

LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

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Hunting the Hood



Base open to public
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INSIDE HUNTING



Landowners are turning toward conservation easements and cost-sharing programs to conserve land for wildlife and to receive revenue.

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Gun salespersons don't get to the field to test the products they sell often enough. Product representatives from Owens Outdoor Sales were out to change that at the Hill County Shooting Sports Center.

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FISHING



Amie Clanton landed an unusual redfish in the Laguna Madre, with more than 650 spots.

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Renowned artist and conservationist Jack Cowan, instrumental in the enactment of the Texas Red Drum Conservation Act of 1977, is dead at 87.

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CONSERVATION

The popular Sea Center Texas mascot, Gordon, a 23-year-old 327-pound Queensland grouper, died despite valiant efforts from staff and veterinarians to save the giant fish.

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NATIONAL

Louisiana raised the age limit for hunters to participate in special youth-only weekends from 15 to 17.

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Guides face hotel, food tax hit

Comptroller's office seeking taxes from 2004 to present

By MARK ENGLAND

Hunting and fishing guides in Texas could be on the hook for thousands of dollars if the state comptroller's office makes them

pay the hotel occupancy tax for lodging supplied to clients as well as sales tax for any food served.

Many guides and outfitters sell package deals that don't itemize lodging or food.

However, after an in-house study, the comptroller's office mailed out hundreds of letters saying guides and outfitters selling package deals are responsible for lodging and food taxes dating to June 1, 2004. The

deadline to pay is July 28. Four years is legally as far back as the agency can seek past taxes.

"There have been questions about this going back years and

See TAXES, Page 14

Summer bass over grass

Early morning bite

By CRAIG NYHUS

When it comes to summer bass fishing, many anglers choose to stay deep. But the shallower grass beds hold fish, and for most bass fishermen, nothing is more fun than an early morning of catching bass at or near the surface.

At Lake Fork, the morning bass have been cooperating. "Early summer usually has a good topwater bite in the mornings, depending on how quickly the water warms," said guide John Tanner. "This year everything is running kind of late, so the bite is still good."

Tanner stressed the importance of fishing with your boat close to deeper water, and underwater grass points seem to hold the most active fish.

"We have a lot of deeper grass out to 14 feet, and the fish are cruising it in the morning," he said.

"The buzzbaits are always good around grass, and sometimes spooks produce really well. If the grass is matted, I'll throw frogs like the SPRO,

See BASS, Page 16



UP, UP AND AWAY: Bass ascending from the grass to the surface to hit a topwater bait tops the list of favorite techniques for many anglers, especially in early summer. Photo by David J. Sams.

Pending state record dorado landed

Harlingen angler hoping for STAR prize

By DANNO WISE

Although he didn't set out to catch a record, it would appear that is exactly what Harlingen angler Ryan Foster did Saturday, June 21.

At around 3:30 that afternoon Foster hauled a 65-pound, 7-ounce dorado over the gunwale of Aaron Sepulveda's 34-foot Boston Whaler, "Mystery Strike."

Once he made it back to dry land, Foster found out his fish exceeded the current Texas state record, which had stood since July 4, 1989. That fish was taken by Robby DeLeon and weighed

just over 65 pounds. For Foster, the pending state record fish was the perfect cap to an already excellent outing.

"We had actually been out since Thursday," said Foster. "We had run out to the big rigs, catching yellowfin tuna. We were entered in the South Texas Big Game Fishing Club tournament and were heading in for the weigh-in on Saturday. We were about 50 miles out, trolling our way back in when the fish hit a Mold Craft lure rigged with ballyhoo."

Quattro Weinbold, owner of Jim's Pier on South Padre Island, where the fish was weighed and

certified, said Foster's dorado caused quite a stir on the dock.

"They hit our docks around 6 o'clock Saturday evening," said Weinbold. "Within 15 minutes of us weighing that fish, the dock was full of people. We even had some mariachis show up, which added a little festivity to the situation. It was a lot of fun."

"But, actually, they had already caught a lot of big fish on that trip before they caught that dolphin."

Jim's Pier, being both a certified weigh-station and official CCA STAR checkpoint, served as a one-stop shop for Foster, who

See DORADO, Page 17



DANDY DOLPHIN: Ryan Foster's 65-pound, 7-ounce dorado may be the new Texas record. Photo by Aaron Sepulveda.

Second Amendment is individual right

"We now have the right to keep and bear arms," Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas, told attendees at the Texas Wildlife Association Convention in San Antonio on June 28. "Previously in Washington, D.C., it was only the criminals who could have firearms."

Cornyn was referring to the U.S. Supreme Court decision on June

26 overturning, by a 5-4 vote, the District of Columbia's 32-year ban on handguns.

In the decision, the majority opinion says that the right to keep and bear arms is an individual right. In the explanation of the decision, the majority opinion, written by Justice Antonin Scalia,

See HANDGUN, Page 17

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CONSERVATION

Gordon, Sea Center Texas mascot, dies at 23

Gordon, a 23-year-old, 327-pound Queensland grouper was for a dozen years the star attraction at Sea Center Texas, the Texas Parks and Wildlife hatchery and research center on the upper Texas coast.

Last fall, problems with the swelling of his eye had biologists concerned. And in March, Gordon's eye developed a bacterial infection. Bio-logists started the giant fish on a regimen of antibiotics stuffed into his regular food, but the infection wasn't responding.

On June 22, two aquatic veterinarians from Georgia flew in to treat Gordon.

Treating Gordon involved moving him from his permanent home, a 52,000-gallon aquarium, to a 350-gallon treatment tank and then to a 10,000-gallon quarantine tank where he could recover.

After examining Gordon's eye in detail, the Georgia Aquarium doctors administered or supervised six different injections — anti-inflammatories, antibiotics, vitamins and stimulants.

"The procedure itself went well," Aimee Berliner, D.V.M., said. "Everyone pitched in, and it went very well. The initial recovery went great."

But later that day Gordon stopped breathing, and then his heart stopped. The veterinarians and Sea Center staff flooded his gills with oxygenated water, dosed him with epinephrine and massaged his chest. He began breathing again.

Sea Center staffers also did some-



MISSING THE MASCOT: David Abrego, facility director at Sea Center Texas with Gordon the grouper. Photo by TPW.

thing catch-and-release anglers are familiar with: four of them at a time gently moved the big fish back and forth through the water to keep oxygen flowing across his gills.

The team repeated the process again around 7 p.m., and two more times during the night.

But sometime around 11:30 p.m. — more than 12 hours after a very hopeful beginning — Gordon's heart stopped for the last time.

"I guess you could say he was the facility mascot," facility director David Abrego said. "He was the most popular guy here. The volunteers loved him. We'd have birthday parties for him where seven or eight hundred kids would show up. He would come up to the window whenever there were kids around."

While Queensland groupers can

live four decades in the wild, 23 is considered well past middle-aged for an aquarium animal.

Gordon was acquired by the San Antonio Zoo from a Houston man who couldn't keep up with his rapid growth. Shortly after one of the curators moved over to Sea Center Texas, the zoo started looking for a new home for the fish, which had outgrown his display there.

At Sea Center Texas, Gordon quickly became the center of attention at the Visitor's Center.

"He had a children's book written about him. He had a fan club. He had his own song," Abrego said. "I'm not really sure what we'll do next. We're debating. Right now we're just reeling from the shock of it."

— Texas Parks and Wildlife report.

New conservation program focuses on coastal prairies

Texas landowners have a new opportunity to enroll acreage in the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Conservation Reserve Program through an initiative that focuses specifically on wildlife — State Acres For Wildlife Enhancement. Sign-up began June 30 for the Gulf Coast Prairies SAFE program designed to restore 14,400 acres of native grasslands and shallow wetlands along the Texas Gulf Coast.

Native grasslands once covered more than 6 million acres in coastal Texas, but only 65,000 acres remain. USDA offers to program participants a \$100/acre

sign-up payment, up to 90 percent cost-share for eligible practice installation costs, up to 15 years of annual rental payments and maintenance costs and up to 50 percent cost-share on required mid-contract management practices.

To be eligible, lands must be located within one of the affected counties and meet basic CRP eligibility requirements.

Landowners should check with their local Farm Service Agency office to determine individual eligibility.

— Ducks Unlimited report.



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 Design Editor: **DUDLEY GREEN**
 Operations Mgr: **MIKE HUGHES**
 Associate Editor: **MARK ENGLAND**
 Business/Products Editor: **MARY HELEN AGUIRRE**

Advertising Sales: **BOB COLE**
LEE GRESHAM
 Accounting: **NANCY HALPHEN**
 Web site: **BRUCE SOILEAU**
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CONTRIBUTORS

HAL BROWN
KYLE CARTER
BINK GRIMES
BOB HOOD

DIANA KUNDE
WILBUR LUNDEEN
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BILL MILLER

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HUNTING

Day in the field

Testing products aids gun salespersons

By CRAIG NYHUS

An afternoon at the range, for people that sell guns, scopes and binoculars, is not just a welcome diversion.

It's a chance to test products being sold, and tell customers the good and not-so-good news about the items they are looking to buy.

And that's what more than 40 of them were able to do on June 29 when Owens Outdoor Sales, who represents Nikon, Caesar Guerini shotguns, H&K handguns and Focchi ammunition invited them to the Hill Country Shooting Sports Center in Kerrville.

The salespersons shot several different pistols, shotguns so expensive they were afraid to handle them, and rifles equipped with Nikon's new Monarch scopes, while others viewed their success through Nikon's spotting scopes.

The real focus was on the rifles with the Nikon scopes with their BDC reticles on each model.

"BDC means bullet drop compensation," Jason Phillips of Owens Outdoor Sales said. "It works with different types of bullets — whether standard or magnum."

The scope design looks simple as the shooter looks through it. Five circles line up vertically, and the shooter looks through the circle at the target.

"When the gun is sighted in at 100

See **TESTING**, Page 18



FIELD WORK: Salespersons from several South Texas gun shops take aim while others view their success through spotting scopes at the Monarch Shootout presented by Owens Outdoor Sales at the Hill Country Shooting Sports Center in Kerrville. Photo by Craig Nyhus.



CONSERVATION CELEBRATION: Texas Sen. John Cornyn and former TPW Commission Chairman Joe Fitzsimons and his wife, Blair, greet attendees at the Texas Wildlife Association annual convention. Photo by Craig Nyhus.

There's money in conserving land

Landowners leaning toward conservation easements, MLPs

By CRAIG NYHUS

Keeping the ranch, land and wildlife habitat the way it was is the desire of many Texas landowners and ranchers.

But development and rising land values often offer a larger payout to their heirs after the land has been inherited.

At the Texas Wildlife Association Convention in San Antonio, the option of a conservation easement donated to a qualified land trust was presented as a solution that can provide significant tax savings and incentives for wildlife habitat restoration.

And, with other programs coming available,

revenue sources may approach or even exceed conventional use of the land.

"The conservation easement limits the kind and amount of development on the property," said Mark Steinbach, executive director of the Texas Land Conservancy. "But they protect the relatively natural wildlife habitat, allow hunting and agriculture, and there is no public access required."

Landowners seeking an easement will have to select a charitable group to donate the easement and pay for drafting the easement and an appraisal. After the easement is granted, they and their heirs must maintain the proper-

See **EASEMENTS**, Page 26

Hunting the Hood

Civilian hunting on giant base for \$100 fee

By BILL MILLER

With 214,000 acres, Fort Hood is a honey of a spot for whitetails, Rio Grande turkeys, feral hogs and upland game.

Many of the bucks are 140-class or better, and one harvested last season scored 168.

