

Chad Kallina, center, recently won the Bassmaster Elite Series on Lake Sam Rayburn in Jasper. Pictured with him are professional anglers John Murray and Kelly Jordan. He received a fishing boat package worth \$45,000 in addition to the trophy. Kallina is the son of Boxie Kallina and Marsha Shelton, both of Garwood.

## Kallina Reels In First Place, New Boat

Chad Kallina hung around after a fast start at Sam Rayburn Reservoir and came out the victor.

Chad is the son of Boxie Kallina of and Marsha Shelton both of Garwood.

Kallina squeaked by the field of co-anglers on the third day of the tournament with a three-day total of 28 pounds, three ounces to win and take home a Triton Boat, Mercury motor, Lowrance and Motorguide prize package valued at \$45,000.

Kallina lost his Day One lead by only bringing in a weight of 5 pounds, 13 ounces on Day Two, but he recovered quite well when it counted.

"I don't have a boat, I'm just out of college and I'm trying to make this a

profession of mine," said the exuberant Kallina. "I work part-time at a Cabela's and I told the guys, 'As soon as I make it big, see you later.'"

It looks like Cabela's might have an employee spot to fill.

Kallina graduated in December from Southwest Texas State in San Marcos with a degree in business marketing. His studies may come in handy as he will need to fulfill the next big step in becoming a pro angler, obtaining sponsorships.

The co-angler champion was blessed with Bassmaster Elite pros who all had a great tournament to say the least. He fished with Kelly Jordan on the first day, John Murray the second and Mark Tyler on Day Three

— all of whom made the cut to fish on the final day.

"I had a blast with all of my pros and really learned a lot from each of them," stated Kallina. "Today, Mark and I made it look easy from our boat, but believe me it wasn't."

Tyler and Kallina were fishing up the creeks and on beds. His most utilized bait of the week was a white chatterbait. The bait has become extremely hot during the last half year, and is backordered in just about every bait and tackle shop.

Kallina admitted his co-angler friend James Kennedy introduced him to the bait two weeks ago at the Bassmaster Southern Open on Lake Sam Rayburn where he finished tied for 116th place.

Amazingly, the Southern Open and the Elite Series this week are the only competitive fishing events Kallina has ever participated in. Right now he's winning 50% of the time, and if he can keep up that pace will be well on his way to reaching his dream of becoming a professional angler.

The suave-looking 25-year-old has been dubbed by a few of the fishing circles on the trail as the next Skeet Reese.

"Maybe they are talking about the hairdo," Kallina smiled. "But to be compared to any pro is just fine with me."

Thomas Ferris from Texas finished in second place with 27 pounds, 11 ounces and will receive a boat and motor merchandise package with a price tag of \$25,000 for his efforts.

Third place went to Russell Lohman of Louisiana who will pocket a cool \$10,000 for putting 26 pounds, seven ounces on the scales. The Mexico City native Raul Morineau finished in fourth place with nine fish totaling 26 pounds, three ounces and will receive a \$5,000 check. Rounding out the top five was Tommy Swindle from Alabama with 25 pounds, four ounces and now \$4,000 in cash. The tournament payout extends to the top 25 co-anglers.

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## Combs Recognized For Child Nutrition

Texas Agriculture Commissioner Susan Combs was awarded the American Medical Association's Dr. Nathan Davis Award for Outstanding Government Service in Washington, D.C.

Combs was recognized in the "Outstanding State Officer Through Election" category for her work to promote nutrition across Texas. Combs implemented a far-reaching statewide school nutrition policy and has launched innovative ideas to combat childhood obesity.

"It is an honor to be recognized for something we are so passionate about," Combs said. "Over the past 20 years our country and state have seen dramatic increases in obesity, and we must all work together to cure this epidemic."

Presented annually, these awards are considered to be some of the most prestigious honors extended to elected officials and career government employees for outstanding endeavors in public health. Combs was nominated

for the award by Congressman John Carter from Central Texas.

The Texas Department of Agriculture is the state administrator for the school meals program in Texas. Details on the school meal programs

and TDA's Square Meals initiative are available at [www.squaremeals.org](http://www.squaremeals.org). For more information contact TDA at (888) TEX-KIDS or send an e-mail to [www.squaremeals@agr.state.tx.us](mailto:www.squaremeals@agr.state.tx.us).

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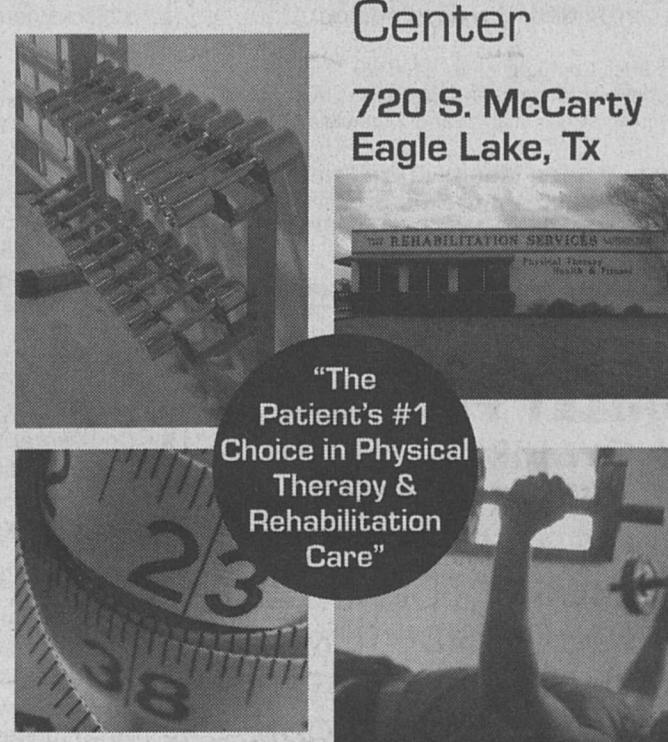
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