

APRIL 2024

LAKE FORK

FREE

Area News

VOL 31 ~ 4



"The Little Paper With Big Bass Results"



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Yantis Times
COVERING WOOD COUNTY AREA NEWS



19 YEAR OLD MCKINNEY DOMINATES THE ELITE FIELD TO TAKE THE WIN

PARKER AYCOCK FROM GRAND SALINE 10LBS EVEN CAUGHT 3/23/24. HIS FIRST DOUBLE DIGIT BASS.

Yantis ISD BASEBALL

Be Prepared 2024 Solar Eclipse

What to Expect

- Beginning April 4th, likely to see an increase in visitors to our area.
- Increase in vehicular traffic on roads.
- Traffic congestion on April 8th. Be prepared for those stopping on roads as the sky darkens.
- Possibility of limited cell service during this time.
- Animals change in behaviors.

Plan Ahead

- Stock up on essentials / necessary provisions.
- Purchase at least 1 week of groceries before April 5th. (if possible)
- Fuel up your vehicles on or before April 5th.

April 4th - April 8th
Total Eclipse - April 8th - 1:32 pm - 1:41 pm

ONCE AGAIN HISTORY IS MADE AT LAKE FORK!

JEFF MEYER FROM WHEATLAND Iowa CAUGHT A NICE 10.72LBER WHILE FISHING WITH GUIDE JAY BONNER

The Prairie Classroom Adventures

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BASSMASTER ELITE SERIES MAKES HISTORY AT LAKE FORK

The 2024 AFTCO Bassmaster Elite and Free Family Fest at Lake Fork was held Feb 29 through March 3 at the New Caney Point Recreation Center at Lake Fork and what a fun-filled record breaking event it was!

McKinney makes history by becoming the youngest Elite Series Champion. The Carbon-dale, Ill., native, exactly one week removed from his 19th birthday, finished with a four-day total of 20 bass weighing 130 pounds, 15 ounces, outlasting the field of 103 anglers in what was one of the most productive tournaments in the history of competitive bass fishing.

He became the youngest winner in Elite Series history and earned \$100,000, while missing the all-time record for total weight in a four-day B.A.S.S. event — set by Paul Elias on Falcon Lake in Texas in 2008 — by just 1 pound, 9 ounces. The tournament on Lake Fork was only McKinney's second since qualifying for the Elite Series. The rookie caught more than 30 pounds each day (the only angler to do so this week), posting totals of 33-11, 33-10 and 30-0 before closing with another 33-10 limit to clinch the win on Championship Sunday.

McKinney figured he could get the extra weight in his favored spot of the week, but it was filled with locals when he arrived there Sunday morning, compounding his stress. Then, showing a maturity beyond his age, he slowed down and considered his options.

He settled into a small pocket just a stone's throw from the Caney Point Recreation Area where daily takeoffs and weigh-ins were held. He noticed the small cove earlier in the week, but didn't rely on it until the final minutes of the tournament. What a smart choice!



McKinney, who led after Day 2 and Day 3, fell from atop the leaderboard early on Sunday, but he regained the upper hand when he hooked a 6-7 largemouth just after noon. Justin Hamner, of Northport, Ala., jumped into second place soon after with a gigantic 11-7 largemouth that pulled him within 18 ounces of the lead.

But then McKinney closed with his 7-13 and pulled away again. Tyler Rivet, of Raceland, La., finished second with 125-9. Hamner finished third with 124-10 and his 11-7 was the Phoenix Boats Big Bass of the day and the tournament, earning him an additional \$3,000 in prize money.



1 Trey McKinney	130 - 15	\$100,000	BONUS \$1,000	\$101,000
2 Tyler Rivet	125 - 9	\$35,000	\$0	\$35,000
3 Justin Hamner	124 - 10	\$30,000	BONUS \$3,000	\$33,000
4 Tyler Williams	124 - 9	\$25,000	\$0	\$25,000
5 Justin Atkins	117 - 12	\$20,000	\$0	\$20,000

Rivet's 125-9 is the eighth-highest four-day weight in B.A.S.S. history. Hamner's 124-10 is ninth all-time and Tyler Williams' 124-9 is 10th.

Lake Fork has now produced 19 Century Club members, passing Falcon (15) for most in B.A.S.S. history.

With only two of the nine Elite Series tournaments completed, the race for Progressive Insurance Bassmaster Angler of the Year is just beginning.

After his victory, McKinney tied Texas pro Ben Milliken for the AOY lead with 195 points and Patrick Walters of South Carolina follows closely with 194 points.

McKinney and Milliken also lead the race for Dakota Lithium Rookie of the Year.

Continued On Page 3

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Smoked boudin, Cajun sausage, and pineapple/jalapeno sausage Brisket & Chicken all smoked in Fisherman's One Stop store. Plenty of goodies all hand made sandwiches!

Bro's

Friday & Saturday 4pm - 9pm **BYOB**

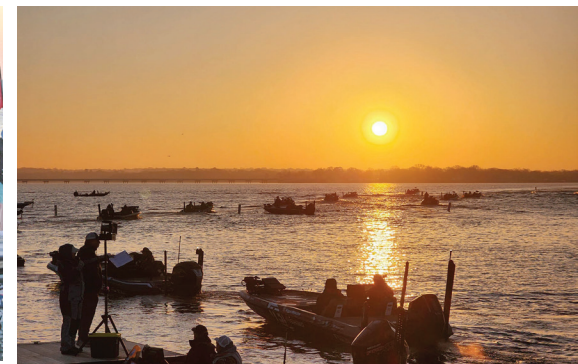
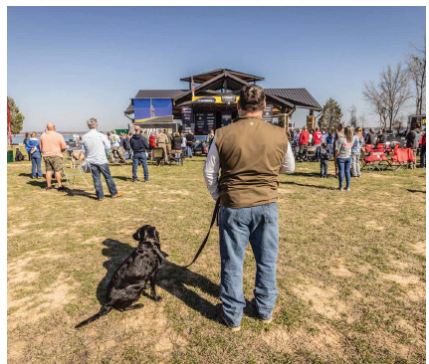


BASSMASTER ELITE SERIES and FREE FAMILY FEST

Continued From Page 2

The 2024 AFTCO Bassmaster Elite and Free Family Fest at Lake Fork at the New Caney Point Recreation Center was filled with spectators enjoying the tournament weigh ins, vendors and all of the great events going on! The new facilities are simply amazing and the organization by the AFTCO Bassmasters during the entire event was unbelievable!

The Free Family Fest included so many activities including a Cornhole Tournament, a pickle ball Tournament, Creature Teacher with exhibits of various animals and reptiles in interact with!



The Army bass anglers had their catfish tank there for the kiddos to fish in!

The live concerts kicked off Saturday with Alba tx native Eric George entertaining the big crowd! Then Sunday featured country music legend Neal McCoy played for the huge gathering before the AFTCO Bassmasters Award Ceremony!

The weather was absolutely beautiful over the weekend and it was great to see so many locals and visitors coming out to Famous Lake Fork for a record breaking week for fishing and for fun!

MORE Continued on page 20

KASTING FOR KALE BENEFIT TOURNAMENT



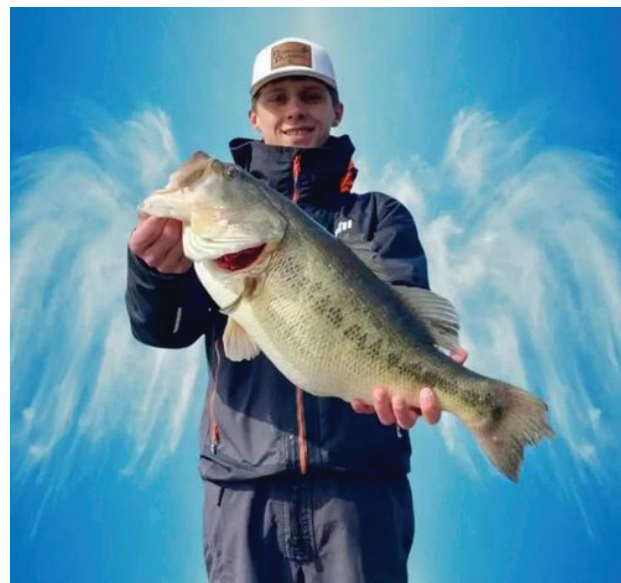
The Kasting for Kale Benefit tournament was held March 16th & 17th at Lake Fork Marina and what a amazing turnout by the community to step up and make this such a loving success!

This event was held in honor of Winnsboro High School Fishing Team angler Kale Robinson who was an avid fisherman and loved by so many!

The tournament had 241 boats that participated in honor of Kale . This was an open tournament for everyone to come out and be a part of this huge tribute and it was highly supported by many high school fishing teams from throughout the divisions and numerous anglers from all over the state to support the Robinson family!

But this tournament was different than others this was about the overwhelming support of the fishing community that raised over \$60K in remembrance of Kale ! This event included so many organizers and supporters that worked together to make this a very special and emotional way of coming together and celebrating life!

There were over 100 items donated for the raffle including guide trips, coolers, gift cards and so much more! There was a framed t-shirt with signatures given to the Robinson family along with a beautiful replica of the 8lb bass that Kale had caught and was also presented to the family



Trish Copeland of Grand Saline : I cannot say "THANK YOU" enough to Bev's Fish Creations for everything. I called her after Kale's passing and told her about his PB and she asked me, what exactly was I needing. I explained I was interested in having a replica made of it and she told me, absolutely.

I asked her, what her turn around time was and she said, 9 months but when do you need it.

I said, by March 17th. Without any hesitation she said, I will have it ready. I cried. She also said she would do it for cost. I cried again.

Bev asked lots of questions about what we wanted it to say, wall or table mount, etc... she went so far above and beyond to make it Special for Bret and Christan. It is truly the most beautiful mount. Absolutely Priceless.

If you need any taxidermy done, please give her a call, her Blessing speaks volumes of her business and personal integrity!!!!

I also want to thank Carl & Stephanie Ondrusek & Columbia Packing for immediately asking if they could pay for the replica (and they did)!!!

Misti Anderson of Rains & Stephanie Beverly of A/G for also going along with this vision!!!!

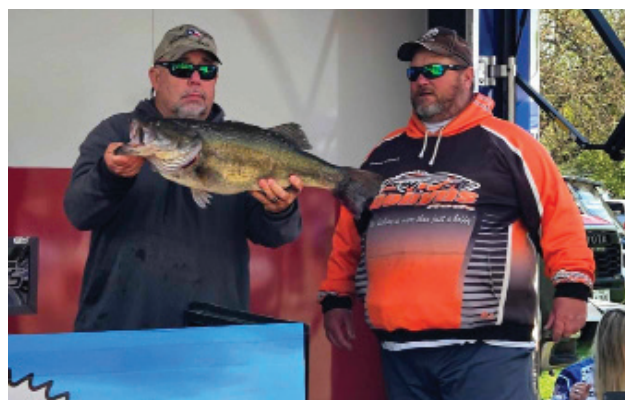
It was their vision as well and they were in it 100%.

Terry Hayley for being the "go between" finding out every special detail that the family would want.

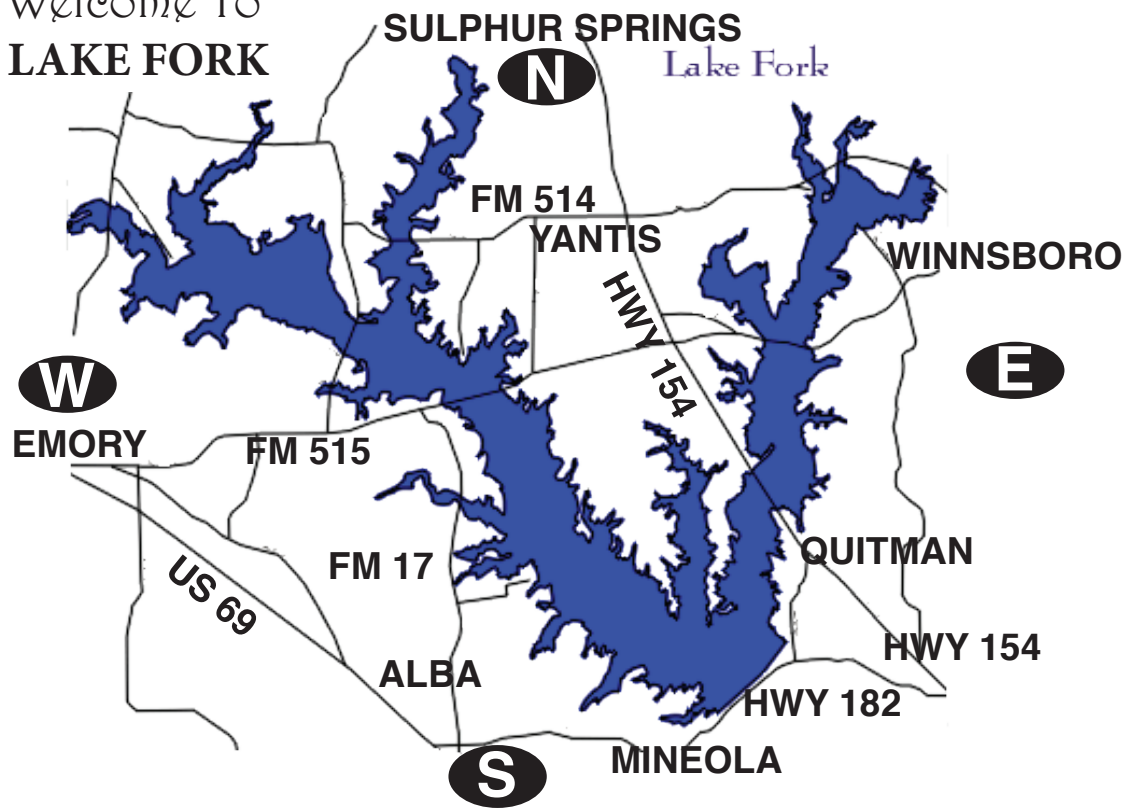
God's hands were all in it

A huge thank you to all that put this together in a short amount of time and helped in so many ways! There are too many people involved to list them all in fact these people did what they did out of the kindness and love for the entire Robinson family.



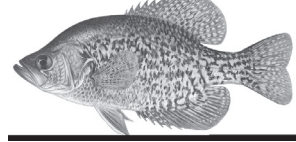

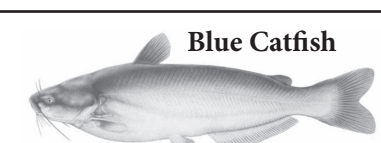
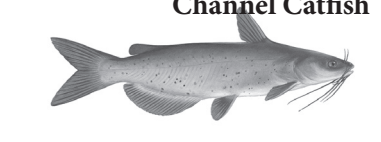

Congratulations to all of the winners and for all that participated and made such a heartbreaking situation be turned into such a great celebration of young Kales life!



Welcome To LAKE FORK



LAKE FORK FISHING REGULATIONS

	Bass 16" - 24" length limit (No fish kept between 16-24") 5 Fish Daily Bag Limit
	White (Sand)Bass 10" Minimum length limit 25 Fish Daily Bag Limit
	Crappie For black and white crappie caught from DEC. 1 through the last day of FEB., there is no minimum length limit and all crappie caught must be retained. From March through November, minimum length is 10 inches. Year-round daily bag limit is 25 crappie in any combination.
	
	Blue Catfish
	Channel Catfish
	Flathead Catfish
	Catfish Blue Catfish & Channel Catfish 12" Minimum length limit 25 Fish Daily Bag Limit
	Flathead Catfish 18" Minimum length limit 5 Fish Daily Bag Limit

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Upcoming Tournaments and Events

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- JC OUTDOORS SOLO APRIL 6TH
- MEDIA BASS INDIVIDUAL APRIL 7TH
- MEGA BASS APRIL 7TH
- SARTIN APPRECIATION 12TH - 13TH
- JC OUTDOORS SOLO APRIL 14TH
- JAKE WILSON MEMORIAL APRIL 20TH
- TEAM MEDIA BASS APRIL 20TH
- C.A.S.T. FOR KIDS APRIL 27TH
- MEDIA BASS INDIVIDUAL APRIL 28TH

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- MAY 4 CORY MORROW
- MAY 11 GARY KYLE
- MAY 17TH CHRIS CAGLE

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Lake Fork Area News



Donna Wooldridge
 Owner / Editor
469-552-1824

available each month Online as well as our Facebook page that shares community news and information on a daily basis.