But hunting and fishing at the Central Texas base isn't just a privilege for the military brass. Enlisted folks can hunt there too, and the opportunity doesn't stop there.

"Fort Hood is so large they allow hunting to the public as well," said Sgt. 1st Class Ernest Garcia. "But this isn't a combed-over farm.

"This is rugged Texas at its best."

Fort Hood was built near Killeen during World War II to develop

armor crews capable of battling Nazi tanks that were racing across Europe.

Today it's the home for several large units, including the 1st Cavalry and the 4th Infantry Divisions. Thousands of Fort Hood troops have helped fight the war in Iraq.

The Sportsmen's Center, founded in 1957, is one of Fort Hood's "Morale, Welfare and Recreation" programs.

Garcia, a medic, recalled that when he got stationed at Fort Hood, a friend from his hometown of San Antonio asked him to check into the hunting and fishing there.

"I said 'Dude, I'm right here and I don't see this at all,'" Garcia said. "But once I checked it out, lo and

behold!"

The base employs wildlife managers to ensure strong game populations. Guides from the Sportsmen's Center — mandatory for hunts involving centerfire rifles — also stock feeders.

But Garcia, himself a guide, said Fort Hood deer are cagy.

"They hear shooting all the time from the machine guns and tanks," he said. "But there are a lot of acorns and pecans, so they really don't need your corn.

"For people who like fair chase hunting, it's fair chase at its best."

Judy Johnson, who manages the Sportsmen's Center, said the mandatory guides on rifle hunts are intended to ensure safety.

See **FORT HOOD**, Page 26



BIG BASE BUCK: Sgt. Jeremiah Shenefelt shows the white-tailed buck he shot last season at Fort Hood. The base also is open to civilians for hunting. Photo by Fort Hood Sportsmen's Center.



BLUEBILL WOES: Scaup numbers are down, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service may cut the daily limit from two birds to one this season.

Scaup limit may go down

Hunters may face another reduction in the scaup bag limit this season.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service approved a harvest strategy for scaup that many believe will bring a reduction in the daily bag limit from 2 birds to 1.

The strategy is used by managers to determine the appropriate daily bag limit and season lengths in relation to the current population.

"As sustainable hunting is the cornerstone of wildlife management, we must prepare

See SCAUP, Page 14

Early teal season to remain 16 days

The special September blue-winged teal season will not change from last year, with a 16-day season in September for select states in the Mississippi and Central Flyways and a 9-day season in some states in the Atlantic Flyway.

The estimated blue-winged teal breeding population index was 6.6 million birds, above the index of 4.7 million birds necessary to allow for the longer early teal season.

Texas proposed early season dates of Sept. 13-28 for the 16-day season.

Dry conditions in the bluewing's breeding grounds, the prairies of the Dakotas and southern Canada, is expected to result in a reduction of bluewings, especially young birds, heading south after last year's banner season.

— Staff reports.



TOTING TEAL: Blue-winged teal numbers remain high despite a drought in the birds' breeding grounds. Dan Rhodes, above, and other Texas hunters will receive a 16-day season again this year. Photo by David J. Sams.

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FISHING

Spots and more spots

Corpus Christi woman lands red drum with 650-plus

BY DIANA KUNDE

When Amie Clanton first got a look at the fish splashing at the end of her line, she thought it was a trout. Instead, she had a redfish that might have the most spots ever recorded anywhere — more than 650.

"We counted more than 700 spots," she said, "but some of the spots had grown together, so we subtracted 50 spots. We didn't want to overcount."

For now, she's going with the number "over 650," she said.

An online search indicates her closest contender is a 603-spot red caught by Florida angler Steve Johnson in 2007 during a tournament. It was photographed and then released near Fort Myers, Fla. The catch was reported on fishing guide Ron Brooks' blog.

Clanton caught her spotted trophy in the early morning of June 16th in the Laguna Madre, fishing with Capt. Alan White of Big Al's Bay Charter.

"We'd gotten a couple of fish. Then on our third or fourth drift, my cork goes under," Clanton said. "It takes me awhile to bring him in. I start screaming 'He's a trout; he's a trout.' Alan goes, 'No, he's a red.'"

"When we got it on board, we said, 'Wow, this is really unusual.'"

Fisheries biologist Mark Fisher with Texas Parks and Wildlife confirmed that a red with that many spots was "pretty unusual."

The redfish typically has a pair of spots, one on each side of the tail, said Fisher. The spots are thought to look like eyes and fool predators.

But individual fish genes can cause more spots. Redfish with extra spots are known as having a leopard pattern, Fisher said.

Some tournaments in redfish areas like Florida, Georgia and Texas award prizes for the most spots. Accounts on the Internet mention a 500-spot red caught in the Everglades in 1996 and a 150-spot fish landed off Florida in 2001, plus the more recent 603-spot fish. Based on that, Clanton definitely seems to be in the lead.

Unfortunately, said a spokeswoman for the International Game Fish Association, the organization doesn't keep official records based on numbers of spots. Nor does Texas Parks and Wildlife.

"She was kind enough to send us photographs. It was a very nice catch," the spokeswoman said.

Clanton caught her fish on a spinning rod with 10-pound test line, using pin perch for bait,

See SPOTS, Page 17



SEEING SPOTS: Amie Clanton landed a red drum with more than 650 spots. Although it is probably the most ever recorded, no official records are kept on the numbers of spots. Photo by Capt. Alan White.

John Pemberton 'Jack' Cowan

Renowned artist, conservationist dead at 87

One of the world's most renowned wildlife artists, John Pemberton "Jack" Cowan, age 87, died June 27 in Bristol, Tenn.

Cowan received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Recreational Fishing Alliance of Texas on June 19, but was unable to attend due to his illness. His daughter, Kitty, accepted on his behalf.

"He was excited about the award and about having an artificial reef named after him," said Jim Smarr, president of the Texas chapter of RFA.

Cowan was also instrumental in the introduction and enactment of the Texas Red Drum Conservation Act of 1977 — the first significant legislation designed to protect Texas' declining redfish population.

"He was the man responsible for saving Texas bay fishing as we know it," Smarr said. "Without him, the bays would have been void of fish."

Cowan's hunting and fishing companion and friend of more than 40 years, Texas Parks and Wildlife Commissioner John D. Parker of Lufkin, described the events that came to be called "The Redfish Wars."

Cowan was fishing on a cold March morning with Perry Bass, who was chairman of the TPW Commission at the time.

"They weren't catching anything and Perry asked Jack why," Parker said. "Jack told him the redfish are gone and so are the trout — they went in those gill nets."

"Perry was freezing and suggested they go to the

house and talk about it. The end result was the infamous, quickly passed Redfish Bill."

Cowan's future son-in-law, Joe Allen, was a state representative from Baytown, and he suggested drafting a bill. Bass put Jack in touch with Houston lawyers, and Cowan took it from there.

"Joe Allen put the bill on the Secretary of State's bar on the last hour of the last day for filing," Parker said. "Opposition to the bill didn't have time to gain any traction."

"Jack said getting the bill wasn't that hard," Smarr said. "He told me that Joe knew that if he didn't get the bill passed, he wouldn't get his daughter's hand."

Cowan also was the catalyst for the beginning of wildlife conservation in Texas 40-plus years ago, Parker said. "He started the first major onslaught of wildlife conservation in Texas through DU. There's no telling how many thousands of prints he gave away to all of the conservation groups."

Cowan came to Texas when stationed with the United States Air Corps in Hondo during World War II, and later began his professional art career in Houston.

Cowan's paintings appeared as cover art and illustrations in such magazines as *Fortune*, *Life*, *Look*, *Esquire*, *Sports Afield*, *Outdoor Life* and other national publications, and he provided original art for 14 stamp prints for groups including Trout Unlimited, Gulf Coast Conservation, Texas Waterfowl, Texas Turkey Federation and Texas Quail Unlimited.

See COWAN, Page 12



A TEXAS LEGEND: Jack Cowan, in addition to being a renowned artist, played a major role in restoring red drum fishing to the Texas Coast in the 1970s.

Neches River National Wildlife Refuge a go

Judge overturns motion for reservoir

BY MARK ENGLAND

A Dallas federal judge denied a motion to overturn plans to build the Neches River National Wildlife Refuge in favor of a reservoir.

The City of Dallas and the Texas Water Development Board had sought the motion. Dallas and 22 other municipalities wanted to build a reservoir in the vicinity of the proposed refuge in Anderson and Cherokee counties. They argued the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service failed to conduct a proper environmental assessment for the refuge and did not cooperate with state and local officials.

Judge Jorge Solis, however, ruled that the USFWS met the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act.

"We're delighted by the ruling," said Janice Bezanon, executive director of the Texas Conservation Alliance. "The Neches River refuge is one of the most important wildlife areas left in Texas. High-quality bottomland hardwood forests are becoming increasingly rare."

Bezanon said she thought the "speculative nature" of the proposed reservoir worked against its advocates. Construction is tentative and it has received no permits or funding.

"Dallas' own long-range plan identifies other water-supply options that could more than meet the city's projected need," she said.

TWDB spokeswoman Carla Daws said reservoir proponents have not decided whether to appeal Solis' ruling.

'The Neches River refuge is one of the most important wildlife areas left in Texas. High-quality bottomland hardwood forests are becoming increasingly rare.'

— JANICE BEZANON

"We are aware of the ruling," she said. "We are in discussion with the attorney general's office at this time. That's all I can tell you."

The boundary for the refuge encompasses more than 25,000 acres. Proponents said the land will be bought only from "willing sellers." Bezanon said The Conservation Fund is poised to donate 2,000 acres — and as much as 5,000 acres in the future.

No management plan has been written, but refuge activities could include such things as hunting, fishing, hiking, kayaking and wildlife watching.

"Anything that is compatible with protecting the wildlife and the bottomland hardwood forest habitat," Bezanon said.

Palate Pleasers

The best tasting bay fish according to those who cook it

BY KYLE CARTER

There's no more wide open of a menu than the bays of the Gulf of Mexico.

A fisherman looking for more than a fight can choose from redfish, speckled trout, flounder, black drum and sheepshead; and those can all be reached with a 25-hp motor.

But in the end, don't fish just taste like fish? The answer, according to Chris Le, the executive chef at the Redfish Lodge in Rockport, and other seafood chefs, is no.



Getting them to agree on the best tasting fish, though, is a different matter.

"My favorite is trout," Le said. "It's a more

moist fish and it's great for anything. I can do anything with it."

Le said the trout is best for most cooking applications, including ceviche. "The redfish can get kind of tough in ceviche," he said.

Chef Todd Godfrey from Houston rates flounder near the bottom. Godfrey, who graduated from the Art Institute in Houston in 2000 with a degree in culinary arts and has been working in the area since, said while the best fish for a chef to cook is up for the debate, the worst — in his mind

— has been settled.

"Flounder's hard to work with," he said. "It's hard to cut the fillet and hard to cook just right because you're dealing with just a little bit of meat."

Le disagreed, saying flounder is his second favorite coastal fish. "It has a good taste," he said. "It can be kind of small to work with, but once you get to the meat, it's worth it."

Linda Reed, who works alongside Chef Donny Lewis out of a restaurant called

See TASTING, Page 12

Heat hasn't cooled Falcon bass action

BY DANNO WISE

The entire nation was able to see the type of fish Falcon Lake is capable of producing during the BASS Elite Series tournament event earlier this year. However, most of those viewers probably didn't realize this border impoundment remains hot throughout the summer months.

"We've gotten a lot of calls from people who have seen the tournament on television, but most of them are scheduling trips for the fall or next spring," said Robert Amaya, who, along with his wife, Norma, runs Robert's Fish N' Tackle in Zapata. Amaya is also a second generation guide on Falcon. "The weather is hot during the summer, but the fishing remains good through September.

