

LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

March 26, 2010

Texas' Premier Outdoor Newspaper

Volume 6, Issue 15



Whitetails vs. axis
White-tailed and axis deer often have the same desire for food. **Page 4**

Inside



■ HUNTING Doves' return trip

Little is known about white-winged doves' spring migration back to Texas.

Page 5



■ FISHING Stripers in saltwater

Striped bass are becoming more popular on the upper Texas coast.

Page 6

Fishfinders in court

The makers of two popular fishfinders are at odds over a patent dispute.

Page 6

Hatchery delayed

A new fish hatchery in East Texas is about a year behind schedule.

Page 7

■ CONTENTS

Classifieds	Page 25
Crossword	Page 24
Fishing Report	Page 8
For the Table	Page 24
Game Warden Blotter	Page 10
Heroes	Page 16
Outdoor Datebook	Page 21
Outfitters and Businesses	Page 20
Products	Page 12
Sun, Moon and Tide data	Page 24

■ LSONews.com

Big, biting drum



BOOM TIME: Anglers reported catching high numbers of large black drum earlier this month. The run is on big-time in the Corpus Christi Ship Channel and other spots along the coast. See the story on Page 6. Photo by David J. Sams, Lone Star Outdoor News.



LONG BEARD: Turkey season in the South Zone started out cold and windy, with wind making it difficult to hear gobblers. Photo by David J. Sams, LSON.

Tough weather for turkey opener

Cold front had some birds holding tight, hunters seeking shelter

By Thomas Phillips
LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

A snowy, rainy cold front sent shivers through much of Texas and created mixed results for the opening weekend of turkey season in the South Zone on March 20-21.

"I never heard anything at all; I never heard one thing," said Larry Noble of College Station.

Instead of hearing gobbling, Noble heard the wind blowing cold out of the north. He was hunting in the Hill

INSIDE

■ **Turkey tips:** Two veteran turkey hunters offer advice for getting gobblers. **Page 4**

See **TURKEY**, Page 22

Big bass gets angler's vote

Former politician boats 13-pounder at Purtis Creek

By Thomas Phillips
LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

Michael Banks waded into politics to try to unseat a fellow Republican from the Legislature. He finished strong in this month's primary. But the incumbent, Rep. Chuck Hopson of Jacksonville, couldn't be shaken, winning the party's nomination again.

After the primary, Banks, 62, also of Jacksonville, asked Hopson when they could go fishing together



LUNKER: Michael Banks of Jacksonville caught a 13.6-pound bass March 9 from Purtis Creek State Park Lake using a crankbait. Photo by Larry D. Hodge, TPW.

See **BASS**, Page 22

Helicopter crashes during hog shoot
Pilot, passenger die at ranch

By Mark England
LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

South Texas pilot E.T. Page heard a helicopter hog shoot at the Agave Ranch outside Cotulla, 90 miles southwest of San Antonio, had turned deadly. What he saw upon arriving verified it.

"It was apparent it was bad," Page said. "A high-G sudden stop."

The March 6 crash of a Robinson R-22 helicopter killed the pilot, Brian

See **CRASH**, Page 26



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HUNTING



AT ODDS: White-tailed deer and free-ranging axis deer inhabit the same land in parts of Texas, often competing for food resources. Photo by Lone Star Outdoor News.

Direct competitors

Whitetails, exotics fighting for same resources in Texas

By Bill Miller
FOR LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

A billion-dollar industry is yielding big profits for Texans who own land that supports white-tailed deer. Since the 1930s, the same real estate has also been great habitat for “exotic” hoof stock from around the globe. These sheep, deer and antelope aren’t classified as native game species, so they can be hunted year-round in Texas. But biologists and breeders warn that exotics such as axis, sika and fallow deer outcompete whitetails for food — forcing them to move off and look for other sources.

An unintended loss of native deer can be a hard lesson for ranchers who dream of landscapes where whitetails mingle with revenue-producing trophies from Asia and Africa. “It happens all the time,” said Donnie Frels of Texas Parks and Wildlife. “It’s certainly important for a landowner to realize what his land can produce. “The key is habitat management.” Frels, project manager for the Kerr Wildlife Management Area near Hunt, said whitetails are known for their abilities to live in rural and semi-urban areas. But, he noted, experiments have shown that exotics are much heartier — capable of surviving on more food types than their white-tailed neighbors.

Native deer, he said, feed only on browse — not grass — such as forbs, weeds, woody plants and the bushes in people’s front yards. But axis deer, for example, can eat browse until it is depleted, then switch to grass. Whitetails don’t have that flexibility, Frels said. A TPW study in the 1970s demonstrated the harsh results of species competing for food. It was conducted on the Kerr WMA, where sika and axis deer were put in 96-acre fenced pastures with equal numbers of whitetails.

See **COMPETE**, Page 23

Exotic game ... at home

State law allows hunters to bag “exotic” game, such as aoudad sheep, axis deer, elk, sika deer, fallow deer, blackbuck antelope, nilgai antelope and Russian boar, year-round with no bag limits. Still, some game rules apply. For example, it’s against the law to:

- Hunt an exotic without a valid hunting license.
- Hunt an exotic on a public road or right-of-way.
- Hunt an exotic without the landowner’s permission.

 Violating these laws is punishable by \$500 to \$4,000, up to one year in jail or both.

Turkey tips for spring success

Hunting for Easterns brings new set of challenges

Mike Wagstaff

Where do you hunt?
“This year I’m going to be hunting East Texas because I lost my Hill Country lease. It’s going to be a totally different game this year. Instead of hunting Rios I’m going to be hunting Easterns.”

How’s that going to be different?
“Rios are easier to hunt than Easterns are. Rios are a lot more vocal. They’ll gobble all day, and they’re usually easier to find. An Eastern’s a lot quieter. They’re usually harder to find and harder to get on.”

Can you give me a few general tips on how to be more successful this turkey season?
“Camo, staying hid, calling. Sometimes it’s good to call a lot, and sometimes it’s good to kind of be subtle with it.”

Let’s say I haven’t scouted before the season begins. Where should I start hunting?

“The best place to start, what I usually do, is I’ll actually ride the roads, and I’ll look for tracks. I’ll try to get out at daylight, especially when the season’s going and they’re starting to gobble. Get out there and ride right at daylight and see if you can make one gobble, or put one to roost in the evening, either using a crow call or owl hooter, stuff like that. If you’ve really got one fired up, you can slam the truck door and he’ll gobble at you. I like to cruise the roads and stop and call and see if I can get a response to try to put one to bed and then the next morning get up and be right there with him the next morning when he comes off the roost and see if

Mike Wagstaff, owner of an archery shop in Livingston, and Eloy Perez, a teacher in Granger and former hunting guide, offered insights earlier this month for turkey season in interviews with *Lone Star Outdoor News’* Thomas Phillips. The men are on the pro staff of Mossy Oak camouflage.



Photo by Lone Star Outdoor News.

Chase for Rios lasts all day long — so sit tight

Eloy Perez

Can you tell us where you’ll be hunting this spring?
I’ll be hunting in South Texas a little bit, and then I’ll also be hunting around Hallettsville just south of I-10, by Schulenberg, that area. We’ll be hunting over there this spring, hopefully we’ll get something.

Are you a turkey guide?
“No sir, I do it for the sport, and I’ve been raised hunting so I love doing it.”

How long have you been hunting turkeys?
“Oh, probably 15 years or so.”

Can you give me a few general tips on how to be more successful this turkey season?
“Go early and stay late. That’s going to be a big deal. A lot of people get out, they don’t hear them hollering after about 10, they quit. You can shoot some of the best birds at noon.”

And if lunchtime rolls around and you still haven’t seen something, just stay out there?
“Most of the time I do, yes sir. I sure do.”

Let’s say I haven’t scouted before the season begins, where should I go, what should I look for that first morning I’m out hunting?
“Creeks would be a good place. If you have a draw or creek, often that will be the roosting spot. Somewhere high is where they’re going to roost, so if you can find a creek or a draw or something. A lot of times they’ll try to bed up on the edge of a big field. A lot of times

Spring turkey season dates and bag limits

North Zone (101 counties)	Apr. 3-May 16
Special Youth Season	Mar. 27-28, May 22-23
South Zone (54 counties)	Mar. 20-May 2
Special Youth Season	Mar. 13-14, May 8-9
1-Turkey Bag Limit (8 counties)	Apr. 1-30

EASTERN TURKEY

East Texas (43 counties)	Apr. 1-30
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BAG LIMIT: Four turkeys, with only one being an Eastern turkey.

See **WAGSTAFF**, Page 19

See **PEREZ**, Page 19



MIGRANTS: Researchers know that dove return to Texas, but, beyond that, most of the birds' spring migration is a mystery. Photo by Lone Star Outdoor News.

Much of northern migration a mystery, researchers say

Dove return to Texas each spring, but many details are unknown

By Kyle Carter
FOR LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

Every dove hunter in Texas knows when the birds go south. Ask and most of them will tell you it's sometime between the fall and winter seasons.

And once they've officially made their move south and the hunting season ends in mid-January, it's out of shotgun-sight, out of mind for the hunter. But for the dove, only half of the

migration work is done.

"There's not a distinct pattern like you see with teal," said Bret Collier, a research ecologist at Texas A&M University who heads a study there on white-winged dove population management in Texas.

Collier said most dove make the trip south, but how far south is a bit of an unknown. It depends on the dove, where it starts and the conditions it encounters. Some never leave Texas, and some go as far south as the Yucatan Peninsula, Collier said.

What is known is that what goes down must come up. But the last half of the gravity story, the northern migration, is largely ignored by hunters because the birds aren't in season.

See DOVE, Page 21

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FISHING

Battle of the fishfinders: Humminbird vs. Lowrance

Sonar makers in court to settle technology fight

By Mary Helen Aguirre

LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

The parent company of Alabama-based Humminbird received a patent Jan. 26 for Humminbird's Side Imaging sonar technology and sued Navico Inc., parent company of Oklahoma-based Lowrance, the

same day for infringement.

In announcing the lawsuit the next day, Kelly Grindle, group vice president of Marine Electronics & Watercraft for Johnson Outdoors, Humminbird's parent company, said: "Our intellectual property policy is very simple: We will respect the property of others and fiercely protect that of our own."

And so the battle of the fishfinders was on.

At issue is popular side-imaging technology that expands the angler's view of underwater territory that may hold fish. Humminbird applied

for its patent in 2005 and uses its Side Imaging sonar technology in such products as its 900 series of fishfinders, which it began selling in 2005. The technology has since been introduced in a broad range of other products. It was this side imaging sonar technology that Kevin Van Dam credited for helping him locate a submerged stump near which he caught seven bass to help him win last month's 40th Bassmaster Classic.

Lowrance markets its LSS-1 StructureScan sonar imaging technology as an optional add-on module on such products as its HDS fish-

finder-chartplotter.

Lowrance initially announced the availability of the LSS-1 StructureScan sonar imaging on Feb. 20, 2009, at the Bassmaster Classic Expo. It revealed additional details in July at the 2009 ICAST show and started shipping its StructureScan products in November.

Johnson Outdoors has asked a federal court in Alabama to stop Navico from selling the technology at issue and has also requested additional damages be paid.

In its complaint, Johnson Outdoors describes the Side

Imaging products as Humminbird's most important and profitable, with net sales exceeding \$37 million. The complaint alleges, in part, that "determined to compete more effectively against Humminbird's 'Side Imaging' products, Navico developed its own products, the 'StructureScan' products, that copy Humminbird's side scan sonar technology and products."

The makers of Lowrance products deny Humminbird's claims, asserting the uniqueness of their

See SUIT, Page 21

Black drum in full swing

Anglers reporting lots of big fish during annual run

By Antonio Vindell

FOR LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

Whenever the drums are beating in the Lower Laguna Madre, in the Brownsville Ship Channel and San Martin Lake, a sort of war is going on.

But that isn't the type of war seen in the news. It's a fight fought between anglers and the black drum — an inshore fish that can grow to gigantic proportions.

Large black drum are caught more often during the months of January through late March in bay and Gulf waters. However, it's not unusual to see an angler here and another angler there catching a legal or a monster-sized black drum anytime of the year, and the method of catching a big one differs from one fishing enthusiast to another.