Lake Fork Area News is a local Free monthly publication that is proud to cover different aspects of fishing and activities here in the Lake Fork area. We would like to thank the local business owners and residents that make it possible to distribute our paper throughout the community! We are also

Our mission is to highlight the positive benefits of living and visiting the Lake Fork area and the wonderful local atmosphere of what it brings! We look forward to providing more stories, events, and special features for our readers!

This is a passion that I enjoy on a daily basis - along with fishing and although we are a small paper we strive to make a big difference!

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SHARE-LUNKER 2024 Update

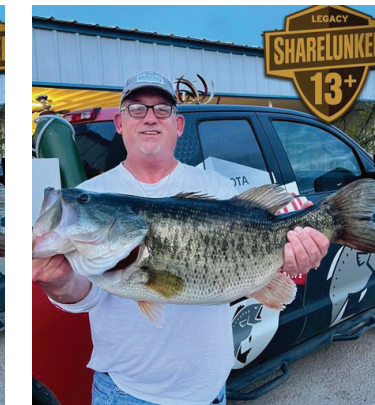


Kyle Hall 15.82 pounds and is one of the largest Lunkers to hit the scales in Texas history!! O.H. Ivie

Bud Robey Sharelunker 664 11 years old! Stetson Davis caught from O.H. Ivie 14.18 pounds. ShareLunker 661 weighing in at 13.31 pounds at J.B. Thomas.

Scott Hines 667 13.22 pounds at J.B. Thomas.

Tery Lewis of Lubbock caught 13.99 pound ShareLunker 669 O.H. Ivie .



Eric Lewis at 13.33 at Fort Phantom Hill Reservoir.

Darryl Hanson from Inks Lake ShareLunker 662 at 13.40 pounds

Larry R Walker Sharelunker 663 at 13.83 pounds. O.H. Ivie

Larry R. Walker. ShareLunker 666 from O.H. Ivie 13.62

668 from O.H. Ivie was caught, at 13.14 by angler Keith Hall of Granbury, TX.



MEDIA BASS MARCH 9TH - 10TH 17TH



TEAMS 3/9

1 James Smith Pat Dio	5	15.21	\$2,400.00	165.21
2 Bryce Reed Jeremy Sims	5	14.70	\$1,100.00	163.70
3 Morris Herring, Jr. Butch Scheppler	5	10.01	\$900.00	158.01
4 Andy Deatherage Scott Scroggins	5	9.63	\$750.00	156.63
5 Jeff Chaney Jeffrey Chaney	5	9.48	\$600.00	155.48

'Hats off' to James Smith & Pat Dio for the double digit 10.05 lb. big bass at Lake Fork !

INDIVIDUAL 3/10

1 Archie Hayley Mt. Vernon, TX	5	9.78	\$1,000.00	159.78
2 Chuck Rizuto Alba, TX.	5	7.10	\$550.00	156.10
3 Jesse Gordey Troup, TX	5	6.01	\$340.00	154.01
4 Cecil Tubb Dike, TX	5	5.96	\$150.00	152.96
5 Bobby Applegate Murchison, TX	5	5.82	\$140.00	151.82
BIG BASS Archie Hayley Mt. Vernon, TX	2.43		\$250.00	



TEAMS 3/17

1 Nick Brown Lindale, TX.	5	9.23	\$1,050.00	159.23
2 Tyler Hobbs Fruitvale, TX	5	9.06	\$586.00	158.06
3 Tim Weaver Edgewood, TX	5	8.99	\$450.00	156.99
4 Archie Hayley Mt. Vernon, TX	5	7.82	\$150.00	154.82
5 Steve Hodge * Emory, TX	5	7.77	\$140.00	153.77



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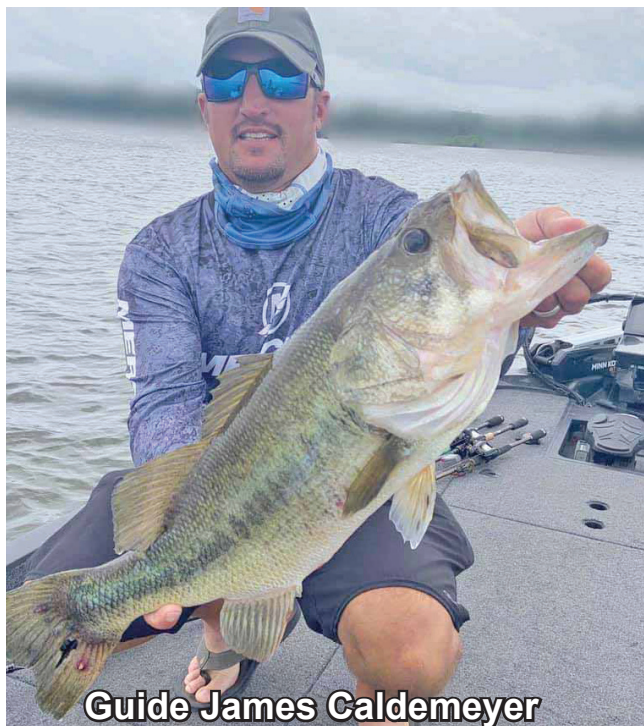
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James Caldemeyer Lake Fork Fishing Guide Report



Guide James Caldemeyer

James Caldemeyer's Lake Fork Trophy Bass Monthly Fishing Report April 2024

April is here and one of my favorite months of the year on Lake Fork! The spring fishing is in full swing. This month is a great time to get on the lake and catch the fish of your dreams. Many conditions on the lake have changed since my last report and Lake Fork is doing great with water levels up considerably. The great thing about the month of April is that you can catch fish on such a variety of different techniques and patterns. Here are some tips and tricks that will help you increase your catch rate this month.

The lake is in great shape and holding at full pool. We have had a tremendous amount of rain this spring, which is great for the spawn but has also left us with some very murky water throughout the lake. Water clarity is good mid lake to south but up north and in the creeks heavily stained to off color. Water temperatures are ranging 62-67 degrees as the month begins but you will see some areas warm up even more as the month progresses.

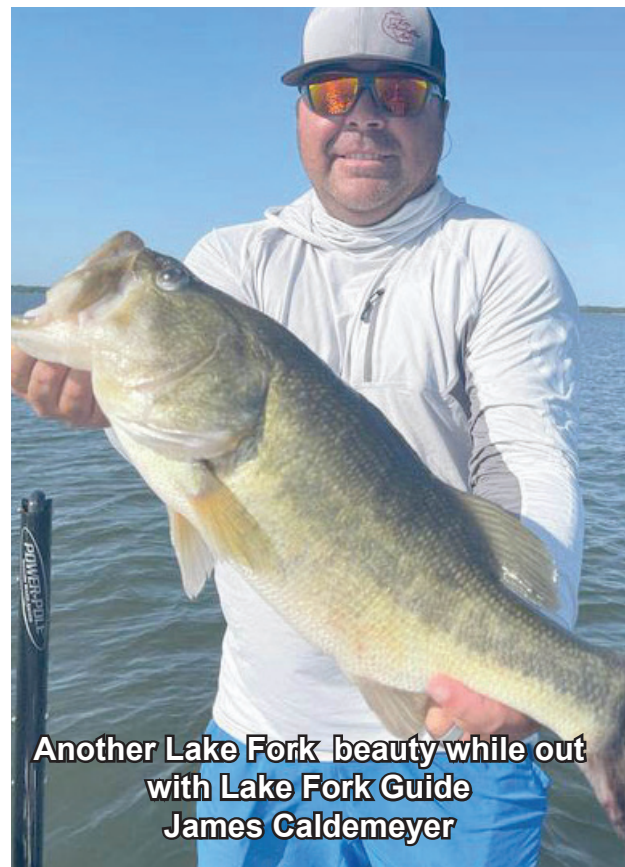
With all the rains filling it back up now and the fresh vegetation overgrowth, Lake Fork is really looking healthy and so are the fish. The bass will now have plenty of areas for the fry hatch to survive as they continue to complete their annual spawn. The fish have really liked all this new water. I have been amazed at how shallow some of these big fish have been lately. I have found a number of fish that are in less than a foot of water spawning. The best approach to catching these fish has been dependent upon fishing conditions. On sunny days I have been targeting them with a number of soft plastics that work well in very shallow areas. Weightless stick baits, wacky worms, soft jerk baits, and finesse worms have been very good. One of my favorites is the Berkley Havoc Bottom Hopper rigged wacky style or drop shotting it. It comes in both 4" and 6" inch sizes and my best colors have been june bug, cherryseed, and watermelon candy. I am also throwing the Berkley Havoc "Jerk" weightless on a 4/0 hook into the new flooded shallows where the bass are spawning. Fishing any of these baits in the areas that the bass are spawning is very productive right now. Most

everything that I am fishing shallow is 2-6 feet of water. If you get a little wind and are still trying to target these bedding bass then I have been switching to a Santone Lures "Piglet" shaky head tipped with a Berkley Powerbait Rib Snake. This bait has very good action just laying motionless on the bottom and the spawning bass will eat it. Best colors lately have been the plum, blue fleck, and green pumpkin. I am also using a light Texas rig with a 1/4 ounce weight and a 4/0 hook and Berkley Lizard. This bait which is very invasive to a bass' nest, but it has a sleek and compact profile that allows it to move thru cover smoothly. Best colors are black & blue and watermelon magic. It's also a great bait for enticing bass to bite if you are site fishing for bass on beds. There is always a lot of great sight fishing on Lake Fork in April!

When the cloudy days or fronts roll in I am switching gears and fishing a little more aggressively. As the month rolls along and more fish are guarding their nests and the shad spawn begins you will be able to target these bass with square bill crank baits, chatter baits, Santone spinner baits, topwaters and my favorite, the big swimbaits. I'm a big swimbait fanatic and it's amazing how hard the bass hit these lures. If you haven't experience the bite before, once you do you're hooked on using them. The best big swim baits for me have been the 3:16 Lures – Rising Son and Berkley Nessie. These baits have the best action and is the most life-like of any swim bait that I've seen. I am throwing this bait on main lake and secondary points where big female bass are in transition to and from their spawning beds mostly but there are also a number of fish that are in the creeks and coves spawning that will eat it too as you swim it over their beds. As the shad spawn heats up they will be up shallow eating this bait as well. Having the proper gear to throw this bait is important. I am throwing it on an Abu Garcia Veritas 8' heavy spooled on a Revo STX 7:1 gear ratio reel with 20 lb Trilene Professional Grade fluorocarbon.

The deep bite is not very good right now as most of the fish are up in the creeks and shallow water areas spawning but you I will occasionally see a group of fish out deep on my Garmin Echomap units. Most of these fish are in 12-18 feet. You will start to see more and more fish move to deep water this month as they complete some of spawn on the lake and start to move into post-spawn patterns. Generally most of these fish will be suspended. I use a lot of deep diving crank baits, deep swim baits like a jig head with a Berkley Hollowbelly 5-6" shad colored swim bait or an Umbrella rig. I like to use the Hog Farmer 5 wire 4 or 8 blade model. This is the only "a-rig" that can withstand the terrain on Lake Fork. If you spool up with 50 lb Trilene Braid you will be able to pull it free from most trees that it can come in contact with while fishing. I am using the Santone "rig heads" on it and tipping them with a various shad colored 3-4" swimbaits. I'm also using forward facing sonar to target fish suspended on Berkley Stunna jerkbaits and a Berkley Maxscent Flatnose minnow on a 90 degree jighead.

Well, I hope this helps anyone that's coming out this month to chase some big



Another Lake Fork beauty while out with Lake Fork Guide James Caldemeyer

bass. If you would like to fish with me this year, I still have just a few dates available. My 2024 schedule is filling fast though so contact me as soon as possible if you are just now beginning to plan your trip. I also have gift certificates available for those of you that are interested in purchasing a friend or loved one a guided trip on Lake Fork. You can contact me to make your reservation at 903-736-9888 or send me an email at lakeforktrophybass@yahoo.com You can also visit my website for more information about Lake Fork and my guide service at www.officiallakeforktrophybass.com You can find me on Facebook and follow my official Lake Fork Trophy Bass Guide page at <https://www.facebook.com/lakeforktrophybassguide>

I have really enjoyed my Bass Cat boats the past few years and am about to rig my new 2024 boat for the season. I couldn't be happier to be serving my customers on Lake Fork as part of the Bass Cat Team and am looking forward to providing more great trips this year out of my new boat! If you're interested in checking out any of the Bass Cat models, be sure to reach out to R & R Marine in Pittsburg, Texas. They have the all-new Puma and Caracal STS that everyone is raving about so go by and check it out! Steven Stroman and his crew have amazing sales and service as well as a complete tackle shop with just about anything you need. I would like to thank all my sponsors that are continuing to support me in 2024. I am looking forward to representing them again this year on the major tournament trails. I appreciate all their support as I serve all my great guide clients throughout the year on Lake Fork as well! Sponsors: Toyota, AFTCO, Bass Cat Boats, Mercury, I Am Second, Omnia Fishing, Berkley, Abu Garcia, Garmin, Santone Lures, Costa Sunglasses, Power Pole, Elite Tungsten, Johnson Communications, EVOLV and Bass Boat Technologies.

Romans 8:28 - And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to His purpose.

**Tight Lines & God Bless,
James Caldemeyer**

Doug Shampine Guide Fishing Report

www.lakeforktrophybass.com



903-902-3855

**Doug Shampine
DSP Guide Service**

www.lakeforktrophybass.com

April fishing on Lake Fork is always outstanding because we have pre spawn and spawn and post spawn fishing going on. So depending on what you like to do you will find

your style of fishing somewhere on the lake in April. The north end of the lake will be in post spawn and the lower and mid lake area will be in spawn and prespawn especially on the main lake points. I like to throw a top water bait like the yellow magic or frog this time of the year especially if you fine vegetation. Also look for the bait fish and you will find the bass. Actually the same goes for the crappie they start in the very back of the necks up north and work their way to the south. A minnow and bobber will be your best bet for the shallow spawners next to the vegetation. So if interested in a bass or crappie trip text me at 940-902-3855 for opendates. Doug Shampine DSP Guide Service

**Doug Shampine DSP
Guide Service**
If interested in a bass or crappie trip text me at **940-902-3855**



JC OUTDOORS MARCH 16TH



Lake Fork Spring Teams Season Opener was a solid success with 54 Teams on a rainy day! Congrats and Thank You Anglers for your continued support of J C Outdoors Bass Trails!

The Grandfather and Grandson Team of Don Overstreet and Haden Sickles would top the field of 54 teams with a last minute catch of a 9.33 lb 24 1/2" beauty bringing their stringer weight to 15.67 earning them \$2650.

It's good to see Lake Fork making a great comeback with the fresh water and grass. It took 8.54-9.83 to capture the next 10 places and that should excite all Lake Fork Anglers. Lake Fork Teams is scheduled for April 6th. Tight Lines Mark, Diane and Sassy



JC OUTDOORS MARCH 23rd

Thanks to the 42 Anglers for joining us Saturday at our 2nd Event of the Lake Fork Solo Series.

Taj Chauvin took Top Honors with a 8.13 lb limit and 4.90 took 8th Place. What a difference a week makes.

Fishing was tough overall as the results will reflect.

Thanks to Rowdy Buzz Lures for the Buzzbaits for our first two anglers out of the money!

