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Issue 292

May/June 2021



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

**Crappie
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**B.A.S.S.
News**

**DNR
Updates**

Outdoor Photos



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Magazine

Volume 1 Issue 292

Publisher and Editor
Mark A. Goudy

Contributing Editors
West Virginia Division Of
Natural Resources

No Subscriptions Offered

Printed Every Six Weeks.

W.Va. Sportsman

P.O. Box 5521
Vienna, WV 26105

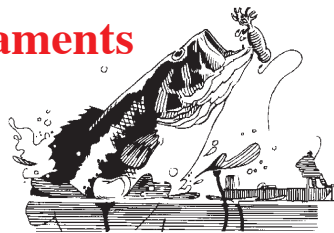
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Cover Photo

A new state record musky was landed and later released by Chase Gibson. It measured 54 1/16th inch. This Mount Clare native also owns Gibson's Guide Service. Look him up on Facebook for a musky trip.

Fishing in the state has been booming with many people still out of work. There is a scarcity of boats, RV's and ATV's with the dealers in WV.

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Fishing Trivia

52. What is the mechanism within a reel that provides resistance when a fish pulls on a line?

Drag

53. Which would be more likely to be successful at catching channel catfish?

Stinkbait

54. What is the strongest fish in the world?

Goliath Grouper

55. How many species of fish are there?

27,300

56. Where do carp originate from?

Asia - none were native to WV. During the depression, FDR had them imported to use as a food source for Americans.

57. What would you call a lobster that only has one claw?

Cull

58. The Anchovy belongs to what fish family?

Herring

59. What part of a sturgeon is the caviar?

Roe - or fish eggs as most say.

60. What would you wear to keep from slipping on the ice while walking?

Cleats

61. Which place is a popular place to catch bream, crappies, and small bass?

Culverts

62. This fly is called a Biot Midge. What is it supposed to resemble?

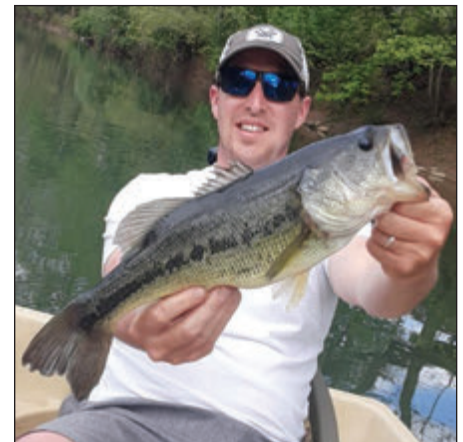
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Marci Cain shot her first turkey in Tyler County. Her husband called.



David Yeater bagged a 22 1/2 lb. gobbler in Tyler County.



Jess Price caught a huge spotted bass on the Greenbrier River

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The larva of a small fly

63. What type of fish is also known as the Silver King?

Tarpon

64. Which of the following is known for its incredible leaping ability when hooked?

Tarpon

65. What is the slowest fish in the world?

Dwarf seahorse

66. The angler's word for saltwater fly-fishing is what?

Swoffing

67. One of the most dangerous elements in spearfishing is

Shallow water blackout

68. An abalone is what kind of animal?

Marine snail

69. What kind of birds are trained to catch and fetch fish?

Cormorants

70. Which item is not commonly used as ice fishing safety gear?

Flare

71. Which reel is the most difficult for most anglers to master?

Baitcasting

72. A kipper is a what?

Smoked herring.

73. Smallmouth bass are native species in all 48 contiguous states.T/F?

False

continue to the next page



Hunter Thompson, from Reedy, landed and released the biggest smallmouth ever featured in this magazine. Little Kanawha - 6 lbs. 12 oz.

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75. Which of these fish will you catch with a large rubber worm?

Bass

76. Where is the place where the lobster is usually caught inside the lobster trap?

The Bedroom

77. Which Government department is responsible for issuing fishing licenses in England and Wales?

Environment Agency

78. Which fish would you not expect to find in a small pond?

Warsaw Grouper

79. What is the most expensive fish in the world?

Japan tuna

80. Streamer flies are much larger than most of the other flies discussed in this quiz and are often used when fly-fishing for gamefish. What kind of animal do they often resemble?

Fish

81. What type of fish is the world's largest fish?

Whale shark.

82. If you caught a Walleye would you lip it?

No

83. Knowing the fish that you're



Coy Daniels, from Oceanna, brought in a spring turkey.

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catching is important. Acaudal fin is located on what part of a fish?

Tail

84. A squid has how many arms?

Ten

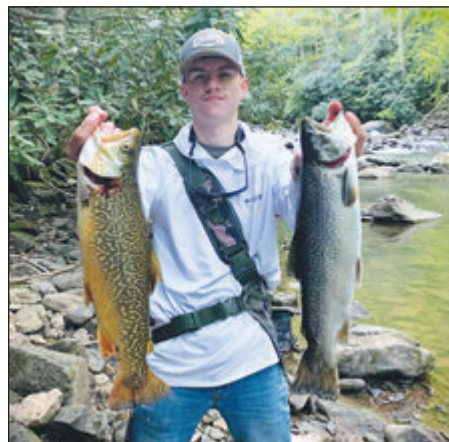
85. It is an axiom that any chain is only as strong as its weakest link. Approximately what percentage of a fishing line's test strength can the fisherman expect to lose by inserting a knot?

