

This was a really fun piece to put together in August. We had a young man that caught a record 42-inch catfish while fishing with his family at Homer's Pond in Junction City. It's not everyday that a third grade student catches this big of fish. As you can see by the original photo, I had my work cut out for me to make it look like the finished product and make it look like it fit around the pond. I really wanted people to know that this young man caught the fish in our county, so I added the sign around the pond. I wanted to make it look seamless with the transition from the original photo to the graphic with shading and coloring. I even had to add his hand in the image which was quite tricky because I used his left hand to duplicate to make it his right hand. What happened next was firestorm of media coverage. By reeling in the monster catfish, the young student qualified to receive the Master Angler Award from the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks. He was also featured on local radio stations and newscasts across the state. He was even interviewed nationally on podcasts. So what turned from being a nice little feature locally turned into a state-wide audience as this graphic was shared all across the state. As an avid fisherman myself, I was shocked when I went to a lake about an hour and a half away and this graphic was sitting in their closed information center leading up to the lake.