Our next Fork Solo Event is Sunday April 14th

Tight Lines
Mark

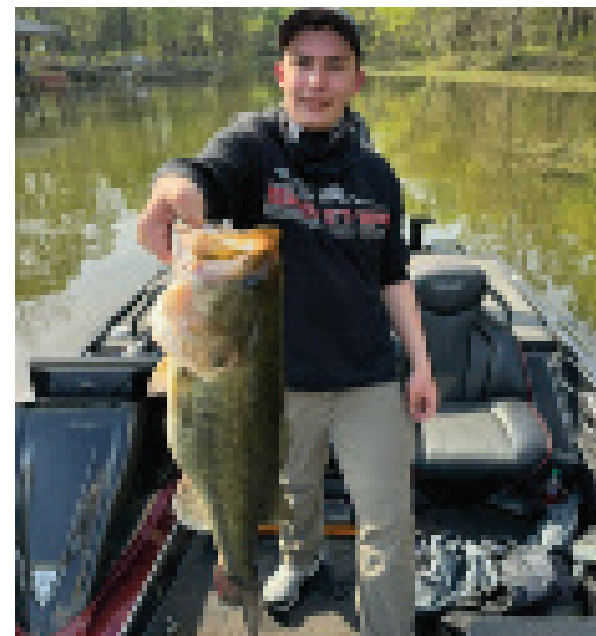
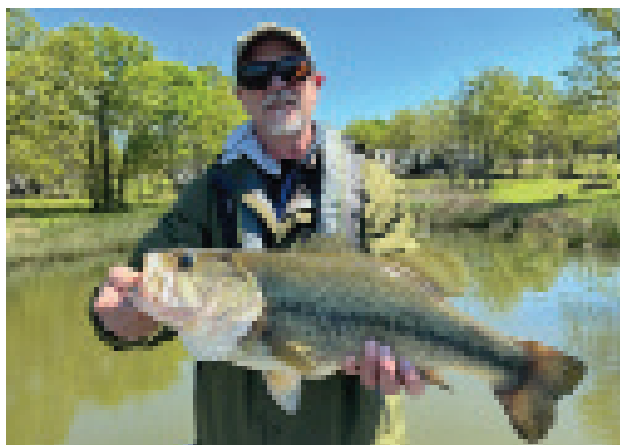


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GREG HILL LAKE FORK GUIDE LEAVE NO FISH BEHIND



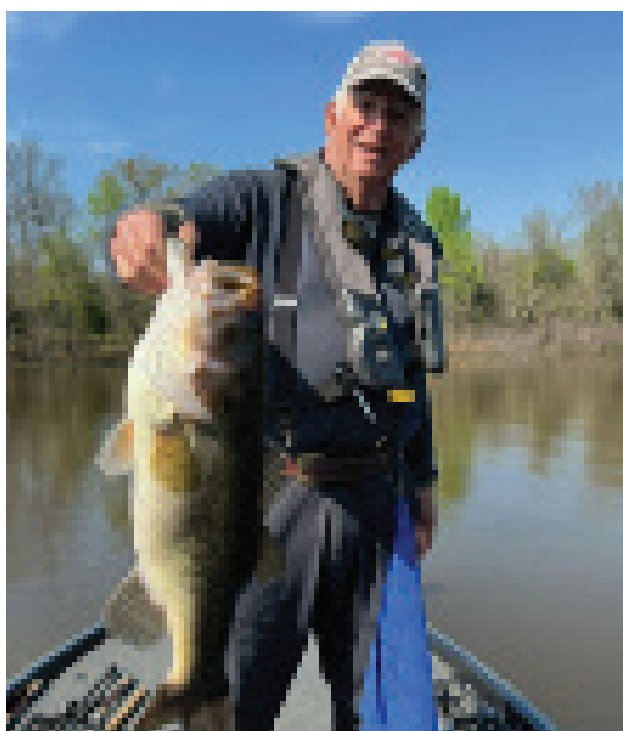
As of the date I wrote this...the water level is 403.4
Welcome to all the new readers for FOB Lake Fork.... I have received a lot of great emails about some of the articles and it is great to see people following my social media as well. You can send any comments to foblakefork@gmail.com . I am on Instagram, Facebook, Youtube, and Twitter. You can find all my social media by just searching for Forward Operating Base Lake Fork or FOB Lake Fork. They both will find my website that has direct link to those accounts. I do have a Twitter account as well but it is just seem harder to get some points across without a picture really.

I used the term "The Spawn is on" the other day in a post on my Instagram and Facebook the other day and it couldn't be more accurate. I was catching some really good numbers of fish before the cold spell hit us but females were really hard to find. One of my trips during that time had the best five around 32lbs. It was pretty regular to get around a 27-28 lb sack on the other days. The cold temperatures hit us and then we were down to catching 4-6 fish with the biggest fish were still in the 4-5 lb range. Have had 5 fish over 7lbs but only 1 over 8 so far.

Many of the other boats on the lake pulled off the banks and were focused on fishing deeper water. I tried it for a bit but then just realized the males really hadn't left the beds. They had been committed to those beds and for the most part the larger ones were staying there and gutting it out. I can only say that life as a male perspective is hard...seems it is that way for the bass as well. Just because it is cold doesn't mean you can stop doing what you have to do. Construction, road work, garbage collection, and all those other hard outdoor jobs that a lot of guys do still have to get done and they just suffer through it. After seeing the cold spell roll in and watch those males gut it out in the colder temperatures they were facing, I feel that is what life as a male bass is like as well.

The water temperatures cooled off some places by almost 9 degrees. The morning time air temperatures were in the low 40s and I was not even going out with clients until 0800. That gave us more time in the afternoon after the sun had started to heat up the water a bit. The winds were blowing very hard as well and that made a huge impact on where I could focus on beds. We still found them every day even when the number of bites went down, the larger males were still holding to the beds.

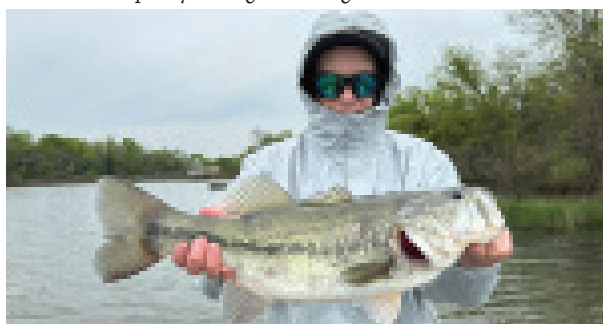
Ok, I am not going to repeat everything from last month and you should probably try to track down last month's issue and read it if you are headed out to Lake Fork. I talked extensively about the pre-spawn lure selection and where you should look for the fish. I talked about what baits you should consider to throw near the beds as well. We ended up doing about 90 percent bed fishing and 10 percent of pre-spawn fishing. We caught some nice ones on swim bait and square bill crank bait but that was really about it. I know some other guides



are out throwing at the offshore points with some glide baits already but I just didn't get bit over a multiple day trip doing that. I decided to move way back into cuts and creeks and sure enough the bass were there almost every time. There were definitely more males than females on the beds we could see but it was a target rich environment. The only drawback was the females were not there until after that warming trend. So, we decided to keep visiting those big fish locations in a rotation of some other beds we had in the area. That tactic finally paid off when we landed an 7.78 female who was hanging just off the side of the bed in a thick clump of grass. She had made occasional appearances around the bed but always seem to gravitate to a clump of grass that was about 2 feet from the bed. We pitched in the vicinity of that grass with our creature baits but had to switch to a black jig and we were rewarded by getting her to bite fairly quickly. It was a great day!!

I am going to talk about the spawn fishing and the shad spawn fishing that should start to phase in if it stays warm. There are already small bait fish that have moved into the shallows of these little creek arms and are starting to spawn. You can see them in groups rubbing on each other and next to those grass lines. Smaller bass are already starting to target them and you can see the blow ups in the shallow water of these protected cove areas. This isn't really the shad spawn I am talking about but it is an indicator we are getting there pretty soon. I am talking about the gizzard shad spawn that will take place out on these points. Before I get ahead of myself though, let's get back to the spawn itself and what I would be doing

We saw some quality fish right after it got warm. All of a sudden,



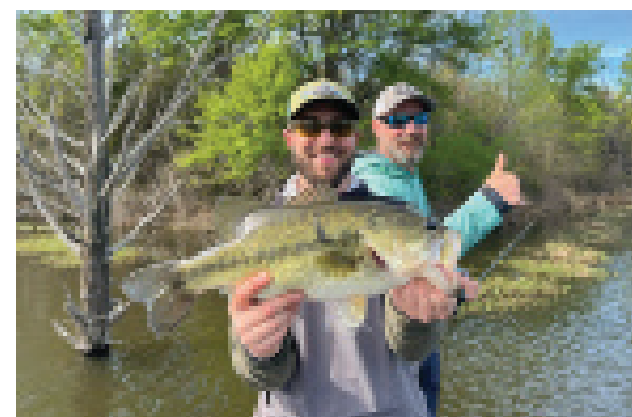
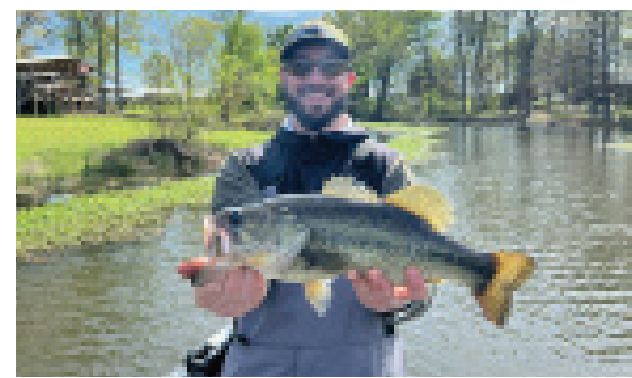
there were new males and pairs of male and females on bed. It seemed to happen almost everywhere and overnight. Here are some lures you can use for these spawning males and females. This is pretty much from last month's article because I didn't even seem to change much.

1. My absolute favorite is a creature bait I use. However, I won't say exactly what it is because I am reserving that info for my customers who fish with me. Any of my customers who have been fishing with me during the spawn know what I am talking about. For the last few years, this baits is responsible for an overwhelming percentage of my larger bed fish. It doesn't matter if we can see them with our eyes or with my electronics. It just seems to catch more of the fish. Now that it is such confidence bait for me, it probably does catch more just because I am throwing it constantly. There are probably many different creature baits that can catch fish but once you find a bait that catches them as well it is hard to put down. If you really want to find out, schedule a trip with me and see it first hand.

2. Jigs: LARGE heavy jigs are another must. I mean 3.4 -1 oz. I want to throw large baits that have a large mass to make these larger bass see it as a threat to their nest. I am usually using a 1 oz football head. I will use a pointed now as well but the football seems to disturb a little more of the bottom as you move it through the nest area. I usually am throwing blue gill colors and a trailer with blue gill as well. The blue gill is a natural enemy of the bass during this time of the year. Any lure that can get that profile and action mimicking them will get the attention of the bass. The larger weight will help with casting it further and keep you further off the bed so you don't spook them. The jig is also the final punch sometimes. When I can't get a bass to hit a number of baits, the heavy jig comes out and we are about to get physical. I will pitch this bait on the far side of the bed and wait for the bass to swim between me and the bass. When it is right between us, I will jerk it hard and actually hit the bass right in the face. I am aiming to hit it in the jaw area between the points of the snout to the

last part of the jaw. I do this to elicit anger from the bass. I am trying to remind him he is the big boy on the block and he needs to teach this lure a lesson. This is a technique that my customers sometimes just sit back and laugh about once they see it in action. Most have never seen anything like that before.

3. Jerk Baits: Depending on the amount of cover right near the nest. Jerk baits jerked right over the top can elicit a response. I tend to use



ones that are smaller and will actually suspend. Bring it near their nest and see what kind of reaction you get. It won't take long to figure out if these are thinking of attacking it.

4. Pocket craw type baits: soft plastic crawfish baits with larger claws. I have thrown the white color of this bait for years just because I can see it easy in different water clarities. At longer distances, you can see the fish take the bait and give you the chance to set the hook before it spits it out.

5. Lizards: I once throw almost everything I had in the boat at a huge fish once. It just would not commit and kept swimming and circling around whatever I threw in there. Out of frustration, I dug deep in the boat and pulled out some lizards I hadn't thrown in a while. I kept them in an old plastic lure binder I hadn't used in forever. I put on a white lizard to throw in at the nest. The fish responded with an immediate ferocious strike. I learned a lesson that day that I should have already known. Every bass has a little different thing that will set him off. Like us, they all have their own personal experiences to draw on to make every day decisions. Obviously, sometime in the past, this bass had a bad day with a lizard and wasn't going to let that happen again.

Now let's talk about the shad spawn that will start to happen in a few weeks. It again is one of my favorite times of the year. You can catch some fish that are going after the larger baits that will make your day. Lets not forget Lee Livesay catching a 5 fish bag with a total over 45lbs. That is right. I didn't stutter.....average fish over 9 lbs and it was all on top water. You can start to fish for these fish early in the morning and then transition to bed fishing as the sun gets better. Lee decided to fish top water all day though and it seemed to pay off for him. It is really a good time and can make for an unforgettable fishing day. Here are some of the things you can throw to work those shad spawn fish...

Continued On page 10

FISH ON FRIENDS



Well it is that time again folks, spring is here and is full bloom! That means that Lake Fork is in Full Bloom as well in many ways - of course the natural beauty of the trees, plants and flowers, and with the great amounts of rain we have had the lake level is amazing!

The other big thing that comes this time of year is visitors from all over the country! If you live full time at Lake Fork you experience this every year - during winter it is so quiet at the lake, your stuck inside the majority of the time, the weather typically makes it hard to be outside, let alone get out on the water much.

Cabin fever becomes a real thing! It is tough at times, however I wouldn't trade living at Lake Fork for anything! Yes there are the few months of the year that is cold and somewhat isolated - but when spring time comes it is God's way of renewing our soul's!

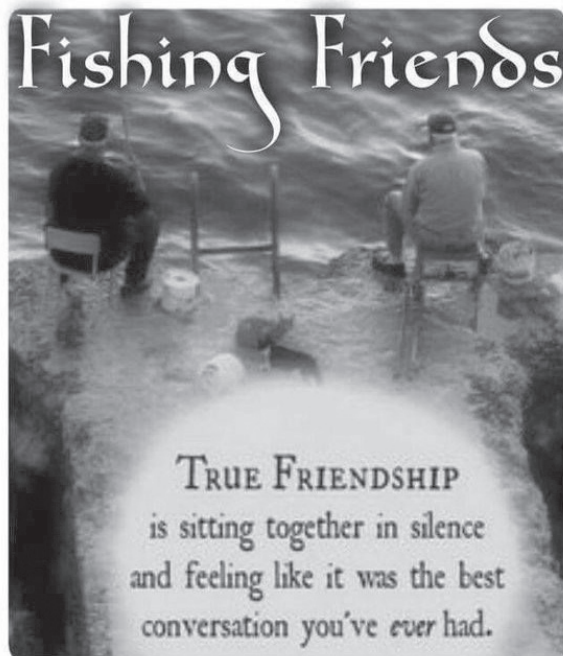
As we all begin to come out of our winter hibernation we

begin enjoying the "little" things like sitting on the deck in the evening, taking a golf cart ride, taking the boat out, fishing on the pier and most of all seeing all your neighbors and friends out and about as well!

As spring-fever begins it brings us all that special feeling of love for the blooming trees and love for one another!

This is the time where the big tournaments come and we get together and meet new friends, old friends and life long friends from across the country that come all the way to Lake Fork to enjoy our piece of heaven and of course the top rated lake in the united States for our BIG FISH!

I have met so many people from so many states that come here not only for the big tournaments and big fish but for the whole package, including our down home lake community that welcomes everyone to get



hooked on what we love and enjoy daily! We also enjoy having friends and family come to visit for vacations and spring summer holiday vacations and events here at the lake. It is also known that it can be hectic, alot of traffic more boats on the water more people in the restaurants but we love it! It helps our local business owners and is not just a tourism boost for us but unites us with one another in a positive way - I couldn't think of a better way to bring people together in such a positive place than here at Lake Fork!

There is nothing better than a good day of fishing on the lake then coming back to the

homestead by the lake and gathering with friends around the campfire for the many things only a campfire can do - yes the peacefulness of a roaring fire can be calming all in itself - but it brings out many conversations, including laughter and sharing great memories but it is also a place that brings out deep conversations and moments that no amount of therapy could compete with!

So this year when we have friends, old and new, family, distant or close - take a moment to use the priceless gift that God sprinkled on Lake Fork to share love, kindness and the sunsets that heal a broken soul to all of those that come visit Lake Fork this season!

Fish On Friends!

GREG HILL LAKE FORK GUIDE

Continued from page 9

1. Square Bill Crankbaits: Every year around this time the Gizzard shad style Squarebill Crankbait will start catching fish. You can use different ones for different depths but I would be focused on the 2-8 ft deep around any main lake or secondary points. Strike king 8.0, wake baits s are examples of what you could throw in this situation. Last year, using my forward looking sonar to pinpoint fish that were on these main lake flats, I was able to put together some really large sacks. We had quite a few 8lb fish for my customers though. We lost a really big one as well on this big crank bait when it almost jerked the rod out of my client's hand when it hit so hard. It proceeded to break the line without even really trying. He just turned around to look and me and ask "What the tarnation is going on here. I just reminded him to stay on guard all the time your lure is in the water. Throwing these shallow water rank baits can get you some big number of bites pretty quick. This technique is very hard for a large female to resist as she is moving through the areas back towards the spawning areas. During this time, the females will feed on these points to keep their egg production going. You do have to make sure the water clarity is about two feet or more I think. Otherwise the jerk baits might not make enough commotion in the water to get their attention. This is a visual presentation bait more than a vibration bate like the square bill presentation discussed above. You can work various depths but the fish is most likely to hit the bait right after you give it a jerk. You can work both a quick tempo and a slow tempo. Just see what the fish are wanting. If there is wind blowing up on the point or bank that is even better. The shad that are in the area will be getting pushed there and the bass will know this. Even during the prespawn, you could find a fairly big concentration of fish sometimes if the conditions are right. I would focus on those secondary points back in the creak arms. Or even paralleling the banks trying to stay in that strike zone of those larger females. Color will just depend on the water and cloud conditions. Trying the painted ones on cloudy days and more reflective ones on the sunny days.