Manny Torres caught the fish of a lifetime in February while kayak fishing. He hooked a 47.5-inch drum using frozen shrimp in San Martin



BIG FISH, LITTLE BOAT: Manny Torres holds one of the black drum he caught from his kayak in February. Torres caught the fish using frozen shrimp in San Martin Lake on the Texas coast.

Lake, a body of water located halfway between the Brownsville Shrimp Basin and Port Isabel along Texas 48.

"We started fishing in the lake about seven months ago," Torres said. "We were participating in an online-man tournament called Kayak Wars."

He and his fellow anglers hit the water one day in February at about 6 a.m. and caught the

fish at about 8:30 a.m.

The fish dragged him in his kayak for about 40 yards one way and another 50 yards the other way.

"That was the biggest fish I've caught on a kayak," he said. "I saw it coming up once. At first I did not know what it was, but I knew it was a big fish."

Ben Garza of Brownsville likes to put one

of his ears on the ground on the shores of the Brownsville Ship Channel during the black drum run.

"You can hear them drumming," he said. "It sounds like a war drum that echoes as they are coming your way."

Garza, who as of early March had not caught

See BLACK DRUM, Page 22

Striped bass becoming a popular alternative on Texas coast

Saltwater stripers a high priority on Sabine River

By Chuck Uzzle

FOR LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

In the shadows of the Interstate 10 bridge that crosses the Texas-Louisiana state line lies one of the most diverse fisheries along the Gulf Coast. Few people know about it.

For years local Sabine River anglers have had a virtual paradise unto themselves where freshwater species and their saltwater cousins roam the lake alongside each other at one time or another.

Several fish that call both fresh and salt water their home are found

year-around in these waters, but in early spring, this means something special to a small group of anglers. What do they look forward to this time of year: striped bass.

Stripers have become a viable option for anglers in this area during the winter and early spring, when most other anglers are chasing largemouth bass on an impoundment or wading for giant speckled trout in the bay.

The striped bass bite cranked up about 10 years ago, when, for whatever reason, the numbers of these hard-fighting fish reached high enough levels that an angler could target them, instead of catching a random one here and there. Until recently, the striper was an accidental player during the winter, often times caught by anglers targeting redfish with crankbaits or live bait.

"For years we fished the river dur-

ing the coldest months for redfish and did well throwing chrome or gold Rat-L-traps, and occasionally we would catch a striper," said Chris Gunn of Orange. "Most of the time we thought that fish was just lost and looking for a way to get back up the river to Toledo Bend. We have finally figured out you can actually go out and target these fish, they are great fighters, and some of them get mighty big."

It certainly appears now that there are enough of these fish in the Sabine River and adjoining tributaries to make even the most dyed-in-the-wool fishermen think twice about chasing other species during the colder months.

During fall, as the days grow shorter, the overcast skies become common, and the air and water temperatures fall, anglers can bet that striped bass will be on the prowl.



SEAWORTHY: Striped bass have been popular with Texas freshwater anglers for decades, and among saltwater anglers, the species is growing in stature. Photo by LSON.

Successful striper anglers have figured out the best method to target these fish is to trust quality electronics; finding them on a graph or chart is just half the battle.

More often than not, these fish will be suspended near the mouths of small bayous or drains that

See STRIPERS, Page 22

Hatchery construction about 1 year behind

Drain pipe failed; state doesn't have to pay for fix

By Mark England
LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

Construction crews could begin laying drainage pipes to fish production ponds at the John D. Parker East Texas State Fish Hatchery in Jasper this month after almost a year-long delay.

The initial drain pipes failed during installation, said Todd Engeling, chief of inland hatcheries for Texas Parks and Wildlife.

"It was a catastrophic failure," he said. "The large drain lines failed before they were ever in operation. There was a debate on whether it was the pipes or an installation problem or a combination of things. All we really know is what was there didn't work. We're basically moving to a stronger pipe."

Drainage was supposed to be handled by double-walled corrugated pipes — or standard sewer pipes. The smaller pipes will now be PVC, while the larger pipes will be reinforced concrete.

The switch entails digging up 8,000 feet of the old pipe buried as deep as 17 feet.

"We made a decision to take all the pipe up," said Scott Boruff, TPW's chief operating officer. "We didn't want to replace it in bits and pieces given the circumstances. We knew something wasn't right."

Engeling said TPW, the design firm, HDR FishPro of Omaha, Neb., and the construction firm, ALLCO Inc. of Beaumont, reached an agreement on who will pay the additional costs associated with the new drain-



DRAINED: Workers examine a pipe at the John D. Parker East Texas State Fisher Hatchery in Jasper. Construction at the hatchery has been delayed because of problems with drainage pipes at the site. Photo by Texas Parks and Wildlife.

age pipe.

"I'm not at liberty to discuss the terms of the agreement other than to say we're not bearing the cost," Engeling said.

The \$27 million hatchery, funded by sales of the \$5 freshwater fishing stamp approved by the Legislature in 2004, is located on 200 acres below the dam at Sam Rayburn Reservoir. Jasper County donated the land, cleared it and built a road and bridge to access the site. The Lower Neches

Valley Authority will provide water to the hatchery, or about 10,000 acre-feet of water annually.

The new drainage pipe installation plan calls for a gravel bed instead of sand to be placed around the pipes — creating, in effect, a French drain to carry off excess water. The area's high water table led to questions as to whether the Jasper site was the best place for the hatchery.

Boruff, though, is sold on the location.

"Oh, absolutely," he said. "We'll be receiving water from the reservoir using a siphon process rather than pumping, although there will be pumping to get the siphon started, which will be a huge cost savings to the state."

The failed drainage pipes slowed construction of the fish hatchery, putting it nine months behind schedule, according to Boruff. Weather conditions created by Hurricanes Gustav and Ike also

resulted in delays. However, two buildings on the site have been completed: a 34,000-square-foot production building and a 8,200-square-foot office building.

The hatchery was scheduled to open this year, but Engeling said that's unlikely.

"We're hoping to be operational by the next production season, which would be spring of 2011," he said.

The new hatchery, named after the late TPW commissioner from Lufkin, who secured critical regional support for the project, will replace the current facility at Jasper, which was built in 1932. With no major improvements since 1946, the Jasper hatchery annually produces about 1.5 million fish, including largemouth bass, catfish, bluegill and trout.

When the East Texas hatchery opens next spring, there will be 45 acres of production ponds capable of producing more than 3 million fish. Space is available at the site to add 22 more acres of production ponds, which would increase the production capacity to 5 million fish.

"They've been designed and laid out," Engeling said. "As we get additional money, we can complete them."

The acting director of inland fisheries said TPW's hatcheries are essential to the future of fishing in Texas.

"They've been important in the past and will probably be more so in the future," said Gary Saul. "Water is going to take on a greater importance, and there's a possibility we'll see more fluctuations in water levels at our reservoirs. If the levels fluctuate widely during spawning, it could interrupt the reproduction cycle and we'll see less fish. Hatcheries are vital to ensuring a stable fish population."

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TEXAS FISHING REPORT

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HOT BITES

LARGEMOUTH BASS



CONROE: Very good on pumpkinseed soft plastics and spinnerbaits.
GRANBURY: Very good on chartreuse/black soft plastics and Rat-L-Traps over grass.
LIVINGSTON: Very good on crankbaits, spinnerbaits and soft plastics. A lake record 13.18-pound black bass was caught this month.
SAM RAYBURN: Very good on Carolina-rigged green pumpkin soft plastics, crankbaits and spinnerbaits.

WHITE, HYBRID, STRIPER



WALTER E. LONG: White bass are excellent on minnows.
BROWNWOOD: White bass are excellent on L'il Fishies, Rat-L-Traps and shad crankbaits.
AMISTAD: White bass are good on slabs, small crankbaits and minnows.
CEDAR CREEK: White bass are good on slabs.
FORT PHANTOM HILL: White bass are good on live bait.
BUCHANAN: Striped bass are good drifting live bait in 25-35 feet and trolling white/chartreuse striper jigs and crankbaits.

CATFISH



BRUNING: Channel catfish are excellent on liver, shrimp, cheesebait and cut bait near the dam and the discharge. Blue catfish are good on cut bait in 15-20 feet.
CALAVERAS: Channel and blue catfish are excellent on liver, shrimp and cheesebait near the railroad trestle.
COLEMAN: Channel catfish are good on stinkbait, shrimp and cut bait.
COLETO CREEK: Channel and blue catfish are good on trotlines baited with nightcrawlers, liver and shrimp in 8-10 feet. Yellow catfish are good on trotlines baited with live perch in 6-15 feet.
FALCON: Channel and blue catfish are good on frozen shrimp, stinkbait and cut bait.

CRAPPIE



SOMERVILLE: Excellent on minnows and on green/black jigs.
STILLHOUSE: Good on minnows.

ALAN HENRY: Water lightly stained; 46 degrees; 1.20' low. Black bass are fair on live bait, white spinnerbaits and black/blue jigs suspended in trees. Crappie are fair on minnows and jigs. Catfish are fair on live bait.

AMISTAD: Water clear; 55 degrees; 2.17' low. Black bass are good on crankbaits, jerkbaits, soft plastics and jigs. Striped bass are fair on slabs, small crankbaits and minnows. Crappie are fair on live minnows up Devil's River in the trees. Catfish are fair on cheesebait, shrimp and nightcrawlers over baited holes. Yellow catfish are fair on trotlines baited with live perch.

ATHENS: Water fairly clear; 51-58 degrees; 0.43' high. Black bass are fair on shaky head rigs, Rat-L-Traps and crankbaits. Crappie are fair on minnows and jigs. Catfish are fair on nightcrawlers and cut bait.

BASTROP: Water stained. Black bass are good on dark soft plastics, crankbaits and spinnerbaits. Crappie are fair on minnows over brush piles. Channel and blue catfish are good on stinkbait, shrimp and minnows.

BELTON: Water stained; 53 degrees; 0.68' high. Black bass are fair on Rat-L-Traps and crankbaits. Hybrid striper are fair on live shad. White bass are slow. Crappie are good on minnows at night under lights. Channel and blue catfish are good on shrimp and stinkbait.

BOB SANDLIN: Water stained; 50-56 degrees; 0.06' high. Black bass are fair on Texas rigs and Rat-L-Traps. Crappie are fair on live minnows and jigs. White bass are fair on slabs and jigging spoons. Catfish are fair on prepared bait.

BRUNING: Water clear; 54 degrees. Black bass are good on crankbaits and dark soft plastic worms in the reeds and near the jetty and dam. Striped bass are good on liver and shad at Dead Tree Point and near the pier. Redfish are slow.

BROWNWOOD: Water stained; 55 degrees; 6.66' low. Black bass are fair on spinnerbaits, craw jigs, black/blue jigs, perch and craw colored crankbaits and chrome/blue Rat-L-Traps along the shorelines. Hybrid striper are slow. Crappie are fair on L'il Fishies and tube jigs over brush piles in 5-22 feet. Channel catfish are slow.

BUCHANAN: Water murky; 53 degrees; 13.88' low. Black bass are fair on jerkbaits, 1/8 oz. and 1/4 oz. pumpkin jigs and Carolina-rigged lizards along break lines and bluff ledges in 10-25 feet. White bass are fair on slabs and trolling crankbaits at the mouths of larger creeks. Crappie are fair on minnows over brush piles in 12-15 feet. Channel catfish are slow.

CADDO: Water murky; 51-57 degrees; 2.13' high. Black bass are fair on Texas rigs and jigs. White bass are fair on Road Runners and minnows. Yellow bass are fair on jigs and shrimp. Catfish are fair to good on nightcrawlers and prepared bait.

CALAVERAS: Water clear; 54 degrees. Black bass are good on dark soft plastic worms, spinnerbaits and crankbaits in reed beds and near the dam. Striped bass are good on spoons and jigs near the dam and the crappie wall in 15-20 feet. Redfish are slow. Crappie are slow.