Around 50%

86. What is the most common freshwater fish that will eat a small fake squid?

Bream

continue to page 8



Cole Blake landed a huge tiger trout and another trout.

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87. Which of the following is not commonly found in Florida waters?

Stripers

88. This fish is unique in that is classified as both a game and a

coarse fish. How is the 'Lady of the Stream' better known?

Grayling

89. Most that participate in the sport of spearfishing would say that it is most like what?

Bow Hunting

90. Which of these lures is a top-water?

Zara Spook

91. Terrestrial flies are made to resemble non-aquatic insects and worms which might be blown onto, or fall into, the water and become fish prey. What is the pictured fly intended to represent?

Grasshopper

92. Which freshwater fish from New England will eat almost anything you throw at them and are the easiest to catch?

Sunfish

93. With an appropriate license, trout may be taken from the Waikato and the Waikato Lakes using a baited hook and sinker?

True

94. What species of fish have the varieties; Spaniard, Spotted, and Doggy?

Mackerel

95. Another name for a mullet is a

Jewfish

96. What are fish categorized when they are together?

Schools

97. The purpose of the "eye" on a fishing rod is

To feed the line through the rod

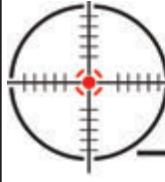
98. What month can you expect to see the first trickle of snapper entering Port Phillip Bay?

September

99. Which male fish that gives birth?

Seahorses, pipefish, and sea dragons

100. Which fish is not commonly found in New Zealand coastal or



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inland waters?

Grayling

101. Which type of fishing line is capable of the most stretch?

Monofilament

102. Which fish seem to give the best fight?

Freshwater eel



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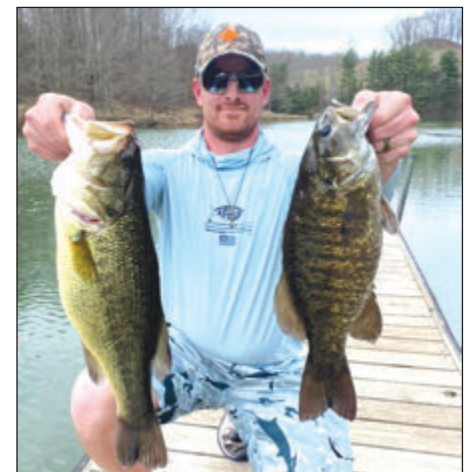
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Joey White landed and released a nice musky.

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New Location For National Hunting & Fishing Days

GLEN JEAN, W.VA. – Gov. Jim Justice announced today that West Virginia’s National Hunting and Fishing Days is returning Sept. 10-12. This year, the event will take place at Summit Bechtel Reserve, where the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources is joining GNCC Racing and Summit Events for a one-of-a-kind, three-day outdoor Adventure On Freedom Festival that will kick off the Reserve’s “Adventure On” series.

West Virginia’s celebration of National Hunting and Fishing Days, which is the largest hunting and fishing expo in the state, features big buck and trophy fish displays, hunting and fishing vendors and family-friendly activities.

“As someone who’s been hunting and fishing all my life and loves the outdoors, I’m telling you that this incredible event is truly something to celebrate. For years, National Hunting and Fishing Days has welcomed all kinds of people to learn about our outdoor traditions and enjoy our state’s abundant natural resources and outdoor recreation opportunities,” Gov. Justice said.

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“This year, National Hunting and Fishing Days is going to be bigger and better than ever as we join the Summit Bechtel Reserve to offer the most unique adventure festival in the country.”

continue to the next page



Alvin Stewart landed a great rainbow trout on the Cranberry.



Darren Pettus from Wood Co., bagged a rare bearded hen turkey.

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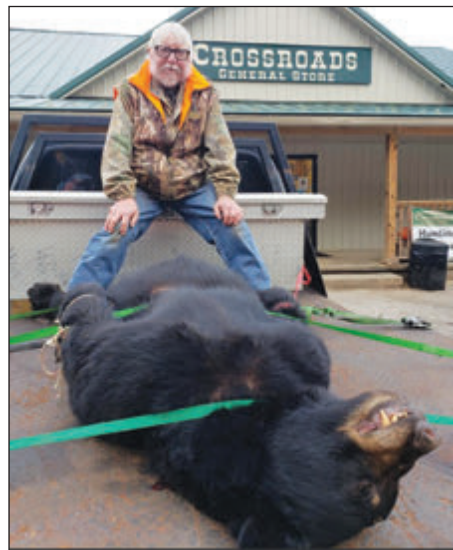
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In addition to the National Hunting and Fishing Days celebration, the festival will feature a free concert on Saturday, Sept. 11, 2021 – the 20th anniversary of the September 11th attacks – and fireworks display for first responders, active and retired military and law enforcement officers, hunting and fishing vendors, and opportunities for guests to enjoy ziplining, canopy tours, the third largest shooting sports range in the country, the second largest outdoor skate park and more than 70 miles of bike and ATV trails.

“We’re looking forward to bringing National Hunting and Fishing Days to the Summit this year and how this partnership will allow us to showcase all of the incredible outdoor activities West Virginia has to offer,” said West Virginia Division of Natural Resources Director Stephen McDaniel. “An event like this is good for West Virginia and hunters and anglers alike. Not only will it introduce folks to the Summit, but it will help our

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Danny Keyser harvested a BIG black bear in Ritchie. *Photo courtesy of Crossroads General Store in Walker.*

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agency’s R3 efforts to recruit, retain and reactivate hunters, anglers, and outdoor participants.”