2. Lipless crank bait: Almost just like the square bill. I like this lure in shad colors during this time of year. If the water is heavily stained you can use a more chartreuse color as well. It brings the vibration and sound needed to get the attention of aggressive fish that are actively feeding and hunting shad. It is a good search bait to cover water and help determine if there are any numbers of fish in the area. The amount of noise they make can sometimes spook more cautious fish but if the water has become very stained, this might be necessary to help the fish lock in on the baits location.

3. Spinner baits: I throw white/shad bait this time of year as well when chasing these shad spawn fish. I throw painted blade in white/chartreuse. I need to be able to have the fish see this lure for the final strike. The thumping of blades along with the painted colors help the fish that final few inches in low visibility water. This bait can be thrown right in the thickest cover to get to areas that other moving baits can't get into. Don't hesitate to use this as primary search bait. It will come through some of the heaviest plant life that has grown up on these points. It can be worked just under the surface as a wake bait and down deeper in the grass.

4. Bladed Jigs and swim jigs: I lumped these together because they really serve the same purpose. These are baits like the spinner bait that can be thrown in pretty heavy cover and still give a slow enough presentation. The swim jig is a little more snag proof but the blade will give it an additional thump. When throwing a true swim jig, think about using a Lake Fork Trophy Lures Live Magic Shad as your trailer. I have been using them for years and believe they have helped me put some huge fish in the boat.

5. Senko: You can wacky, Texas rig, or Carolina rig for the right presentation

6. White Frogs: Early morning on these shallow extended points, I like throwing frogs back right against the bank in 6 inches of water and work them with a random fast paced pop retrieve

7. Top water: The choices are really endless here. If you are on them



you are going to get bit. Zara Spooks, poppers, shad colored frogs are my favorites for the top water.

Make sure to do a good map study before heading out. Have a plan where you want to go and keep to your schedule. 15 minutes at a point with no bites might mean you need to leave. Look for the birds on the bank and see if they are feeding. Know to look for the two kinds of cranes. The grey crane can handle bigger bait fish while the smaller white cranes tend to go after the threadfin shad. Look for any areas of windblown long shallow points that the shad will spawn on. This can help you find water that has a larger population of bigger fish. I will have a YouTube video out shortly with some more specific information if you would like to hear a more in depth discussion. So you might ask what I would do in the next few weeks if I were coming to Lake Fork and hadn't been here before. Here you go: I would make sure I had one of the boating lane chips. It will show you both the approved boating lanes and the "guide" lanes chips. I run two of them at the same time and it helps me. I fine tune many of the routes. I do this because even those chips are no guarantee you might clip something. Sometimes you could be 10-15 feet off to the side and that might just be enough. Then I would make sure I have updated electronics maps for my sonar system. I would go back and watch a few fishing reports from last few springs and shad spawn time frames from some of the youtube providers on the lake. My YouTube is at

Continued On page 29

Williams Creek Crappie Club of Lake Fork



The WCCC of Lake Fork held it's meeting on the 9th of March at the Yantis Community Center in Yantis Texas.

The club started the monthly meeting with updates on club information and the upcoming crappie qualifier and crappiefest coming in March. The season has begun for all of us to get out and catch some big ones!

The Guest speaker for March was Wood County Game Warden Kurt Kelley. Kurt provided much insight into the role and responsibilities of being a Game Warden here in Wood County. Kurt also brought jigs for everyone at the March meeting! It is important to respect and appreciate all that our game wardens do to



protect our Lakes, land, animals and citizens - Thank you Kurt for all you do!

There were several really good door prizes that were drawn for and a 50/50 raffle for \$96 dollars drawn as well. These meetings are a great way to get together share information and tips to prepare us all for now that it's finally time to get back on the water and catch those slabs!

If you are interested in joining the annual memberships are \$25.00 and includes your entire family.

We hope to see everyone at our next meeting on April 13th at 3pm!



Congratulations to Tommy Ezell - Texas Crappie Pro for his second place finish in the pro division and Austin Taylor on his first place finish in the amateur division for the Crappie Anglers of Texas and Crappie USA Tournament Trail events on Lake Fork



- Tommy Ezell
President
- Raymond Montgomery
Treasurer
- Dennis Smith
Vice-President
- Chip Exum
Cindy Smith
Secretary
- Marketing Director
Lisa Tapp
- Social Director
Chip Exum
- Seargent at Arms
Jeff Wix.

The annual dues are \$25 per family members in a household.



WCCC of Lake Fork Next Meeting
APRIL 1TH
AT 3PM
Yantis Community Center
COME OUT AND ENJOY THE FELLOWSHIP - FUN AND ALL THINGS CRAPPIE!

Integrating Communities through Diversity to Benefit Grazing and Wildlife
Come join TPWD, NRCS & the TXGLC for a field day at Mattox Prairie Farm @ 124 W Oak Yantis, TX 75497
May 14, 2024 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM
Lunch sponsored by NETBIO

This is a program limited to the first 35 participants. RSVP Julie Mattox 903-752-1015 or sagegeodetic@msn.com






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LAKE FORK ANGLERS

Lake Fork Anglers (LFA) Bass Fishing Club Tournament Results for MARCH 2024



Results: 3/07/2024

Results: 3/14/2024

Results: 3/21/2024

Results: 3/28/2024

Hard Core Tournament – All Bass 10 inches and over count towards total weight scored.

28 Members had the best day of fishing so far this year with a total of 150 bass caught, including 11 weighing more than 5 pounds, and 3 bags in the 20 +/- pound range.

Winning Anglers

- 1. Robert Gayler with 7 Bass @ 21.85 lbs.
 - 2. Billy Davis with 7 Bass @ 19.71 lbs.
 - 3. Don Overstreet with 6 Bass @ 16.10 lbs.
- Big Bass: Robert Gayler @ 7.68 lbs.

Winning Co-Anglers

- 1. Chris Lawson with 7 Bass @ 19.63 lbs.
 - 2. Matt Scotch with 10 Bass @ 15.55 lbs.
 - 3. Robert Owens with 3 Bass @ 12.33 lbs.
- Big Bass: Chris Lawson and Chad Smith tied @ 6.89 lbs. each

LFA Tournament – Largest 5 Bass 10 inches and over

34 Members fished today. A total 135 bass were caught, with 8 bass over 5 lbs. It was a really good day for some, and not so much for others. 16 members (nearly half) had only 2 fish or less. On the other end of the spectrum, Dennis Bubinas had a lunker of 7.54 lbs., and a total catch of 15 bass. As a 5 Bass tournament, Randy Bunch had a really nice total weight of 23.12 lbs. Following that, Dennis Bubinas had another nice total weight of 20.29 lbs. There were also four members that had total 5-fish weights of over 15 lbs.

Winning Anglers

- 1.Randy Bunch with best 5 Bass @ 23.12 lbs.
 - 2.Dennis Bubinas with best 5 Bass @ 20.29 lbs.
 - 3.Tim Gold with his best 5 Bass @ 19.14 lbs.
- Big Bass: Dennis Bubinas @ 7.54 lbs.
- Winning Co-Anglers**
- 1.Robert Owens with best 5 Bass @ 15.82 lbs.
 - 2.Ken Kielbas with best 5 Bass @ 10.47 lbs.
 - 3.Matt Scotch with best 5 Bass @ 9.40 lbs.
- Big Bass: Robert Owens @ 6.89 lbs.

Hard Core Tournament – All Bass 10 inches and over count towards total weight scored.

24 Members fished today, with some members and some bass sitting out the weather. 58 bass were caught, with Chris Lawson bringing in the biggest bass at 7.15 lbs., and Chad Smith bringing in the highest total weight at 19.77 lbs.

Winning Anglers

- 1. Mike McWhorter with 6 Bass @ 14.71 lbs.
 - 2. Randy Bunch with 6 Bass @ 12.92 lbs.
 - 3. Steve Roll with 4 Bass @ 11.17 lbs.
- Big Bass: (tie) Steve Roll & Galen Smith @ 4.31 lbs. each

Winning Co-Anglers

- 1. Chad Smith with 6 Bass @ 19.77 lbs.
 - 2. Larry Kelly with 4 Bass @ 12.24 lbs.
 - 3. Chris Lawson with 3 Bass @ 11.08 lbs.
- Big Bass: Chris Lawson @ 7.15 lbs.

LFA Tournament – Largest 5 Bass 10 inches and over

33 Members fished today. A total 70 bass were caught, with 4 bass over 5 lbs. 9 members caught 3 bass or more, so 24 members found the fishing tough with 4 members catching no bass. Tim Gold knocked it out of the ballpark today with a total 5 bass total weight of 25.71.

Winning Anglers

- Tim Gold with best 5 Bass @ 25.71 lbs.
 - Dennis Bubinas with best 5 Bass @ 12.81 lbs.
 - Jack White with 4 Bass @ 12.24 lbs.
- Big Bass: Tim Gold @ 7.68 lbs.

Winning Co-Anglers

- Chuck Boles with 3 Bass @ 6.44 lbs.
 - Matt Scotch with 4 Bass @ 6.09 lbs.
 - Jackie Price 4 Bass @ 5.15 lbs.
- Big Bass: Bill Pigg @ 3.16 lbs.

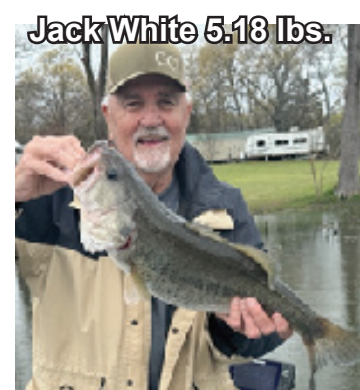
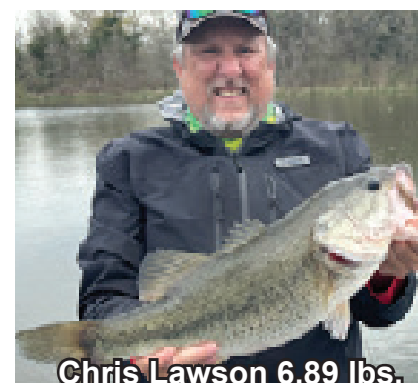
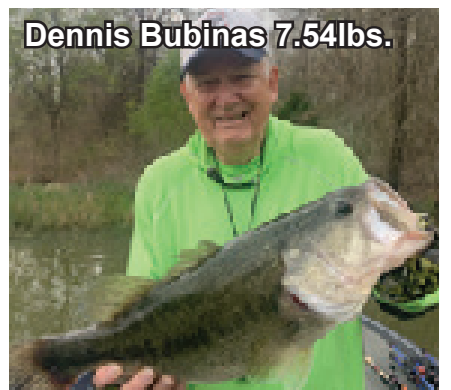
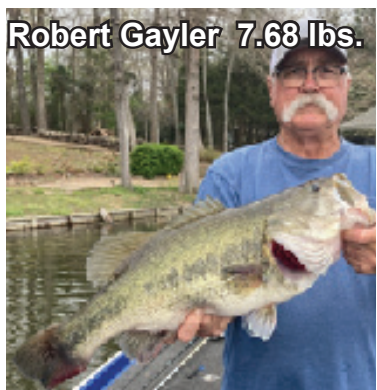
March came in like a lion with 150 bass and 135 caught and released in the first two weeks, along with 19 bass over 5 lbs. and 6 bags at 20 +/- . March went out like a lamb with 58 and 70 bass caught and released in the last two weeks, Along with 5 bass over 5 lbs. and 2 bags at 20 +/- with one 5 bass bag at 25.71 lbs.

The LFA club fishes every Thursday with afternoon weigh-in at the SRA Park on Hwy 154 @ 12:45 pm (Summer Hours). Two club tournament formats are rotated weekly.

LFA – Best 5 fish format – 2nd and 4th Thursdays each month Hard Core – MLF format – 1st and 3rd Thursdays each month All club tournaments are two-person catch and release tournaments with an angler and a co-angler per boat.

Anglers compete against anglers and Co-Anglers compete against co-anglers.

LFA members are mostly retired anglers who can fish weekly tournaments each Thursday. Membership is open to all persons who are physically able to fish and function independently in a boat, whether alone, or as a team member during scheduled Thursday fishing tournaments. Information about club membership can be obtained by sending an email to lfa_2019@yahoo.com.



CATCH of the DAY!

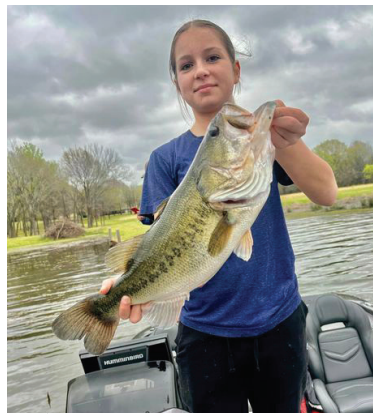
If you have a Lake Fork catch of the day photo you would like to share with us just email your photo and information to us!
lakeforknews@yahoo.com or call us at (469) 552-1824



BILL HOLLAND WITH A BIG ONE
Fishing with Guide Randy Oldfield



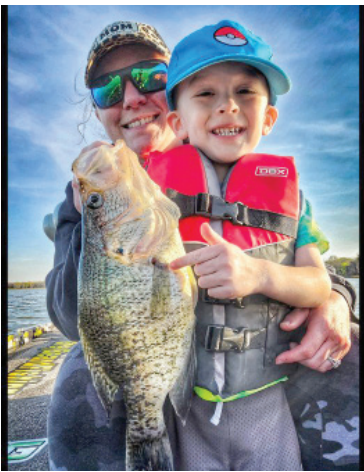
CASEY HUNT WITH A NICE 10.06LBER



DANIELL READ BIG A GREAT CATCH
Fishing with Guide Michael Samples



ROBERT GAYLOR WITH A DD
Fishing with Guide Randy Oldfield



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High School Fishing

2023-24 NORTHEAST DIVISION

LAKE OF THE PINES



WINNSBORO WINS TEAM OF THE YEAR.
Congratulations young ladies and gentlemen

A big congratulations to the team of Winnsboro taking first place in Team of the year! This has been a tough team throughout the year and with the heart-break of losing one of their own they held strong and in Kale's honor fished their way into being named the top team representing the Northeast Division! Great job for the entire team!