CANYON LAKE: Water murky; 49 degrees; 0.33' high. Black bass are fair on jerkbaits, black/chartreuse hair jigs and Texas-rigged worms on shaky jigheads in 20-25 feet. Striped bass are fair. Smallmouth bass are good on smoke/red flake tubes, tomato red curl tail grubs and tomato red drop-shot worms over rock piles in 12-25 feet. Crappie are fair. Catfish are slow.

CEDAR CREEK: Water stained; 52-59 degrees; 0.04' high. Black bass are fair on crankbaits, jigs and Texas rigs. Hybrid striper are fair on live bait, Sassy Shad and slabs. Crappie are fair on minnows and jigs. Catfish are fair on prepared bait and chartreuse nightcrawlers.

CHOKE CANYON: Water stained; 55 degrees; 8.75' low. Black bass are good on spinnerbaits and heavy jigs in grass. White bass are good on minnows and jigs. Crappie are fair on minnows. Drum are slow. Channel and blue catfish are

good on stinkbait and live perch.

COLEMAN: Water murky; 51 degrees; 8.57' low. Black bass are good on chartreuse soft plastics, spinnerbaits and crankbaits. Hybrid striper are good on silver and chartreuse striper jigs. Crappie are fair on minnows and blue tube jigs.

COLETO CREEK: Water stained; 54 degrees (71 degrees at discharge); 0.09' high. Black bass are fair on soft plastics in 3-12 feet. Striped bass are slow. White bass are slow. Crappie are slow.

CONROE: Water fairly clear; 0.14' high. Striped bass are fair on minnows and silver striper jigs. Crappie are good on minnows and blue tube jigs. Catfish are good on stinkbait and frozen shrimp.

FAIRFIELD: Water fairly clear; 61-87 degrees. Black bass are fair on Senkos, spinnerbaits and split-shot-rigged Ring Frys. Redfish are fair to good on live bait.

spinnerbaits, black/blue jigs and watermelon soft plastics. Crappie are slow on jigs and minnows. White bass are fair on live bait. Smallmouth bass are slow on live bait. Walleye are slow on live bait. Catfish are slow on live and prepared bait. Note: Low water conditions exists, launching boats is difficult.

HOUSTON COUNTY: Water fairly clear; 54 degrees; 1.03' high. Black bass to 8 pounds are good on shad and watermelon colored worms, chartreuse spinnerbaits and chrome Rat-L-Traps off piers and near the marina. Crappie are slow. Bream are slow. Channel and blue catfish to 4 pounds are good on perch.

JOE POOL: Water off-color; 52-59 degrees; 1.19' high. Black bass are fair on drop-shot-rigged finesse worms, crankbaits and Rat-L-Traps. Crappie are fair on minnows and jigs. White bass are fair to good on minnows and

HOT SPOT



West Galveston Bay

Waders have taken good trout in the mud and shell on topwaters and Corkies in the afternoon. Sheepshead, redfish and black drum are good at the jetty on shrimp.

FALCON: Water stained; 63 degrees. Black bass are good on watermelon red Brush Hogs, 6" Yumdingers and spinnerbaits. Striped bass are slow. Crappie are good on minnows and jigs.

FORK: Water stained to murky; 51-59 degrees; 0.38' high. Black bass are fair on Rat-L-Traps, crankbaits, Carolina rigs and heavy jigs. Crappie are fair on minnows and jigs. Catfish are fair on nightcrawlers and stinkbait.

FORT PHANTOM HILL: Water clear; 53 degrees; 5.29' low. Black bass are slow. Crappie are fair on minnows and jigs. Catfish are fair on live bait.

GRANBURY: Water clear; 0.34' low. Striped bass are fair on silver striper jigs and minnows. White bass are fair on minnows. Crappie are good on minnows and black tube jigs. Catfish are slow.

GRAPEVINE: Water stained; 50-58 degrees; 6.16' high. Black bass are slow to fair on crankbaits, Rat-L-Traps and drop-shot rigs. Crappie are fair on minnows and jigs. White bass are fair to good on slabs. Catfish are fair on stink bait and chartreuse nightcrawlers.

GREENBELT: Water lightly stained; 30 degrees; 32.85' low. Black bass to 2 pounds are good on live bait, white

slabs. Catfish are fair on cheese bait and nightcrawlers.

LAKE O' THE PINES: Water stained; 51-58 degrees; 3.37' high. Black bass are fair on Texas-rigged Baby Brush Hogs and Rat-L-Traps. Crappie are fair on minnows and jigs. Catfish are fair on stink bait and chartreuse (use Worm-Glo) nightcrawlers.

LAVON: Water stained; 52-58 degrees; 3.42' high. Black bass are fair to good on crankbaits, Texas rigs and drop-shot rigs. Crappie are fair to good on minnows and jigs. Catfish are fair on prepared bait.

LBJ: Water stained; 54 degrees; 0.20' low. Black bass are slow. White bass are fair jigging 1/4 oz. jigs and Pirk Minnows from Apple Head to Horseshoe Bay. Crappie are slow. Channel catfish are slow. Yellow and blue catfish are slow.

LEWISVILLE: Water stained; 51-58 degrees; 1.26' high. Black bass are fair on Rat-L-Traps, medium diving crankbaits and Texas rigs. Crappie are fair on minnows and jigs. White bass are fair to good on slabs. Hybrid striper are fair on slabs and Sassy Shad. Catfish are good on prepared bait and chartreuse (use Worm-Glo) nightcrawlers.

LIVINGSTON: Water stained; 56 degrees;

0.06' high. Striped bass are slow. White bass are slow. Crappie are very good on minnows. Blue catfish are good on shad.

MONTICELLO: Water fairly clear; 61-86 degrees; 0.66' high. Black bass are fair to good on Rat-L-Traps, flukes and crankbaits. Crappie are fair to good on minnows and jigs. Catfish are fair on prepared bait.

NAVARRO MILLS: Water murky; 50 degrees; .87' high. Black bass are slow. White bass are slow. Crappie are slow. Channel and blue catfish to 28 pounds are fair on chicken livers and stinkbait.

O.H. IVIE: Water lightly stained; 54 degrees; 21.75' low. Black bass are fair on white spinnerbaits or crankbaits, Carolina-rigged watermelon red soft plastics and live bait worked along channels and drop-offs. Crappie are fair. White bass are fair on live bait. Smallmouth bass are fair. Channel catfish are good on live and cut bait.

POSSUM KINGDOM: Water stained; 53 degrees; 5.15' low. Black bass are fair on black/chartreuse jigs or soft plastic ringworms, shad-colored crankbaits and live bait along points in the Long Hollow and Caddo areas. Crappie are fair. White bass are good on silver jigging spoons and live bait. Stripers are good on silver spoons and shad-colored crankbaits along southern lake points. Catfish are good on live bait.

RAY HUBBARD: Water fairly clear; 51-58 degrees; 0.01' high. Black bass are slow on red Rattle Baits and lizards. White bass are good on slabs and spoons.

RAY ROBERTS: Water stained to very muddy; 50-54 degrees; 2.03' high. Black bass are fair and improving on rattle baits and spinnerbaits. Crappie are showing up in the creeks. White bass are slow. A large threadfin shad die-off has taken place. All ramps are open.

RICHLAND CHAMBERS: Water off-color; 51-56 degrees; 0.26' high. Black bass are slow. White bass are fair to good on slabs. Hybrid striper are fair on slabs and live shad. Crappie are fair on minnows and jigs. Catfish are fair on nightcrawlers.

SAM RAYBURN: Water stained; 54 degrees; 0.44' high. White bass are good on live minnows and watermelon jigs. Crappie are fair on minnows and green tube jigs. Bream are fair on worms. Catfish are good on frozen shrimp, liver and cut bait.

SOMERVILLE: Water murky; 52 degrees; 2.39' high. Black bass are slow. Hybrid striper are slow. White bass are slow. Catfish are fair on stinkbait.

STILLHOUSE: Water clear; 47 degrees; 0.81' high. Black bass are slow. Hybrid striper are slow. White bass are fair on minnows and spinnerbaits. Catfish are fair on nightcrawlers and minnows.

TAWAKONI: Water fairly clear; 51-57 degrees; 0.74' high. Black bass are fair on Texas rigs and Rat-L-Traps. Crappie are fair on minnows and jigs. White bass are fair on slabs. Striped bass and hybrid striper are fair on live shad and slabs. Catfish are fair on stink bait.

TEXOMA: Water off-color; 50-55 degrees; 1.78' high. Black bass are fair on Rat-L-Traps, drop-shot rigs and crankbaits. Crappie are fair on minnows and jigs. Striped bass are fair to good live shad and large Road Runners. Catfish are fair.

TOLEDO BEND: Water stained; 52 degrees; 0.27' high. Black bass are good on watermelon and watermelon red soft plastics, spinnerbaits and Rat-L-Traps. Striped bass are fair on live bait. White bass are fair on minnows and white spinnerbaits. Crappie are good on minnows and red tube jigs. Bream are good on worms. Channel and blue catfish are fair on frozen shrimp and stinkbait.

TRAVIS: Water murky; 55 degrees; 2.56' low. Black bass are good on brown jigs, smoke grubs and crawfish crankbaits in 8-20 feet. Striped bass are fair. White bass are fair. Catfish are slow.

WHITNEY: Water murky; 1.66' low. Black bass are fair on jerkbaits and Carolina-rigged soft plastic lizards along break lines in 10-20 feet. Striped bass are fair. White bass are fair. Crappie are fair. Catfish are slow.

SALTWATER SCENE

NORTH SABINE: Trout are fair to good in the river on live shad. Redfish are good in the marsh on small topwaters and Stanley Ribbits.

SOUTH SABINE: Sheepshead and black drum are good at the jetty on live shrimp. Trout are fair around the Reef on live shrimp.

BOLIVAR: Trout are fair to good on the south shoreline on soft plastics and plugs. Black drum and redfish are good at Rollover Pass.

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

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

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

TEXAS CITY: Sheepshead and sand trout are good around the piers on shrimp. Redfish are fair to good on shrimp and crabs in Moses Lake.

FREEPORT: Sand trout and sheepshead are good on live shrimp on the reefs. Black drum are good in Cold Pass and San Luis pass on cracked blue crabs.

EAST MATAGORDA BAY: Trout are fair to good for drifters in the afternoon on live shrimp over humps and scattered shell. Redfish are fair to good on the edge of the Intracoastal on crabs and mullet.

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

PORT O'CONNOR: Trout and redfish are good on topwaters over soft mud in waist-deep water in San Antonio Bay. Trout and redfish are fair for drifters working the back lakes with live shrimp.

ROCKPORT: Black drum are good in the Lydia Ann Channel on crabs. Trout are fair to good on grass while drifting with live shrimp. Redfish are fair on the Estes Flats on piggies and mullet.

PORT ARANSAS: Black drum are good in the Shrimptboat Channel on crabs and finger mullet. Redfish and sheepshead are fair to good at the jetty on shrimp.

CORPUS CHRISTI: Redfish are fair to good around Shamrock Cove on small topwaters and spoons. Trout are fair to good on the edge of the spoils on Gulps and live shrimp. Black drum are good in the Humble Channel at night on crabs and table shrimp.

BAFFIN BAY: Trout are fair to good on the King Ranch shoreline on Corkies and topwaters. Black drum are good in the Land Cut on crabs.

PORT MANSFIELD: Trout are fair to good on topwaters around sand and grass holes. Redfish are fair to good while drifting pot holes on shrimp and Gulps.

SOUTH PADRE: Black drum, redfish and sheepshead have been taken at the jetty. Trout and redfish are fair to good on the edge of the Intracoastal on DOA Shrimp and Gulps.

PORT ISABEL: Snook are fair in the Brownsville Ship Channel on free-lined shrimp. Trout and redfish are fair to good in South Bay on live shrimp. Sheepshead and mangrove snapper are fair around the causeway on shrimp.

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FOLLOW ME: License restrictions for guiding kayak trips are low on experience requirements, some say. Photo by Kendal Larson, for Lone Star Outdoor News.

Kayak guiding for all?