During the event, guests will be able to learn about new hunting and fishing products and receive training in hunter safety, boating and other outdoor skills. Exhibitors at the event will include Benelli, Remington, Polaris, Savage Arms, Specialized, Cabela’s/Bass Pro, the National Wild Turkey Federation, the National Park Service, Friends of the NRA, West Virginia University, and more.

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Mark Nolan bagged a fine whitetail buck this season.




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Elk Restoration Project

SOUTH CHARLESTON, WV – The West Virginia Division of Natural Resources (WVDNR) has utilized proceeds from a February lottery wild boar hunt to purchase a UTV in support of the ongoing Elk Restoration Project.

In conjunction with Natural Resource Partners (NRP), a special hunt was held between February 5-7 on NRP private lands in southern West Virginia. To be entered into the lottery, resident WV hunters were required to submit an application through the WVDNR licensing system and pay a \$10 non-refundable fee. Monies from the application fee benefited a variety of WVDNR programs, including the Elk Restoration Project.

“The UTV will be used almost daily on the Elk Project as we con-

tinue to monitor the population through the calf drops this summer,” said WVDNR Elk Project Leader Randy Kelley. “It will also be invaluable during the winter months when we deploy new GPS collars. The UTV has proven to be less destructive to area roads when they are wet.”

In total, 1,763 hunters entered the boar hunt lottery with 200 being chosen to participate. Over the three-day hunt, 65 boars were harvested in Boone and Logan counties.

“We were excited and honored to offer this special lottery hunt to resident hunters because there are limited places in West Virginia where you can hunt wild boar,” said WVDNR Director Stephen McDaniel.



Terry Pierson hooked a large carp at Summersville Lake.

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Extended Turkey Season

SOUTH CHARLESTON, W.VA. — West Virginia's spring gobbler season is underway and turkey hunters have even more opportunities to bag a bird this year.

"Our spring gobbler season includes eight extra days this year, so hunters have even more chances to have a successful season," said Mike Peters, wild turkey and migratory game bird project leader for the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources. "For folks like me, who get cabin fever, this is a great time to get out and enjoy beautiful spring weather and our state's hunting traditions."

The regular spring gobbler season is open through May 23. All hunters 15 and older must purchase a West Virginia hunting license and follow the state's turkey hunting regulations, bag limits and game check requirements. Hunters can check game and purchase their license online at wvhunt.com.

"The eastern wild turkey is a magnificent bird and being able to pursue one is a really special experience," Peters said.

Peters said wild turkeys were almost wiped out in West Virginia until the WVDNR started a trap and transfer program in the 1950s.

continue to the next page

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Mickey Comp, from Reedsville, bagged a fine whitetail buck.



Joe Hanna had success with a couple of crappie for the skillet.

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Over the last 70 years, that program has helped restore West Virginia's wild turkey population. Today, every county in the state has wild turkeys.

During the spring gobbler season, hunters should also remember that it is illegal to:

Have an uncased firearm, bow or crossbow in their possession in the woods after 1 p.m.

Hunt with dogs

Use electronic calls

Hunt with the use of bait

Take more than one bearded turkey per day

Spring Gobbler Survey

Each year, the WVDNR conducts a spring gobbler survey. Hunters who want to participate can download the survey at wvdnr.gov/hunting/hunting.shtm or contact the WVDNR's Elkins office by calling 304-637-0245.

Rollins Lake Recent Closing

EVANS, WV – Rollins Lake in Jackson County will be temporarily closed to fishing and other activities in mid-May due to upgrades to the dam and other areas, the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources (WVDNR) announced. The nearby fishing access site on Mill Creek will also be closed during construction.

The upgrades, which are expected to take six months to complete, include improvements to the access road, parking area, spillway, fisherman's trail and handicap fishing pier. The project also includes in-





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stallation of a boat dock near the existing boat ramp. Signs about the closure will be posted in affected areas. The lake is part of the Rollins Lake Wildlife Management Area.

WVDNR does not anticipate 2022 trout fishing to be affected at the

lake. However, if unforeseen circumstances result in a winter shutdown and delayed completion of the project, the agency will issue an updated news release. For more information about the closure, contact the WVDNR District 6 office in Parkersburg at 304-420-4550.

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Fishing & Hunting
Pics - Details on page 38**



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State Record Freshwater Drum

SOUTH CHARLESTON, WV — A West Virginia angler caught a state record freshwater drum on April 24 in Mason County.

John Gibson of Poca, WV, caught a 27.88-pound, 35.59-inch freshwater drum on the Kanawha Riv-

er, breaking the previous record for weight (27 pounds) held by Charles Mickel Lott since 1989. Bill Dawkins maintains the record for length with a 37-inch freshwater drum caught in the Little Kanawha River in 1954.



John Gibson, from Poca, broke 67 year old freshwater drum state record.



Nathan Clevenger hunted in Upshur County for a quality bow buck.