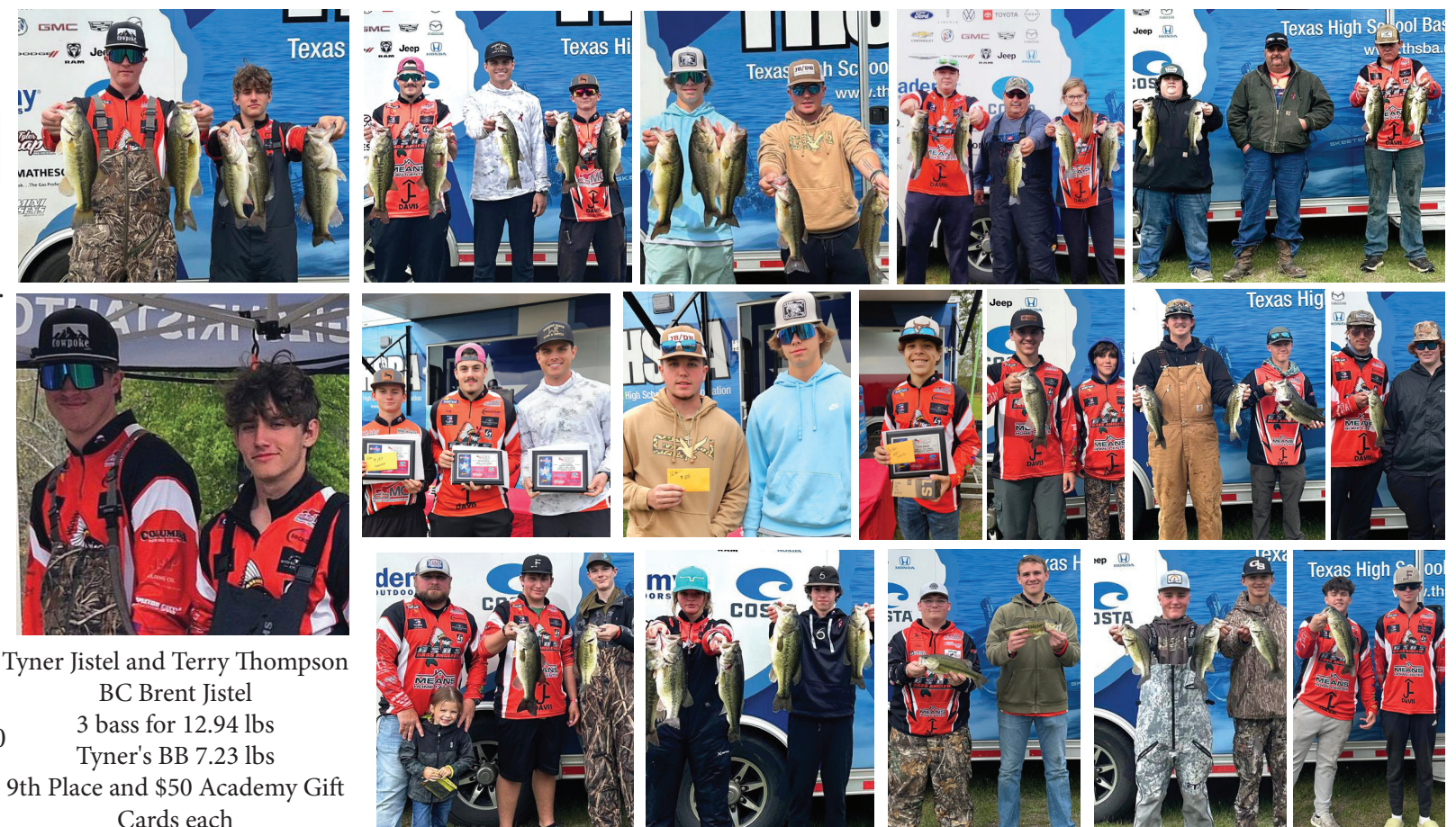
TOY		
#1	Winnsboro	494
#2	Rains	493
#3	Grand Saline	490
#4	Quinlan-Ford HS	484
#5	Alba-Golden	469



Northeast Division 5th
Tournament Season end.
Lake of the Pines
123 Teams Fished
Awards to 18th Place

**Congratulations to
GSHSBA's**

Tyner Jistel and
Terry Thompson
Finished in 3rd Place
Angler of the Year
The TOP 3 AOY Teams
(per Division) receive
Scholarships!!!!
These 2 will split a \$1,000
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Tyner Jistel and Terry Thompson
BC Brent Jistel
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Tyner's BB 7.23 lbs
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High School Fishing

2023-24

NORTHEAST DIVISION

LAKE OF THE PINES



And that's a wrap. Sunday Rains High School Fishing Team competed against 26 other teams, at Lake O' the Pines. 123 teams, and top 18 payout. Weather wasn't favorable. 4 tournaments the day before and one the same day, makes for tough times. This was the last tournament of our regular tournament season. This one was the one that could make you or break you. Who will qualify for Regionals????? Rains came in 3rd place overall. We have 12 teams, all 12 weighed in. Congratulations to you all. Our total weight as a team was 96.32lbs.



Rains had 1 Team in the top 18 and this team placed 1st..... CONGRATULATIONS!!!! First Place Anglers Jason Wilson/Karson Wallace BC James Hervey 23.30lbs weighing in their big bass at 7.35lbs. We are proud of our fishing team family! Every team weighed in and every team fished till the last minute. Skill? Luck? Heart? All of the above. Next tournament, one of our

home lakes. Regionals at Lake Tawakoni. We want to thank our Boat Captains. We love you guys and are so very grateful for you all. You put in your time, money and PATIENCE!!!! You teach these Anglers and you love this team. Thank you for all you do. Without you, this would NOT be a team. See y'all at Regionals Fish On "Be patient and calm-for no one can catch fish in anger." ~Herbert Hoover



Whoa! What a day for the A-G fishing Team!! Each team today weighed in! We are so PROUD of each angler and so thankful for each boat captain! Team - Tucker & Michael placed in the top 18 today with 12th



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FRIDAY APRIL 12TH
SATURDAY APRIL 13TH

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SATURDAY APRIL 13TH

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By Luke Clayton

CRAPPIEFEST MARCH 23rd

The weather for Saturday was 'picture perfect' for the 11th annual Crappiefest held at Lake Fork and headquartered at the beautiful newly constructed Caney Point Recreational Area just off Hwy 154.

Eleven years ago Jay Don Reeve and his wife Rhonda began this annual tournament with the goal to raise money to fight ovarian cancer and provide a fun, well organized big fish tournament that is open to anyone that wishes to fish from the bank, off a dock or in a boat. The event has grown each year into one of the biggest crappie tournaments in the state. And after spending several hours visiting with all the fine folks here, I'd add that it's the best, a tournament that truly can be won by anyone lucky enough to hook and land a big crappie and that includes kids which I am happy to say were present in large numbers.

Each kid present received a free tackle box stuffed with tackle and winners received a trophy and new crappie rod. I wish we had room here to include all the photos of smiling kids weighing in their fish.

My friends Larry Weishuhn, Jeff Rice and I attended the event and although Reeve and I have been friends for years, this was my first time to attend. Through the years, I've been present and competed in several catfish and bass tournaments but never have I attended one that was as well received or planned as Crappiefest. My hat is truly off to Jay Don, his family and friends that put many hours of hard work into making this event the success that it is.

James Rains was the first place winner with a big crappie weighing 2.44 pounds and Steve Shield also landed a barndoor that matched that weight exactly. Jerry Hancock and John Maddox each landed crappie weighing 2.43 pounds which was as close as one can get to first place! The tournament rule is that in case of 2 crappie of equal weight is weighed in, the first is the winner.

There can only be one first place winner in any event but to my way of thinking everyone that attended was a winner. Another way the tournament pays out money is by exact weight, \$500 is paid to the first person weighing in a crappie that tips the scales at exactly 1, 1.25, 1.75 or 2 pounds. It would be hard to top spending a beautiful early spring day in the company of great folks on a lake that is heralded as one of the best crappie fisheries in the southwest.



Jeff Rice was busy filming a segment of the weekly outdoor show that he, Larry Weishuhn and I produce for Carbon TV. "A Sportsman's Life" is also archived on YouTube each week. I was busy visiting with friends and gathering information for this great newspaper. Although Larry "Mr. Whitetail" is well known as a hunting personality, I watched him cover the event with his cameras and interviews like the pro media man he is.

I've had the pleasure to fish quite a bit with Larry; he likes fishing almost as much as he does hunting. Both of us are somewhat 'old school' and consider a successful fishing trip to end when the fillets are dusted in cornmeal and dropped into hot cooking oil.

Reeve has for many years been involved with Crappie Anglers of Texas www.crappieanglersoftexas.com which hosts tournaments throughout the year on lakes known for great crappie fishing. The way to learn about any endeavor is to associate oneself with those with more experience and Reeve says through the years, C.A.T. has helped educate many novice anglers on crappie catching methods not only in the tournaments but seminars and shared information among members.

Fishing methods in this tournament varied greatly. Driving in, we spotted many anglers fishing from the bank and at the weigh in, there were boats rigged with everything from power poles to state of the art electronics. Some were dunking minnows along the bank under corks while others were using spot lock on their electronics to position their boats directly over fish they could watch on the screen of their Livescope while others fished from 14-foot jon boats with 20-hp kickers.

The really cool thing about this tournament is the fact that it could just as easily been won by a first time angler that barely knew how to rig his live minnow to the guy with an eighty thousand boat with all the bells and whistles.

I visited with several contestants and learned that some fish were caught in very shallow water while many reported their best action was in water 12- to 15-foot deep with fish holding close to bottom. The crappie spawn usually begins in March each year, depending upon weather but not all fish move into the shallows at the same time. The spawn is actually a drawn-out event with some fish up shallow spawning, some staging at intermediate depths about to move shallow and some post spawn fish that are moving out to deeper water.

For fourteen years I did an in-depth fishing tips column for the largest newspaper in the state. I always dreaded reporting crappie fishing during the spawn because of the varied conditions fish were being caught. As sure as I gave a report from a pro such as "most fish are coming from the edge of vegetation in water as shallow as 2 feet on one eight ounce white/chartreuse jigs," I would have to respond to a reader that swore he hadn't caught a fish shallow in over a week but live minnows were "tearing them up in 12 feet around submerged brush!"

I've always said that crappie can be the most challenging of fish to catch or... the easiest. Tournaments such as the one this past week end and organizations such as Crappie Anglers of Texas (C.A.T.) is a great way to share crappie



catching knowledge. We've come a long way from when I was a boy and the only way we knew to catch crappie was to drop that minnow down to bottom and fish increments of five feet until we found the fish. Back then I truly believed that every crappie in the lake or pond was holding at exactly the same depth. Boy have we learned a long since the old days!

Contact outdoors writer Luke Clayton through his website www.catfishradio.org Watch A Sportsman's Life on Carbon TV www.carbontv.com or YouTube.

Crappie Anglers of Texas

CRAPPIE COMBO 3/16



The Crappie Anglers of Texas & The Crappie USA Tournament Trail had both scheduled their tournaments for March 16th and came together to have the tournament as one. They worked together and made this a great event!

The weather held out with minimal wind and the rain subsided almost until it was time to pull the lines out.

There were 42 Teams out to catch the best crappie of the day! The two divisions had a huge turnout of some of the best Crappie Anglers in the sport! After a long day of sticking it to the slabs the rainy weigh in began and the awards were handed out!



On the Amateur Side is 1st place with a weight of 14.12 Austin Taylor and Evan Prothro, right behind them in 2nd with a weight of 13.85 Troy Sewell and rounding out the top 3 with a weight of 13.79 Jason Bair and Chawn Cooper!! The Top 3 on the Pro Side, in 1st with the biggest bag of the event weighing 16.43 Kayle Ward and Dillion Gossett, behind them in 2nd with a weight of 15.25 Richie James and Tommy Ezell and rounding out top 3 with 15.12 Clay Gann and Todd Frobee!!



LAKE FORK D1 TOP 5

- 1. Kayle Ward / Dillion Gossett 16.43lbs 7 Fish \$1,600.00
- 2. Tommy Ezell / Richie James 15.25lbs 7 Fish \$992.00
- 3. Clay Gann / Todd Froebe 15.12lbs 7 Fish \$608.00
- 4. Bo Tisdell / Jerry Graham 15.12lbs 7 Fish \$200.00
- 5. Travis & Jamie Decker 14.89lbs 7 Fish
- BIG FISH Cody Peel / Chris Deutsch \$340

LAKE FORK D2 TOP 5

- 1. Austin Taylor / Evan Prothro 14.12lbs 7 Fish \$1,230.00
- 2. Troy & Xander Sorvell 13.85lbs 7 Fish \$738.00
- 3. Jason Blair / Chawn Cooper 13.79lbs 7 Fish \$431.00
- 4. Kip Wright 13.5lbs 7 Fish \$246.00
- 5. Jerry Jones / Paula Mobley 13.22lbs 7 Fish \$154.00
- BIG FISH KIP WRIGHT \$410



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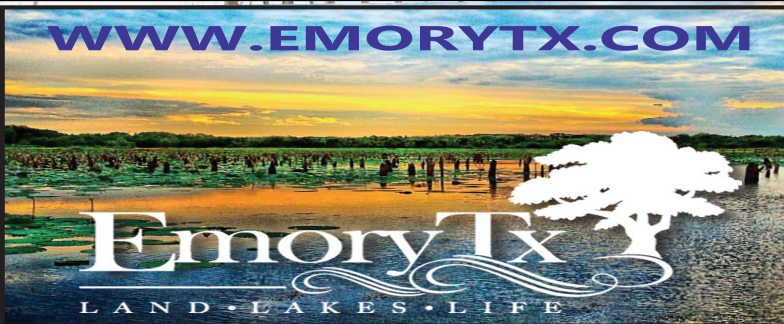
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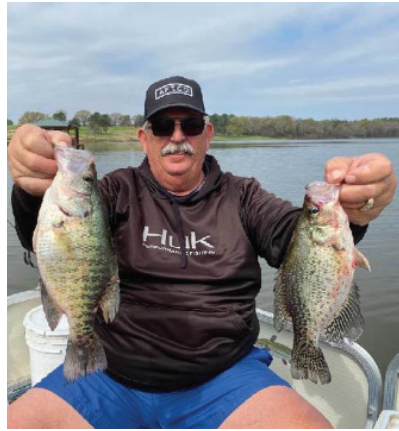
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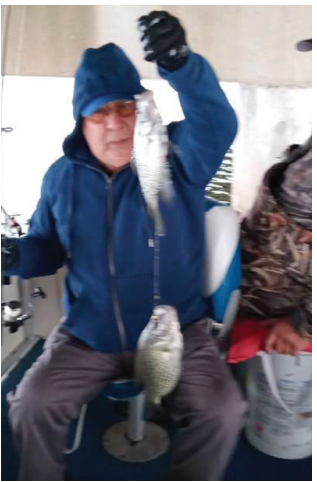
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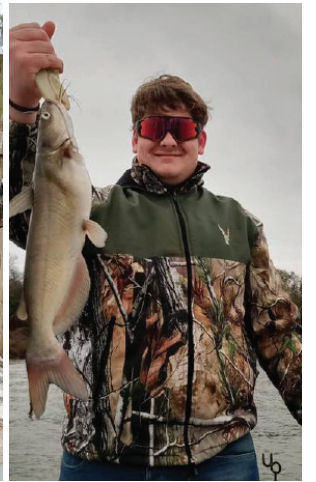
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Quitman Texas



Miguel Loe
Odessa Texas



John Barnett
Odessa Texas



Alex Barwise
Pretoria South Africa

BASS ELITE 2024
Marshall Stan Kuhn

Catfish Guide Stan Kuhn hooked up to Video Championship Sunday!



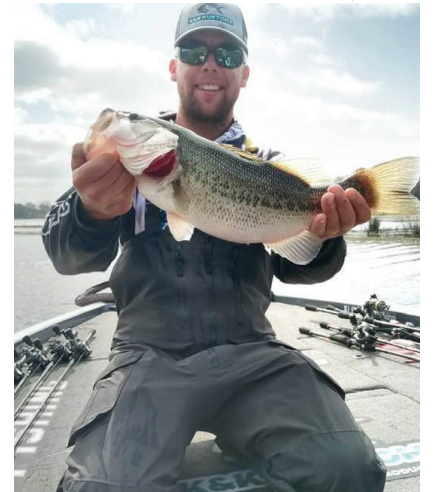
Clark Wendlandt with a nice Lake Fork Bass with Marshall Stan Kuhn



Dave Mercer interviewing Kyle Patrick before takeoff on Championship Sunday!



This is the fish that put Kyle Patrick over 100lbs & his 1st Centuey Belt on Championship Sunday



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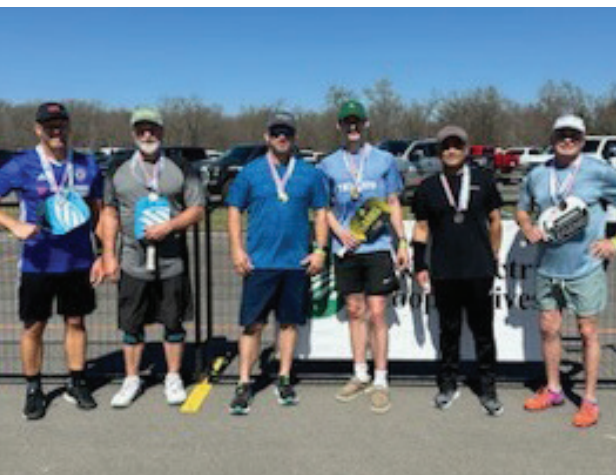
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Lake Fork Family Fest - Fun & Fishing!

Lake Fork Family Fest Was a Success

The Pilot Club of Quitman partnered with Wood County, the Wood County Economic Development Commission, and the Sabine River Authority at Lake Fork to present the Inaugural Lake Fork Family Fest on March 2 and 3rd. SRA and WCECD selected the QPC to organize a fun, family-oriented event, which included a pickleball tournament, a cornhole tournament, and fun for kids. There were also free concerts each day, with Eric George on Saturday and Neal McCoy on Sunday. For organizing, the club was the beneficiary of any proceeds.

