

**Game Warden  
Field Notes**

The following items are compiled from recent TPWD law enforcement reports.

**Hunters Ed Would  
Have Helped**

A Presidio County game warden responded to a nonfatal hunting accident at Penitas Ranch. When he arrived, the game warden learned that the hunter was trying to cross over a fence when his loaded shotgun fell from its rest and discharged, resulting in the injury. Upon further investigation, the Game Warden discovered that the 21-year-old victim had not taken a hunter's education course, and would have benefited from the course because this very scenario is covered.

**Vodka, You Are My  
Only Friend**

During routine Sandhill Crane patrol on Christmas Eve morning, a Hockley/Terry/Yoakum County game warden happened across a pickup parked in the paved shoulder of a main highway just inside the Lynn County line. After passing the vehicle, the warden noticed a man slumped over asleep in the driver's seat. Turning around to make a welfare check, the warden approached the driver side door and attempted to knock on the window to get the man's attention. After several attempts of hard knocking on the window and saying, "Game Warden" even louder, the man remained passed out. Fearing for the individual's safety, the game warden began rocking the truck side



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to side. After several more efforts, the man finally came to. He admitted to driving all night from New Mexico with a cup of vodka and soda to keep him company. With the assistance of the Department of Public Safety, a sobriety test was given, and the subject, who had one previous DWI conviction, was booked into the Lynn County Jail.

**Corny Excuse**

While patrolling the Trinity River during the opening day of teal season, Trinity County game wardens heard several shotgun shots coming from the other side of a hill covered in goat weed. The wardens walked in and found two dove hunters. The hunters were very surprised and immediately began walking towards the wardens. When asked for hunting licenses, the hunters were extremely nervous and had a hard time removing their licenses from the pouches. The wardens asked the hunters why they were so nervous and if there was anything they needed to know about. The hunters

replied no and said the last time they were checked in this county they were hunting ducks with lead shot and received citations. While the hunters were speaking to a warden separately, the other warden began searching the area by the hunters' folding chairs. The warden found corn on the ground in the area where they were hunting. The hunters denied knowing anything about the corn. Citations for hunting over bait were issued.

**Venison Violator**

A Garza/Lynn County game warden was called by a Garza County ranch foreman regarding a headless white-tailed buck that had been dumped alongside a two-track road inside the ranch. As the warden was responding to the area, the foreman called again and said that he believed it to have been shot by one of the hunting lease holders and that the carcass was no longer at the initial site. The warden arrived on the ranch, and after a short search, found the initial



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dump site and carcass at a second location. After loading the deer, the warden drove the ranch in search of the hunter, and later found him. The warden spoke with the man, a previous wildlife violator, at the back of the man's truck. A severed deer head was in the bed of the truck with an incompletely-filled out tag on its antlers. The man was then led to the back of the truck, lowered his tailgate, and revealed a wasted carcass. Without provocation, "Unless you're

making hamburger, do you realize how hard it is to cut up all that meat," the man asked.

**Did I Do That?**

A Garza/Lynn County game warden seized two mule deer does that had been harvested the previous day in Scurry County by a Lubbock area man. Mule deer season had ended in Scurry County, and even then, mule deer does could have only been harvested under permit. The warden met with the hunter who admitted not knowing that mule deer inhabited Scurry County.

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