some entries that we simply can't eat — you just don't want to put it in your mouth," Hafer said. "Generally, the judges can tell good sausage, and the scores of the top entries are pretty similar."

In the big buck contest, officials said the number of deer harvested and the antler scores were down slightly because of area-wide drought conditions.

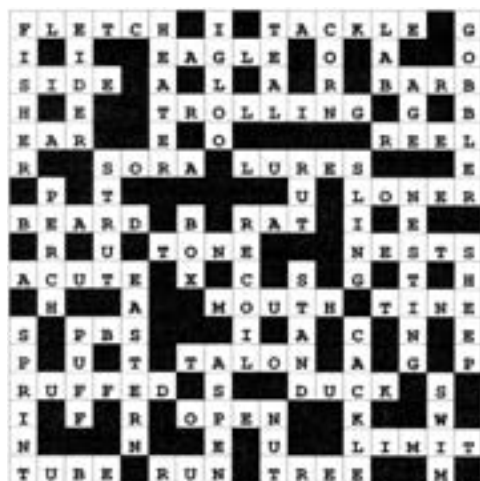
The trophy contest had 296 entries, down from a high of 397 four years ago.

Mike Schwab of Schwab's Sausage Haus & Barbecue said that although the number of big buck entries was down, his meat processing operation experienced a marked increase in animals being brought in by hunters.

"We were very busy all season," Schwab said. "We had a lot of animals brought in and were still processing into March when we can normally shut down in early February."

Puzzle solution

from Page 18



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Rattlesnake

Continued from Page 1

bouncing off the mirror is brighter than most flashlights and easier to see during daylight.

If the snakes are too deep to be pulled out with his hook, he gasses them, injecting fumes from a can of gasoline into the den or spraying a fine mist inside.

"You don't really have to spray it on them or anything," Hoover said. "It's more or less to cut the air off."

When they start slithering out, he picks them up.

"Lots of times you'll find dens with five, 10," said Hoover, 69, who turned in the largest snake (68 inches) at the 51st annual Rattlesnake Round-up in March in Sweetwater. "I've found a den with 120 in it. If you don't get too heavy with your gas, you can leave some in the den."

Hoover prefers not using gas.

In the bag

Once out of the den, snake hunters deposit the snakes into some type of container — with a sturdy lid.

Tom Henderson, 60, a Sweetwater rancher, uses a metal trash can with holes drilled in the lid. The lid is tied across the top to keep it in place.

Others use custom-made boxes.

Sacks should not be used, Henderson said.

"The gunny sack thing was not a good idea," he said.

Whatever the receptacle used, it should have a wide bottom. Snakes in a container with a narrow bottom can be crushed under each others' weight. A wide area gives them and their weight more room to spread out, Henderson said.

Once captured, the snake can be killed and processed or sold to a deal-

er. Some hunters release snakes if a buyer's price isn't right.

Before turning snakes over to a dealer or roundup, they are often kept for weeks or months in the hunter's possession.

Temperatures for storage should be 50 to 80 degrees, Henderson said, and cooler is better than warmer.

For long periods of storage, say, a few months, food and water will be needed, Henderson said.

From there it's to the buyer — if one can be found.

"The dealers are becoming fewer and farther apart," Henderson said.

Roundups are perhaps the biggest buyers of rattlesnakes, often taking in several thousand pounds each year.

The one in Sweetwater is held in March, and Freer, in South Texas, has one planned for April 24-25.

From the buyers, it's on down the economic line for rattlesnakes. They

become food in restaurants and homes through specialty meat suppliers. Their skins become boots, belts, hats and untold other fashion (to some people) items.

Wrong end of the fangs

Most hunters prefer tasting rattlesnake to being tasted by one.

"A rattlesnake's bite compares to being stabbed with two red-hot ice picks," Tom Wideman wrote as the opening line of his 2006 book, "Texas Rattlesnake Tales." He was writing from experience.

The 73-year-old Abilene resident and former owner of a steel manufacturing company has suffered the sting three times: in 1973, 1984 and 2005.

Each encounter boiled down to foolishness, he said.

"Whenever you get bit by a snake, it is your fault. Period," said Wideman.

The first bite went worse than the

second two.

He was on a ranch leading a public snake hunt with about 40 people and had finished his sermon about being cautious when picking something up off the ground and carefully walking through grass.

They were 50 miles from town, and antivenom was not available.

Wideman reached down to pick something up, and a rattler struck him on the middle finger of his left hand.

He started running and made it about 50 feet before he realized that wasn't a good idea.

"I about scared everybody to death," he said.

He ate that snake, but didn't eat the last one that bit him.

A pet snake, Red Rider, struck him while Wideman was stroking him.

"I had a pet rattler, and there's no such thing," he said.

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