



# THE DEPTH FINDER

## Deep C's & OWL's Newsletter

Luke 5:4—"Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch."

—Jesus directs us if we listen.

Vol. 11 | March 2023 | Fishing For Life Newsletter | Fishingforlife.org



## Finding Jesus

BY MARK SCHWIETZ

I grew up in a typical Catholic family; my dad's brother was a priest, I went to catechism weekly, Saturday evening for mass, and ate fish on Fridays. When I turned 12, my grandfather gave me a letter and in it he wrote, "When you are 21, maybe you will go to seminary for the priesthood. I think you would make a fine priest." Those words struck me in my heart that there may be something that God may have for me. I always enjoyed church but growing up I had a potty mouth that got me in trouble with my family and neighbors.

In junior high, one of my teachers reached out to me. Our relationship during those years was full of fishing and some hunting. During my 8th grade year, my teacher invited me to a bible study before school. The bible study had both students and teachers. We would meet for about an hour studying God's word. Towards the end of my 9th grade year, one of the teachers talked about going to a Billy Graham Crusade at the State Fair Grounds. On the second night of the Crusade I said a prayer asking Jesus into my life. But as I went into high school something changed.

During high school, I was involved with sports, all types of different friends, some drugs, but academics was not a big part of my life. I barely graduated from high school. I had several jobs including Movies at Maplewood. One night my mom and dad came into the theatre to watch a movie while I was working and my dad looked at me and stared me in my eyes and said, "Mark are you OK?" I said, "I am doing good!" But inside, I knew that was not correct. That Fall, I went to Mankato State where something changed me forever.

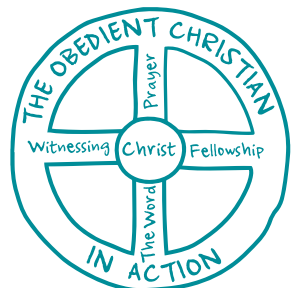
On November 6, 1976, I was sitting at my desk working on math. I pushed my math book aside and started thinking about my life from high school to where I was on that day. So many thoughts went through my head from my discussions with my mom and dad, my friends, and my school work at Mankato. I said, "Lord I need to know you in a better way." Within a few minutes two people knocked on my door and asked if they could share a survey with me. I invited them in and at the end of the survey they shared "The Four Spiritual Laws" with me. I said a simple prayer that changed my life forever.

During the next several Depth Finders, I will be sharing a "Wheel Diagram" through the Navigators which will assist you to becoming closer to Jesus.



### Navigators Discipleship Tool

The Wheel diagram, created by Navigator founder Dawson Trotman in the 1930s, is a simple and effective way to visually explain the structure of a God-glorifying life. Sharing it can be as simple as drawing it on a napkin or notepad. The diagram challenges us to think deeply about how to be an obedient follower of Christ and each part represents a crucial component of a vibrant Christian life.



## THE WHEEL

### How you relate to yourself

#### THE CENTER HUB AND OUTER RIM

- **Christ:** Total surrender to Christ's authority and Lordship is not always a decision made right at conversion, but is a necessary act of the will. For the believer, the "old life" has gone and the new has come (2 Corinthians 5:17), because Christ has begun to dwell in us (Galatians 2:20). God creates within us the desire to do what He wants us to do in order to express His Lordship in our lives.
- **The Obedient Christian in Action:** Some acts of obedience to God are internal, such as attitudes, habits, motives, values and day-to-day thoughts. But even these eventually surface outwardly in our relationships with other people. Keeping His commands in obedience is our outward indication of inward health and love for Christ (John 14:21, Romans 12:1).

### How you relate to God

#### THE VERTICAL SPOKES

- **The Word:** God uses His word to speak directly to us, revealing not only who He is, but how He calls us to live and interact with everyone around us (2 Timothy 3:16). This means an earnest personal intake of God's Word is essential for our spiritual health and growth (Joshua 1:8). As God speaks to us through the Scriptures, we learn how to obey Him and apply the gospel to every part of our lives. We also come to know Jesus personally and find He is worthy of our steadfast allegiance.
- **Prayer:** Prayer is the natural response to God as we hear Him speak through His Word. It is sharing our heart with the One who longs for our companionship and who cares about our concerns. Prayer not only trains our hearts and minds to know the power and glory of God, but also turns His ear towards action in our lives (John 15:7, Philippians 4:6-7).