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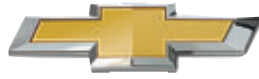


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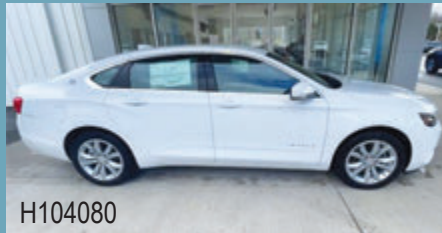


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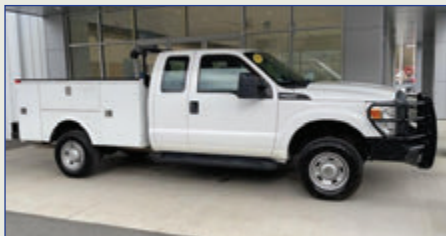


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Spring Crappie Fishing

These spring crappie fishing techniques will help you catch more crappie during this crucial time of the year for crappie fishing. The ice is getting off of the lakes, and the crappies will be starting to move to shallow water soon.

The areas that the crappies will be migrating to will be not only shal-

low areas but the areas with a lot of sediment and algae which you will find in the northern bay areas. Crappies migrate to these areas because this type of water warms faster than any other area of the lake.

They will also be spawning soon, so they are going to these parts of

By Cory Haasnoot
the lake for that reason as well.

Another reason crappies go shallow is they are hungry from not eating much during the winter season. They are going after the big meals now which is bait fish like minnows. So mostly its a big feeding frenzy for crappies during early spring.

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continue to page 20

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The recent Bass Sportsman biggest bass are shown. Jim Merial (above) landed a 5 lb., 6 oz. bass. Tim Willer (below) caught a 6 lb. 8 oz. and a 5 lb., 9 oz. largemouth. The next one at the Vandalia Ramp is on May 23. Look for entry information on page 6.





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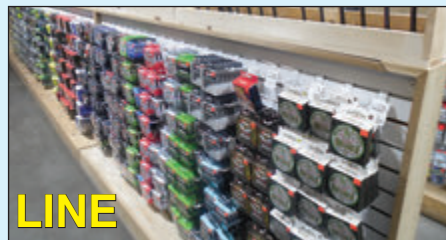
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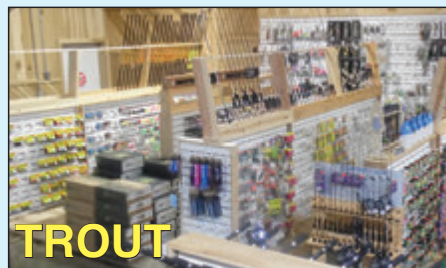
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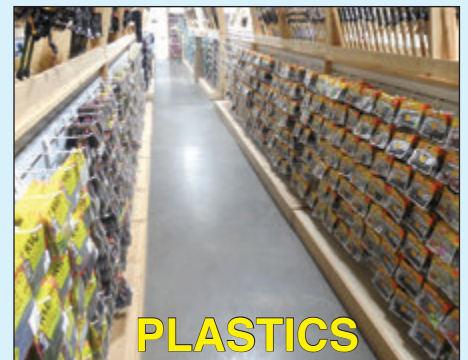
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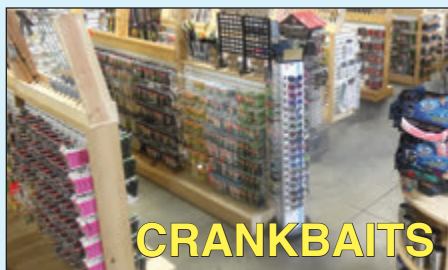
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those crappies are is if you have a kayak take it out on the lake and navigate the shoreline areas. Take your kayak into the bays and find downed trees and weeded areas. Go along these areas and cast using a beetle spin lure. Beetle spins are a fast and easy bait to use when you are looking for the areas that the spring crappies will be.

The use of the kayak makes it easy to get into these challenging areas that you would have a harder time fishing from shore. Once you find where the crappies are at you can switch to a jig and slip bobber or a hook minnow and slip bobber, whatever your preferred method of crappie fishing might be.

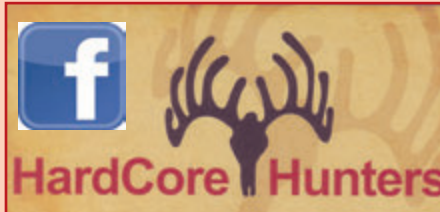
Jigs, Floats, & Bobbers

Get yourself some 1/32 to 1/16 Oz jigs and use floats or bobbers with them to suspend your lure over the crappies so that they can see the bait dangling there. A lot of the time the crappies that aren't active will see your jig sitting there for a while and will decide that it would be an easy target to go after.

You will want to play around with the color of the jig heads. Make sure that the jigs mimic minnows

continue to page 22

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and bugs because that is what crappies are feeding on in the spring, summer, and autumn months as well.

Pre-spawn

During the pre-spawn early spring, you will find crappies in the shallow weedy areas of the lake where they get the most oxygen. Pre-spawn crappie will be looking for some big meals to give them the energy they will need for when spawning time comes which isn't far off in most cases.

Crappies will be in large schools this time of year. Early spring is one of the best times of year to catch an abundance of crappie once you locate these schools of fish. You won't be able to pull the crappies in fast enough.