"Right now we've been catching plenty of fish along the creek channels. For the most part, we've been pitching Brush Hogs and

jigs into the hardwoods along the channels in 10 to 12 feet of water. We've also done well with deep crankbaits along the edges.

"And this fishing should only get better. We've been getting some rain during the first part of July, and it's caused our water temperature to drop from around 86 degrees to about 81. Plus, with all the rain they're getting in the (Rio Grande) Valley, we shouldn't have to release as much water for irrigation. Overall, this rain will really help our late summer fishing."

Guide Roy Burger, who runs L-R Guide Service with his wife, Laurie, agrees. Burger, however, has focused on a different structure to produce his summer bass bite.

"That tournament certainly helped show people what this lake is capable of," said Burger, who competed as a co-angler in the Elite Series event. "But most people don't believe that we're still catching fish like that.

See FALCON, Page 14

HOT SPOT



Port Aransas

Trout are good at the jetty on live bait. Sharks are good around the jetty and on the beachfront on finger mullet and shad. Offshore is good for snapper, ling, wahoo and kingfish. The banks of the Lydia Ann Channel are producing trout, reds and flounder on soft plastics, while jacks, Spanish mackerel, trout, reds and a few nighttime sharks are being caught along the jetties. See full fishing report on Page 19.



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GAME WARDEN BLOTTER

ANGLER CAUGHT EXCEEDING STRIPED BASS BAG LIMIT

•Near midnight, Polk County Game Wardens Ryan Hall and Chuck Cotton apprehended a man they had observed for several hours exceeding his bag limit of striped bass on the Trinity River below the Lake Livingston Dam. Wardens seized nine striped bass and 12 undersized white bass and issued warnings for water safety violations. Cases pending.

TWO MEN CITED FOR FISHING WITH A CAST NET

•Game Warden Chuck Cotton of Polk County observed two men catching white bass and catfish with a cast net and placing them in an ice chest. Cotton found more than 20 bass and catfish in their possession, with several undersized fish. Citations for undersized fish, cast netting game fish, and no fishing license were issued.

CITATIONS ISSUED IN SALE OF BABY ALLIGATOR AT FLEA MARKET

•In Hildalgo County, a report was received of the sale of alligators at a local flea market. Game Wardens Ira Zuniga and Fernando Cervantes made contact with the violator who was attempting to sell a baby alligator. The alligator was seized and citations issued.

PROHIBITED LIVE SWAMP EELS SEIZED AT ASIAN SUPERMARKET

•Collin County Game Warden Lee Roy Thompson informed Dallas County Game Wardens Sergio Bazaldua and Martin C. Oviedo that a new Asian supermarket in the Dallas area was selling prohibited live swamp eels. Bazaldua and Oviedo identified

'FAKE' GAME WARDEN ISSUES REAL CITATIONS

•Grayson County Game Warden Dale Moses worked undercover on Lake Texoma after receiving a tip regarding people shocking catfish. Moses was traveling across the lake when two PWCs approached. One of the PWCs continued on a path to pass across the bow of the warden's 14-foot flat-bottom boat. As the PWC neared the warden's boat, Moses motioned for the driver of the PWC to give way and cross behind him. Instead of giving way, the PWC driver accelerated and took a path directly at the center of the boat. At the last moment, the PWC, which was

going 35-40 mph, turned and passed approximately 8 feet from the back of the boat, with the driver making an obscene hand gesture and shouting profanities. Moses turned to follow the PWC and the driver of the PWC spun around and started back toward Moses, who had his badge and ID out. When the PWC got within 6 feet of Moses, the driver spun and threw a 4-foot wall of water into the boat.

The driver of the PWC then circled the warden's boat saying that his badge and ID were fake, that Moses was going to jail, and that he knew all of the game war-

dens on Texoma and that Moses wasn't one of them. Moses retrieved his Game Warden cap and asked the driver of the PWC if the cap looked fake, too. The operator still claimed the warden was a fake and drove away. Moses followed the man a short distance to a dock and convinced him that he was indeed a real Game Warden. Citations were issued for coming within 50 feet of another vessel and for swerving at the last moment to avoid contact with a PWC. The man also will have to complete a mandatory boating safety course.

and seized the 62 live swamp eels at the market and transported them to a local rehabber until the impending court case. The supermarket owner was also cited for failing to display a retail fish dealer license. The eels were being sold as yellow eels. Charges pending.

WARDEN HELPS CATCH ATTEMPTED KIDNAPPERS

•Montgomery County Game Warden Alan Biggerstaff received a call for assistance from the Montgomery County Sheriff's Department, whose deputies had been pursuing a vehicle with four occupants who had forced another vehicle off the road. They then attempted to kidnap the people in the car. The four men abandoned their vehicle and ran into a wooded area. Biggerstaff responded with his ATV and assisted the deputies with the search. They apprehended three of the four men and recovered the weapon

involved in the attempted kidnapping.

DWI ARREST FOLLOWS MINORS IN POSSESSION CITATIONS

•While patrolling Grapevine Lake, Tarrant County Game Warden David A. Solis made contact with two females in possession of alcohol. The 16- and 18-year-old minors had 25 empty beer cans thrown around the beach area. The 16-year-old was released to a parent with a citation. The 18-year-old notified her boyfriend to pick her up. Her boyfriend arrived with a 16-year-old passenger. The driver, a 19-year-old, had an open container. The driver was arrested for DWI and transported to Tarrant County Jail. Cases pending.

INTOXICATED BOATER FALLS OFF DOCK, LANDS IN JAIL

•Smith County Game Warden Chris Green was at Lake Tyler Marina when he observed a boat

pull in. The passenger lost his balance on the dock and fell into the water. The operator was booked into Smith County Jail on a BWI charge after breath samples of .13 and .14 two hours later. The passenger was jailed for public intoxication. Cases pending.

WARDEN DONS UNIFORM, CATCHES MAN WITH UNDERSIZED FISH

•Game Warden Antone Jackson was off-duty on his way home and passed by Flagship Pier and noticed a man walking toward his truck and hiding fish. Jackson went home, changed into his uniform, and returned to the pier and found the man to be in possession of seven undersized trout. Charges pending.

BURLAP SACKS FULL OF ILLEGALLY TAKEN CATFISH

•On a recent Rio Grande River patrol, Maverick County Game Wardens Armando Guzman and

Oscar Jaimez came upon four men in state waters on the Rio Grande River at the mouth of Elm Creek. The four were wading out of the Elm Creek area carrying three large burlap sacks. The sacks turned out to be full of illegally taken catfish and about 1,000 feet of trotline. Cases pending.

SHOVEL PADDLE SCOOPS UP PUBLIC INTOXICATION ARREST

•A citizen witnessed two boaters in an 8-foot plastic bass buster boat paddle away from the shoreline at Lake Tyler an hour before a storm hit. Smith County Game Warden Chris Green responded to an emergency call. The vessel was not equipped with any motor, and the two men were using a shovel for a paddle. Green located the boat, observing one person in the water swimming from behind the boat, as the other paddled with the shovel. Both were wet, cold and intoxicated. No PFDs were present. Green was able to get them and the boat to the shoreline without incident. One man was arrested for public intoxication. Cases pending.

WOMAN'S FOOT CAUGHT IN PROPELLER IN BOAT ACCIDENT

•Williamson County Game Warden Scott Vaca responded to a boating accident on Lake Georgetown. A man was attempting to drop his wife off at a swim beach. The wife thought her husband had finished maneuvering the boat and jumped out while the boat was still in motion. Her foot was caught in the propeller, resulting in numerous lacerations. No charges filed.

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TPW wildlife director announces retirement

Michael E. Berger will retire Oct. 31 as Wildlife Division director for Texas Parks and Wildlife.



Michael E. Berger

Berger capped a 40-year career by serving the last five as wildlife director, leading a team that greatly increased the acreage of Texas land under wildlife management plans, expanded public hunting and recreational opportunities and improved science-based

conservation.

"All those who love wildlife and wide-open spaces should thank Mike Berger for a lifetime of service," said Carter Smith, executive director of TPW.

Since Berger took the reins as wildlife director in 2003, the Wildlife Division has expanded statewide acreage under approved wildlife management plans from 14.5 million acres to more than 22 million acres involving some 6,000 landowner cooperators.

— Texas Parks and Wildlife report.

Tasting

Continued from Page 9

Pendulum in Athens, said she prefers snapper of any color.

"It's a fillet that doesn't need to be cooked long," Reed said. "Surround the finished product with some fruit to enhance the flavor, and that's just perfect."

Godfrey didn't give high ratings to the sheephead, a favorite of many winter Texans. "Yeah, the sheephead should be more of a catch-and-release fish," Godfrey said. "I know people who eat it, but I know people who will eat just about anything."

Godfrey's favorite, though, differs from

many coastal chefs. "The small red, about 2.5 to 3 pounds, stands out above the rest," he said. "It's more tender and a more delicate fish to the palate."

Of course, Godfrey's declaration comes with a list of "onlys:" only if it's cooked fresh over a campfire, only with the right seasonings, and only if they are cooked on the half shell (leaving the skin on the fillet).

Black drum, a favorite of many locals, didn't score high ratings with the professionals. "It's real tender when it's fried," Le said. "Maybe that's why the locals like it so much."

The debate on the top tasting coastal fish is anything but settled. "People's palates vary as much as their personalities," he said. The same might be said of the chefs.

Cowan

Continued from Page 8


Cowan was honored by numerous local, state and national wildlife and conservation associations including Houston DU Sportsman of the Year, National DU Artist of the Year, Trout Unlimited Artist of the Year, and Texas Ducks Unlimited Artist of the Year.

In October, Cowan will be inducted into

the Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation Conservation Hall of Fame in recognition of his many contributions to the protection and conservation of Texas' outdoor resources.



Cowan is survived by two daughters: Kitty Cowan Allen of Baytown and Mary Jane Cowan of Bristol; and one son, John Pemberton Cowan Jr., also of Bristol; five grandchildren and one great-grandson.

— Staff reports.