### How you relate to others

#### THE HORIZONTAL SPOKES

- **Fellowship:** God has directed Christians to build each other up through interdependence and loving relationships with each other (Hebrews 10:24-25). Gathering together as the Body of Christ draws God close around us as we praise Him and encourage one another (Matthew 18:20).
- **Witnessing:** God has given believers the joy and responsibility of telling the world about the good news of Christ's work on Earth (Matthew 4:19). In fact, sharing about His amazing grace is the natural overflow of a rich, vibrant life in Christ (Romans 1:16).



THIS TOOL IS MEANT TO BE SHARED. To download a copy visit [navlink.org/wheel](http://navlink.org/wheel)  
The Wheel ©1976, (2016) by The Navigators. All rights reserved.

# SPIRITUAL CORNER

## Dan Pilla's Devotional on Joshua 1:8-9

These devotionals will be a continual messages from Dan Pilla. Dan shares at both Deep C's North and East. Along with the messages are his notes. As I have watched Dan share messages at Deep C's East, his love for Jesus and the importance of following God's Word is so evident. May you take time to be courageous.

<sup>8</sup>"This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success. <sup>9</sup> Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go." Joshua 1:8-9



### WHAT IS COURAGE?

#### Study Notes

2023 Deep Cs theme verse: Joshua 1:9 –

Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; Do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.

What does it mean to be courageous?

Definitions

Hebrew word: Amets - (aw-mats')

A verb; \_\_\_\_\_ word;  
To be stout, strong, bold, alert

English dictionary definition

The quality of mind or spirit that enables a person to face difficulty, danger, pain, etc

It's the mental and moral strength to \_\_\_\_\_

Courage is not the absence of \_\_\_\_\_

It's the ability to \_\_\_\_\_ fear

Fear is an \_\_\_\_\_ caused by anticipation or awareness of danger

Opposite of courage is \_\_\_\_\_

One makes up his mind to be courageous,

Then thru God he controls \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ Proverbs 29:25

God is with us and \_\_\_\_\_ in our hour of fear – 56<sup>th</sup> Psalm

I Chron 28 – Story of David’s plans to build the \_\_\_\_\_

God stopped David and ordained Solomon

David uses the same command to Solomon – I Chron 28:20

David also gave his son – who was to become King – a plan for \_\_\_\_\_ in life

How to overcome \_\_\_\_\_ and be courageous – I Chro 28:8-10

Get to know God \_\_\_\_\_

Learn God’s \_\_\_\_\_ – Joshua 1:8

Discover his \_\_\_\_\_ for your life – Jer 29:11; Jonah 1:3

Worship Him with \_\_\_\_\_ devotion – Deut 6

Serve God with a \_\_\_\_\_ mind – Jonah 4:1-3

Be \_\_\_\_\_ faithful – Exod 14:13; Mark 4:40

Be strong and courageous – Joshua 1 – God says it \_\_\_\_\_ times

The aim of courage is not to be \_\_\_\_\_ or careless, \_\_\_\_\_ or belligerent

# SPIRITUAL CORNER

## Why Limit God?

BY KEITH HOVLAND



*In our theme verse for the year, Joshua was told to be strong and courageous, to meditate on the Book of the Law and to be careful to live according to God's Word. (Joshua 1:8-9)*

"Why Limit God?" my barber remarked while cutting my hair as he referred to people who credit the evil one rather than God for life events beyond their control.