The Pilot Chairwoman of the event said, "All activities and concerts that took place this past weekend were made possible because of over 30 generous area sponsors. Our community members have big hearts and showed off our region to the fullest this weekend. We can't thank them



enough, from our top-level sponsors all the way to our T-shirt sponsors. And, we are also extremely grateful to SRA and WCED for selecting our club."

The winners of the pickleball tournament were: Men's Doubles: First place Weston Baker and Cliff Bake; second place Nicco Warren Eric Milford; third place Jerry Davies and Oscar Rendon.

Mixed Doubles: First place Susan Moreno and Brad Stanford; second place Clair Huff, Jerry Huff; and third place Heather Warren and Nicco Warren.

Continued On Page 21

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Lake Fork Family Fest - Fun & Fishing!



Women's Doubles Skill: Brandi Scharrer and Melissa Johnson; second place Carmen Kosik and Laura Dennis; and third place Selena Reyes and Terri Zetsche

The winners of cornhole were: were: First place, Ricky Bennett and Stacey W.; second place Aaron Graham and Marlene Martinez; and third place, Enrique Mar and James Hall.

The fest also included plenty of activities for kids, such as the Creature Teacher, who brought a kangaroo, Patagonian cavy, chameleon, rabbit, tortoise, snake, armadillo, tarantula, and scorpion. Another hit was Texas Parks and Wildlife's catfish tank, where kids could practice catch and release.

"What a great event. We had delicious food trucks, wonderful music, and some great vendors. It was a marvelous two days! But more importantly, the proceeds from those two days help support our club's work in the community, and we have many ways that we give back, large and small", said Pat Durst, Club President.

The Pilot Club of Quitman is a chapter of Pilot International. All funds raised at the event support the non-profit and all-volunteer club's mission of providing education for the prevention of traumatic brain injury and offering services



to those suffering from brain-related disorders, such as Alzheimer's, Stroke, and Autism. Bicycle Safety, Project LifeSaver, Scholarships, Special Olympics and being the program partner for the Dolly Parton Imagination Library, are just a few of their efforts important to our community's health, safety and quality of life.



Thank you to Rich and The Cooper Family for helping out selling tickets for the benefit on behalf of the AG fishing team. Y'all are amazing !!



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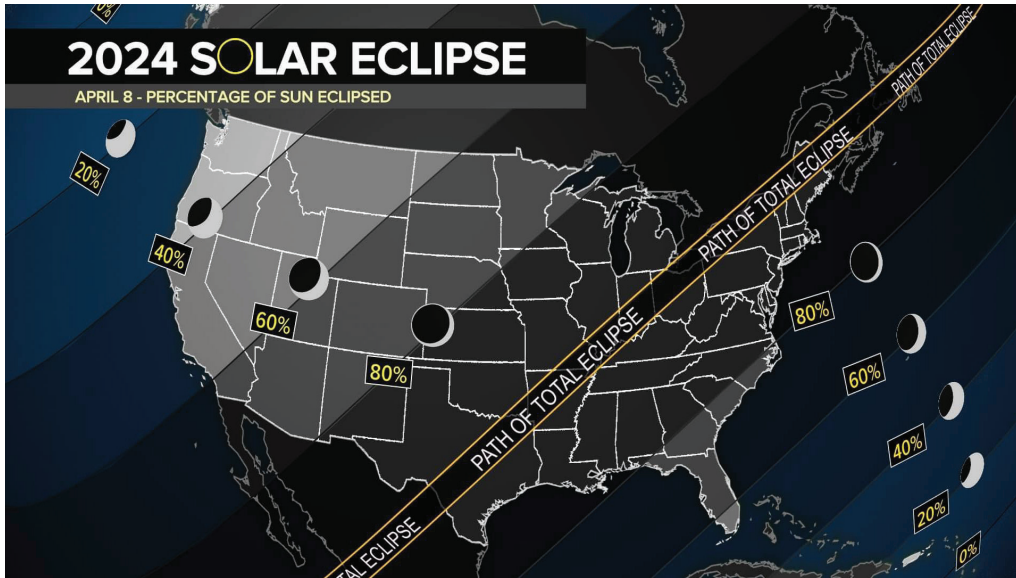
“Public Service Announcement:
I really cannot emphasize this enough. Don't stop reading just because “astronomy isn't your thing” or you're “not a science nerd like Nathaniel.”

In 23 days, on the afternoon of April 8, one of the most important global events you will ever have the incredible privilege of being able to witness will be right on our doorstep. The Total Solar Eclipse typically is a once in a lifetime event or even less for people who are unaware or unable to travel for it. By some miracle, our generation of Southerners has been afforded 3 of them - in 2017, 2024, and 2044. Before 2017, the last one that was accessible to people in this portion of the country was in 1918, and we were on the tail end of that one. We are now front and center for the second of the three for this generation, the most magnificent and longest-lasting of the three, and if you love yourself and your family, then I beseech you, consider your plans on this day. When I ask people if they experienced totality in 2017, some people say “yeah, I think so.” If you don't know, then no you did not. You would remember. The distinction between 99% coverage and 100% coverage is SIGNIFICANT and ASTRONOMICAL. There are no words that suffice. At 99%, you can kind of see that the moon is covering the sun quite a bit, you put on some paper glasses and say “huh, that's cool,” and move on with your life after 30 seconds. During 100% totality, you don't have to wear glasses - the disc of the moon blots out the sun

but makes all the more visible the peripheral rage of the sun - the true extent of its light and radiation, the phenomena of the sun that you don't get to see because it is too bright. Your whole world goes dark in the middle of the day, the crickets chirp, animals become uneasy and howl, it gets noticeably colder, and shadows of the unseen elements of the Earth's atmosphere dance across the ground like an astronomical disco. It is awe-inspiring, and there is no way to explain it to someone who hasn't seen it before without sounding crazy. I have traveled this incredible planet and seen so many wonderful things - the sun rising and setting on every ocean, the polar ice caps and the highest dunes of the most vast deserts, the highest mountains and widest valleys, and nothing, I mean nothing, compared to experiencing the total solar eclipse of 08-21-2017 in the parking lot of a transmission shop in Paducah, Kentucky. I am making plans to see this in a more aesthetic location. If you have children, and you want them to have incredible memories of their childhood and the things you facilitated for them, drive them to totality. If you yourself just want to be a little more fulfilled with your life experiences and travels and are always seeking out new ways to enjoy God's creation, drive to totality. If you have an older loved one who has never been able to travel far and see all the natural wonders of the world, take them with you to totality. Many of my friends work in museums or are park rangers in the 80-99% zone and plan on having “eclipse parties.” That is, with all due



respect, a really bad idea. This is bigger than your business, park, museum, club, whatever. If you do anything, rent a bus and take people to totality. I know it sounds crazy, but I hope others who experienced it in 2017 can chime in and attest - you need to make this happen for yourself. It is an incredibly rare and beautiful thing that we were placed on a planet where this is even possible EVER - that the sizes of the sun and moon, their distances from Earth and all the orbits could ever align to make this happen. Then, for it to happen a few times a century on that planet in a few local areas and we are it. The solar eclipse is a wonder of Creation and the most understated event of the decade.”
-Nathaniel Newlin



Be Prepared 2024 Solar Eclipse

What to Expect

- Beginning April 4th, likely to see an increase in visitors to our area.
- Increase in vehicular traffic on roads.
- Traffic congestion on April 8th. Be prepared for those stopping on roads as the sky darkens.
- Possibility of limited cell service during this time.
- Animals change in behaviors.

Plan Ahead

- Stock up on essentials / necessary provisions.
- Purchase at least 1 week of groceries before April 5th. (if possible)
- Fuel up your vehicles on or before April 5th.

April 4th - April 8th
Total Eclipse - April 8th - 1:32 pm - 1:41 pm

Winnboro Fire Dept. * Non-Emergency Number: 903.342.3655 * Email: firechief@winnborotexas.com

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April

I Pray that April is the Month filled with Good News, Many Blessings, New Opportunities, Healing and Love.

Amen!

Veteran News Updates



If you are having suicidal thoughts please Dial or Text 988.
Call, or Text 988
Suicide & Crisis Lifeline
Veterans Dial: 1
Or text: 838255



GOT YOUR 6 FOUNDATION FISH FRY

They Got Your 6 Foundation gathered for a fish Fry at USMC Veteran Wesley Marsh's property. They fried up some fish and hush puppies down by the lake for our Wood County Veterans, Law Enforcement, Firefighters, and Emergency Medical Personnel. This is a family friendly event. All service members and First responders were encouraged to bring their significant other and children! There was no charge for food, and no membership fee to pay. We serve you, veterans, first responders and family members. We are a non-profit, so donations are always appreciated.

What a great way to spend a Sunday afternoon! Thank you to our host for the Fish Fry - Veterans and First Responders Of Wood County, Wesley Marsh and his family! Thank you Matt and Jim for keeping the food coming all day! If you missed this event, keep an eye out for future gatherings on our website event calendar link here: <https://www.theygotyour6foundation.org/event-calendar>



WOOD COUNTY MARINE CORP LEAGUE

Wood County Marine Corps League Detachment #1278 member, Bobby Ullman, was called upon by Marine Corps League Detachment 959 of Longview, Texas to perform the swearing in of their 2024 newly elected officers. His wife, Brenda and fellow member, Randy Busk were present to watch the ceremony! We thank you Bobby for your continued support of the Marine Corps League in East Texas!

During this month's Wood County Marine Corps League monthly meeting the installation of Officers and New members were completed. Chaplain, Bobby Ullman, conducted the installation of Officers per MCL ritual:

Kelly Smith - Commandant
Laura Terry - Sr. Vice Commandant
Wesley Marsh - Jr. Vice Commandant
Steve Lucas - Judge Advocate
Appointed:

Renee Smith - Paymaster
Jenni Biesheuvel - Adjutant
Dennis Denoi - Sergeant at Arms
Bobby Ullman - Chaplain
Web Sergeant - Sarah Lucas

Commandant, Kelly Smith, conducted the installation of New Members per MCL ritual:
Kitten Garrett
Michael Garrett
Brandie Guillam-Ogle
Jeremy Ogle
Rodney Schaul

Walker Marsh
Shannon Marsh
James Melott
Barbara Melott
Charlie George
Michael Fatheree
Jeanette Fatheree
Krysabelle Gilbert
Keith Gilbert
Janie Ussery

Richard Ussery
Margaret Miles
Jason Howland
Jenny Howland
Not present:
Timothy Maples
Joy Read-Belt
James Muncie
Mike Billman
Christi Billman



We look forward to another productive year of working with our fellow members to support veterans and their families within Wood County with many programs. Next meeting will be on 16 April 2024.
6:00pm Potluck dinner
7:00pm Monthly meeting
at Armed Texans' Classroom



Crossword Challenge

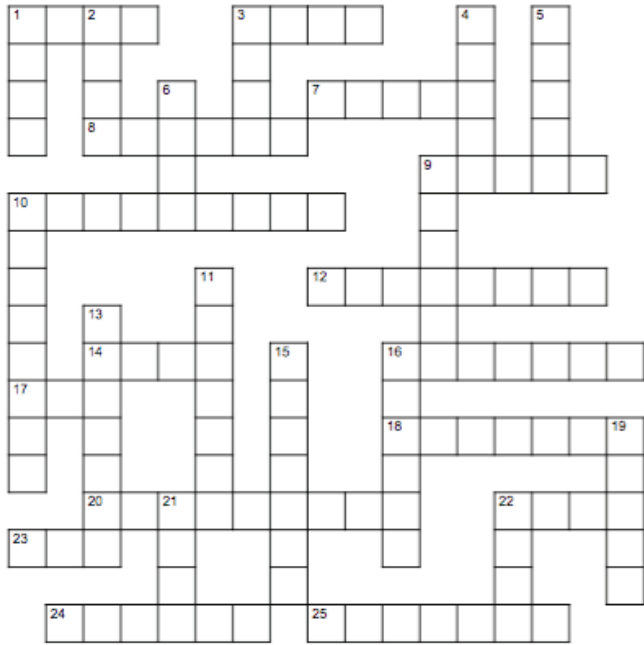
(Answers on page 28)

Word Search Challenge

- Across
- Baby cow.
 - Might be used to make cheese.
 - Used for irrigation.
 - Could be used for carrying water.
 - More than one goose.
 - Used to frighten birds away from crops.
 - Structure that makes energy from wind.
 - What you find in the chicken coop.
 - Slow moving vehicle used to tow things.
 - A female sheep.
 - A male chicken.
 - Colorful plant grown for food.
 - Shelter for many farm animals.
 - Tool for weeding.
 - Group of animals on a dairy farm.
 - She lays eggs.

- Down
- Grain that grows on a cob.
 - Baby sheep.
 - Offspring of a donkey and a horse.
 - Animal you can ride.
 - Barley, wheat, corn, etc.
 - 43560 square feet.
 - Male goose.
 - They watch over a flock of sheep.
 - Where animals graze.
 - Where honey is made.
 - Where fruit trees grow.
 - Poultry raised for Thanksgiving Day.
 - A large cattle farm.
 - It might be a billy or a nanny.
 - Large, tied bundle of straw.

Down on the Farm



Fish Word Search

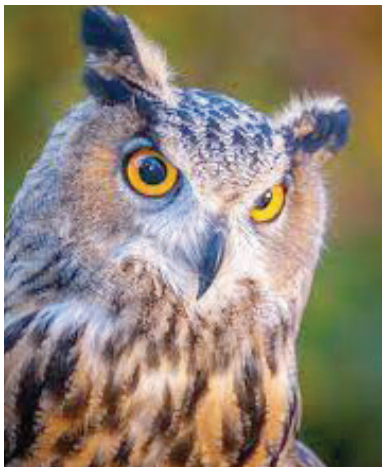


- BONY
- CAMOUFLAGE
- CARNIVORE
- CARTILAGINOUS
- COLD-BLOODED
- DIVERSE
- EELS
- EGGS
- FINGERLING
- FINS
- FRESHWATER
- GILLS
- HERBIVORE
- ICHTHYOLOGIST
- JAWLESS
- LATERAL LINE
- OCEAN
- OVERFISHING
- OXYGEN
- PREDATORS

- SCALES
- SCHOOL
- SHARKS
- SHOAL
- SPINE
- SWIM BLADDER
- VERTEBRATE

DID YOU KNOW?

The Blobfish, which lives at great depths in the ocean, is often referred to as the ugliest fish in the world.



Advice from a Wise 'Ol Owl

STAY FOCUSED - BE "HOO" YOU ARE - TRUST IN A WISE FRIEND - LIVE OFF THE LAND

GLIDE THROUGH THE DARK TIMES - BE OBSERVANT - LIFE WILL BE A HOOT!

Even if we disagree about everything we can still be kind to each other.

Every situation in life is temporary. So, when life is good, make sure you enjoy and receive it fully. And when life is not so good, remember that it will not last forever and better days are on the way.

-Jenni Young

"You're only here for a short visit. Don't hurry. Don't worry. And be sure to smell the flowers along the way."

Audrey Hepburn

"To plant a garden is to believe in tomorrow."

Thanks to those who hurt me, you made me a stronger person. Thanks to those who loved me, you made my heart bigger. Thanks to those who cared, you made me feel important. Thanks to those who showed concern, you let me know that you care. Thanks to those who left, you showed me that not everything is forever. Thanks to those who stayed, you showed me the true meaning of friendship. Thanks to those who entered my life, you helped me become the person I am TODAY.
— Unknown

11 Things to Remember Today

- Speak kindly to yourself.
- Be grateful for the little things.
- Move your body in fun ways
- Take time for self-care.
- Rest and recharge.
- Be a source of positivity and light.
- Smile. Pray. Give thanks.
- Forgive quickly.
- Take time to laugh.
- Celebrate small wins.
- Remember, you are enough.