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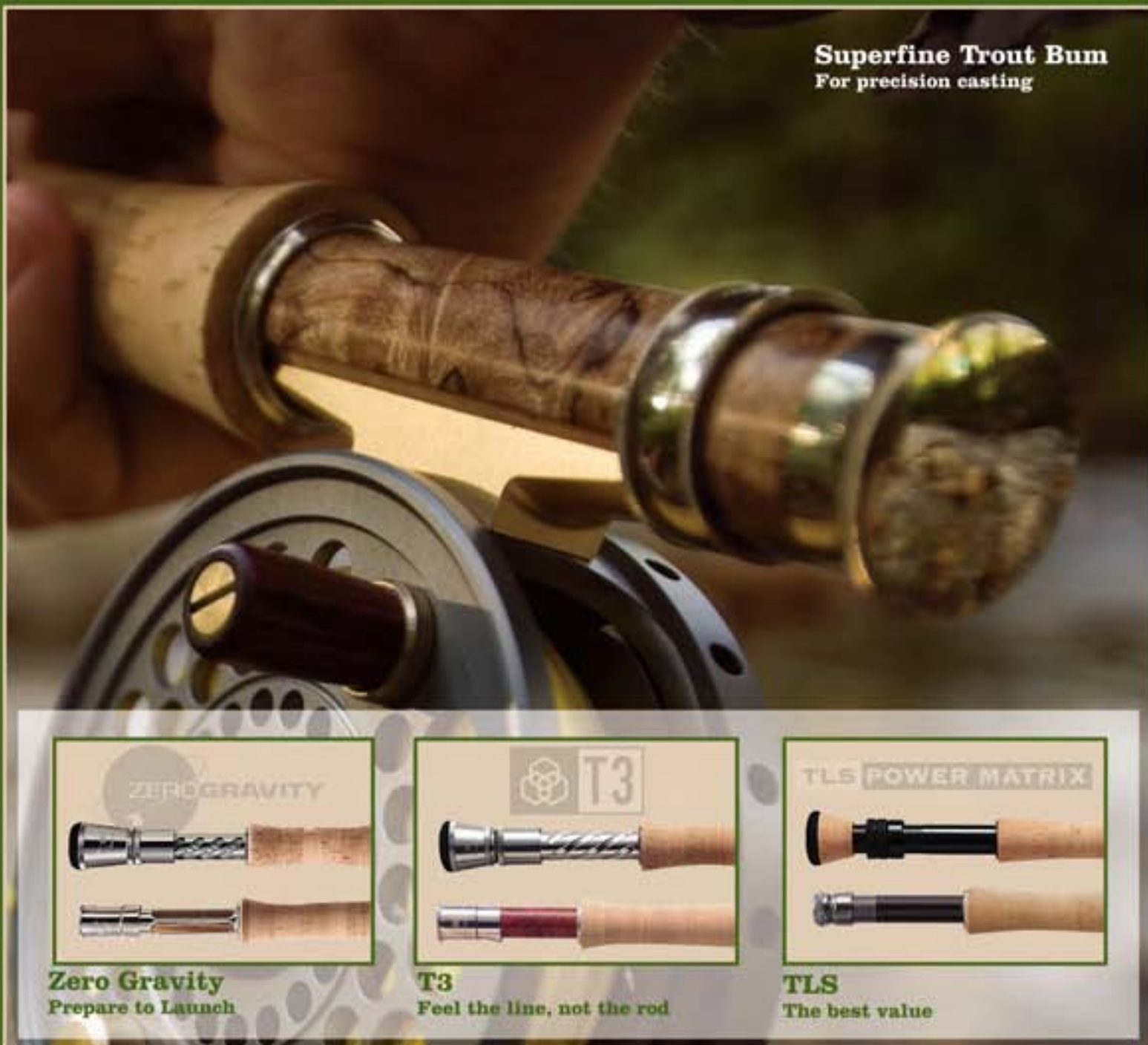
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Taxes

Continued from Page 1

years," said spokesman R.J. DiSilva. "But I wouldn't characterize this as a crack-down. Our Business Activity Research team does many such compliance studies. It's just part of the ordinary course of business."

Hunting and fishing proponents, however, are going to extraordinary measures to rally against the proposal. The Texas Deer Association has asked members to contact legislators as well as the comptroller's office.

In addition, the TDA and the Texas Wildlife Association have met with representatives from the comptroller's office.

Hunting guide Allen Morehouse of Heart of Texas Guided Hunts in Hubbard said he fears the taxes could close his small business.

"I don't know what to think about this or do about it," Morehouse said. "Outfitters like me are barely making it now. Landowners often gouge us. Corn prices are going up. Fuel is high. We're already squeezed. We can't afford to pay out any more."

According to the comptroller's office, the state hotel occupancy tax is 6 percent, and many local taxing authorities impose an additional local hotel tax. Sales tax is charged for food and beverages. The state sales tax is 6.25 percent, but most taxing authorities in Texas collect the maximum of 8.25 percent.

What does this mean to a guide or outfitter facing the collection effort? For one putting up 200 hunters per season in a ranch house or trailer, and assuming a charge of \$50 per night, the hotel tax at the minimum rate would be \$600 per year.

If food and beverages are provided at a conservative \$25 per day for the same hunters, at the 8.25 sales tax rate in most areas, the charge would be \$412.50 per year.

Guides and outfitters forced to go back 4 years under this scenario would owe \$4,050.

Morehouse said lodging and food are



UNWELCOME SURPRISE: Guides and outfitters that include lodging and meals with their hunting or fishing packages owe hotel occupancy and sales taxes since 2004, according to the state Comptroller's office.

often loss leaders for guides.

"I don't make a dime off lodging and food," he said. "I don't add on to make money. The accommodations are needed to book hunts. That's where I make my money. A lot of years, I go upside down on lodging."

Many larger hunting and fishing guide services already pay the taxes. But even some of them are worried. For instance, Bruce Shuler owns Getaway Adventures Lodge in Port Mansfield. He's consulting his CPA regarding the comptroller's plan.

"We basically pay tax on everything other than our subcontractors," Shuler said. "My guides are subcontractors. We don't have to pay taxes on our subs — yet. That's why I want to talk to my CPA."

Shuler said he believes as many as 90 percent of hunting and fishing guides sell packages where lodging and food aren't itemized.

"This is a frightening situation for a lot of people," Shuler said.

What bothers Shuler most about the

comptroller office's plan is what he sees as its punitive nature — requiring guides to pay taxes for trips going back years.

"If they will tell us what they want, I'm sure all legitimate businesses will comply," he said. "But don't just pop it on everyone at the end of the day and expect them to comply."

Interestingly, the state's tax efforts won't affect one of the most famous places to hunt in Texas. The King Ranch doesn't provide hunters lodging or food.

"When we first started doing guided hunts, we had a bed and breakfast where we put clients up at," said spokeswoman Mary Crowell. "We never did at the ranch. Over time, it was either go up on prices or cut it out, so we cut it out. We just send prospective clients a list of motels in the area."

Morehouse said smaller guide services can't get by with that.

"If I don't have a lodge, I'm not going to book most of my hunts," he said. "You can't just say, 'Let the motels handle it.' Most of my hunters don't want that."

Scaup

Continued from Page 7

to take action to conserve declining scaup populations to ensure we can provide hunting opportunities in future seasons," said Service Director H. Dale Hall.

The scaup population has experienced a significant long-term decline. The 2007 population estimate was the third lowest on record. Recent population estimates have been more than 27 percent below the 55-year average with the biggest decline occurring over the last 25 years. The Service implemented initial harvest restrictions in 1999.

There is evidence that the long-term scaup decline may be related to changes in scaup habitat. Hunting has not been implicated as a cause of the past scaup decline.

Delta Waterfowl opposes the reduction. Scientific Director Dr. Frank Rohwer said that scaup remain one of the most abundant duck species in North America and that the birds' annual harvest is only a fraction of that sustained by other abundant species, and biologists agreed that the cause of the population decline was likely habitat changes, not hunting.

"It's highly unlikely that hunter harvest has been a major factor in the scaup decline," said Rohwer. "Delta has a long history of taking a conservative stance when it comes to waterfowl harvest, but in this instance there is no meaningful evidence to suggest harvest is a limiting factor."

A recommendation for this fall's hunting season length and daily bag limits, including the scaup limit, is expected in late July.

Falcon

Continued from Page 9

I had a client catch an 11-pounder the other day and we've been consistently having about a 5-pound average. There's a lot of big fish in this lake. In fact, you almost have to hunt for smaller fish.

"We've been catching most of our fish on rocky points in 4- to 8-feet of water. These points need to go out to deep water. The steeper the drop, the better. We've been throwing mostly Brush Hogs and crankbaits, but some folks have been doing well on big 10-inch worms."

"Don't be afraid to fish shallow, but make sure you're close to deep water because those big fish will hang close to the deeper water. The one other thing to keep in mind is there's so much bait in the lake right now, it's almost an aggravation bite. We're getting around 30 bass a day, but we've really been working and making a lot of casts to get 'em to bite."

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HOPPING MAD: Early-morning topwaters, like the Stanley Ribbit Frog, are bringing bass out of the grass in Texas lakes this summer. Photo by David J. Sams.

Bass

Continued from Page 1

Rage Tail or Berkley frog.”

Further south, at Choke Canyon, the inside grasslines are producing good numbers of fish on spooks. “I like the spooks early,” said guide Rick Cathay, “although a 10-pounder was caught on a buzzbait last week.”

“The fish are behind the main grass beds in 3- to 5-feet of water,” said Dave Burlington, who guides at Choke Canyon and works at Bass Pro Shops in San Antonio.

“They are crushing a frog. It’s getting back there that’s the key; the mats out front are so thick.”

After the first hour or so, Cathay switches to the outside grass. “At Choke and Amistad, we’re looking for a scrape,” he said. “We’re dropping 1- to 1 1/2-ounce jigs looking for a bite, and we have several rigs at the ready. It’s not uncommon to pull 8 or 9 fish out of the same spot. That’s a scrape — their buddies are all there with them.”

East Texas’ Sam Rayburn Reservoir is known for its grass fishing, but storms and high winds can muddy the shallow water and slow the bite. “There are fish still buried in the grass

from 3- to 8-feet,” said guide Lynn Atkinson. “The water is still in the lower 80s and the grass isn’t thick enough to where you have to punch a jig through it. We have a lot of good peppergrass this year along with the hydrilla.”

Atkinson said the grass bite can last all day. “They’ll hit a frog for a while, and then you’ll have to dead stick a bait in front of them. But when the water muddies, the bite dies.”

Atkinson prefers a floating Stanley Ribbit frog. “You can stop and pause it — sometimes that’s what it takes to get a bite.”

At neighboring Toledo Bend, guide Joe Joslin said he has been locating schooling bass over and in the hydrilla on the south end of the lake. “The south end of the lake is very clear,” he said. “The lake level was low for a few years but is normal now.”

Joslin said any favorite topwater bait is working, especially during dark phases of the moon, although he prefers frogs, switching to a weightless Texas rig along the outer edges of the grass if the fish aren’t aggressive.

Some matting of the hydrilla is beginning to take hold, and Joslin expects it to increase during the summer months. “We’ll have to punch heavy jigs and big Texas rigs then,” he said.

But Joslin relies on the grass to find his summer fish, saying, “I don’t make a cast if I can’t find grass.”

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Handgun

Continued from Page 1

says the meaning of the Second Amendment could be rephrased to read:

"Because a well regulated Militia is necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms shall not be infringed."

Shooting groups and industry officials were quick to praise the decision.

"Anti-gun politicians can no longer deny that the Second Amendment guarantees a fundamental right," said NRA chief lobbyist Chris W. Cox. "All law-abiding Americans have a fundamental, God-given right to defend themselves in their homes. Washington, D.C., must now respect that right."

The NRA has since filed lawsuits challenging gun laws in Chicago and San Francisco.

"It was obvious the Justices decided the case in the right way," Smith & Wesson CEO Michael Golden said. "It is good news to the industry and for individual

quickly pointed to the permissibility of "reasonable restrictions" mentioned in the Court's decision.

"While the Supreme Court has

my hope and belief that the ruling will not change much in terms of how the states and the federal government are allowed to regulate guns."

"While it ruled that the D.C. gun ban went too far, Justice Scalia himself acknowledged that this right is not absolute and subject to reasonable regulations enacted by local communities to keep their streets safe," said Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill.

Advocates of gun rights are convinced the battle is just beginning, and are concerned states and communities will make their restrictions so onerous that citizens have a difficult time purchasing firearms.

"This ruling does not mark the end of our struggle against those who seek to limit the rights of law-abiding citizens," said Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz. We must always remain vigilant in defense of our freedoms."

— Staff reports.

"The right of the people to keep and bear Arms shall not be infringed"
— U.S. Supreme Court

rights. The citizens of the District of Columbia, San Francisco, Chicago and other areas have been told they have the same rights as the rest of the country."

Opponents of the decision

ruled, not unexpectedly, that individuals have a right to bear arms, the court clearly allows for reasonable regulations like the Brady law and the assault weapons ban," said Sen. Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y. "It is



Dorado

Continued from Page 1

also leads the summer-long tournament.