If you have a fish finder, it's a good idea to put that to use. It will go along way in helping you find

these large schools of crappies and at what depth they are hanging around. Because if you find the schools of fish but don't know how deep they are, you might be presenting your bait wrong to them and not catch anything. You want your bait to be suspended above them so that they see it and then devour it.

Minnows with a slip bobber or a float are good choices of live bait to use during the pre-spawn. Small-sized jigs that are 1/32 to 1/64 Oz, and look like insects are a good choice this time of year for artificial lures.

Spawn Time

When the water temperature starts to warm up around 60 to 70 degrees, Fahrenheit crappies will start their spawn time. The spawning time for crappie can last from two weeks to six weeks depending on the size of the lake. If the water is clear crappies will make their nests in water that is 3 to 6 feet deep. Muddy water you will find crappies spawning in waters that are 2 feet deep.

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and lots of vegetation is where you will find spawning crappies. The best types of lures to use during the spawn time is spinning baits and small micro jigs using 4-pound test. Using this combination of line and bait will ensure that the baits move down slowly in the water enticing the crappies to strike if you're looking for the bigger sized crappies you will want to use a 6 oz jig and 6 to 8-pound test line.

continue to the next page



Daniel Post, from Clarksburg, hooked a huge carp..



Gunner Ketterman harvested a nice gobbler. *Photo courtesy of Middle Mountain Sporting Goods in Elkins.*

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Cast your jig into reedy areas and slowly reel them back in making sure your rod tip is kept high. You will want to use light-colored jigs like yellow and pink during the crappie spawn for optimal effectiveness. Pairing these light-colored jigs with tubes or plastic curly tails of the same colors help capture crappies during the spawn as well.

Post Spawn

Crappie Fishing Techniques After crappies have spawned, it becomes more difficult to find and catch these fish. They become elusive, and most anglers don't both fishing for them until the fall. But you can still catch some nice crappies during this time of the year.

Crappies will head back to the deeper water where they were before the spawn. They like it there

because of the familiarity and safety that the deeper water provides.

You will find them around deeply
continue to page 26



Matthew Hayner and his grandfather, Lenny Lanham, doubled on turkeys this year.



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sunken trees and logs, rock piles, and creek channels with drop-offs and ledges.

Fishfinders especially the ones with side-scan can come in handy after the spawn when looking for crappie. You will want to focus your attention on catching the males of the species during the post-spawn. When you find where those elusive crappies are hiding, you have to almost hand feed them the bait. Get it right in front of their mouths. This is because after spawning the fish are tired from the spawn and they don't move very far.

During the post-spawn, you will want to try various rigs and depths to get these crappies to eat. Get a few rods rigged up with multiple jigs. Grab some live minnows and start experiment with different depths until you find the right combination. It's finding that combination of baits and depth that's the hardest part when fishing crappie post-spawn. But once you find the areas and the right combination you can fill your freezer up with crappie!

Spring Crappie Fishing Techniques Conclusion

Spring Crappie Fishing During the spring is the best time of year to be fishing for crappies. And if you use some of the techniques in this article and fish the right areas of the lake you will find and more than likely catch an abundance of crappie. During the pre-spawn is probably the best time of spring to be catching these fish. They will be headed to their spawning areas as soon as the water temperatures warm which is about 50 to 55 degrees Fahrenheit and the ice starts leaving the lakes. Crappies will be found in big schools during the pre-spawn as well.

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crappies in water depths that range from 2 to 6 feet deep. This will depend on how clear or muddy the water is. The murkier the water is, the shallower the fish will be. Spinning baits and micro jigs work well during the spawn. The water temperature will be 60 to 70 degrees Fahrenheit at this time.

Post Spawn Can Be Challenging

If your fishing post-spawn, you will have a harder time finding the crappies and getting them to eat. So trying various rigs and depths will be vital in catching crappies during the post-spawn time. But once you find the right combination, you can catch crappie all day long! Consider post-spawn crappie fishing a challenge! When you start to bring them in you will be one accomplished and happy angler.

I hope this article on spring crappie fishing techniques helps you

catch more crappies.



Matt Summers, from Braxton County, hunted hard to bring in his nice wild turkey.

Adkins Wins Bass Regional Tournament

ANDERSON, S.C. — After 30 years of fishing the West Virginia B.A.S.S. Nation, Willie Adkins Jr. will finally get to fish for a national championship.

Adkins caught a limit of bass weighing 10 pounds, 8 ounces Friday on the final day of the TNT Fireworks B.A.S.S. Nation Southeast Regional at Lake Hartwell to secure the victory with a three-day total of 34-13, earning \$5,000 and a spot in the 2021 TNT Fireworks B.A.S.S. Nation Championship.

“I’ll never ask for anything else. I don’t care if I ever make the Classic, this right here tops everything for me,” Adkins said. “I probably won’t do it again and I’m going to eat it up.”

It was a moment Adkins thought he may never experience — for a number of reasons.

On his way to a tournament three years ago, Adkins was involved in a car accident that broke his left arm. Not only did the car accident leave doctors worried his arm may need amputation, Adkins also dis-



Willie Adkins Jr. wins at Lake Hartwell championship.

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covered he had Stage 4 kidney cancer and surgery was performed to remove one of his kidneys.

“The boy who hit me saved my life. The doctors told me I wouldn’t have lived six months if I hadn’t found out,” Adkins said. “They said I would lose my arm. I went to get a second opinion and the doctor told me he would see what he could do and he fixed it. Now I’m back fishing again.”