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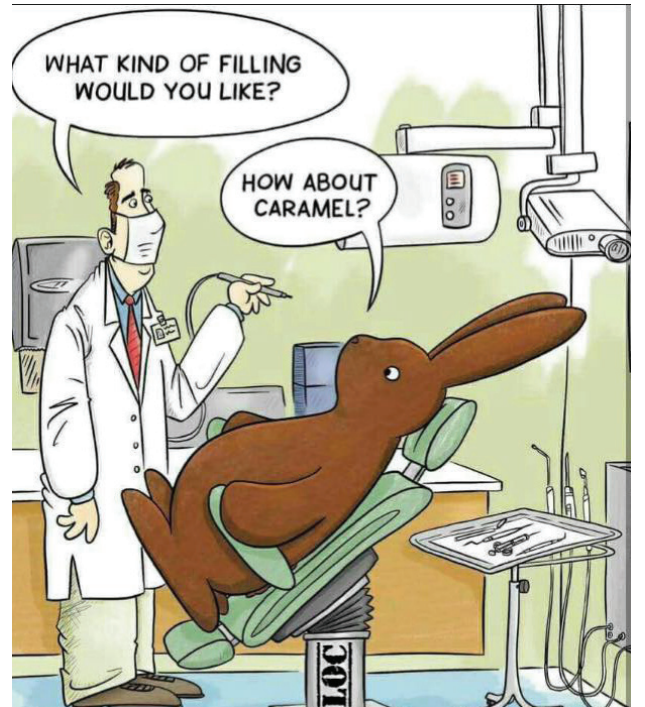


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2024 TOTAL ECLIPSE IS COMING GET YOUR GEAR!

Has your organization been feeling temporarily lost in the shade? Are you looking for a unique way to shine some light on your Business or Organization this spring?



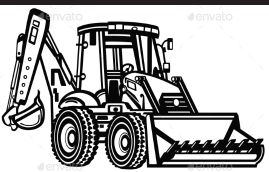
This summer will see one of the few total Solar Eclipse events on April 8th 2024. East Texas will be in direct path of the full eclipse and provides an excellent way to commemorate the special moment while also highlighting your business with Jammie's Jack'd Up Designs! Our Studio offers multiple customizable options to put your organization on the map with potential customers and loyal repeat clients such as, Pens, Keychains, UV stickers and Shirts! Our minimum order count of twelve(12) of any item makes a great way to explore custom options during this once-every-18-year phenomenon. Contact Us Now and schedule your order at Jammie's Jack'd Up Designs 903-932-7873



Jammie's Jack'd Up Designs

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WELLNESS FOR THE SPIRIT

Answered Prayers

Stories of answered prayers can strengthen our faith and offer hope and reassurance. While we don't know what causes God to answer prayer, we strive to pray from a place of authenticity and humility. When you are in a challenging moment, remember answered prayers in your own lives and the lives of those around you.

What Prayer Can Do: Blanket of Peace
BY SHERRY KING

She found comfort while awaiting a cancer diagnosis.

I lay down on the gurney, and a nurse spread a thin blanket over me to keep me comfortable. "You'll have a short wait before we can do your ultrasound," she said. She started an IV and then pulled a curtain around the little cubicle to give me some privacy. "Just try to relax until then."

When a recent colonoscopy had revealed a cancerous tumor, I wanted it out of my body as soon as possible. But the doctors first needed to develop a treatment plan based on the stage of the cancer. The endoscopic ultrasound that day would reveal how serious my condition was. What if the cancer had spread?

Covid restrictions had prevented my husband from keeping me company before my procedure. Once the nurse left, it was just me in that cubicle, all alone with my fears. And the Lord. Help me get through this, I prayed. And whatever comes next.

Worst-case scenarios ran through my head. What if surgery couldn't help? What if there was nothing the doctors could do?

Then, out of nowhere, a feeling of peace descended. It settled over me like a blanket, covering me,

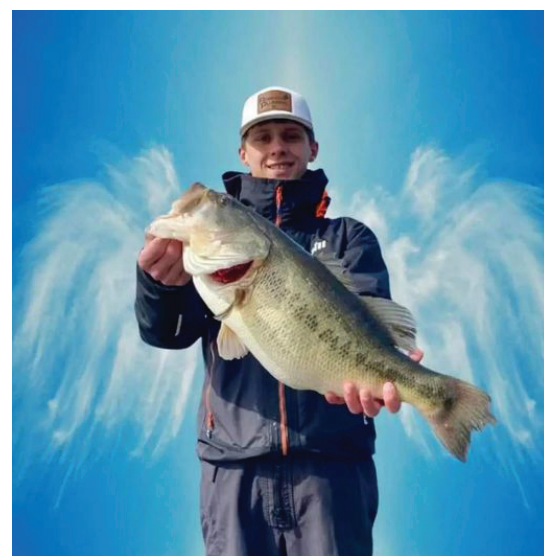
smothering my fears. Looking down, I realized that my left hand was bunched up in an actual blanket—the one the nurse had spread over me.

I remembered a story in the Gospel of Matthew. The one about the ailing woman whose faith was so strong that she only had to touch the hem of Jesus' robe to be healed.

This must be what the hem of that robe felt like, I thought, rubbing the thin blanket.

The sensation of the fabric between my fingers calmed me and made the Lord feel even closer. By the time the nurse returned to take me to the procedure room for the ultrasound, I was ready to face whatever came next.

The ultrasound showed that my cancer had not spread. The tumor is gone now, removed by a surgeon. But I still remember the feel of that blanket in my hand and the peace it brought me.



Here at in the Lake Fork Area we recently lost a young soul Kale Robinson from Winnsboro. At the age of only 17 years old and on a great day catching his best fish ever 8.lbs, helping the Winnsboro Fishing Team win first place and in a flash in time his life was over.

This was devastating for everyone at the event including his family, team members, friends and fellow fishing teams. As we all move forward and pay tributes of all kind for Kale, let us continue to seek God's guidance to make such a tragic thing become something positive within us all - to continue our prayers for the family and the entire community of Winnsboro.

Let us celebrate the wonderful life that Kale lived by spreading our love and kindness to one another on a daily basis.

We all grieve in various ways and stages so make sure you reach out to someone that can help you through this and above all pray for the Positive ways we can honor his memory in all that we do!



WHO OR WHAT SHAPES YOUR LIFE
prbss423@gmail.com

Above all else guard your heart, for it is the well-spring of life. (NIV)

Respect of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. Knowledge of the Holy One results in understanding. Prb 9-10 (NLT)

You can sure that God will rescue the children of the godly. Prb 11:21 (LB)

Those who help others are helped. Prb 11:25 (MSG)

A life devoted to things is a dead life, a stump. A God shaped life is a flourishing tree. Prb 11:28 (MSG)

Proverbs 13-7

A pretentious, showy life is an empty life; a plain and simple life is a full life. (MSG) One man pretends to be rich, yet has nothing; another pretends to be poor, yet has great wealth. (NIV)

Proverbs 15:1

A gentle response defuses anger, but a sharp tongue kindles a temper-fire. (MSG) A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger. (NIV)

Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and your plans will succeed. Prb 16:3 (NIV)

We should make plans – counting on God to direct us. Prb 16-9 (LB)

The wise in heart are called discerning, and pleasant words promote instruction. Prb 16:21 (NIV)

Those who listen to instruction will prosper; those who trust the Lord will be happy. Prb 16:20

Choose a good reputation over great riches, for being help in high esteem is better than having silver or gold. Prb 22:1 (NIV)

Take the challenge, read Proverbs in The Bible and find those that help you become the best version of yourself.

Gerald Schmidt
www: WhoOrWhatShapesYourLife.blog

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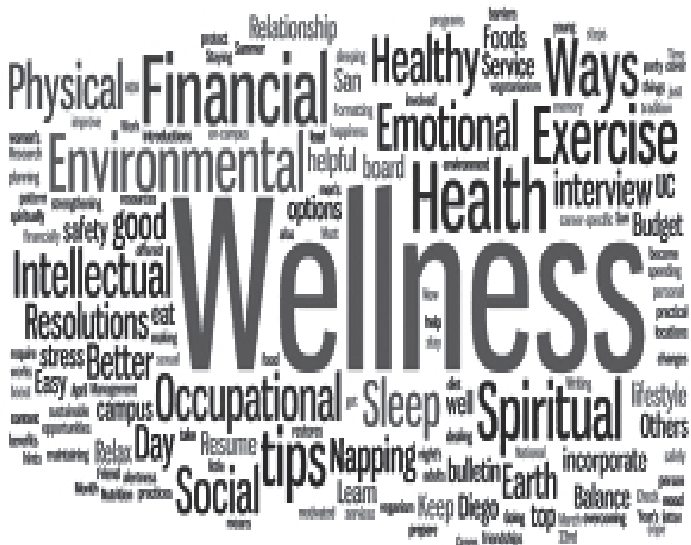
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HEALTH AND WELLNESS



Wellness and illness are ways of life. they are not isolated, but suspended in the integrated human system of each of us. If a person is ill and wish to sustain wellness, he/she will require changing in every area of how he/she lives. It means that a person has to change negative life-style to positive ones.

Wellness is defined as the optimal functioning of body and creative adapting to environment that involves the whole person. It is a state of being described as positive health. It is more than just Physical Fitness. It includes Physical Fitness but is multidimensional. The dimensions of wellness spell SPICE which stands for-

- S – Spiritual aspects (Values and Ethics)
- P – Physical (Fitness, Nutrition, Sleep)
- I – Intellectual (Quest for Continuous Learning)
- C – Community (Family, Fitness, Environment)
- E – Emotional aspects (Self-esteem, Positive outlook. Mental Health)

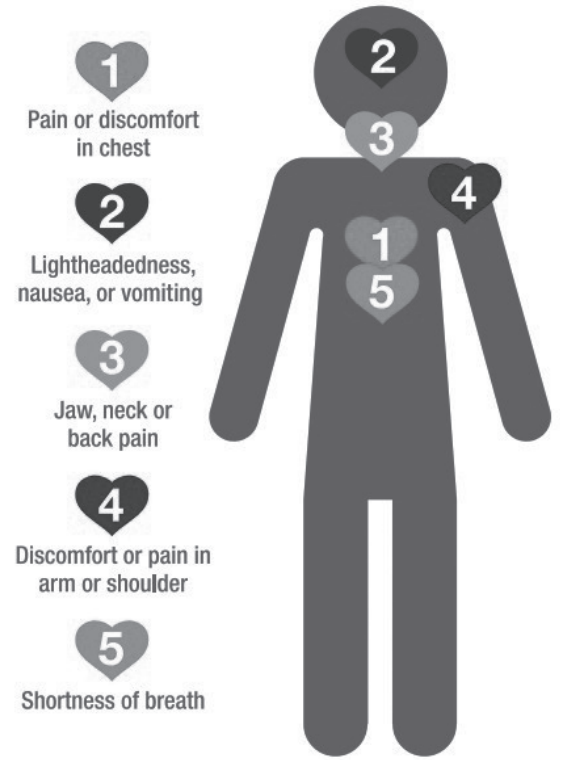
Four essential ingredients of wellness are -
 1. A long approach emphasizing permanent positive life-style changes.

2. Taking responsibility of one's own actions.
3. Adding years of one's life, and life to those years.
4. making judicious choices/decisions which improve an individualise position on the life-style continuum. Thus, the term Wellness can also be defined as the constant and deliberate effort to remain healthy and attain highest potential for well being which can be achieved through participation in regular physical activity and by following positive life-style habits. It aims to recognize those life-style habits that are detrimental to health of an individual and guide him to follow those guidelines that improve quality of life and achieve total well-being.

HOW to survive a heart attack when YOU ARE ALONE?!

As many people are alone when they suffer a heart attack, it's helpful to know how to survive it . The person whose heart starts beating out of rhythm will feel weak and has only about 10 seconds before they faint . Yet these victims can help themselves by coughing repeatedly and very vigorously . For every cough take a deep breath and the cough is held in deep and long like you are trying to cough up mucus . Breathing and coughing should be

SIGNS ~ SYMPTONS OF A HEART ATTACK



repeated every two seconds and held until help is provided, or until the heart returns to normal . Deep breathing gives oxygen into your lungs and through the coughing movements you squeeze the heart and maintain blood circulation . The pinching pressure on the heart also helps it get into a normal rhythm . With this method there is a possibility that victims of heart attack can get to hospital or other help in time . Spread the word to as many people as you can . It could save their lives!



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The Good 'ol days...remember when?



1966 - Group shot of children who appear on CBS television shows. Back row from left: Bill Mummy (plays Will Robinson in *Lost in Space*), Barry Livingston (as Ernie in *My Three Sons*), Ron Howard (as Opie Taylor in *The Andy Griffith Show*). Middle row from left is Anissa Jones (as Buffy Davis in *Family Affair*), Stanley Livingston (as Chip Douglas, *My Three Sons*), Johnny Whitaker (as Jody Davis in *Family Affair*). Front row is Clint Howard (as Mark Wedloe in *Gentle Ben*).

Puzzle Answers

CALF MILK H C
 O A U L W A T E R O R
 R M A L W A T E R O R
 N B U C K E T S P
 R G E E S E
 S C A R E C R O W A N
 H P W I N D M I L L
 E B A E
 P B A E
 H E G G S O T R A C T O R
 E W E T R U
 R H U C H R O O S T E R
 D I R H K A
 H O E O R Y A B A R N C
 A D Y A L H
 C A T T L E C H I C K E N

R J J G N I L R E G N I F S O Z U K S V C
 T B E R N A R P C O Y O X C F R Y P M O J
 S A S G R E X Y A N Z F Q H D M I E S X A
 H E V W O C I M S A G P R O U N K R V Y W
 O E N S H T O Y O E K Y U O E X J H B G L
 A A R I O U Q C N C I P W L H P B N O E E
 L E N B E F U R T D O F I L U T G U R V N S
 R A R L I G N I H S I F R E V O B T J P S
 I P A U Y V C A R T I L A G I N O U S R
 P G N J S E O L C U G C R L H C C X N V L
 E I J I R G A R R O M V Q H D H F F W Y S
 N P U S O Q V G E F L Q S Q M T E R F Z C
 I M E S L N K S H N D O M S H W E K L A
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GROUPS & CLUBS

THE YANTIS LAKE FORK LIONS CLUB
 meets on the 2nd Thursday each month at
 6p.m. at the Yantis Community Center

WCCC WILLIAM CREEK CRAPPIE CLUB

Check out our website:
 "williamscreekcrappieclub.com"
 Contact us at:
 "williamscreekcrappieclub@gmail.com"
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 and life to your years".

LAKE FORK ANGLERS

For information on Joining the Lake Fork Anglers
 send an inquiry to sjbasser@gmail.com.
 We only fish on Thursdays daytime at Lake Fork.
 New member fee is \$20. Dues is \$5 a year
 and tournaments are \$15, We are currently looking for
 new members= Boaters.

THE WELL ARMED WOMAN

shooting chapter of Lake Fork meets on the 1st
 Thursday each month at Winnsboro Gun Club range in
 Winnsboro. Shoot at 4pm until 7pm for
 more information contact: 903-473-9819

Join Our Sewing Group :



The Sewing Circle

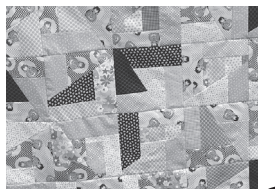
Just a weekly sewing and Crafting get together
 Learning from each other & Fellowship
 Some beginner quilting classes will be offered for
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 interested in Quilting, Crafts

We Sew every Wednesday starting at 10:am

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 email: bevillpaula@gmail.com

We Will soon offer Nighttime class
 or Saturday Class

Come Join Us For
 Fun & Fellowship!
 We Have Lunch
 Together Too!
 We Each Bring a Dish



Mineola Library News & Events

Mineola Memorial Library's Notes
 by Mary Hurley

Greetings to you all.

Toddler Story Time continues on Tuesdays
 at 9am for children ages 18 months to 3
 years with their parent / caregiver. This
 groups hears a story, completes a related
 activity, and has fun playing and socializing
 together.

Preschool Story Time is on Wednesdays at
 10am for the 3ish to 5 year olds with their
 parent / caregivers. They listen to several
 stories then complete an activity related to
 the story.

We follow several book clubs: Reese With-
 erspoon, Read with Jenna, GMA, Mocha
 Girls Read, East Texas Library Friends,
 East Texas Perfectionists, and a decades

reading challenge. We have a display near
 the water cooler if you would like to see
 what others are reading and maybe find
 something new to try.

Can't make it into Mineola to our Library?
 There are a number of great library's in the
 area each with their own unique style. Sul-
 phur Springs, Winnsboro, Alba Library and
 Museum, and Quitman just to name a few.

Mary Hurley
 Mineola Memorial Library



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FISHING REPORT BY ANDREW GRILLS

It's been a good spring so far on Lake Fork! The lake is in great shape right now. The water level is close to full pool, and the temperature is close to 60 degrees first thing in the mornings.