*Joshua was a great example of not limiting God. Remarkable things happened as Joshua lead his life according to God's Word:*

- The waters of the Jordan River parted so that the Israelites could cross over on dry ground when the priests carrying the Ark of the Covenant stepped into the waters. (Joshua 3)
- The walls of Jericho fell down so that the Israelites could totally conquer the city after they had marched around the city for 7 days in obedience to God's Word. (Joshua 6)
- The sun stood still for about 24 hours so that Joshua and the Israelite army could defeat the Amorites. (Joshua 10)
- Joshua and the Israelites conquered 31 kings on the west side of the Jordan. (Joshua 12)

### *Why limit God as we step into 2023?*

In this month (and beyond) my prayer is that we would not focus on our human limitations, but rather on *"Him Who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us."*(Ephesians 3:20 ESV)

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## CHAPTER NEWS

### North: 3-Word Phrases from Scripture

BY TRAVIS BUSCH



This year I have been looking at some of my favorite Bible passages. March is the third month of the year, so I will be sharing my favorite 3-word passages. I have heard sermons that seem to go on forever, and perhaps they need to. There are some truths in Scripture that require in-depth explanations. But there are also some ideas in God's Word that are so simple that they would fit on a bumper sticker. If we are trying to explain our faith with others and we only have a few minutes, I would use one of these passages.

I am so blessed but often I find myself dreaming about wealth. I dream about wealth as if it would really solve problems. My biggest problem is that I am a sinner, and earthly possessions won't help with this issue at all. In the Parable of

the Sower, Jesus lists three scenarios where faith does not last. One such scenario is when the seed falls among the thorns. Jesus explains that the thorns represent the "deceitfulness of wealth". This 3-word phrase reminds me that money won't solve my single biggest problem. In fact, it won't bring lasting joy at all.

So much of our imagination is spent on acquiring wealth in the absence of work. Game shows, lotteries, and especially casinos are built on the idea that people want the money with little to no effort. However, we have this entirely backwards! I would argue that if we really understood the way God designed us, we would value work over wealth. The book of Proverbs contrasts wisdom and laziness. The book of Ecclesiastics stresses this same idea. Ephesians 4:27-28 says, "and do not give the devil a foothold, anyone who has been stealing must steal no longer, **but must work**, doing something useful with their own hands that they may have something to share with those in need." This phrase "but must work" is meaningful to me because it reminds me that the work is just as important as the paycheck.

In the Old Testament, the Israelites were under the old covenant. Under this covenant sacrifices were required for each family, repeatedly. And these sacrifices did not even forgive their sins! These sacrifices were a foreshadowing of the life and death of Jesus. Since we live under the covenant of the New Testament, we no longer need to sacrifice animals. The phrase

“once for all” is found in several places in the New Testament. Hebrews 7:27 describes the sacrifice that Jesus made like this, “Unlike the other high priests, he does not need to offer sacrifices day after day, first for his own sins, and then for the sins of the people. He sacrificed for their sins once for all when he offered himself.”

The north chapter of Deep C’s meets at IB insurance in Anoka at 6 pm on the 4th Thursday of each month. Our February meeting was canceled due to the snowstorm. On March 23, our guest speaker will be Tim Winterhalter. Tim will share with us the latest innovations from Humminbird.

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## South: Meeting Highlights & Guest Speaker

BY DAVE LINDMARK



Tim Jewell with a tournament smallmouth

Deep Cs South, after having to cancel our January meeting, was privileged and blessed to be part of a great February meeting and with having more people present than in recent months.

Wes Wheately, our host and chaplain, chose for his text Luke 10, the sending out the 70 (or 72 depending on the translation) disciples to do the works that Jesus was doing. Lacking any formal training, they set out in obedience and courage. The results were amazing. Many flocked to them, miracles happened, people were healed, demons were cast out. The themes of belief, obedience and courage have great application to us today as Christ’s witnesses. Several of us shared personal experiences, including Wes who related a miraculous intercession while sharing his faith in Chicago’s inner city.

Deep Cs South learned a great deal from Tim Jewell, our guest speaker. Tim is the President of Fishers of Men, Twin Cities Chapter, an organization long associated with Fishing For Life. Tim fishes numerous tournaments and is always on the cutting edge of new techniques and equipment while not forsaking the tried and true. I’ve fished with Tim and against him in Fishers of Men tournaments and regard him as the club’s best fisherman, not just because he often wins, but because of how willing he is to share ideas and see other fishermen succeed. I think we saw some of that reflected during the February seminar where we were inspired by a good speaker and talented fisherman.