When he received the winner’s trophy from Tournament Director Jon Stewart, Adkins hoisted it above his head with both arms, cel-

continue to page 29



Braden Rine called in a big gobbler. *Photo courtesy of Tyler Outdoor Supply in Middlebourne.*

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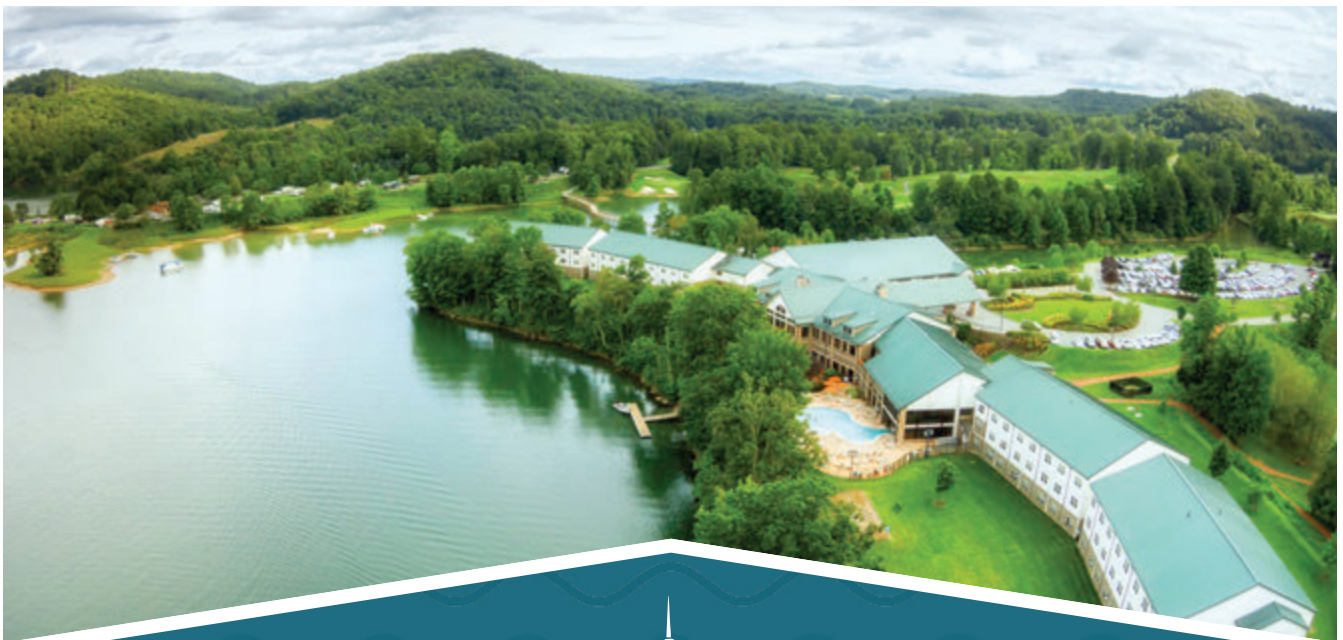


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ebating more than just one victory.

When Adkins arrived at Lake Hartwell, his plan was to fish shallow water, similar to the style he fishes back home in West Virginia. To his delight, he was able to find some spawning activity in those shallow areas.

"I live to fish for bedding fish," Adkins said. "Anybody who knows me, if I can find them I can catch them because I love to fish that way. I'm going to have a heart attack one of these days on the front of that boat trying to catch a fish off the bed. It is so exciting to see a big fish grab your bait."

Throughout the week, Adkins targeted the spawners with a craw-imitating bait as well as a lizard. On the second day, he used a spinner-bait to target windy points around the main lake when the wind picked up in the afternoon. Adkins also gave credit to one of his co-anglers, Sam Nowalk, for helping him figure out Lake Hartwell.

After placing third on Day 1 with 13-6 and first on Day 2 with 10-15, Adkins began the final day targeting bedding bass and filled out his limit about three hours into the

event throwing a floating worm around docks.

Around 10 a.m., Adkins noticed a group of spotted bass schooling in the middle of the lake and proceeded to make several important culls that improved his Day 3 bag.

"It was unbelievable," he said. "I looked out in the middle and these big spotted bass started coming up. I ran out there with a big spinner-bait and caught two 3-pound spotted bass."

With just a few minutes to go, Adkins said he lost a fish that he estimated to be about 3 pounds and thought he lost the tournament.

"But I didn't need it," he said.

Adkins has a long scar on the back of his arm from surgeries to put replacement bones in his arm. While the cancer has not yet been beaten, Adkins said he is going to continue to the page 31

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Ed Burnside caught a huge rainbow trout. Photo courtesy of Middle Mountain Sporting Goods in Elkins.



Eddie Humphreys hooked a 6 lb., 9 oz. largemouth bass.

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to fight the disease as long as he can.

“I’ve still got it. I’m still fighting and it’s not going to get me. I don’t care, I’m not going to give up,” he said. “I’ve fished this B.A.S.S. Nation for years and years and never even came close until this year. That boy saved my life in that car wreck and he gave me this, what else could I ask for?”

After barely making the Top 20 cut on Day 2, North Carolina boat-er Michael Belter jumped from 19th place to second on the final day with a limit weighing 14-2 to improve his three-day total to 33-12, earning himself a spot in the Nation Championship.