"I'm one of those guys who's entered (the STAR) every year since it began and have never won anything," said Foster. "I was actually really nervous because, even though I'd entered, I hadn't received my number in the mail yet. So, I called the local CCA chapter

"I'm one of those guys who's entered (the STAR) every year since it began and have never won anything."

— RYAN FOSTER

president and asked him to make sure all my paperwork was in. As it turns out, I actually got my card in the mail the next day, so that was a relief.

If no other registered STAR participant weighs a larger dorado by the end of Labor Day Weekend, Foster will take possession of the 21-foot Contender boat, Mercury outboard and McClain trailer that is awarded as top prize in the dorado category. Seeing as how the last time a fish close to these dimensions was landed off the Texas coast was nearly two decades ago, odds are Foster will have a new boat by summer's end. But, he says he'll be holding his breath until the tournament's over.

"I would be thrilled if it holds up," said Foster. "The record's great, but I really want to win that boat. I don't care if someone catches a bigger one, as long as they wait until September to do it."

Spots

Continued from Page 8

White said. The fish was 28 inches long and weighed more than 8 pounds.

"It probably made four or five nice little runs on her. It went under the boat and I had to jack the motor up to keep it from cutting the line," White said.

As for the spots, White said, "I've been catching fish for quite a few years, and I never saw anything like that."

Clanton, who tends bar at Brewster Street Ice House in Corpus Christi, recently moved back to Corpus with her husband. She likes to fish at least twice a month, she said.

Official record or not, Clanton said, "I'm excited. It's definitely the catch of a lifetime." She's having the fish mounted.

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OUTDOOR DATEBOOK

July 11-13: The TTHA Hunter's Extravaganza will be held at the Alamodome in San Antonio. Call (800) 800-3207 or visit ttha.com for information.

July 11-12: The Pond Boss Annual Pond Management Conference and Expo will be held at the Arlington Convention Center, featuring Ray Scott and Dale Hall, director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. For information, call (800) 687-6075 or visit pondboss.com.

July 12-13: Cabela's in Fort Worth will hold bowfishing basics seminars at Lone Star Lake in front of the store at noon. Call (817) 337-2400 for information.



July 12: The Pineywoods Texas Big Game Awards banquet will be held at the Fredonia Hotel in Nacogdoches. For information, call (210) 826-2904 or visit texasbiggameawards.com.

July 17: The Dallas Safari Club monthly meeting will be held at Gleneagles Country Club in Plano, featuring John Lo Monaco on hunting in Pakistan. Call (972) 980-9800 or e-mail debi@biggame.org for information.

July 18-20: The 18th Annual Texas Hunters & Sportsman's Expo will be

held at the McAllen Convention Center. For information, call (956) 664-2884 or visit texashunterassociation.com.

July 19-20: The 3rd Annual Lone Star Bowhunters Association Pop-up Archery Shoot will be held at Bass Pro Shops in Kay. Call (281) 644-2200 or visit lonestarbowlhunter.com for information.

July 19-20: The Joni and Friends Casting the Nets Benefit Tournament will be held at Chandlers Landing at Lake Ray Hubbard. For information, call (214) 801-9944 or visit cabaoutdoors.com.

July 19: The Los Cazadores Deer Contest Awards will be held at the Los Cazadores Hunting Headquarters in Pearsall. For information, call (830) 334-5959 or visit loscazadores.com.

July 19: The South Plains RMEF Big Game banquet will be held in Lubbock. Call Ron at (806) 787-6225 for information and location.



July 24: The Tomball/Magnolia CCA dinner will be held at the VFW Hall in Tomball. Call (713) 626-4222 for information.

July 25-27: The Laredo Hunting & Fishing Show will be held at the Laredo

Entertainment Center. Call (956) 686-3718 or (800) 532-3976 or visit smc-events.com for information.

July 25: The Dallas Safari Club Wine Pairing dinner will be held at III Forks. Call (972) 980-9800 or e-mail debi@biggame.org for information.



July 26: The Deep East Texas NWTf dinner will be held at The Event Center in Jasper. Contact Cindy at (409) 382-5752 or cmdans@yahoo.com for information.

July 27: The Lone Star Bowhunters Association State Championship will be held at Canyon Lake Archery Club. Visit lonestarbowlhunter.com for information.

July 31: The North Houston DU dinner will be held. For location and information, contact Marissa at (832) 265-4020 or mchavez1999@hotmail.com.

Aug. 1-3: The TTHA Hunter's Extravaganza will be held at the Reliant Center in Houston. Call (800) 800-3207 or visit ttha.com for information.

Aug. 1: The Brazos Basin NWTf dinner will be held at the Waco Skeet and Trap Club. Contact James at (254) 399-7266 or jbrooks@cnbwaco.com for information.

Aug 2: The Lee County RMEF Big Game Banquet will be held. For location and information, call Curtis at (979) 542-3037.

Aug. 7-10: The Texas Legends Billfish Tournament will be held; boats may leave from any Texas port. Visit txlegends.com for information.

Aug. 7: The Lone Star Longbeards NWTf dinner will be held at the Brazos Center in Bryan. Contact Tim at (979) 229-1602 or t.akers@bediasbank.com for information.



Aug. 7: The San Gabriel CCA banquet will be held at Dell Diamond in Round Rock. Call (713) 626-4222 for information.

Aug. 7: The Allen DU banquet will be held at the Swingin' D Ranch in Parker. Call Scott at (214) 383-3223 for information.



Aug. 8: The Ellis County NWTf banquet will be held at the Ennis Country Club. Contact Malcomb at (469) 245-9015 or mrglaspy@yahoo.com for information.

Aug. 9-10, 16-17: The Fall Hunting Classic will be held at Bass Pro Shops

in Katy (Aug. 9-10) and Pearland (Aug. 16-17). Guides, outfitters, products, and more. Call (8332) 260-4594 or visit basspro.com for information.



Aug. 9: The North Texas RMEF Big Game Banquet will be held at Embassy Suites Bass Pro in Grapevine. Contact Mike at (972) 257-0001 or elkmanmike@aol.com for information.

Aug. 9: The Santa Fe DU dinner will be held at the Galveston County Fairgrounds. Contact Bud or Judy at (409) 925-4349 or santafecoehran@aol.com for information.



Aug. 9: The Aransas Bay CCA banquet will be held at Paws N' Taws in Rockport. Call (713) 626-4222 for information.

HAVE AN EVENT?
E-mail it to
editor@lonestaroutdoornews.com

Testing

Continued from Page 6

yards," Phillips said, "the scope is calibrated at 200, 300, 400 and 500 yards for a standard bullet. You just look through the lower circles."

The circles are important, Phillips said. "They don't cover up what you are trying to hit. At long distances, the target is very small. Hunters want to see what they are shooting at."

Phillips said the scopes are designed for the average hunter who wants to increase his shooting range effectively and ethically.

But the test was at the range, as dozens of salesmen of Nikon and its competitors' products took advantage of a Sunday afternoon when the stores were closed and ammunition was free.

"I hit two targets out of four at 400 yards," said one of the shooters from GT Distributors in Austin. "I had never shot at anything over 100 yards before today."

Gun salesmen were impressed with the event — and the scopes. "I got a big benefit out of it, the rifle part especially," said Brian Langford, a salesman at McBride's Guns in Austin. "I was able to hit the 500-yard target several times. You just put the circle on the target and pull

the trigger."

Langford appreciated the chance to test the products in the field. "It's one thing to look at them at the store," he said. "And another to actually use them. Hands-on experience is always best."

"I'm not aware of any other product reps doing anything like this," said Kyle Odom of Dury's Gun Shop, who came with seven other employees to the event. "It's great for us. We don't get to get out and use the new products enough."

"And it's really tough to find salespeople that are knowledgeable and have used the products in the shooting industry. Anything that exposes them to more of the products we sell is good."



LONG SHOT: A young shooter takes aim at a distant target at the Hill Country Shooting Sports Center in Kerrville. Photo by Craig Nyhus.

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FISHING REPORT

HOT BITES

LARGEMOUTH BASS



BELTON: Black bass are good on Rat-L-Traps and spinnerbaits.

BROWNWOOD: Black bass are excellent on watermelon red and Redbug inline buzzbaits, crankbaits and finesse worms along shorelines and among rocks.

CADDO: Black bass are good on topwaters early, later switching to flukes, Rat-L-Traps, Senkos and Texas rigs.

FORK: Black bass are good on topwaters and frogs early, midmorning switching to DD22s, drop-shot rigs and Carolina rigs.

WHITE/HYBRID/STRIPER



CEDAR CREEK: White bass are good on Humdingers and topwaters. Hybrid stripers are good on swim baits.

HUBBARD CREEK: White bass and hybrid stripers are good on live baits along rocky points.

RAY ROBERTS: White bass are good to excellent on jugging spoons.

TAWAKONI: White bass are good on Humdingers and minnows.

TEXOMA: Striped bass are good on live shad and topwaters.

CATFISH



AMISTAD: Catfish are good on cheesebait and punchbait in 18-24 feet, and in Castle Canyon in 80-85 feet.

CALAVERAS: Channel catfish are excellent on liver, cheesebait, and shad near the railroad trestle. Blue catfish are excellent on liver and cut bait.

FALCON: Channel and blue catfish are excellent on stinkbait.

SAM RAYBURN: Catfish are very good on trotlines baited with live bait and cut bait.

CRAPPIE



BUCHANAN: Crappie are good on minnows and crappie jigs over brush piles.

CONROE: Crappie are good on minnows and fair on blue tube jigs over brush in 20 feet.

NAVARRO MILLS: Crappie are very good on chartreuse tube jigs over brush piles in 12-18 feet.

MONTICELLO: Crappie are good on minnows.

ALAN HENRY: Water lightly stained; 80 degrees; .43' low. Black bass are good on white buzzbaits or white spinnerbaits, and black/chartreuse jigs along timber lines. Crappie are good on minnows and jigs.

AMISTAD: Water stained; 85 degrees; 17.38' low. Black bass are good on spinnerbaits, swimbaits, and topwaters along the edges of trees in 6-12 feet, and on plastic worms and watermelon flukes and Senkos in 18-24 feet. Yellow catfish to 30 pounds are good on juglines baited with perch in 20 feet.

ARROWHEAD: Water lightly stained; 83 degrees; 3.69' low. Black bass are good on topwater frog baits in surface vegetation and spinnerbaits along rocky points. White bass are good shallow while chasing shad.

ATHENS: Water stained; 81-88 degrees; 0.17' high. Black bass are good on soft plastic frogs and buzzbaits early, later switching to weightless flukes, Texas rigs and Rat-L-Traps. Catfish are good on nightcrawlers.

BELTON: Water clear; 84 degrees; 0.41' low. Crappie are good on minnows. Channel and blue catfish are good on hot dogs, meat fat, and juglines baited with frozen shad.

BOB SANDLIN: Water off-color; 80-88 degrees; 0.20' high. Crappie are good on minnows and jigs over brush piles. Catfish are good on prepared bait.

BRAUNIG: Water stained; 83 degrees. Redfish are excellent on perch, tilapia shad, and silver spoons, and down rigging near the jetty and dam. Channel and blue catfish are excellent on liver, shrimp, cut bait, and cheesebait near the dam and the hot water discharge.

BRIDGEPORT: Water lightly stained; 81-87 degrees; 0.82' low. Black bass are good on topwaters early, later switching to crankbaits, Texas rigs and Rat-L-Traps. White bass are good on Humdingers and topwaters.

BROWNWOOD: Water clear; 84 degrees; 3.12' low. White bass are excellent on Li'l Fishies and crankbaits off lighted docks at night and off points. Crappie are excellent on Li'l Fishies and tube jigs over brush piles in 8-15 feet.