Michael Thompson will be our March Deep Cs South speaker and will share fishing and photography techniques and experiences. Those who know Mike can attest to his amazing skills with both fishing rod and camera.

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## East: The Attack

BY RANDY MARKEY

One of my favorite ways to fish is with topwater baits. As I pull the bait across the water, a largemouth bass will hurry over to strike it with great intensity. If he misses the bait it comes back a second or even a third time. I can watch all this action unfold. I can sometimes see the fish underwater watching my bait waiting for the perfect time to strike.

Many times, in life, I feel like that lure, being attacked several times in a row. It could be direct or indirect. It can be directly at you, or it can be against a family member that affects you. Make no mistake about it, it is carefully designed to steal your joy and happiness. It can happen quickly, or it can happen slowly over time. It can even happen in our reaction. Someone may do something to us and our first thought is revenge. That is just another attack to keep the whole plan moving in perpetual motion. I need to remember to let God handle it if the attack is through another person.

John 10:10 says that the thief comes to steal kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life and have it to the full. There are two truths in this verse. While it is true that attacks WILL happen, it is also true that we Jesus to help us shed off those attacks.

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Our February East Deep C’s meeting was great! It was attended by 13 men. Even the legendary back-to-back fall fishing derby winner, Steve Cruikshank made an appearance. After our fellowship and faith, we were treated to a unique speaker. David Little and Nate Rabideaux told about using dogs to locate big game after you have taken your shot, but are struggling to find it. He talked about the process of training and the gear that they use as well as the laws that they have to abide by. He even brought in his dog Bailey.



# West: Meeting Notes

BY TODD GOETZE

For February, Dwight continued our devotion on Joshua. He tied is back to Deuteronomy and how Moses was a courageous man.

Our speaker for the month was Chad Keller. Chad is a semi-professional bass fisherman and goes on the bass fishing tours. He talked about different tournaments and how no lake or area is the same and trying new techniques and/or lures. He is also a fishing guide on Lake Minnetonka.

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## OWLs: Together Again

BY PATTI MURRAY

The woman's group came out to help with registration at Holes 4 Heroes Tournament on Feb 11th. The weather was beautiful, a perfect day to come out. The turn out was great and was a fun time to connect with the military participants along with hearing some fun stories.

We were also blessed with OWLs member Susy Bebo's authentic tamales. They were so delish and what a treat! This group of ladies always enjoys our times together.

This month we have started our next bible study on the book of Ruth by Bianca Juarez Olthoff—God can seem distant when dreams fade, people die or careers fail. No one knows this more than Ruth and Naomi. Women can still join the study, we meet virtually the first and second Mondays of the month for 7 sessions, from 7:30-9pm. [CLICK HERE](#) to join. This month we had 9 ladies join the study with 15 that have signed up.

This month we also had 2 of the OWLs ladies represent our group and Fishing For Life at a Women Veteran Brunch & Resource Event sponsored by the Dakota County Elks and Rosemount Beyond the Yellow Ribbon. Many great connections were made and we are excited by the response our group received by being there.

Keep the Faith and God Bless!

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## TIPS & TRICKS

### Chasing Late Ice Crappies

BY JACOB SCHWIETZ



My favorite part of the ice fishing season is late ice. Late ice in Minnesota typically starts around March and can go into April depending on the year. This is one of the best times of the ice season to catch some slab crappies. Not only is this some of the best fishing of the season, but its typically the most comfortable time to fish due to the warmer weather. This plays a big factor in being able to move around to find fish. This time of year fish are starting to move towards their pre-spawn areas to feed before they spawn. They also tend to group up during this time to protect themselves from predators. Depending on the lake that I am fishing, I will typically find the fish on the edge of a basin or in shallow, weedy areas. Both areas can provide feed and protection for the fish.

When fishing a new lake there is a few things I like to do to give me the best odds at finding fish. First, look at a lake map using navionics or a similar resource. Look for the basins that could hold fish. Ideally you want some sort of weedy structure nearby. Once I pinpoint a couple areas to try, I head to the lake and start searching for fish. The technology that has come out in the last handful of years makes finding these fish a lot easier. For example, forward-facing sonar and 360 imaging can save you lots of time when searching for fish.