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David Booth, from Bridgeport, harvested a quality wild turkey.

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Jake Givens, from Kentucky now, hunted a Baxton gobbler.



Josh Compton bagged a 23 1/2 pound Ritchie County turkey..

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WVDNR Launches New Licensing System

SOUTH CHARLESTON, W.VA. — The West Virginia Division of Natural Resources on Monday launched an updated electronic licensing system, which will make it easier for hunters and anglers to buy a license and check game.

The updated system is available at www.wvhunt.com and allows sportspersons to purchase a West Virginia hunting and fishing license and check game at their convenience over the Internet, at license retailers throughout the state and at WVDNR district offices.

“We are continuing to innovate the way we serve outdoorsmen and women in West Virginia and this updated ELS system will make it

easier for folks to buy their license and stamps each year, check their game and apply for lottery hunts and look for other hunting and fishing opportunities in our beautiful state,” said WVDNR Director Stephen McDaniel.

The updated licensing system features:

A modern interface that is easier to use and more secure.

A responsive design that works on smartphones, tablets and computers.

An improved cart and checkout experience.

In addition to buying a license and checking game, users can use the updated system to look up information about hunting and fishing regulations and find important infor-

continue to page 34



Jim Duckworth, from Waverly, bagged a drop tine whitetail buck.



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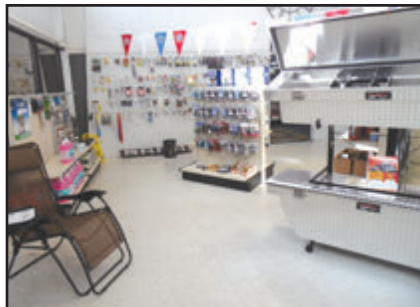
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Information about hunting and fishing regulations and find important information about outdoor recreation in West Virginia. Users also can print licenses and field tags and manage their DNR profile.

How to use WVDNR's updated electronic licensing system Using the electronic licensing sys-



Makala Everett, 8-years old, caught her 1st bass at Stonewall Jackson.

tem is easy, but users should take time to familiarize themselves with the new site. To log in, users will be required to create a new username and password. For security and privacy reasons, log in credentials used to access the old system will not work.

Those who already have a DNR ID will need to click on the "Look up your Account" button, enter their social security number, date of birth and last name and follow the prompts to verify existing information, add any missing information and change their username and password. Those who have never purchased a West Virginia hunting or fishing license can simply click the "Enroll Today" button.

Media Assets

To assist media outlets with covering this story, the West Virginia Department of Commerce is making audio, photo and video assets

available. Permission to use these assets is granted for the sole purpose of reporting on this story.



Grayson Boyles caught several nice rainbow trout. Photo courtesy of Middle Mountain Sporting in Elkins.

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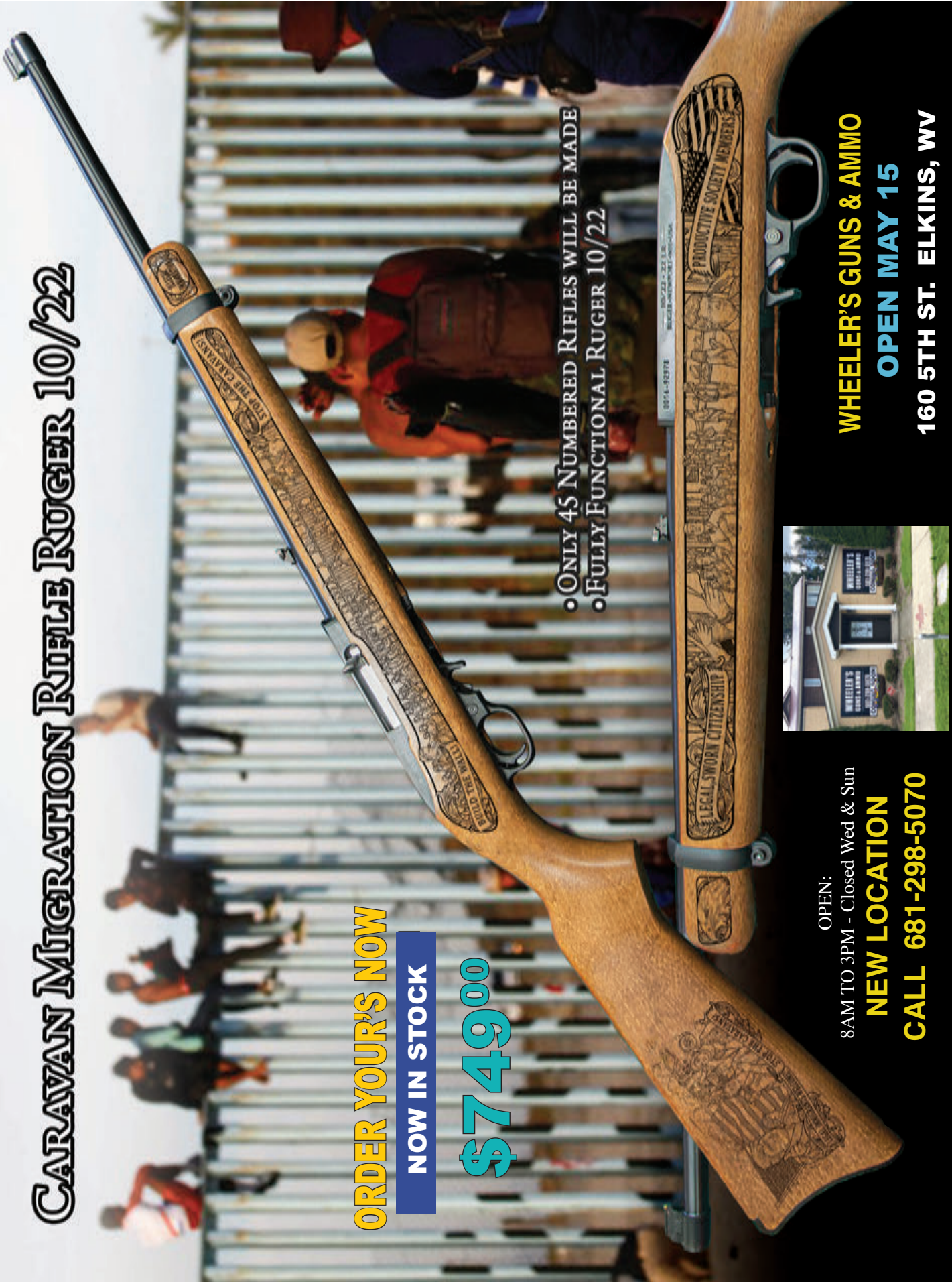
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Musky Mortality Study