Spring came early for us this year with an unseasonably warm February. I believe most of the bass are finished spawning, but there are still a few more coming in what I believe will be the last "wave".

You'll hear fishermen referring

to "waves" of fish coming in large groups to spawn. In reality, for the last few years there has been one big wave. There are always a few "early birds" and at the end there will be some "stragglers". However, with the hard cold snaps and strong warming trends we've had the last couple of years, it seems like most of the fish move up to spawn at the same time.

This is a great scenario the first few days it is taking place. Everybody seems to be catching

www.LakeForkGuideAndrewGrills.com
andrew@lakeforkguideandrewgrills.com

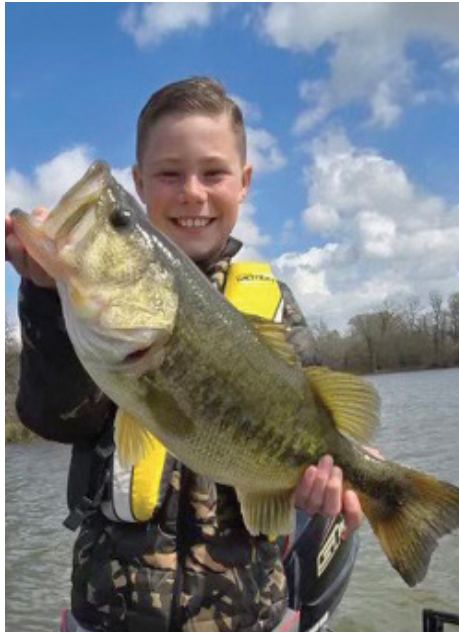
ANDREW GRILLS
LAKE FORK GUIDE
(903) 638-1170

fish and having great days, but eventually at some point, most of the fish have been caught. Then you are left with a bunch of finicky fish that have been caught numerous times in the recent weeks.

That's where we are now: dealing with a bunch of finicky post spawn bass. There's a silver lining though. In mid April there should be a bunch of hungry post spawners out and about!

After the spawn, bass need two or three weeks to lick their wounds, so to speak. There will be a period of tough fishing while they recover from the stress of spawning. However, when that period of time is over, the best fishing of the year usually follows. This April should be a great month!

Hopefully your next trip to Lake Fork is a good one! If I can be of assistance please don't hesitate to contact me.



GREG HILL LAKE FORK GUIDE

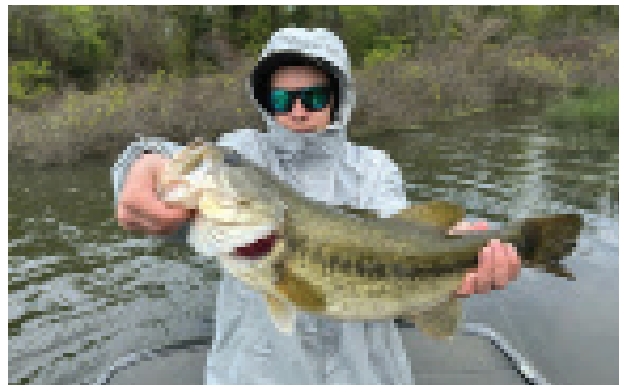
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FOB Lake Fork. Check them out and see what seemed to work last year at these time frames. I would then try determining where some of the major bass spawning and shad spawn areas are on the lake. That isn't that hard, Glade Creek, Big and Little Mustang, Birch to name a few for bass spawn areas. Dale Point, Mustang Point, Hobbs point, and Dr.'s point to name a few for the shad spawn areas. They are all places where the fish are going to migrate to for the spawn and the shad are going to spawn on as well. Do your map study of these areas and where you think the fish will be.

I would then divide my time to throwing on the points for the shad spawn in those morning hours and then transition to bed fishing. Hopefully you still have good vision because it will give you a distinct advantage over people who cannot see as well. Just remember the clear water is a better candidate for swim baits. This is a time of year when the really large swim baits can help attract big bites from those females looking to support their egg production and those just chasing the gizzard shad. Get out on these long points off the main lake that they will suspend and stage on before moving back into the creeks and/or move up on to hunt down those Lake Fork gizzard shad.

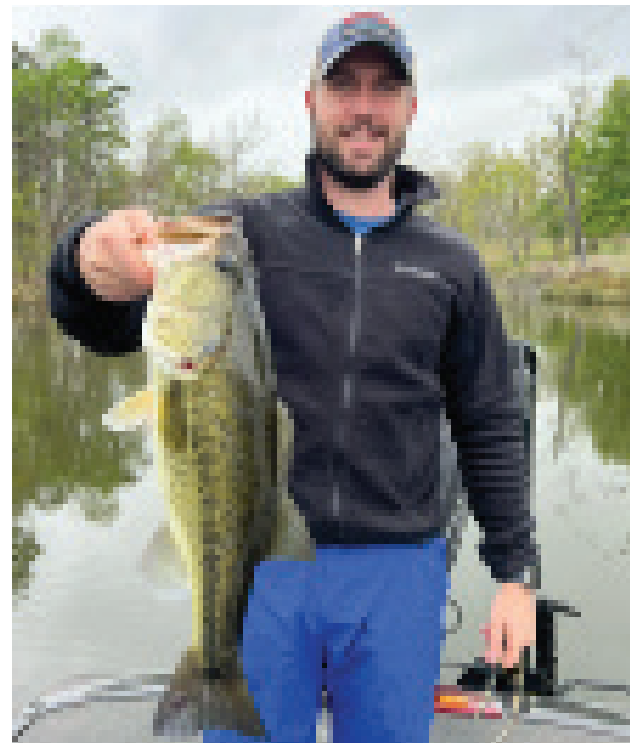
Right now is a really good time to fish. There are more and more boats on the water every day now. I have April 24,29, and available. I have quite a few days in May still so give me a call and book one of these days while you can. It is going to be a great spring spawn and shad spawn season as usual I think.

Folds of Honor and Lake Fork Trophy Lures: Please remember Lake Fork Trophy Lures is donating 10% of your purchase to the Folds of Honor charity when you use the "FOH". This veteran non-profit helps provide assistance to Gold Star families. I use their swim baits



both alone and as trailers on my chatter baits and spinner baits. Using their Magic Shad in the 5.5 size is one of my favorite big fish baits both at night and during the day. You can throw these baits right into the heart of a thick tree and work it through like a fleeing shad.

Book your trip now!! Don't wait! .. If you would like to book a guide trip this year, go to my website www.foblakefork.com and send me an email. Be sure to follow me on Face book, Instagram, and my YouTube Channel for the latest updates. There are links from my website or you can find all of them by searching for FOB Lake Fork. You can call as well at 972-824-4774. Dates for the shad spawn are starting to book up so don't wait to long. Consider taking a night fishing trip here on Lake Fork if you haven't done it before. Don't forget to check out my AirBnB as well that is located on the main lake on 4.5 acres with a 270deg view by clicking on the link at my website in the Guide Service section. See my social media from my website. Plan early for next year. I am already booking up well into the summer and fall. Do not wait to long. A few weeks ago someone booked two days for March of 2025!



I am looking for a buyer for my 2022 Skeeter FXR21 with 250 SHO. Call me for details. I am ordering my 2024. Give me a call. I think you would appreciate getting a boat with the electronics pre loaded with a bunch of good fishing spots!! Good luck and I hope everyone gets the trophy of a life time. I want to say thank you to my sponsors, Quantum Fishing Reels, Temple Fork Outfitters rods, and Diamond Sports Marine. I really appreciate them and their products get me through each fishing day chasing down these Lake Fork TANKS. Remember, here at Forward Operating Base Lake Fork our motto is LEAVE NO FISH BEHIND

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Wood County News & Events

ALBA GOLDEN FFA

the Alba-Golden FFA Chapter hosted our 3rd Annual AGILE. We would like to thank Mr. DJ Wernecke for coming out and judging all of our animals and the Alba-Golden Young Farmers for supporting us and making our chapter show happen. Also, a big thank you to all of our buckle sponsors. Congratulations to all of our winners and participants!

- Rabbits Grand Champion: Deacon Hall
- Reserve Champion: Bethany Tunnell
- Chickens Grand Champion: Will Louderman
- Reserve Champion: Halley Peterson
- Goats Grand Champion: Jaycie Slocum
- Reserve Champion: Addison Nichols
- Swine Grand Champion: Payton Galyean
- Reserve Champion: Harli Dugan
- Heifers Grand Champion: Hannah Shackelford
- Reserve Champion: Payton Oliver
- Steers Grand Champion: Payzlee Fitzgerald
- Reserve Champion: Jaden Smith



The Prairie Classroom Adventures



Fun afternoon at Riders Up at Lake Fork Stables! The kiddos worked through a Harry Potter inspired horse-powered reading program. They did a story circle with their "horse books", shot waterguns at lettered cups to create words, did a pooper scooper race to learn harness parts, and finally, created a reading river. They loved leading Fernando and Mystic, gaining confidence with these gentle giants. We'll be back! Riders Up offers therapeutic riding lessons. Contact Valerie Johnston Mellema for more information!



YANTIS East Texas State Fair ART

Yantis students received awards for the East Texas State Fair Academic Rodeo Art competition. We are so proud of Max Long and Kailey Robbins (2nd grade), Douglas Holley (4th grade), Yadira Olayo (5th grade), and Creager Quinn (12th grade).



Lily Forward competed with her heifer at the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo. They represented us well placing 2nd in the Jr show, 2nd in the open show and reserve in showmanship! Way to go! Proud to be an owl!



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Yantis Owl's Activities

YANTIS OWLS BASEBALL HIGHLIGHTS

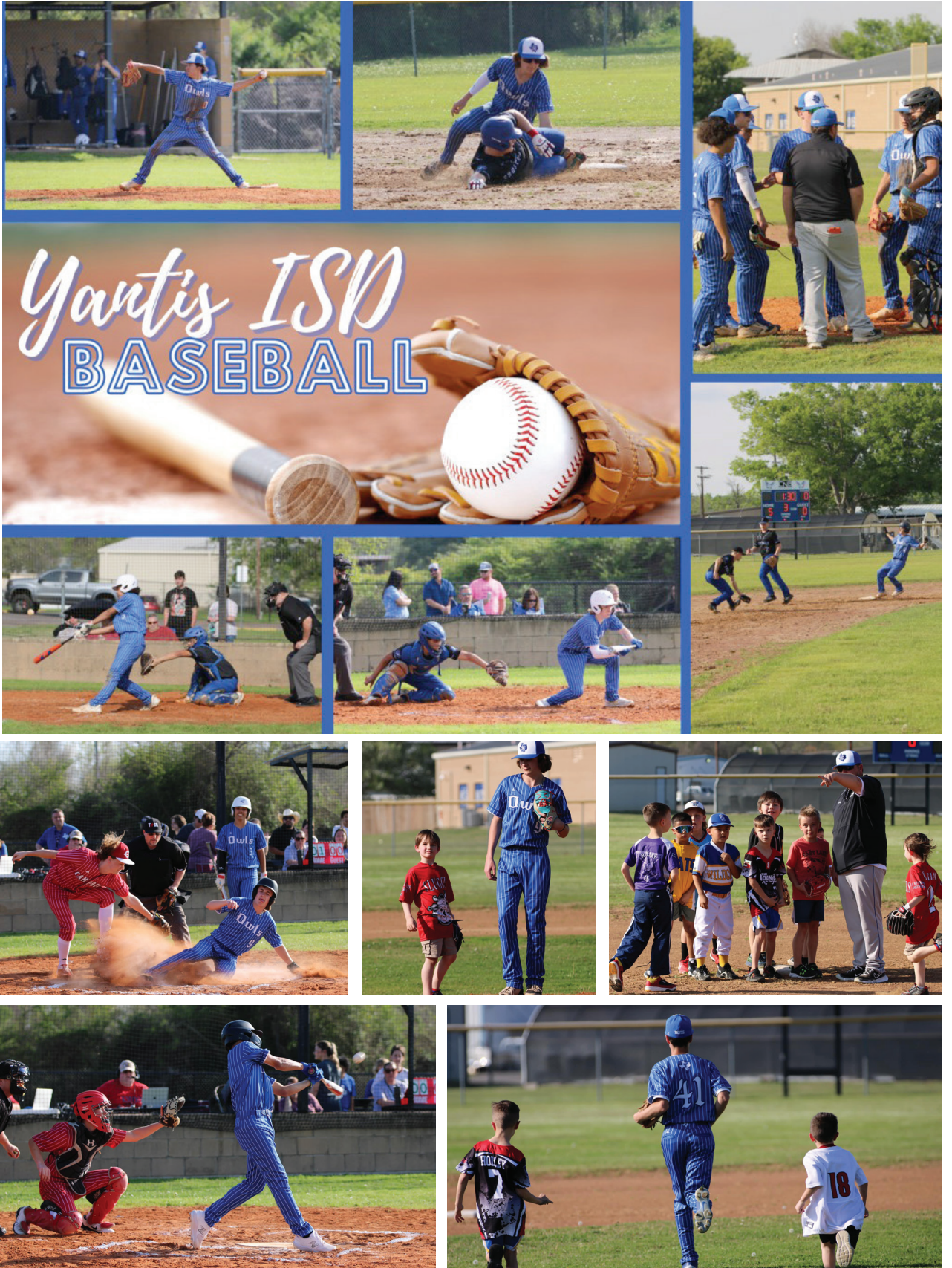
2A Fruitvale 12-0 ----- Saturday, March 23rd
 Ashton Rodriguez started on the hill for us allowing only two hits, striking out nine and walking three while pitching 4 scoreless innings. Alex Vazquez, our catcher, threw three runners out who attempted to steal second. The tag was applied perfectly each time by shortstop CJ Madison. Ashton and Aiden Cason each drove in three runs. We totaled 11 stolen bases as a team. Evan Dunklin had two infield hits off bunts that allowed baserunners to advance into scoring position. I want to give a huge shoutout to Noah Bowring who helped us get the field in playable shape after all of the rainfall we have received.

Our Owls improved 1-1 in district (VS the 2A teams) and 3-5-2 on the season

MARCH 5TH Baseball Game Recap from Coach Easley:

What an exciting afternoon at the ball field! It was awesome to see our future baseball and softball players on the field with the team!

CJ started the hill allowing 0 runs in two innings striking out four and walking two. The bottom of the first was electric for our Owls scoring 9 runs. Ashton got us started with a leadoff double. CJ followed with a triple driving in Ashton to score our first run, CJ scored quickly on a wild pitch after. Ashton finished the game going 3-3 on the night with a triple, double and a single, a homerun shy of the cycle without the opportunity at another at bat. Noah Bowring drove in a run in the 5th inning with a single. We had to end the game a few innings early due to it getting dark quickly.



The district has announced honors for the 2023-2024 boys' and girls' basketball teams. Congratulations to all the players who have been recognized for their hard work and dedication!



Yantis Ag Mechanics Teams showed up and showed out at the Rodeo Austin Junior Ag Mechanics Show in March. They brought home a 3rd place in class ribbon, two blue ribbons, and two red ribbons.
 Go OWLS!!



Yantis Little Dribblers League made a donation of \$1000 for Juan Hernandez and family to help out during this battle. After this event I received a video call from his mom that they greatly appreciate all the support! We need to let him know his is not alone as I'm sure his getting discouraged. But we are One Town, One School, One Family.

March 3, 2024

2024 Yantis Little Dribblers Banquet

What a amazing turn out! The cafeteria was full I wanna appreciate all the board members for everything they have helped with before, during, and even after the league. Everyone received a medal, a goodie bag, and a their very own basketball so they can practice at home and at our summer camp (more details coming soon). They will have to bring their ball to camp! And to our sponsors we can not appreciate y'all's support, Thank you



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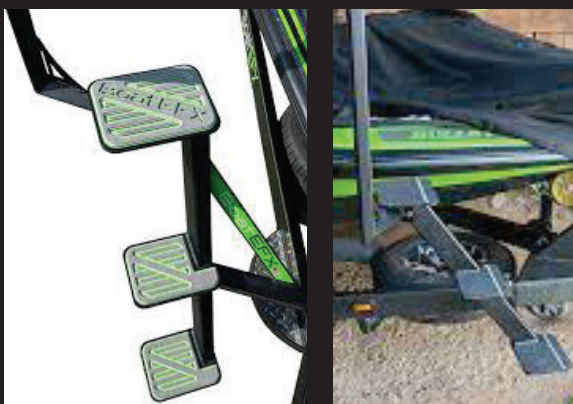
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