If you are like me and do not have access to that technology, the best thing is to drill a lot of holes. The idea is to drill out an area with holes roughly 30 feet from each other in a grid pattern. I typically drill about 20-30 holes before I even start fishing. Once I have the area, I use my Vexlar to find fish. I don't spend very much time in one hole before moving on

to the next. I continue to move from hole to hole until I locate fish. This is commonly known as hole-hopping. As I mentioned earlier, crappies tend to group up this time of year, so if you find one there are usually more around. Don't forget crappies like to move around too, so if they are suddenly gone from the hole, just continue to move until you find them again. There are times you may not locate any fish in any of the 20 plus holes drilled. Don't give up and just keep trying different areas and depths until you find success.

There is a variety of presentations and baits to use during this time. My go to is always a small spoon for crappies. I really like the Northland forage minnow. They are easy to find and relatively inexpensive. I usually fish a spoon with a minnow head for extra scent. However, bait is not always needed and sometimes just the spoon is enough to get them to bite. If I am struggling to get the fish to commit on a spoon, I will downsize and put on a small tungsten jig tipped with waxies or a plastic. If you are fishing deeper than 10 feet, it is ideal to use a heavier jig like tungsten in order to get the bait down to the fish as fast as possible. Don't forget crappies tend to school up but they also move a lot so it's important to get your lure in front of the fish as fast as possible before they move.

Have a fantastic March and enjoy the late Ice.

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## Top Secret Cooking

BY CHAD LANNERS



I have had the opportunity to spend a lot of time on the ice with one of my nephews, Max. This young man is a blessing in my life, as we have connected and spent a lot of time in the great outdoors. Over the years, we have been able to explore life and all the possibilities around it, share stories and create strategies to execute our next fishing or hunting expedition. As Max will graduate from high school this spring and start a new chapter in his life, we recently had the opportunity to discuss... "going to college" and "exploring career opportunities" while out crappie fishing. Max is an excellent fisherman and, on this day, he was destined to put us on some crappies. As you all know, crappie fishing can be a challenge through the ice, especially when compared to sunny spring days when the shallows are alive, and bobbers dropped with regularity.

Max often talks about how winter crappies are fish of details which translates to your equipment and light tackle, often fluorocarbon, is preferred when he is trying to get these finicky fish to commit. Colors can also be a big factor to his success. He shares, if you do not have underwater cameras to detect bites, invest in a spring bobber. Max explains, crappies can inhabit a wide range of depths, cover and structure and he likes to keep moving until he finds them. On this day the JOY of fishing never faded as Max shared his techniques and we were able to find a few crappies.

It is a favorite of fisherman across America in terms of game as well as taste. Most people prefer their crappie fried but there are certainly more creative ways to cook this special fish. I suggest you try one of Max's favorite mouthwatering crappie recipes.

### Max's Homemade Crappie Patties

Serve this with delicious homemade garlic butter sauce.

#### Ingredients:

- 3 cups cooked crappie fillets
- ½ cup finely chopped onion
- ½ cup finely chopped celery
- 1 cup shredded or mashed potatoes
- 1 teaspoon salt
- ½ teaspoon freshly grounds black pepper
- 1 egg, beaten
- Cracker crumbs, ground in blender
- 2 tablespoons butter
- 2 tablespoons canola oil
- Garlic-butter Sauce:
- 2 tablespoons unsalted butter
- 1 garlic clove, minced
- 4 teaspoons flour
- ¾ cup milk
- 2 table spoons fresh lemon juice

- ¼ teaspoon salt
- Fresh ground black pepper

#### Directions:

- Mix the crappie fillets, onion, celery and potatoes together. Now add salt, pepper, and egg together.
- Form into patties.
- Heat butter and canola oil in skillet on medium heat and roll the patties in the crushed crackers crumbs.
- Fry the patties until golden brown on each side!