BUCHANAN: Water clear; 82 degrees; 3.96' low. Black bass are good on Texas rigged worms, flukes, and topwaters along stumps on sloping island points. Yellow and blue catfish are very good on juglines and trotlines baited with goldfish and perch upriver above the falls.

CADDO: Water stained; 82-88 degrees; 0.98' high. Crappie are good on jigs and minnows and jigs. White bass are good on white Road Runners and minnows.

CALAVERAS: Water stained; 83 degrees. Redfish are excellent down rigging silver and gold spoons and live bait along the crappie wall and the dam in 10-20 feet, on live perch and tilapia along the shoreline, and on live bait along the crappie wall.

CANYON LAKE: Water clear; 80 degrees; 3.33' low. Smallmouth bass are good on root beer grubs and craws and watermelon red tubes on ball jigheads along ledges in 6-20 feet. Yellow and blue catfish are very good on juglines and trotlines upriver.

CEDAR CREEK: Water lightly stained; 81-87 degrees; 0.4' low. Black bass are good on Ribbits early, later switching to Texas rigs, Senkos and spinnerbaits.

CHOKO CANYON: Water lightly stained; 92 degrees; 2.65' low. Black bass are good on topwaters and jigs in grass, deep running crankbaits and white/chartreuse spinnerbaits.

CONROE: Water clear; 0.54' low. Black bass are good on Carolina rigged soft plastics, crankbaits, and spinnerbaits. Catfish are good on stinkbait, chicken livers, and nightcrawlers.

COOPER: Water lightly stained; 80-87 degrees; 0.01' high. Black bass are good on topwaters early, later switching to drop shot rigs, Carolina and Texas rigs and Senkos. Crappie are good on jigs and minnows over brush piles. White bass are good on Rooster Tails and Little Georges.

FALCON: Water lightly stained; 85 degrees. Black bass are good on Carolina rigged large soft plastic worms and crankbaits.

FORK: Water lightly stained; 81-88 degrees; 0.55' high. Crappie are good on jigs and minnows around the bridges and over brush piles. Catfish are good on nightcrawlers and prepared bait.

GRANGER: Water clear; 83 degrees; 0.31' low. Black bass are good on worms and jigs. White bass are good on slab spoons over humps. Crappie are good on yellow tube jigs in 4-15 feet. Blue catfish are good on shad drifted over deep flats.

GRAPEVINE: Water off-color; 81-88 degrees; 0.44' low. Black bass are good on crankbaits, Texas rigs and wacky rigs. White bass are good on Rooster Tails, topwaters and Humdingers. Catfish are good on cut bait and nightcrawlers.

GREENBELT: Water lightly stained; 75 degrees; 26.87' low. Black bass are good on topwater lures, white spinnerbaits, and Carolina-rigged pumpkin lizards worked around sandy humps and grass lines. Crappie are good on jigs and minnows. White bass are good on live baits and black back/silver crankbaits along riprap and points.

HOUSTON COUNTY: Water clear; 87 degrees; 0.33' high. Black bass are

good on red worms and spinnerbaits near the dam and the marina in 8 feet. Crappie are good on minnows near the pump station in 15 feet.

HUBBARD CREEK: Water lightly stained; 80 degrees; 1.12' low. Crappie are good on jigs and minnows. Catfish are good on live and cut baits.

JOE POOL: Water off-color; 81-87 degrees; 0.05' low. Black bass are good on topwaters early, later switching to Texas rigs and crankbaits. White bass are good on Humdingers.

LAKE O' THE PINES: Water stained; 81-88 degrees; 1.9' high. Crappie are good on minnows over brush piles.

LAVON: Water stained; 80-88 degrees; 0.51' low. Black bass are good on crankbaits, Senkos and Texas rigs. Crappie are good on minnows and jigs. Catfish are good on cut shad and prepared bait.

LBJ: Water stained; 82 degrees; 0.41' low. Yellow and blue catfish are good on trotlines baited with live perch.

LEWISVILLE: Water off-color; 81-87 degrees; 0.49' low. White bass are fair on Lead Babies Slabs. Catfish are good on prepared bait and cut shad.

LIVINGSTON: Water fairly clear; 85 degrees; 0.19' high. Black bass are good on soft plastics and crankbaits. White bass are good on hellbenders, spoons and slabs.

MACKENZIE: Water lightly stained; 76 degrees; 75.21' low. Crappie are good on minnows and jigs. White bass and striped bass are good on minnows.

MEREDITH: Water lightly stained; 75 degrees; 77.90' low. Crappie are fair on jigs and minnows. White bass are good on live bait and shad-colored crankbaits.

MONTICELLO: Water fairly clear; 81-89 degrees; 0.23' low. Black bass are good on topwaters early, later switching to Texas rigs, spinnerbaits and chrome Rat-L-Traps.

NAVARRO MILLS: Water murky; 84 degrees; 0.31' low. Black bass are very good on motor oil Berkley Power worms. White bass are good on spoon jigs and minnows near the dam. Channel and blue catfish are very good on shrimp.

O.H. IVIE: Water lightly stained; 80 degrees; 11.54' low. Crappie are good on minnows and jigs. White bass are good on live baits and crankbaits. Smallmouth bass are good on live baits and shad-colored crankbaits along points.

POSSUM KINGDOM: Water stained; 84 degrees; 1.32' low. White bass are good on silver crankbaits and small white jigs in the mid-lake area early in the day and at night. Catfish are good on cut baits and liver in the Rock Creek area.

RAY HUBBARD: Water stained; 81-88 degrees; 0.16' low. Crappie are good on minnows and jigs around the bridges and in the marinas. White bass are excellent on topwaters and Humdingers.

RAY ROBERTS: Water clear; 82-88 degrees; 0.16' low. Black bass are very good on topwaters and Carolina-rigged Ring Frys in 10-20 feet. Crappie are good over brush piles and excellent around isolated trees on minnows

and jigs.

RICHLAND CHAMBERS: Water off-color; 82-87 degrees; 0.65' low. White bass are good on Humdingers.

SAM RAYBURN: Water lightly stained; 82 degrees; 1.84' low. White bass are fair on minnows. Crappie are good on minnows and blue/black tube jigs over brush piles in 20-30 feet.

STILLHOUSE: Water clear; 85 degrees; 0.38' low. Black bass are good on watermelon seed and watermelon red soft plastics and minnows in 15 feet.

TAWAKONI: Water lightly stained; 82-88 degrees; 0.04' high. Black bass are good on buzzbaits and topwaters early, later switching to white spinnerbaits, chatterbaits and Senkos. Crappie are good on minnows and jigs.

TEXOMA: Water off color; 80-87 degrees; 0.44' low. Crappie are good on minnows and jigs over brush piles and around bridge columns. Catfish are good on cut and live shad.

TOLEDO BEND: Water clear; 82 degrees; 0.88' low. Black bass are good on watermelon soft plastic worms, spinnerbaits, and Rat-L-Traps. Crappie are good on minnows and chartreuse tube jigs over baited holes. Bream are good on crickets and nightcrawlers in 3-8 feet. Channel and blue catfish are good on trotlines baited with live bait and stinkbait in 30 feet.

TRAVIS: Water clear; 83 degrees; 12.68' low. Black bass are good on plum worms, smoke grubs, and bone topwaters in 10-25 feet. Channel and blue catfish are good on bloodbait and nightcrawlers in 25-38 feet.

WALTER E. LONG: Water clear; 90 degrees. Black bass are good on minnows. Bream are good on worms.

WEATHERFORD: Water stained; 80-87 degrees; 1.16' low. Black bass are fair to good on topwaters, spinnerbaits and shaky head rigs. Crappie are good on minnows and jigs. White bass are good on Humdingers and minnows.

SALTWATER SCENE

NORTH SABINE: Trout are good while drifting slicks and pods of bait on topwaters. Trout and redfish are good under birds on live shad, Trout Killers, Bass Assassins and Sand Eels.

SOUTH SABINE: Trout are good on the Reef on soft plastics and live shrimp. Trout are good from the Causeway Pier at night under the lights on live shrimp. Trout are good around the rocks on topwaters.

BOLIVAR: Trout are good in the surf on live shrimp and topwaters.

Redfish are good in the surf on cut-bait. Gafftop, sand trout and flounder are good at the Pass on live bait.

TRINITY BAY: Redfish are good in the grass on the north shoreline. Trout are fair while drifting slicks.

EAST GALVESTON BAY: Trout are fair while drifting shell in 7 feet of water on plastics and live shrimp. Trout are fair to good on croakers along the Ship Channel.

WEST GALVESTON BAY: Trout are good in the surf on topwaters, plastics and live shrimp. Gafftop, sand trout and whiting are good from the beach-front piers on live bait. Redfish are fair to good on the shell on live shrimp under a popping cork.

TEXAS CITY: Trout are good for waders working the reefs on croakers.

Redfish are good in Moses Lake on live shrimp.

FREEPORT: Trout are good in the surf. Trout are fair at San Luis Pass on shrimp. Trout and redfish are fair in Christmas Bay while drifting with live shrimp.

EAST MATAGORDA: Trout are good on the reefs on live bait and topwaters. Trout are fair to good while drifting scattered shell with live shrimp.

MATAGORDA: Trout are good in the surf on topwaters, live bait and soft plastics. Trout are fair to good on the south shoreline on plastics.

PORT O'CONNOR: Trout are good in the surf and around Pass Cavallo. Redfish and sharks are good on live shrimp and mullet at the jetty and in the surf.

ROCKPORT: Trout are fair to good on the outside of Traylor Island and on the Estes Flats on croaker and live shrimp. Trout are good in the surf.

CORPUS CHRISTI: Trout and redfish are fair to good on live shrimp and croaker around the reefs in Nueces Bay.

Trout and redfish are good around the causeway on live shrimp and pumpkinseed plastics.

BAFFIN BAY: Trout are fair to good for drifters at Rocky Slough on topwaters. Trout are fair to good over sand and grass on plastics and topwaters. Trout are good at night in the Land Cut on DOA Shrimp and glow plastics.

PORT MANSFIELD: Trout and redfish are good while wading flats on Super Spooks and She Pups. Trout and redfish are good on live shrimp and plastics on the grass beds in West Bay. Trout and redfish are good on topwaters while drifting the Sauter.

SOUTH PADRE: Trout are fair on the edges of the flats on DOA Shrimp and live shrimp. A few tarpon and snook are showing at the jetty. Snook are fair to good on shrimp and DOA Shrimp in South Bay.

PORT ISABEL: Trout are good while drifting sand and grass on soft plastics under rattling corks. Redfish are good on gold spoons on in the grass.