License rules require guide to have little experience, some say

By Kendal Larson
FOR LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

For many years, Texas Parks and Wildlife required individuals interested in guiding fishing trips to hold, as a minimum requirement, a Coast Guard captain's "6 Pack" license. To obtain the license the Coast Guard required the prospective guide to have a minimum of 360 days of experience, with 90 days of that coming within the last three years, pass approved Red Cross safety and first-aid courses, submit to drug screening and pass the Coast Guard's courses related to marine navigation, terminology, distress sig-

nal and water safety. That all changed in September with the advent of a new license available from TPW called the All-Water Paddle Craft fishing guide license, which allows the holder to guide small groups of anglers paddling their own kayaks on kayak fishing trips. The requirements are similar and include completion of TPW's boater safety training, CPR and first-aid training and completion of the American Canoe Association's "Level II Essentials of Kayak Touring" and "Coastal Kayak Trip Leading" courses or the British Canoe Union's "Three Star Sea Kayak" and "Four Star Leader Sea Kayak" courses.

Though having similar components, the requirements are not the same, and that has caused some concern among captains who have many years on the water. The primary concern revolved around safety, and the pos-

See KAYAK, Page 23

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41 IN FISHING LURES

GAME WARDEN BLOTTER

MY FATHER, THE FALCON INFORMANT

Brooks County Game Warden Royce Ilse called Starr County Game Warden Drew Spencer to report that his father, retired Game Warden Sam Ilse, was fishing on Falcon Lake and had reported becoming caught in numerous illegal gill nets. Spencer joined with Zapata County Game Warden Roy Martinez and Jim Hogg County Game Warden Carlos Maldonado to launch a patrol boat and search for the net. As the three wardens neared the area, a boater reported having seen a Mexican commercial vessel enter into Tigre Grande Cove, well into U.S. waters. While searching the brush line, the wardens were pointed in the right direction by angler after angler. The wardens eventually found a freshly laid net at the top end of the cove, soon heard voices speaking in Spanish and then locked eyes with the illegal netters. The commercial vessel was beached into such thick brush that Spencer and Maldonado had to give pursuit while wading to mid-thigh. After a quick search, Spencer found the boat and pulled it back into the water. The boat, motor and about 6,600 feet of gill net were seized.

CAUGHT UPRIVER, BUT GOING DOWNTOWN

McLennan County Game Warden Jason Campbell and Coryell County Game Warden Andrew Alexander were working the Leon River by boat when they made contact with two men in a remote location along the bank of the river. One man had three warrants outstanding and a small amount of marijuana. He was arrested and transported to the McLennan County Jail.

ROAD HUNTER TAKES GAME, BUT NOT DEER

Game wardens received a report of road hunting in Houston County. Houston County Game Warden Eddie

Maybe cast-netter wasn't into reading

An angler was fishing at a community fishing lake that Texas Parks and Wildlife stocks with trout when he observed a man and three children using a cast net to catch trout or minnows. Travis County Game Warden Christy Vales made contact with the man,

who was in possession of a cast net and fishing pole. Vales told him that using a cast net was prohibited in community fishing lakes and could not be used to catch trout or minnows. The man asked Vales how anyone was expected to know that regulation, and she

pointed to the sign posted adjacent to him on the fishing dock that stated, "Fishing by pole and line only."

The man was cited for fishing without a valid fishing license and using a cast net in prohibited waters.

Lehr and Trinity County Game Warden Chad Jones found the person they believe was responsible at his residence in Trinity County. He gave them a statement about hunting squirrels from his vehicle on a public road.

SUSPICIOUS OYSTER BOAT ATTRACTS WARDENS

While checking oyster boats in Espirito Bay, Calhoun County Game Warden Brandon Mosley and Wharton County Game Warden Scott Blackburn came across a vessel headed to the dock early. When the vessel was contacted, the captain told the wardens that one of his crew members was experiencing heart attack symptoms. The wardens placed a life jacket on the crew member and transported him to the U.S. Coast Guard Station in Port O'Connor, where the Calhoun County EMS was awaiting. The crew member was transported to the Citizens Medical Center in Victoria, where he was stabilized. Wardens continued the day checking oyster boats in San Antonio and filed on three oyster boat captains for undersized cargo of oysters.

FIVE FROM PANHANDLE ACCUSED OF WYOMING POACHING

Panhandle game wardens spent several days assisting U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service special agents and Wyoming wildlife officers on an investigation. The investigation took place in the Panhandle and focused on five

individuals from Dalhart. The individuals are accused of participating in illegal hunting activities in Wyoming. Several search warrants were obtained from a federal judge in Amarillo after interviewing several of the individuals. Evidence obtained after executing the search warrants included multiple animal hides, deer mounts, a bear mount, pictures, tissue samples and many firearms, including a .22-caliber rifle that was converted to be fully automatic. The rifle was turned over to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, and Lacey Act charges are expected to be filed.

NEW MEXICAN SPOTLIGHTER DRAGS TEXAN INTO TROUBLE

Game Warden James Cummings finished a month-long investigation with officers of New Mexico Game and Fish. A resident of New Mexico allegedly poached several antelope in New Mexico and kept only the backstraps. The man gave some of the meat to a Texas resident. The Texas resident did not want to be cooperative with investigators until Cummings pointed out that, although he was a Texas resident, he also held resident hunting licenses in New Mexico. The Texas man stood on his front porch and denied that it was his permanent residence until Cummings produced tax records from the county showing that the man claimed a homestead exemption on the property. The Texas man proceeded to

provide a statement, and warrants were obtained for the New Mexico man who killed the antelope.

THIS STOP IS MORE THAN GETTING CHECKED

Burnet County Game Warden Ronnie Langford was patrolling a ranch with the ranch manager about trespassing problems. While driving through the ranch, they found two people trespassing and fishing. As Langford walked up, one of them made the statement, "I never thought I would get checked here."

UNDERAGE POACHERS WERE OUT TO KILL

Two juveniles were caught using a spotlight to hunt from the road. The two told Franklin County Game Warden Doyle Brown they had shot several deer and "anything else" with four legs close to the road. Several guns and a single-shot 12-gauge with a sawed-off barrel length of just 13.5 inches were seized.

RECORDS DON'T JIBE AT MLDP RANCH IN WILLACY COUNTY

A cold-storage facility at a Willacy County ranch contained two white-tailed deer backstraps and two hindquarters that were spoiled. While inspecting the deer, the ranch's Managed Land Deer Permit and its cold-storage facility log, Willacy County Game Warden Luis Sosa found several discrepancies. The

hunting license number used on the permit did not belong to the individual noted as the hunter. A name other than that of the hunter was documented on the cold-storage facility log. Several citations were filed.

ILLEGAL BOAT, SUNKEN BOAT MAKE FOR BUSY DAY AT FALCON

Starr County Game Warden Drew Spencer received a phone call from a Zapata U.S. Border Patrol agent about the discovery of two vessels on the U.S. shoreline of the Rio Grande River near San Ygnacio. Spencer and Zapata County Game Warden Will Hellums launched their patrol vessel in Zapata, and after about an hour of getting battered with winds in excess of 40 mph and rolling whitecaps, they arrived to find Border Patrol agents standing guard over the boats. Days before, intelligence reports said gun battles between rival drug cartels had taken place directly across the river from the location. The wardens seized and towed each boat to a nearby primitive boat ramp where they were picked up by Zapata County Game Wardens Jake Philley and Stevan Ramos. After returning down river in the high winds and waves, Spencer and Hellums received a call about a sinking boat near Marker 11, south of Zapata. The wardens, now facing higher waves in the open water of the lake, found the two men whose boat had barely reached shore before becoming nearly completely submerged by the huge waves. Spencer and Hellums took the men back to dry ground in Zapata. The men said that they would return the next day to retrieve the boat.

BREEDER NOT OPERATING BY THE BOOK

Anderson County Game Warden Oscar Henson and Freestone County Game Warden Craig Hernandez completed an investigation of a deer breeder. They found 33 violations.

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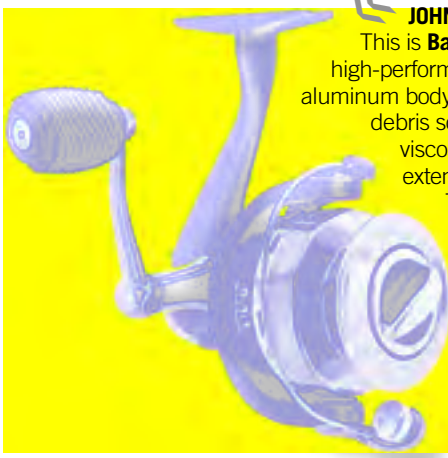
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HEROES



BRAD INGLE, 13, of Spring Branch landed this 7-pound bass in Lake Dunlap while fishing with his father, **Wade**, during a Federation of Student Anglers outing. He caught the bass on a shallow-diving crankbait.



Stan Jarosz's two 12-year-old grandsons took their first deer at Jarosz's ranch near Crawford. **PARKER ROGERS**, above, took his buck on the first morning of the season. It had a 13-inch inside spread. On the last day of the season, **T.J. MCVEY**, left, took his first buck in the morning. It had a 16-inch inside spread.



MARK SEILER of Rowlett shot this buck, with a 19-inch spread, in Palo Pinto County.



PAUL FRESQUEZ of Edinburg caught this redfish in the Lower Laguna Madre. The fish, which was released, bottomed out the scale at 30 pounds, and it measured 48.5 inches long.



PHILLIP REESE of Carrollton shot this mouflon ram at 175 yards near Mason. The ram qualified for the silver medal for the Record of Exotics.

Share an adventure
Want to share hunting and fishing photos with other **Lone Star Outdoor News** readers? Send them to us with contact and caption information.
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HUNTER ARNETTE, 9, of Athens shot this seven-point buck on the last weekend of the season on the Bomer Ranch in Coleman County. He shot the buck at 100 yards with a Tikka .308. Hunter has been hunting since he was 6 years old.

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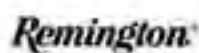
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Study: Drug residue in deer at safe levels 11 days after injection

Venison edible when chemicals used to immobilize drop

Residues from chemicals used to immobilize adult white-tailed deer dropped to minimal levels 11 days after the drugs were administered, according to a new study.

The results of the study indicate that there is no evidence that any residue present in venison 11 days post-treatment at the dosages delivered would have any adverse pharmacological effect in humans, according to the Texas Deer Association, which donated deer for the study. Conducting the study were the College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences at Texas A&M University and the Texas Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory, College Station.

Mean tissue residues for the chemicals Xylazine, Tiletamine and Tolazoline were all below 1 part per million and below 1.4 ppm for Zolazepam. The levels of Xylazine and Tolazoline in the deer tissue were 10 times less than those published as safe for human consumption in beef after a withdrawal period of three days in a New Zealand study, according to TDA.

A person would have to consume 2.2 pounds of venison in a few hours to ingest 1 ppm of the subject pharmaceuticals, according to TDA.

For the study, 33 adult white-tailed deer were immobilized with a combination of the predominantly used capture drugs, Xylazine and Telazol, and then reversed 45 minutes later with Tolazoline. The dosages used were in the upper range of dosages recommended by a panel of five practicing veterinarians and two wildlife biologists, all with a minimum of 10 years experience immobilizing whitetail-tailed deer.

Body weights were estimated before drug treatment, and the dose was calculated as would customarily be done when darting deer on the hoof in a permitted facility. A blood sample was collected from each deer before and after drug treatment to assure all deer received a full dose of each immobilizing and reversal drug. After anesthesia and before reversal, body weights were taken and exact



RECOVERY TIME: Some chemicals used in the immobilization of deer drop to safe levels for human consumption after 11 days, according to the Texas Deer Association. Photo by Lone Star Outdoor News.

dosages were determined. After the deer recovered from the reversal of anesthesia, they were returned to their pen and given unlimited access to food, water and shelter for the next 10 days.

On day 11, the deer were brought into a cervid handling facility, where blood samples were collected, and the deer were euthanized by a penetrating captive bolt. Tissue samples were taken to the Texas Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory for analysis of metabolites of the injected drugs. Triplicate samples of all tissue and blood samples were analyzed and the results are summarized.