SOUTH CHARLESTON, WV
— The West Virginia Division of Natural Resources (WVD-NR) has partnered with various state fish and wildlife agencies (Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina and Wisconsin), muskellunge angling organizations, Coastal Carolina University and West Virginia University on a musky mortality project.

The study will help determine whether Muskellunge catch-and-release angling during the summer poses a significant source of mortality in southern populations. Studies are concurrently taking place in the James River (VA) and Stonewall Jackson Lake (WV), as well as in a hatchery pond setting.

"We have implanted radio transmitters into several fish in all locations," said Jeff Hansbarger, WVDNR fish biologist. "We track these fish throughout the summer months to evaluate the effects that warm water

catch-and-release fishing may have on the musky population."

The goal of the project is for local anglers to catch half of the tagged fish on rod and reel during the warm water fishing period. Fish that are caught and released will be closely monitored for several days to determine whether an individual has survived or died after being caught and released.

continue to the next page



Nick Pahoundis caught a large musky in a bass tournament.

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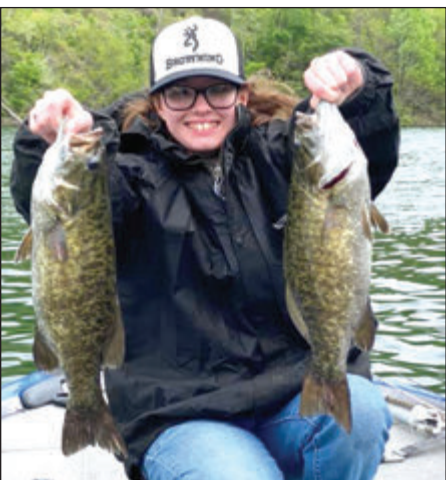


If an angler catches a tagged musky on the James River or Stonewall Jackson Lake, they are asked to record the tag number, location of capture and date and time caught. Information can then be reported to Dr. Kyle Hartman or Peter Jenkins by calling 304-293-4797 or 419-667-4951.



Young Riley Markle, from Gassoway, shot a large gobbler

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Haley Collins caught and released 2 big smallmouth bass.



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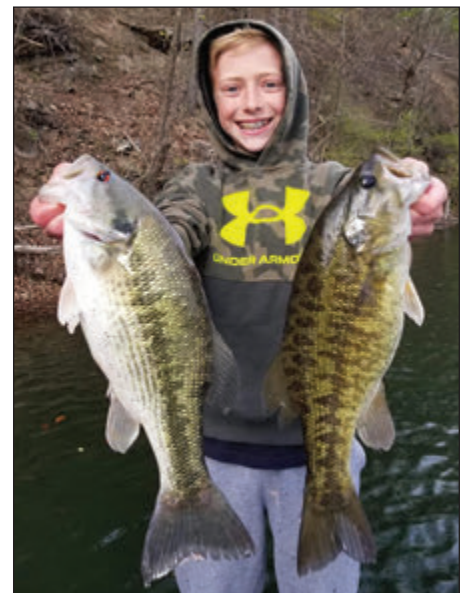
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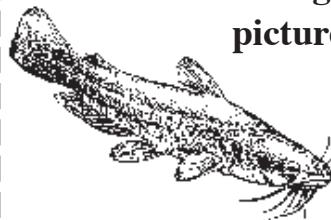
Aiden Crockett, from Sutton, hooked a large spot & smallmouth.

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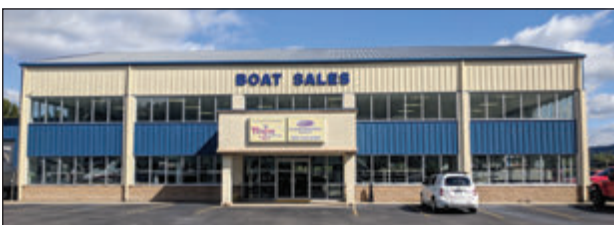
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