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Gulf Coast	Ultracat	Suzuki
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Twin Vee	Sea Doo	Johnson

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Hitchcock 281 779-0500

Everglades	Glacier Bay	Twin Vee	Shearwater/Sterling	Boston Whaler
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WEATHER

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Moon Phases

First July 9	Full July 18	Last July 25	New Aug 1
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Solunar Table

Major/Minor periods:			
Houston	Dallas	San Antonio	Amarillo
7/9 5:38a/11:49a	1:10p/7:21p	5:44a/11:55a	1:16p/7:27p
7/10 5:59p/—	1:36a/7:48a	6:05p/—	1:42a/7:54a
7/11 6:21a/12:10a	1:59p/8:10p	6:27a/12:16a	2:05p/8:16p
7/12 6:43p/12:32p	2:26a/8:37a	6:49p/12:38p	2:32a/8:43a
7/13 7:03a/12:52a	2:48p/8:59p	7:09a/12:58a	2:54p/9:05p
7/14 7:25p/1:14p	3:16a/9:27a	7:31p/1:20p	3:22a/9:33a
7/15 7:44a/1:33a	3:38p/9:49p	7:50a/1:39a	3:44p/9:55p
7/16 8:07p/1:56p	4:05a/10:17a	8:13p/2:02p	4:11a/10:23a
7/17 8:26p/2:14a	4:28p/10:39p	8:32a/2:20a	4:34p/10:45p
7/18 8:51p/2:38p	4:55a/11:07a	8:57p/2:44p	5:01a/11:13a
7/19 9:10a/2:58a	5:18p/11:30p	9:16a/3:04a	5:19a/11:36p
7/20 9:35p/3:23p	5:45a/11:58a	9:41p/3:29p	5:35p/12:04p
7/21 9:56p/3:43a	6:11p/—	10:02a/3:49a	5:56a/—
7/22 10:21p/4:08p	6:37a/12:27a	10:27p/4:14p	10:21p/12:33a
7/23 10:43a/4:30a	7:05p/12:51p	10:49a/4:36a	10:43a/12:57p
7/24 11:08p/4:55p	7:31a/1:16a	11:14p/4:50p	11:08p/1:22a
7/25 11:31a/5:18a	8:01p/1:46p	11:37a/5:24a	11:31a/1:52p
7/26 11:56p/5:44p	8:26a/2:11a	—/5:50p	—/5:50p/2:17a
7/27 12:20p/6:08a	8:58p/2:42p	12:02a/6:14a	12:20p/2:48p
7/28 —/6:32p	9:24a/3:07a	12:26p/6:38p	—/3:13a
7/29 12:46a/6:58a	9:56p/3:40p	12:52a/7:04a	12:46a/3:46p

Tides

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

Sun and Moon

Sunrise/set			
Houston	Dallas	San Antonio	Amarillo
7/9 6:28a/8:26p	6:27a/8:39p	6:41a/8:37p	6:40a/9:04p
7/10 6:28a/8:25p	6:28a/8:39p	6:42a/8:37p	6:41a/9:04p
7/11 6:29a/8:25p	6:29a/8:38p	6:43a/8:36p	6:42a/9:03p
7/12 6:30a/8:25p	6:30a/8:38p	6:43a/8:36p	6:42a/9:02p
7/13 6:30a/8:24p	6:30a/8:38p	6:44a/8:36p	6:43a/9:02p
7/14 6:31a/8:24p	6:31a/8:37p	6:44a/8:35p	6:44a/9:02p
7/15 6:31a/8:23p	6:31a/8:37p	6:45a/8:35p	6:44a/9:01p
7/16 6:32a/8:23p	6:32a/8:36p	6:45a/8:35p	6:45a/9:01p
7/17 6:32a/8:23p	6:33a/8:36p	6:46a/8:34p	6:46a/9:00p
7/18 6:33a/8:22p	6:33a/8:35p	6:46a/8:34p	6:46a/8:59p
7/19 6:34a/8:22p	6:34a/8:35p	6:47a/8:33p	6:47a/8:59p
7/20 6:34a/8:21p	6:35a/8:34p	6:47a/8:33p	6:48a/8:58p
7/21 6:35a/8:21p	6:35a/8:34p	6:48a/8:32p	6:49a/8:58p
7/22 6:35a/8:20p	6:36a/8:33p	6:49a/8:32p	6:49a/8:57p
7/23 6:36a/8:20p	6:36a/8:32p	6:49a/8:31p	6:50a/8:56p
7/24 6:36a/8:19p	6:37a/8:32p	6:50a/8:31p	6:51a/8:56p
7/25 6:37a/8:18p	6:38a/8:31p	6:50a/8:30p	

PRODUCTS

LIGHTWEIGHT AND COOL: The **Sagebrush Mesh Vest** by **Fishpond USA** is designed to carry lots of boxes and plenty of accessories. The vest has adjustable suspension to fit over a few or many layers. The zip-down fly bench has replaceable foam. Ten zippered front pockets and four additional inside pockets provide plenty of storage. A zippered back pocket is great for storing extra spools or a rain jacket. The vest sells for about \$120. For retailers, visit www.fishpondusa.com.



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RUGGED HANDGUN SCOPES:

Nikon Sports Optics has introduced the **Encore handgun scope**, which boasts the company's BDC reticle. The Encore is designed to work with single shot handguns or revolvers and excels on game or targets. With ultra rugged and recoil-proof construction, the Encore can handle the hardest-hitting handgun loads. It is waterproof, fogproof and shockproof and features a 2.5-8 variable zoom one-inch tube combined with a bright, 28-inch objective as well as hand-turn adjustments and positive clicks for easy sighting-in. The scope is available in a matte (pictured, about \$290) or silver (about \$300) finish. For retailers, call (800) 248-6846 or visit www.nikonportoptics.com.

INTERCHANGEABLE LURES: The **SnapTail Fishing System** consists of a finesse bait with interchangeable parts. The SnapTail soft plastic worm has a space at the end of the tail where different colored snaps can be quickly popped into place, changing the presentation of the lure. The lure has a wide tail for better visibility by the fish and a memory that allows the SnapTail to expand and then contract into its original "S" shape. The kit includes 30 worms in half-tail and full tail variations, a variety of hues and two sizes; four weighted hooks; and six small and six large snaps in various hues. The kit sells for about \$30 at www.snaptailures.com. For information, call (877) 828-9189.



NEW PROPELLER: **Yamaha** has launched a line of propellers especially for pontoon boats. Its new **Pontoon Performance Series** has more blade area and helps provide the thrust and control needed by today's larger pontoon boats. These propellers feature additional "cup" on the blades to help add grip and eliminate ventilation in turns. They are available in 9-, 10-, 11-, 12-, and 13-inch pitches. For information, visit www.yamahamotor.com.

STEP INTO COMFORT: The **Universal BedRug Mat** from **Wise Industries Inc.** can make your boat more comfortable and quieter. Made from rugged polypropylene fiber bonded to a layer of polypropylene foam, the mat's fabric-like material is soft, stain-resistant and easy to clean. Offered in an untrimmed, rectangular 5 1/2-foot by 8-foot section, the mat can be cut to fit the deck and storage compartment areas of bass boats, Jon boats and aluminum fishing skiffs. Spills and other messes can be washed away with a garden hose. The mat sells for about \$100. For retailers, call (800) 462-8435.

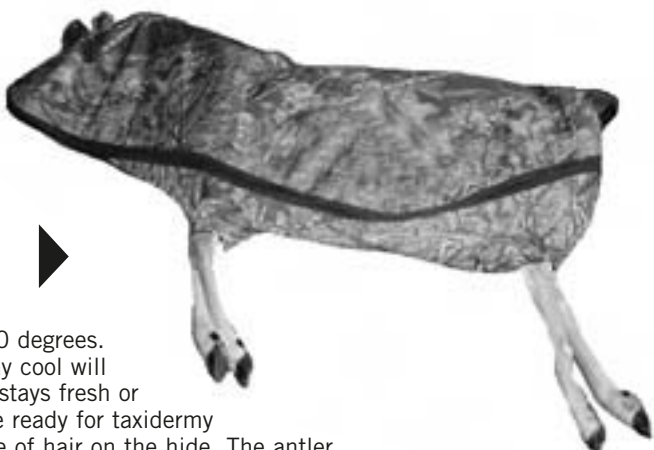


HUNTING GLOVE: **Jacob Ash/Schuessler, Inc.** has introduced its **Jaguar Gloves**. Part of the **Hot Shot Gore 2-in-1** technology line, these gloves boast all those features hunters appreciate: a quiet brushed tricot, Thinsulate insulation, odor-blocking microbial lining, leather palm with silicon thumb crotch and trigger finger and leather fingertips. The glove, which costs about \$50, is available in All-Purpose (shown), Blaze and Mossy Oak Break-Up camo patterns in a medium, large and extra large. For retailers, visit www.jacobash.com or call (800) 245-6111.



DON'T SPOIL THE HUNT:

The new **Trophy Bag Cooler** allows hunters to transport their harvested game safely to a processor or taxidermist. Enclose that buck or hog whole in the Cooler, which can be iced down to about 40 degrees. Having the animal stay cool will ensure that the meat stays fresh or that the trophy will be ready for taxidermy by preventing slippage of hair on the hide. The antler flaps and leg holds keep out flies and other bugs while the thermal radiant barrier energy shield with antimicrobial properties guards against mold, mildew and bacteria. The bag, which features a durable polyester outer shell, sells for about \$210 to \$230. Call (866) 789-6941 for information.



COMPACT COOKWARE: Take this nesting cookware along on that next overnight outing. The **nForm collection** by **GSI Outdoors** features several different systems — from the lightweight Soloist Cook System for a single backcountry camper to the four-person Camping Cook System for car camping — that nest compactly for easy packing. For your annual father-and-son fishing trip, try the **Gourmet Backpacking Cook System**, which includes a two-liter pot with a frypan and lid, two insulated triangular cups, and two triangular bowls. The pots and pans utilize even-heating Teflon-coated aluminum that heats quickly and distributes heat efficiently. A folding gripper provides a secure handle for cooking. And the heavy duty welded coated nylon sack not only holds the set but also can be used as a wash basin. The Backpacker sells for about \$60. For retailers, visit www.gsioutdoors.com.



CCA State of Texas Angler's Rodeo (STAR)

LEADERS AS OF: 7-7-08

With the CCA STAR summer-long tournament nearing the halfway point, the first truck-boat package for a qualified entry in the Texas Ford Dealers Redfish Division has been confirmed. Henry Anderson of Galveston caught the tagged redfish on June 29.

STARKIDS DIVISION

(AGES 6-10)

- Flounder**
John Riley III, 8, of Dickinson
4 lbs.
- Sheepshead**
Albert Guzman, III, 10, of League City
8 lbs. 2 ozs.
- Gafftop**
Grant Davis, 8, of Beaumont
6 lbs. 2 ozs.

STARTEENS TROUT & INSHORE DIVISIONS

(AGES 11-17)

- Upper Coast Speckled Trout**
Charles Flowers, 14, of Alvin
6 lbs. 1 oz.
- Middle Coast Speckled Trout**

- Tanner Vacha, 16, of Bellville
7 lbs. 2 oz.
- Lower Coast Speckled Trout**
Danielle Frerich, 16, of Bulverde
7 lbs. 5 oz.
- Sheepshead**
Brett Green, 16, of Baytown
9 lbs. 5 ozs.
- Gafftop**
Jessica Fontenot, 13, of Lake Jackson
5 lbs. 15 ozs.
- Flounder**
Andrea Peters, 16, of Porter
4 lbs. 9 ozs.

STAR LEADERBOARD

Upper Coast Speckled Trout

- Jason Lingo of Seabrook
8 lbs. 7 ozs.
- Middle Coast Speckled Trout**
Helen K. Mele of Spring
8 lbs. 1 oz.
- Lower Coast Speckled Trout**
Kristopher Anderson of Port Mansfield
8 lbs. 10 ozs.
- Flounder**
Ryan Presley of Sour Lake
6 lbs. 14 ozs.
- Sheepshead**
Rick Graham of Friendswood
9 lbs. 12 ozs.
- Kingfish**
Robert Sanger, Jr. of Corpus Christi
54 lbs. 11 ozs.

- Dorado**
Ryan David Foster of Harlingen
65 lbs. 7 ozs.
- Ling**
Rachel Adams of Pinehurst
74 lbs. 2 ozs.
- Gafftop**
Tina Guernsey of Beaumont
6 lbs. 14 ozs.
- TEXAS FORD DEALERS REDFISH DIVISION
Truck/Boat Package
Henry Anderson of Galveston caught tag number 840 on June 29. Twelve tagged redfish have been caught, 11 did not qualify.