— Texas Deer Association report

Outdoor News in Brief

Exotics group fights ruling at meeting

The Ingram-based Exotic Wildlife Association recently held its 43rd annual meeting and fundraising auction in Kerrville with a main focus being on working to save exotic species from over-regulation. The event brought together a record number of ranchers and exotic animal enthusiasts who seek to preserve the legal status of the scimitar-horned oryx, addax, dama gazelle antelope and other species from extinction-threatening regulations.

New regulations recently decreed by a federal judge could soon impact the ability to hunt and manage other species and more common exotics such as blackbuck, axis deer and aoudad, according to EWA.

"This was unquestionably the most important conference the EWA has ever held," said Charly Seale, executive director for the Exotic Wildlife Association.

The animals are classified as an endangered species, but special rules enacted by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service in 2005 made it possible for owners of captive herds to purchase, sell, move and manage these animals on ranches across the United States.

However, Judge Henry Kennedy ruled earlier this year that the three species, which are born and raised in the United States, will no longer be exempted from their listing on the endangered species list. As a result, ranchers who have owned and cared for these animals for years will be required to cease all culling and management activities without special permits by the

federal government.

— Exotic Wildlife Association report

Texas Classic back at Conroe in 2010

The Toyota Texas Bass Classic will return to Lake Conroe in 2010.

"Toyota is thrilled to be on board again with this tremendous event and to be able to support TPWD and its efforts to educate Texans on the great fishing in this state," said Toby Hynes, president of Gulf States Toyota.

The tournament is Oct. 1-3.

— Toyota Texas Bass Classic report

Ducks Unlimited honors Texans

Five sportsmen from a wide background in the outdoors will be recognized May 1 in Austin by Ducks Unlimited. The Texas Heroes of Conservation honorees are:

■ Vernon Bevill, Texas Parks and Wildlife small-game director


■ Kirby Brown, vice president of public policy for the Texas Wildlife Association


■ Joe McBride, owner of McBride's Guns

■ John and Bobbie Nau, owners of Silver Eagle Distributors

The honorees have made "impressive contributions to conservation in Texas and elsewhere through their personal careers, philanthropic support of conservation organizations, efforts to educate the public about conservation, and through a lifetime of sharing their own passion for the outdoors with those around them," DU said in a press release.

— Ducks Unlimited report





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Wagstaff

Continued from Page 4

you can't call him in."

Is there a best type of call to use?

"Different people like different things. A lot of people use a diaphragm, but me myself, I never can seem to blow a diaphragm. They gag me up, choke me up. I never could make it work so I really like using a box call, slate call and a lot of times I put a push-pull call on the barrel of my shotgun for right there at the last minute. You can pull it with your off hand on your gun without moving."

What should I do if I go out and don't hear any gobbling?

"That kind of makes it tough. You kind of have to run and gun, cover the territory and find the birds."

Perez

Continued from Page 4

they'll go out in that big field in the morning.

Is there a way to identify the roost just by looking at a stand of trees. Are they always going to be in the biggest one?

"Most likely they will be. They may not necessarily be in the biggest one, but most likely they will be. They should be up in the bigger trees for the most part."

Do you use decoys, and how do you use them if you do?

"I have used decoys before, but a lot of times the little time that I do have to go is right during the heat of it, so it doesn't take a whole lot to get one in. A lot of times when I have used a decoy I'll put a hen out there, and I'll put the tom right next to her. That tends to get them pretty fired up."

What should I do if I go out and I'm only seeing

If I can hunt all day, what's the best time?

"I prefer right there at daylight with Easterns. With Rios, you can hunt them all day. With Easterns I hunt at daylight. But if I've got all day, I'm going to stay out there all day. I'm going to try to find some birds. I'm going to move around a lot, just trying to find some birds. ... A lot of times in the middle of the day if they're really working, I've found them out in the middle of a county road strutting in the middle of the county road. Just by riding around."

What is a common mistake that turkey hunters make?

"Too much movement. Not covering up. Not enough camo and movement. Those birds can see good. That and over-calling is probably the two biggest."

What's your best piece of advice for turkey hunters?

"Best piece of advice is to get out there and spend time in the woods. You ain't going to kill one sitting on the couch."

jakes? How do I draw out an old gobbler?

"Be patient. Be patient. Patience is a virtue."

What's a common mistake that turkey hunters make?

"Getting up too soon. Getting up too soon is a big mistake because they could be around. You know, just because he's not coming straight to your call, you've got to give him a little time. A lot of times the older gobblers are old for a reason, and you've got to give them time to come in."

How long will you wait in one spot?

"If I can hear them and I can hear them getting closer, I've waited up to an hour. Sometimes it doesn't take that long. A lot of times they'll sit there and you've got to get them off a group of hens, so it just takes some time."

What's your best piece of advice for turkey hunters this spring in Texas?

"That's a good one. Like I said just go early and stay late. You want a good one, you've got to be there."

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NATIONAL

Hypothermic man rescued in La. parish

Louisiana wildlife agents found and rescued a lost hunter experiencing hypothermia along the east side of Bayou Des Cannes near Iota in Acadia Parish on the evening of March 13.

Agents received a call from the Acadia Parish Sheriff's Department about the hunter, whose family was concerned that he had not returned from a late evening hunt. Chris Bergeaux, 47, of Iota, was hog hunting along Bayou Des Cannes when he last contacted his family members at 5:30 p.m. with his cell phone. He told them he was going to hunt until dark then return home shortly after.

Sgt. Kane Thomas began a brief search along the east side of Bayou Des Cannes when he smelled a faint odor of smoke from burning pine needles. He searched in the direction of the smoke and heard a noise in thick brush. As Thomas approached the brush, he heard someone breathing and moaning.

Thomas located Bergeaux in a semi-conscious state and suffering from severe hypothermia because of earlier submersion in water and nighttime temperatures in the low 50s. Kim Crochet, a volunteer searcher, helped Thomas evacuate Bergeaux from the woods to an ambulance.

It appeared Bergeaux attempted to build a fire to keep warm before he became disoriented and lethargic. He was transported to a hospital, where he was treated and later released.

— Louisiana Department of Wildlife & Fisheries

High demand for new SAFE acres

Federal managers in late February opened 150,000 acres to landowner enrollment through the Conservation

In service



FRONT LINE, FRONT PAGE: Brad Diecker, a staff sergeant with the 455 Expeditionary Aeromedical Evacuation Flight, sent photos of himself with *Lone Star Outdoor News* to the newspaper this month from Afghanistan. Diecker is stationed at Bagram Airbase, where he helps transport wounded soldiers to medical care. In his e-mail, Diecker offered this comment: "Everything is going well. Busy lately but I will sleep when all of the terrorist are dead."

Reserve Program's State Acres For wildlife Enhancement practice. The next morning, states were reporting their allotted acreages were fully

enrolled. U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced the reallocation of these SAFE acres Feb.

27 at Pheasants Forever's National Pheasant Fest in Des Moines, Iowa.

"There is obviously pent up demand for available SAFE acres from farmers and ranchers. That's great news for wildlife," said Dave Nomsen, Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever's vice president of government affairs. "The wildlife success stories that SAFE has delivered, coupled with the landowner demand we are currently experiencing are certainly our two strongest allies as we go back to Secretary Vilsack and request additional SAFE acres."

Also during his National Pheasant Fest visit last month, Vilsack announced the reallocation of 100,000 acres for CRP's "Bobwhite Buffers" practice, 50,000 acres for CRP's "Duck Nesting Habitat Initiative" practice and plans for the first general CRP signup in four years.

— Pheasants Forever report

Record pending for peacock bass

A pending-world-record speckled peacock bass almost never made it back to the mothership. Without the insistence of an excited guide, speaking through broken English, the world might never have known.

At about 10:30 a.m. Feb. 9, on the sixth day of his first Amazon adventure, Bill Gassmann of Des Moines, Iowa, fished a clown-colored topwater bait in a tributary of the Rio Negro in northern Brazil. The yellow, red and black spotted lure landed atop a monster peacock bass, which sucked it under.

"We were fishing in a wooded area of a little backwater off a main tributary," said the 44-year-old chief executive officer of BGS Enterprises. "When the lure hit the water, it just disappeared. The fish went straight to the bottom and started spooling my line."



PLENTY OF PEACOCK: Bill Gassmann holds his peacock bass, which is a pending world record.

On an IGFA-certified Boga Grip, the peacock weighed more than 28 pounds, but Gassmann still did not realize the significance of his fish. As Gassmann handed the fish to Aldeni "Elvis" Fonseca, his guide, to release it, Elvis stopped him. Communicating in English, Elvis urged, "We go boat now; we go boat now." Prepared to fish an entire day, Gassmann didn't want to head back to the Captain Peacock, a 95-foot luxury mothership yacht that accommodates anglers for such adventures. However, Elvis insisted adamantly.

The colorful hump-headed fish measured 37 inches long with a girth of 25 inches, more than enough to beat the existing 27-pound International Game Fish Association all-tackle world record caught by Gerald "Doc" Lawson on Dec. 4, 1994.

— John Felsler report

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DATEBOOK

March 27
Clean Shores Association
 Spring Clean Event
 Cleaning Port O'Connor fishing areas
 (361) 564-7032
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Country Corner Buck Contest
 Awards banquet
 VFW Hall, Cypress
 (713) 816-2261

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April 1
Prairie Chapter Coastal Conservation Association
 Fundraiser
 Cat Spring Agricultural Social Hall
 (979) 877-4103



April 9-10
Federation of Fly Fishers
 Gulf Coast Council Expo
 New Braunfels Civic Center
 Guest speaker Chico Fernandez
 www.gulfcoastfff.org

April 10
Texas Parks and Wildlife
 Outdoor Fools Day
 Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center,
 Athens
 (903) 676-2277
 www.tpwd.state.tx.us/tffc

Coastal Bend Chapter National Wild Turkey Federation
 Fundraiser
 Victoria Community Center Annex
 (903) 456-0323
 themoose23@hotmail.com

April 15
San Antonio Chapter Coastal Conservation Association
 Fundraiser
 Freeman Coliseum
 (210) 837-5500

Greater Sugarland Chapter Coastal Conservation Association
 Fundraiser
 Missouri City Civic Center
 (281) 431-2629

Dallas Safari Club
 Monthly meeting,
 with TV producer
 Steve Scott
 (972) 980-9800
 www.biggame.org



April 17-18
Bowhunter education
 Pottsboro
 Pre-registration required
 (214) 358-0174

April 17-19
Women in the Wild
 Register by April 1.
 Rockport
 (361) 790-2611
 www.townrockport.org

April 22-23
Operation Game Thief
 Clay Stoppers Shootout
 Texas Disposal Systems
 Wildlife Ranch, Austin
 (512) 332-9880
 gnevents@austin.rr.com



April 23-24
Ninth Annual Stephen McDaniel Memorial Shoot
 Johnson Ranch, Fort Worth
 www.mcdanielshoot.com

Aggieland Chapter Ducks Unlimited
 Duck Jam
 Fundraiser concert
 with Willie Nelson
 www.duckjam.org

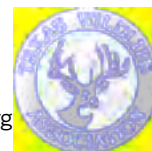


April 24-25
Bowhunter education
 Arlington
 Pre-registration required
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April 24
Dallas Safari Club
 Big Bore Shoot
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 bkimmel@biggame.org

April 30-May 2
Port Lavaca Chamber of Commerce and Ducks Unlimited
 Big Boy Toy Show
 Dinner, raffle and outdoor show
 Bauer Community Center, Port Lavaca
 tina@portlavacatx.org
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May 1
Texas Wildlife Association
 Dallas Fun Shoot
 Elm Fork Shooting
 Sports, Dallas
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 www.texas-wildlife.org



May 7
Houston Safari Club
 Sporting Clays Tournament
 (713) 623-8844
 www.houstonsafariclub.org

Suit

Continued from Page 6

technology.
 "We are confident in the uniqueness and value of Lowrance LSS-1 StructureScan sonar imaging," Navico's chief operating officer, Louis Chemi, said in a press release issued after the filing of the suit. "We also wish to assure our customers that the worldwide sale and distribution of StructureScan sonar imaging will absolutely continue as planned with full Lowrance support for years to come. Navico will vigorously defend the recent legal proceedings initiated by Johnson Outdoors."