**To make the sauce,** heat the garlic and butter in a saucepan on medium. Whisk in the flour until it forms a smooth paste. Gradually stir in the milk and bring o a boil. Cook for two minutes while whisking the sauce. Remove from heat: add lemon juice and season with salt and pepper. Serve garlic butter sauce with crappie patties.

# Save The Dates

**April 20** – BOB 106 Radiothon. We need a few volunteers for 3-hour shifts throughout the day to answer phones and take pledges at BOB 106 radio station. This takes place in Ramsey, MN. It is a great way to connect with our donor base and have some fun. Interested persons should contact Mark Schwietz.

**May 6** – 53rd Minnesota Bound Crappie Contest Minnetonka, MN Looking for guides for this event.

**May 10** – Reel'Em In, Clean up Day at Elk River, MN

**May 18** – Reel' Em In, YMCA Coon Rapids, MN

**May 18** – Volunteer Hunting/Fishing Camp Guide Training Plymouth, MN

**TAKE NOTE:** We have implemented a new data base system at FFL. In the near future we may be asking you to update or confirm your contact information within the system. This system will be used to track attendance at Chapter events, sending communications, and registrations. With this change you will notice that emails will be coming from a standard email address and will be a nore-ply@shelbnextchms.com address when sent through the database system. We will also have texting capabilities with this new system. The text will come from a generic number like 22383 and no longer from the staffs' personal phones when sent from the database. This allows staff to see communications that were sent out to better serve our programs and ministry. This also means as our ministry continues to grow and implement new tools for success you will need to register online to attend and volunteer at events.

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## Calendar

To view our current calendar, please [CLICK HERE](#).

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## Chapter Details

### Chapter Leaders & Volunteers

Deep C's Director-Mark Schwietz  
Depth Finder Editor-Daryle Hamlin  
Depth Finder Designer-Sara Shrode

### WEST CHAPTER-2nd Tuesdays

*Cabela's-20200 Rogers Dr., Rogers, MN*  
Spiritual Leader-Dwight Nelson  
Chapter Coordinators-Todd Goetze  
Food Coordinator-VOLUNTEER NEEDED

### SOUTH CHAPTER-2nd Thursday

*Wes Wheatley, 9943 Harriet Ave, Mpls*  
Spiritual Leader-Wes Wheatley  
Chapter Coordinator-Dave Lindmark  
Food Coordinator-Wes Wheatley

### EAST CHAPTER-4th Tuesday

*Fractional Toys, 2967 Hudson Rd., Oakdale, MN*  
Spiritual Leader-Dan Pilla  
Chapter Coordinator-Randy Markey  
Food Coordinator-Randy Markey

### NORTH CHAPTER-4th Thursday

*Insurance Brokers, 3351 Round Lk Blvd, Oakdale*  
Spiritual Leader-Dan Pilla  
Chapter Coordinator-Travis Busch  
Food Coordinator-VOLUNTEER NEEDED

### OUTDOOR WOMEN FOR LIFE (OWLS)

*Virtual Fall/Spring*  
Chapter Coordinator-Mary Wilcox & Patti Murray

**PLEASE NOTE:** During 2023 there will be no Dues for Deep C's. If you gave your dues for 2023 at the Christmas Party please let your Deep C's Coordinator now.



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WANTED-Volunteer Video Editor -

Please contact Chad@fishingforlife.org for more details.



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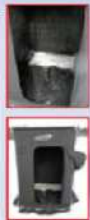
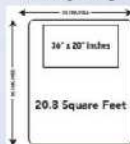
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## Cold Creek Construction

Newsletters sponsored by Cold Creek Construction, a Twin Cities New Home Builder & Remodeler for 20 years. Check them out at [www.coldcreek-construction.com](http://www.coldcreek-construction.com). Paul Wagner, the owner of Cold Creek, is an avid fisherman, and active in Fishing For Life's ministries.

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## Dan Pilla

Small Business Tax Guide to move your business forward.  
<https://taxhelponline.com>

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## Jiggin Jim's Taxidermy

Fish & Game Heads  
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[taxidermyforsportsmen.com](http://taxidermyforsportsmen.com)