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HEROES



JACKSON PARRISH and **CARTER SCHARMEN** show two black drum they caught in Redfish Bay.



SUZI and **WILBUR WOODS** of Huntsville caught this 65-pound yellow catfish on a trotline in the Trinity River Basin.



MEGAN DODSON, 8, of Portland, shows a redfish caught while fishing with her dad in Redfish Bay.



TY HOWARD of Richmond caught this redfish near High Island.

SHARE AN ADVENTURE

Want to share your great hunting or fishing photos with the *Lone Star Outdoor News* family? E-mail your photo, phone and caption information to editor@lonestaroutdoornews.com, or mail to: Heroes, Lone Star Outdoor News, 9304 Forest Lane, Suite 114 South, Dallas, TX, 75243.



TRAVIS WILLIAMS, 15, of New Braunfels, caught this dorado in Playa del Carmen, Mexico.

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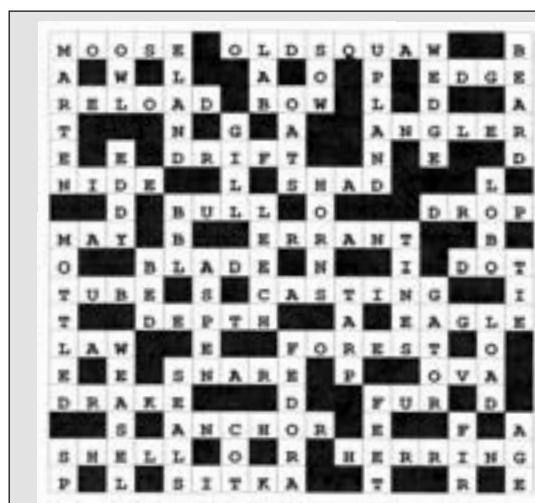
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NATIONAL

Georgia blue catfish state record trumped

Fifteen-year-old angler Tyler Dodson of Carrollton, Ga., reeled in the new state record blue catfish from a private 18-acre neighborhood lake on Christmas Eve of 2007. Dodson's 75-pound, 49-inch catch trumped the former state record by more than seven pounds.



FINALLY: It took more than 6 months for Tyler Dodson to receive confirmation that his 75-pound blue catfish broke the Georgia state record. Photo by Martha Dodson.

The subdivision lake is behind the Dodson home, and Tyler cast his line, leaned it against the deck railing, and went back inside to watch TV. After hearing noise on the deck, he went out to find the rod pulled over the railing. Thirty minutes later, he and a family member waded in the water to pull the fish to shore.

Dodson's catch was unusual because blue catfish are typically a big water species, found primarily in large rivers. WRD Fisheries Management biologists initially thought that someone might have transplanted the fish into the lake as an adult, making it ineligible for the state record.

Based on its research, WRD was able to declare the catch a new state record for a number of reasons. The lake where the fish was caught was built approximately 19 years ago and stocked with juvenile catfish. WRD sent a sample from the record-break-

ing fish to an environmental lab for aging and discovered that the fish in question also was approximately 19 years old.

Also, according to WRD biologists, there was no evidence that the fish was transplanted.

Biologists also indicated that though blue catfish of this size have not previously been documented from small lakes, research showed that such growth is not impossible.

Thus, although the catch was unusual, there was no just reason to question its legitimacy, and Tyler Dodson now holds the state record catch for blue catfish.

— Georgia Department of Natural Resources report.

Louisiana ups youth hunt age

Louisiana raised the age limit for its young hunters to participate in special youth-hunting weekends. Hunters 17 years of age and younger may now take part, a two-year increase from previous rules.

"The department and commission are always looking for ways to make hunting more accessible for the state's youth and adults to keep the Louisiana hunting heritage alive," said Jimmy Anthony, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries assistant secretary.

The new 17-or-younger age requirement will go into effect during the upcoming hunting season and will include all special youth deer, duck, squirrel and dove hunts and other approved youth hunts. It does not apply, however, to the special early-season youth waterfowl hunt allowed by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service prior to the regular season.

— Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries report.

Declining habitat impacts breeding ducks

Numbers down 9 percent from last year

In the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service preliminary report on mid-continent breeding ducks and habitats, the total population was estimated at 37.3 million breeding ducks on the surveyed area, representing a 9-percent decline over last year's estimate of 41.2 million birds.

The report is based on surveys conducted in May and June. The estimate remains 11 percent above the 1955-2007 long-term average.

Total pond counts for the United States and Canada combined showed 4.4 million ponds, a 37-percent decrease from last year's estimate, and 10 percent below the long-term average.

The Flyway Councils and the FWS Regulations Committee will meet in July and early August to recommend and adopt the season structure and bag limits for 2008-09. Individual states will make their selections following these meetings.

"While late rains may have improved habitat for late-nesting species, and for re-nesting and brood rearing, poor production will likely occur over key production areas, particularly the prairie grasslands of the U.S. and Canada," said Ducks Unlimited's Chief Biologist Dale Humburg.

The mallard population was 7 percent below last year. An estimated 7.7 million mallards were on traditionally surveyed areas this spring, compared to last year's estimate of 8.3 million birds.

There was positive news for redheads, green-winged teal and scaup. For the second straight year, redheads remained

above 1 million birds (66 percent above the long-term average). Green-winged teal populations remained similar to the level in 2007 and were 57 percent above the long-term average.

Scaup numbers appear to have stabilized at similar levels for the last 8 years remaining at 3.7 million in 2008, similar to the 3.5 million surveyed in 2007. Breeding scaup numbers remain 27 percent below their long-term average.

Notable declines were in numbers of breeding canvasbacks, down 44 percent from 2007, northern pintails, down 22 percent, gadwalls, down 19 percent, and northern shovelers, down 23 percent. Canvasbacks were at an estimated 489,000 breeding birds in the survey area, 14 percent below their long-term average. Pintail numbers declined to 2.6 million, 36 percent below the long-term average. Despite declines from 2007 in numbers of gadwalls and shovelers, populations remain well above long-term averages.

American wigeon numbers, at 2.5 million, remained similar to 2007 levels and the long-term. Although blue-winged teal populations did not change significantly from 2007, they remain well above the long-term average.

"Pintails and scaup continue to be well below their long-term averages and remain a significant concern," said Humburg. "Habitat changes are believed to be the primary causes of decline for both these species."

— Ducks Unlimited report.

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Nonlead ammunition required in California

A new law requiring the use of nonlead ammunition in the historic California condor range took effect July 1.

Assembly Bill 821, signed into law last October, banned lead bullets for hunting in the historic condor range that encompasses all or portions of 13 central and southern counties and seven different deer hunting zones.

Last December, the California Fish and Game Commission expanded the ban to include ammunition from shotguns, muzzle-loading rifles and rimfire firearms. The ban encompasses the hunting of deer, bear, wild pig, pronghorn antelope and nongame species like ground squirrels.

The new law also prohibits the possession of lead projectiles and a firearm capable of firing such pro-



California Condor

jectiles while hunting in the historic condor range.

"We're doing everything we can to make sure hunters have the information they need to follow the law and know which bullets are legal," said Eric Loft, Chief of

the Department of Fish and Game Wildlife Branch.

Sportsmen's groups, the California Department of Fish and Game, and The Condor Recovery Team Executive Committee supported voluntary management measures, including retrieving all killed animals from the field, hiding or covering carcasses or gut piles, removing bullets and surrounding impacted tissue when leaving gut piles in the field.

The groups pointed out that at present, only one brand of ammunition suitable for taking big game is available to hunters, and nonlead ammunition is available only in a limited number of calibers and cartridges. Many hunters would not be able to find nonlead ammunition for their big game rifle.

— Staff reports.

Arizona off-highway vehicle legislation enacted

A new law aimed to better manage off-highway vehicle recreation and protect Arizona wildlife habitat will take effect on Jan. 1, 2009.

OHV riding has damaged habitat and created the potential for closures of some areas. SB 1167, the "Off-Highway Vehicle Bill," will provide resources to better manage issues created by the dramatic increase in OHV use in Arizona (347 percent in the last decade).

Revenue raised through an estimated \$20 annual user fee on off-highway vehicles will help provide

funding for additional law enforcement, trail/facility maintenance and reconstruction, rider education and information, and mitigation of resource damage from OHVs.

The "user play, user pay" approach is similar to that used by hunters and anglers, where sportsmen pay license fees to support their hunting and fishing opportunities and benefits.

— Arizona Game and Fish report.

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Easements

Continued from Page 6

ty consistent with the agreement forever.

"There are 1.4 million acres in Texas under conservation easements," Steinbach said. "But the state is losing 250,000 acres each year to subdivisions extended to rural lands."

The tax benefits of an easement are real. "Tax planning can include conservation easements," said Abilene attorney and TWA Treasurer Glen Webb. "The value of the property will be reduced substantially for tax purposes because of the limit on future development. And an exclusion of 40 percent of the remaining value up to \$500,000 may be used by an estate."

Most landowners are interested in habitat preservation and restoration, but aren't able or willing to pay for all of it. Land management tools from Texas Parks and Wildlife, the

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and others can help meet the need.

"The Managed Lands Permits have been very successful," said TPW Private Lands Program Director Linda Campbell. "We now have 6,000 landowners with 22 million acres participating — up from 7 million acres in 2000."

The cost-sharing incentive programs assist landowners in restoring natural habitat and provide revenue to help offset losses from agricultural or grazing uses. And, Campbell said, TPW assists the USDA in implementing its Farm Bill programs for wildlife, like CRP, EQIP and WIP.

Tax relief is a plus, and landowners don't have to have a big spread to participate. "The Wildlife Management Areas get private landowners to work together in a cooperative effort," Cambell said. "And wildlife management is a primary agricultural use for property tax purposes."

Future revenue sources may make land stewardship attractive financially, too.

"There is economic value from the conservation of private land," said Brad Raffle with Conservation Capital, an ecological restoration company. "And it can be greater than the conventional use."

Examples of revenue sources include mitigation credits for wetland areas, flood control credits for developing areas, carbon sequestration credits for industry, and natural resources like timber, water and minerals, in addition to the conservation funding through easements.

All in all, conservation may be a real business option for farmers and ranchers. "Put together creatively, these approaches can create an attractive return," Raffle said.

Landowners, hunters and especially the wildlife can benefit from a hard look at all of the conservation options available. Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas, addressed the group about the importance of conserving land and the hunting heritage, saying, "Hunting equals habitat and habitat equals hunting."

Fort Hood

Continued from Page 6

But, she added, unguided hunts are open to archers and shotgun slug shooters.

"You can take one buck, two does and three turkey," she said. "There's no limit on feral hogs."

The base also has areas for camping, and at 3 a.m., the Sportsmen's Center starts serving a country breakfast.

There are, however, some requirements to satisfy to get a hunt permit. Along with a state hunting license, participants must present a card showing that they've completed a hunter safety course.

They also have to register their guns with the base military police, Johnson said.

Annual fees are: \$43 for military personnel E4 and below; \$60 for E5 and above, officers and mil-

itary retirees; and \$100 for civilians.

Johnson said she sells about 1,300 permits a year, which are split evenly among active duty soldiers, military retirees and civilians.

"We don't have a cap," she said. "But keep in mind, not everybody is here to hunt at the same time."

And some regulars at the Sportsmen's Center don't hunt at all, Garcia said.

"We've got some old-timers who get dressed up in their camo and come out just for the breakfast," he said. "They just like to be around it."

For more information, see the Sportsmen's Center's Web site, www.forthoodhunting.com, or call (254) 532-4552.

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