Navico's marketing director, Gordon Sprouse, declined to comment beyond any statement the company had already issued.

According to instructions generally issued to juries in patent cases, to prove infringement, Humminbird will have to demonstrate that Lowrance's technology contains every element of the invention as defined by the patent.

The court case, which is in its initial stages, could take years to resolve.

Dove

Continued from Page 5

Dove, in particular white-winged dove, arrive across Texas in bulk in mid-April on their northern migration.

"White-winged doves tend to flock together in the winter so our expectation is that this behavior probably continues to some extent during the migration north," said Kirby Calhoun, a graduate student on Collier's staff.

On the trip north, dove are looking for pretty much the same things they were looking for a few months earlier on the way down — food, warmth and a nest. That means seeds of various plants, the occasional small insect and a nice urban area to settle in.

"For those interested in attracting white-wing doves to their property, the best thing I have seen is just your common everyday bird feeder," Calhoun said. "White-winged doves have become largely urbanized, which means a plentiful food source and water supply from a bird bath and backyard feeder."

Calhoun said that's mainly for bird watchers, not dove hunters. Texas A&M University is in the middle of multiple banded-dove studies, but previous studies show the return rate, the rate at which a dove will return to the same place from one year to the next, is less than 10 percent.

But Collier said everything they "know" about the bird's migration is a work in progress.

"There's not a lot of knowledge on the true migratory style of the species because they've only been around the state since the late '60s and pursued as a game bird since the mid-'80s," Collier said. "We're still gathering information."

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Bass

Continued from Page 1

sometime. But Hopson replied that he was too busy, Banks said.

"And I said, 'Then I won. Because if you don't have time to go fishing, then I won.'"

With free time on his hands, Banks, a Jacksonville dentist, took his kayak March 9 to Purtis Creek State Park near Athens and went fishing. Alone.

But he wouldn't stay lonely all day.

After fishing all morning without a bite, Banks cast a medium-diving crankbait into 12 feet of water in a cove on the lake's south side. He felt a bump and set the hook on a 13.6-pound largemouth bass about 12:45 p.m.

"Whenever I first saw it, it's just panic," Banks said. "Then you start thinking, 'How big is it?'"

The fish did not fight much, Banks said, and it came almost straight to the surface.

He weighed it with a scale that gripped onto the fish's lip, and the number floated around 13 pounds.



KEEPER BASS: Michael Banks' bass stretches across his legs before he paddled it to scales at Purtis Creek State Park. Photo by Michael Banks.

He wanted to have the fish weighed on certified scales and donate it to the state's largemouth bass breeding program, so he tied the scale to his kayak and began paddling to the park's headquarters.

He wanted to warn the park staff he was coming in, but his cell phone battery was low. Instead, he called his wife and asked her to call.

The staff initially told Banks to meet them at their scale on the other

side of the lake. He started paddling, but they called again and said to come back and to the side, because that's where the scale was.

During one conversation with the park staff, Banks asked if he would get in trouble for keeping the fish. Purtis Creek Lake, a specially managed, 349-acre lake, is catch and release only.

"I would have let it go if I was going to get in trouble," he said.

He did not let it go, nor did it escape.

"I looked down every once in a while just to make sure it was there," he said.

After 30 minutes of paddling, Banks made it to the boat ramp, where his day began.

When speaking with *Lone Star Outdoor News*, Banks demurred when talking about his skill as an angler.

"There was no skill involved with this," he said. "I hate to say this, but there was no skill involved."

Banks, who is a co-chairman of the Friends of the Neches River, which recently fought to stop Dallas' proposed Fastrill Lake, does not know the brand of crankbait he was

using. It is cream-colored with lines on it, and someone gave it to him at a Christmas party.

He did not set out that day hoping to catch such a big fish, he said. His previous best largemouth bass weighed 6 or 7 pounds.

But he knew Purtis Creek holds big fish. The park manager, Shawn Greene, said Banks' fish is big for the lake, but it is one of many big ones the lake holds.

"It's not that uncommon to catch one like that here," Greene said.

The lake produced another fish weighing more than 13 pounds this fall, he said, and at least two others have been recorded at the lake since it opened in the 1980s.

"We usually have one every month or so," Greene said, speaking of fish that weigh more than 10 pounds.

As for the politics of the catch, Banks said landing the fish two weeks earlier — before his primary — probably wouldn't have changed the outcome. Instead, it helped him move on.

"Going fishing that day was kind of like getting defeated in my primary out of my system," Banks said.

Stripers

Continued from Page 6

empty into the river. Here they will wait until tide movement keys their feeding instincts. Outgoing tides seem to be best, but chances are improved anytime the water is moving.

The fish may be the same, but this is not striper fishing on Lake Livingston or Lewisville.

The bites are fewer, but the quality is as good or better on average. Fish weighing 4 to 6 pounds are the norm, and double-digit fish are not uncommon. Big ones weighing 20 pounds or more are caught every year.

One of the biggest was a 36-pound brute taken by Capt. Dickie Colburn. The topwater explosion associated with that beast was memorable, to say the least.

Most anglers go with a crankbait, which makes it easy to cover water and fish deep or shallow.

If the fish are active and breaking the surface, a topwater plug is tough to beat.

Adventurous anglers will go one step farther and attack them with a fly rod and big streamers or deceivers. A 10-pound striper on fly is a riot; it will get deep into your backing in a flash.

Bait anglers tend to score well with live finger mullet or shad fished on a Carolina rig near depth changes in the river or Intracoastal Waterway.

A few anglers have experimented in the last few years with live crawfish, and the results have been good. The striper is an opportunistic and aggressive feeder so a wide variety of baits will do the job.

"Live shad is my favorite bait for the stripers" Bobby Borel said as he scooped one out of a livewell on a recent day on the water. "They seem to work better than any other live bait I've tried. We fish them on the bottom and sometimes on under a cork. The strike is a no-brainer, it's vicious."

Turkey

Continued from Page 1

Country between Fredericksburg and Comfort.

The cold front moved in Friday night and Saturday morning. It brought rain and about 15 minutes of snow, Noble said, and every muddy hole in the ground had ice on it.

Conditions worsened all day Saturday. By lunchtime Sunday, Noble had had enough.

"I figured with all of that bad weather and the way the wind was blowing, they found some place that was protected, and that's where they hung out," Noble said.

Farther south, in Duval County, outfitter Glenn Smith reported having two great days.

"They began strutting right on time this year, much better than the previous three or four," Smith said.

Smith's six hunters harvested five turkeys on their hunt opening weekend, all with bows.

"So far what we're harvesting has been 8 1/2- to 9-inch beards," Smith said. "Mature toms."

A few larger gobblers have been seen, but they have not come into bow range, Smith said. Gobblers are responding to calls, but some are running into live hens before reaching the decoys.

Nick Zinsmeyer of Georgetown saw birds near Junction but did not take any.

There, the birds were active, responding to calls despite the blustery conditions. Within five minutes of hitting the call first thing Saturday morning, Zinsmeyer's brother had three

gobblers coming in to his spread of two or three hen decoys.

He fired, but the bird escaped.

The brothers usually bow-hunt, but they opted to sit in box blinds for the opener.

"It was so cold," Zinsmeyer said. "We didn't want to be cold and windy so we just sat in the box blind."

The birds gobbled both mornings, stopping about 9 a.m. They came to calls in the mornings and hit feeders most of the rest of the day.

South of Brackettville, outfitter J.D. Cox put a hunt on three gobblers, but none were taken.

Conditions were tough, Cox said.

"It's not time to hunt them when a norther's blowing," he said.

The wind blew both days, hitting speeds of 30 to 35 miles an hour. The wind made it difficult to hear gobbling, Cox said.

Cox was upbeat about the season, however. Weather conditions had improved by Monday, and the forecast was for warm weather on the second weekend of the season.

The high March 27 in Brackettville was expected to reach 87 degrees.

Although cold weather might help when deer hunting, Cox said, it's the pits when it comes to turkey hunting.

"With turkey, you don't want it storming and blowing 90 miles an hour," Cox said, speaking by cell phone from a bank parking lot in Del Rio. The warm sun was pouring through his window as he spoke, he said.

"Now's when you want to be out there turkey hunting," he said.



DRUM LOVE: Lonny Gorban hugs a black drum caught in the Corpus Christi Ship Channel earlier this month.

Black drum

Continued from Page 6

one of the fish this year, likes to describe drum fishing as a waiting game.

"You set your rod on a pole holder and wait for the fish to take your bait," he said. "I use live crabs or live sea lice that I tie to a hook with a rubber band."

Garza said other people attach a tiny bell to the line. Whenever it starts ringing, he continued, the fish is trying to take the bait.

Samuel Delgado of Alamo said he likes fishing for black drum on the Port Mansfield Cut whenever he has the time to get away.

"We were there two weeks ago and caught three drum," he said. "They were in the 24- to 26-inch-long range."

Lonny Gorban fished with his son Matthew on March 17-18 with Capt. Brian Holden in the Corpus Christi Ship Channel. They had two unbelievable days, Gorban said in

an e-mail.

"We caught 17 on Wednesday, between 25 and 55(ish) pounds, and 15 on Thursday, between 28 and upper 50s," Gorban said. "Brian's scale tops out at 38 so the large fish weights were estimated by Brian based on his experience and what a fifty pound sack of corn feels like. He pegged the big fish on Thursday at upper 50s each, so we called them 58."

They caught 32 fish, totalling 1,132 pounds, for an average weight of 35 pounds per fish.

"A trip of a lifetime (until next year)," Gorban said.

Capt. Scott Isbell had a party of four out March 19 that caught 13 big fish. The biggest weighed an estimated 60 pounds, and several others near 50 pounds were boated.

To be a keeper, a black drum can't be under 14 inches and can't exceed 30 inches in length. Anglers are allowed to keep one measuring more than 52 inches as part of the daily bag limit of five fish.

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Kayak

Continued from Page 9

sibility that those individuals seeking a kayak fishing guide license may not have enough experience to safely guide trips on the water.

Capt. Ruben Garza has guided trips for many years on powerboats and kayaks.

"It's not that I don't like the license, but I'm concerned about safety," Garza said. "How do they prove their experience? For us on the water, it's safety first."

That sentiment was echoed by Capt. Fil "Fishman" Spencer of Corpus Christi. When asked about the new license being offered, Spencer paused a long while, and then replied, "Safety is our primary concern out there, and I hope we don't have people guiding trips that don't have the experience needed to do so safely."

Spencer has more than 35 years of experience kayak fishing in the bays near Corpus Christi, and he's been guiding kayak fishing trips professionally for the past five years.

"Really, it's about being ambassadors to this great sport, and I worry that if someone has a bad outing with an inex-

perienced guide, they might turn off to the sport," Spencer said.

TPW took these concerns into consideration when crafting the new license rules.

TPW's Corpus Christi Bay ecosystem leader, Perry Trial, helped craft the new license and said department personnel had serious deliberations about the possibility of inexperienced individuals acquiring a license.

"These courses (ACA and BCU classes) are going to require a great deal of time on the water and previous training to pass them," he said. "You won't be able to just pick up a kayak at your local sporting good store and take the class and begin guiding. It's not that easy."

"We also need to point out that you cannot mothership (transport) kayaks aboard a power boat to your fishing destination with this license," Trial said. "That requires a Coast Guard Captain's license."

There's no substitute for knowledge and experience, and when it comes to an enjoyable trip on the water Spencer offered this advice, "Break out Google, and check your potential guide's experience. Know before you go."

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Compete

Continued from Page 4

At the end of the experiment, one pasture had 62 sika and only three whitetails, and another had 11 axis and three whitetails.

"In each case, the exotics were able to outcompete with the native whitetails," Frels said. "What that showed was that the exotics are a little more adaptable."

He added that some exotics reproduce quicker because they can breed practically year-round, while the whitetail's rut is only in the fall.

Many landowners have successfully managed combinations of native and exotic species, and a lot of money proves that.

A study by Texas A&M University in 2007 reported that the state's exotic wildlife industry had a direct economic impact of \$679.7 million annually.

And the benefits didn't stop there.

The study concluded that indirect factors from veterinary supplies, feed, fuel and other purchases brought the total economic impact to \$1 billion.

That, said rancher Charly Seale of Medina, supports 14,000 jobs in Texas.

"People who are in our industry are making money," said Seale, who raises whitetails and exotics. "It's the fastest growing industry in Texas."

Seale is executive director of the Exotic Wildlife Association, based in Ingram. The fourth-generation rancher said he raised livestock all his life.

"But," he added, "I just didn't like the fluctuating markets. Exotics are a very stable market."

Now he produces axis deer, blackbuck antelope and scimitar-horned oryx.

Seale, like other successful ranchers, has worked hard to balance native and exotic species.

"A lot of guys will run whitetails in one area and exotics in another," Seale said. "If not, you just need to manage those numbers every day so that you don't get your ecosystem out of balance."

And that provides new opportunities for hunters to return outdoors after the regular deer season, and more revenue streams for ranchers.

A proper mix of diverse species can be determined by developing a wildlife management plan that is appropriate for particular acreage.

The TPW biologists assigned to each county can help landowners do that, Frels said. The assistance is free.

Seale added that the Exotic Wildlife Association, founded in 1967, also offers technical assistance.

"Yes, there is help to our members who ask for it," he said. "First you develop a management plan, then a business plan, and you go from there."

"These animals do well together. You just have to keep their numbers in check."

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Texas Coast Tides

Sabine Pass, jetty

Date	Time	Height	Time	Height	Time	Height
Mar 26	6:25 a.m.	0.0 L	2:02 p.m.	2.1 H	6:53 p.m.	1.6 L
Mar 27	12:23 a.m.	2.3 L	7:28 a.m.	0.2 L	2:18 p.m.	2.1 H
Mar 28	1:49 a.m.	2.5 H	8:26 a.m.	0.5 L	2:36 p.m.	2.1 H
Mar 29	3:06 a.m.	2.7 H	9:21 a.m.	0.9 L	2:53 p.m.	2.1 H
Mar 30	4:17 a.m.	2.9 H	10:16 a.m.	1.4 L	3:10 p.m.	2.1 H
Mar 31	5:26 a.m.	2.9 H	11:12 a.m.	1.8 L	3:26 p.m.	2.1 H
Apr 1	6:33 a.m.	2.9 H	12:13 p.m.	2.1 L	3:38 p.m.	2.3 H
Apr 2	7:43 a.m.	2.9 H				
Apr 3	12:10 a.m.	-0.4 L	08:59 a.m.	2.7 H		
Apr 4	1:05 a.m.	-0.2 L	10:29 a.m.	2.7 H		
Apr 5	2:09 a.m.	0.0 L	12:15 p.m.	2.5 H		
Apr 6	3:24 a.m.	0.4 L	1:21 p.m.	2.5 H		
Apr 7	4:42 a.m.	0.5 L	1:41 p.m.	2.3 H		
Apr 8	5:50 a.m.	0.5 L	1:44 p.m.	2.3 H	7:39 p.m.	1.8 L
Apr 9	6:44 a.m.	0.7 L	1:45 p.m.	2.1 H	7:39 p.m.	1.6 L

Galveston Bay entrance, south jetty

Date	Time	Height	Time	Height	Time	Height
Mar 26	6:51 a.m.	0.0 L	2:49 p.m.	1.7 H	7:19 p.m.	1.3 L
Mar 27	1:10 a.m.	1.9 H	7:54 a.m.	0.1 L	3:05 p.m.	1.7 H
Mar 28	2:36 a.m.	2.0 H	8:52 a.m.	0.4 L	3:23 p.m.	1.7 H
Mar 29	3:53 a.m.	2.1 H	9:47 a.m.	0.7 L	3:40 p.m.	1.7 H
Mar 30	5:04 a.m.	2.3 H	10:42 a.m.	1.1 L	3:57 p.m.	1.7 H
Mar 31	6:13 a.m.	2.3 H	11:38 a.m.	1.4 L	4:13 p.m.	1.7 H
Apr 1	7:20 a.m.	2.3 H	12:39 p.m.	1.7 L	4:25 p.m.	1.9 H
Apr 2	08:30 a.m.	2.3 H				
Apr 3	12:36 a.m.	-0.3 L	09:46 a.m.	2.1 H		
Apr 4	1:31 a.m.	-0.1 L	11:16 a.m.	2.1 H		
Apr 5	2:35 a.m.	0.0 L	1:02 p.m.	2.0 H		
Apr 6	3:50 a.m.	0.3 L	2:08 p.m.	2.0 H		
Apr 7	5:08 a.m.	0.4 L	2:28 p.m.	1.9 H		
Apr 8	6:16 a.m.	0.4 L	2:31 p.m.	1.9 H	8:05 p.m.	1.4 L
Apr 9	12:08 a.m.	1.7 H	7:10 a.m.	0.6 L	2:32 p.m.	1.7 H

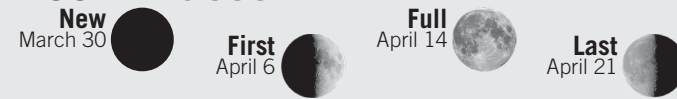
San Luis Pass

Date	Time	Height	Time	Height	Time	Height
Mar 26	7:47 a.m.	0.0 L	3:19 p.m.	1.0 H	8:15 p.m.	0.8 L
Mar 27	1:40 a.m.	1.1 H	8:50 a.m.	0.1 L	3:35 p.m.	1.0 H
Mar 28	3:06 a.m.	1.2 H	9:48 a.m.	0.3 L	3:53 p.m.	1.0 H
Mar 29	4:23 a.m.	1.3 H	10:43 a.m.	0.4 L	4:10 p.m.	1.0 H
Mar 30	5:34 a.m.	1.4 H	11:38 a.m.	0.7 L	4:27 p.m.	1.0 H
Mar 31	6:43 a.m.	1.4 H	12:34 p.m.	0.9 L	4:43 p.m.	1.0 H
Apr 1	7:50 a.m.	1.4 H	1:35 p.m.	1.0 L	4:55 p.m.	1.1 H
Apr 2	12:42 a.m.	-0.2 L	09:00 a.m.	1.4 H		
Apr 3	1:32 a.m.	-0.2 L	10:16 a.m.	1.3 H		
Apr 4	2:27 a.m.	-0.1 L	11:46 a.m.	1.3 H		
Apr 5	3:31 a.m.	0.0 L	1:32 p.m.	1.2 H		
Apr 6	4:46 a.m.	0.2 L	2:38 p.m.	1.2 H		
Apr 7	6:04 a.m.	0.3 L	2:58 p.m.	1.1 H		
Apr 8	7:12 a.m.	0.3 L	3:01 p.m.	1.1 H	9:01 p.m.	0.9 L
Apr 9	12:38 a.m.	1.0 H	8:06 a.m.	0.3 L	3:02 p.m.	1.0 H

Freeport Harbor

Date	Time	Height	Time	Height	Time	Height
Mar 26	6:48 a.m.	0.0 L	2:11 p.m.	1.5 H	7:16 p.m.	0.8 L
Mar 27	12:32 a.m.	1.6 H	7:51 a.m.	0.1 L	2:27 p.m.	1.5 H
Mar 28	1:58 a.m.	1.7 H	8:49 a.m.	0.3 L	2:45 p.m.	1.5 H
Mar 29	3:15 a.m.	1.8 H	9:44 a.m.	0.5 L	3:02 p.m.	1.5 H
Mar 30	4:26 a.m.	2.0 H	10:39 a.m.	0.7 L	3:19 p.m.	1.5 H
Mar 31	5:35 a.m.	2.0 H	11:35 a.m.	0.9 L	3:35 p.m.	1.5 H
Apr 1	6:42 a.m.	2.0 H	12:36 p.m.	1.1 L	3:47 p.m.	1.6 H
Apr 2	7:52 a.m.	2.0 H				
Apr 3	12:33 a.m.	-0.2 L	09:08 a.m.	1.8 H		
Apr 4	1:28 a.m.	-0.1 L	10:38 a.m.	1.8 H		
Apr 5	2:32 a.m.	0.0 L	12:24 p.m.	1.7 H		
Apr 6	3:47 a.m.	0.2 L	1:30 p.m.	1.7 H		
Apr 7	5:05 a.m.	0.3 L	1:50 p.m.	1.6 H		
Apr 8	6:13 a.m.	0.3 L	1:53 p.m.	1.6 H	8:02 p.m.	0.9 L
Apr 9	7:07 a.m.	0.4 L	1:54 p.m.	1.5 H	8:02 p.m.	0.8 L

Moon Phases



Port O'Connor

Date	Time	Height	Time	Height	Time	Height
Mar 26	10:01 a.m.	0.0 L	11:07 p.m.	0.7 H		
Mar 27	11:04 a.m.	0.1 L	7:51 p.m.	0.5 H	9:54 p.m.	0.4 L
Mar 28	4:14 a.m.	0.7 H	12:01 p.m.	0.3 L	5:47 p.m.	0.5 H
Mar 29	6:31 a.m.	0.7 H	12:55 p.m.	0.4 L	4:43 p.m.	0.5 H
Mar 30	08:21 a.m.	0.8 H	1:45 p.m.	0.6 L	3:56 p.m.	0.7 H
Mar 31	12:48 a.m.	0.0 L	10:10 a.m.	0.8 H		
Apr 1	1:37 a.m.	-0.1 L	3:27 p.m.	0.9 H		
Apr 2	2:27 a.m.	-0.1 L	4:13 p.m.	1.0 H		
Apr 3	3:19 a.m.	-0.1 L	4:59 p.m.	1.0 H		
Apr 4	4:18 a.m.	-0.1 L	5:42 p.m.	1.0 H		
Apr 5	5:24 a.m.	0.0 L	6:22 p.m.	1.0 H		
Apr 6	6:42 a.m.	0.1 L	6:58 p.m.	0.9 H		
Apr 7	08:06 a.m.	0.1 L	7:26 p.m.	0.9 H		
Apr 8	09:25 a.m.	0.2 L	7:42 p.m.	0.8 H		
Apr 9	10:33 a.m.	0.3 L	7:36 p.m.	0.7 H		

Rockport

Date	Time	Height	Time	Height	Time	Height
Mar 26	12:25 a.m.	0.28 H	10:31 a.m.	-0.01 L		
Mar 27	1:53 a.m.	0.26 H	11:15 a.m.	0.05 L		
Mar 28	3:56 a.m.	0.22 H	11:42 a.m.	0.13 L	4:36 p.m.	0.15 H
Mar 29	7:09 a.m.	0.21 H	11:16 a.m.	0.20 L	3:25 p.m.	0.21 H
Mar 30	12:18 a.m.	0.06 L	3:13 p.m.	0.28 H		
Mar 31	1:26 a.m.	0.02 L	3:40 p.m.	0.33 H		
Apr 1	2:24 a.m.	0.00 L	4:26 p.m.	0.36 H		
Apr 2	3:21 a.m.	-0.00 L	5:28 p.m.	0.37 H		
Apr 3	4:19 a.m.	0.01 L	6:43 p.m.	0.38 H		
Apr 4	5:22 a.m.	0.04 L	8:07 p.m.	0.38 H		
Apr 5	6:28 a.m.	0.07 L	9:30 p.m.	0.38 H		
Apr 6	7:35 a.m.	0.09 L	10:45 p.m.	0.38 H		
Apr 7	8:35 a.m.	0.12 L	11:54 p.m.	0.37 H		
Apr 8	9:24 a.m.	0.15 L				
Apr 9	1:03 a.m.	0.36 H	9:58 a.m.	0.19 L		

Port Aransas, H. Caldwell Pier

Date	Time	Height	Time	Height	Time	Height
Mar 26	6:30 a.m.	0.0 L	2:42 p.m.	1.4 H	6:58 p.m.	0.7 L
Mar 27	1:03 a.m.	1.5 H	7:33 a.m.	0.1 L	2:58 p.m.	1.4 H
Mar 28	2:29 a.m.	1.6 H	8:31 a.m.	0.2 L	3:16 p.m.	1.4 H
Mar 29	3:46 a.m.	1.7 H	9:26 a.m.	0.4 L	3:33 p.m.	1.4 H
Mar 30	4:57 a.m.	1.8 H	10:21 a.m.	0.6 L	3:50 p.m.	1.4 H
Mar 31	6:06 a.m.	1.8 H	11:17 a.m.	0.8 L	4:06 p.m.	1.4 H
Apr 1	7:13 a.m.	1.8 H	12:18 p.m.	0.9 L	4:18 p.m.	1.5 H
Apr 2	08:23 a.m.	1.8 H				
Apr 3	12:15 a.m.	-0.2 L	09:39 a.m.	1.7 H		
Apr 4	1:10 a.m.	-0.1 L	11:09 a.m.	1.7 H		
Apr 5	2:14 a.m.	0.0 L	12:55 p.m.	1.6 H		
Apr 6	3:29 a.m.	0.2 L	2:01 p.m.	1.6 H		
Apr 7	4:47 a.m.	0.2 L	2:21 p.m.	1.5 H		
Apr 8	5:55 a.m.	0.2 L	2:24 p.m.	1.5 H	7:44 p.m.	0.8 L
Apr 9	12:01 a.m.	1.4 H	6:49 a.m.	0.3 L	2:25 p.m.	1.4 H

South Padre Island

Date	Time	Height	Time	Height	Time	Height
Mar 26	6:29 a.m.	-0.1 L	2:48 p.m.	1.4 H	7:47 p.m.	1.1 L
Mar 27	7:37 a.m.	0.1 L	2:47 p.m.	1.2 H	7:58 p.m.	0.8 L
Mar 28	1:46 a.m.	1.4 H	8:42 a.m.	0.4 L	2:40 p.m.	1.0 H
Mar 29	3:19 a.m.	1.4 H	9:48 a.m.	0.6 L	2:30 p.m.	1.0 H
Mar 30	4:42 a.m.	1.5 H	10:58 a.m.	0.9 L	2:13 p.m.	1.0 H
Mar 31	6:02 a.m.	1.5 H	10:32 p.m.	-0.5 L		
Apr 1	7:22 a.m.	1.6 H	11:20 p.m.	-0.6 L		
Apr 2	08:47 a.m.	1.5 H				
Apr 3	12:12 a.m.	-0.5 L	10:20 a.m.	1.5 H		
Apr 4	1:09 a.m.	-0.4 L	11:50 a.m.	1.5 H		
Apr 5	2:13 a.m.	-0.2 L	12:59 p.m.	1.6 H		
Apr 6	3:22 a.m.	0.0 L	1:41 p.m.	1.5 H		
Apr 7	4:32 a.m.	0.2 L	2:04 p.m.	1.5 H		
Apr 8	5:38 a.m.	0.4 L	2:14 p.m.	1.4 H	7:57 p.m.	1.1 L
Apr 9	6:38 a.m.	0.6 L	2:13 p.m.	1.3 H	7:42 p.m.	1.1 L

Solunar | Sun times | Moon times

Legend: Major=2 hours. Minor=1 hour. Times centered on the major-minor window. F=Full Moon, N=New Moon, Q=Quarter => = Peak Activity. For other locations, subtract 1 minute per 12 miles east of a location, and add 1 minute per 12 miles west of a location.

Houston

2010	A.M.	P.M.	SUN	MOON
Mar-Apr	Minor Major	Minor Major	Rises Sets	Rises Sets
26 Fri	2:45 8:59	3:12 9:26	7:17 7:35	4:13p 4:46a
27 Sat	3:33 9:46	3:59 10:12	7:16 7:36	5:21p 5:25a
28 Sun >	4:19 10:32	4:45 10:58	7:15 7:36	6:27p 6:02a
29 Mon >	5:07 11:20	5:32 11:45	7:14 7:37	7:34p 6:37a
30 Tue F	5:58 ----	6:24 12:11	7:13 7:37	8:41p 7:14a
31 Wed >	6:53 12:39	7:20 1:06	7:12 7:38	9:48p 7:53a
01 Thu >	7:52 1:38	8:19 2:05	7:10 7:39	10:54p 8:35a
02 Fri	8:53 2:39	9:21 3:07	7:09 7:39	11:55p 9:22a
03 Sat	9:54 3:40	10:21 4:08	7:08 7:40	NoMoon 10:13a
04 Sun	10:53 4:39	11:19 5:06	7:07 7:40	12:15a 11:07a
05 Mon	11:48 5:35	---- 6:01	7:06 7:41	1:42a 12:02p
06 Tue Q	12:14 6:26	12:38 6:50	7:04 7:41	2:27a 12:58p
07 Wed	1:01 7:13	1:24 7:35	7:03 7:42	3:06a 1:54p
08 Thu	1:44 7:55	2:05 8:16	7:02 7:43	3:41a 2:49p
09 Fri	2:23 8:33	2:43 8:54	7:01 7:43	4:12a 3:42p
10 Sat	2:59 9:09	3:19 9:30	7:00 7:44	4:42a 4:35p
11 Sun	3:35 9:45	3:55 10:05	6:59 7:44	5:10a 5:28p
12 Mon >	4:11 10:21	4:32 10:42	6:58 7:45	5:38a 6:22p
13 Tue N	4:50 11:01	5:11 11:22	6:57 7:46	6:08a 7:19p
14 Wed >	5:33 11:44	5:56 12:07	6:55 7:46	6:41a 8:17p

Dallas

2010	A.M.	P.M.	SUN	MOON
Mar-Apr	Minor Major	Minor Major	Rises Sets	Rises Sets
26 Fri	2:51 9:04	3:18 9:31	7:22 7:41	4:15p 4:57a
27 Sat	3:38 9:51	4:04 10:18	7:21 7:42	5:25p 5:33a
28 Sun >	4:25 10:37	4:50 11:03	7:20 7:43	6:34p 6:08a
29 Mon >	5:12 11:25	5:38 11:51	7:18 7:43	7:42p 6:42a
30 Tue F	6:03 ----	6:29 12:16	7:17 7:44	8:51p 7:16a
31 Wed >	6:58 12:45	7:25 1:12	7:16 7:45	10:00p 7:53a
01 Thu >	7:57 1:44	8:25 2:11	7:15 7:45	11:07p 8:34a
02 Fri	8:58 2:44	9:26 3:12	7:13 7:46	NoMoon 9:20a
03 Sat	9:59 3:46	10:27 4:13	7:12 7:47	12:10a 10:10a
04 Sun	10:58 4:45	11:25 5:12	7:11 7:47	1:06a 11:04a
05 Mon	11:53 5:41	---- 6:06	7:09 7:48	1:57

Outdoor News in Brief

State champ beats No. 2 by 3 pounds

Jason Windham of the H.O.T. Bass Assassins Team 1 won the Texas Bass Federation Nation state tournament March 19 on Lake Belton with 26.17 pounds, 3 pounds better than the runner-up. The Bass Assassins Team 2 claimed the team title. The team boated 70.66 pounds during the three-day tournament.

Team

1 H.O.T. Bass Assassins 2	70.66
2 Tarrant Christian Bass Club	64.30
3 Denton County Bass Club	58.63
4 Century Bass Club	57.70
5 Tip Top Bass	52.74
6 Angelo Federation Bass Club	51.27

Individual

1 Jason Windham	26.17
2 Gene Lowrey	24.17
3 Howard Betts	20.65
4 David Rush	20.24
5 Robby Talbert	18.58
6 Mike Hughs	18.02

— Staff report

Judge candidate presumed drowned

A candidate for state district judge was presumed to have drowned earlier this month while fishing at Lake Aquilla in Hill County, according to the Fort Worth Star-Telegram.

Tom Zachry, 66, of Fort Worth was fishing with a friend March 19 when the boat they were riding in capsized. The men held on to the boat for a while before Zachry tried to swim to shore and went under. Zachry was headed for the bench of the 432nd District Court. He won the Republican primary this month and faced no challenger in the November election.

— Staff report

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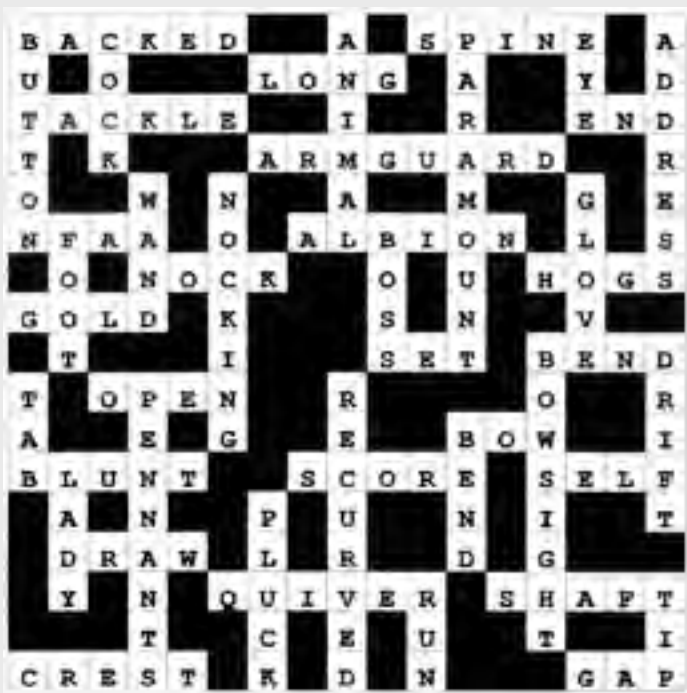
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Puzzle solution from Page 24



WRECKAGE: Investigators have said they are unsure what caused a Robinson R-22 helicopter piloted by Brian Faglie to crash March 6 near Cotulla. Photo by the Texas Department of Public Safety.

Crash

Continued from Page 1

Keith Faglie, 40, of Uvalde, and a shooter, Dale Allen Jones, 52, of Houston.

There were no eyewitnesses. Soon after the ranch's sixth helicopter flight that morning started at 11:20 a.m., three other hog shooters heard a "whoosh whoosh whoosh," like a "lawn mower bogging down in tall grass," according to the preliminary crash report released by the National Transportation Safety Board.

It was what he didn't hear that told ranch foreman Rusty Armbrecht, who was taking some hog shooters back for a late breakfast, there was trouble.

"I couldn't hear it," he said. "I should have been able to hear it anywhere on the ranch. That's when I got concerned it was down."

Armbrecht climbed into an all-terrain vehicle and drove off. The ATV popped out of the brush line, and he saw the helicopter 500 yards away.

"It's not a vision you get out of your head," Armbrrecht said.

Hours earlier, he had flown with Faglie to point out the ranch's boundaries.

"There was nothing wrong when we started flying," Armbrrecht said. "Nothing obvious, at least."

An R-22 is small, fast and maneuverable. While inexpensive compared to larger helicopters, it is reputed to be less forgiving of pilot error.

"I like SUVs and I like sports cars," said Page, who owns an aviation company authorized to repair R-22s, "but sports cars are more fun to drive. Not as safe, but more fun. That's the comparison you're looking at."

The NTSB has ruled out weather as a cause of the accident. It was 64 degrees with mostly clear skies, and the wind was blowing about 15 mph.

Texas Parks and Wildlife also is investigating.

"People use the word 'hunt', but it's illegal in Texas to hunt animals from a helicopter," said Megan Russell Caldwell, TPW's wildlife permits assistant. "However, you can take or kill depredated hogs. But there can't be money exchanged so you can just hunt."

Armbrecht said the 2,400-acre Agave Ranch doesn't advertise or sell hog hunts. The four hunters were scheduled to hunt axis deer.

"They asked if it would be all right to hunt hogs if they paid for the helicopter," Armbrrecht said. "And it was. Like everyone else out here, we're doing our best to get rid of them. But the hunt wasn't offered to them. They requested it."

Caldwell said Agave Ranch has a permit on file for taking feral hogs.

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Cuz Strickland and Clear Fork Country

April 17th. from 10:00 a.m. to noon, Cuz Strickland with Mossy Oak will be at Clear Fork Country for a book signing and photo session. He will also be conducting a seminar on turkey hunting at the American Legion Bldg on the square in Graham from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m.

There will be door prizes given away including a guided turkey hunt for one donated by Clearfork Country Outfitters of Graham and Mossy Oak.

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