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Hunting, fishing regulation changes adopted

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission has adopted regulations expanding special antlerless-only white-tailed deer seasons in two regions of the state.

The changes were additions to the 1987-88 hunting regulations adopted by the commission May 7.

One of the changes expands the special early antlerless-only white-tailed deer season in East Texas. The Oct. 24-Nov. 8 season will include all of Polk, Trinity, Houston and Angelina counties, and the portion of Nacogdoches County south of State Highway 7. During last year's season, only portions of Polk and Trinity counties had the special season.

A three-county expansion of the special late antlerless-only white-tailed deer season in South Texas also was adopted. Frio, LaSalle and McMullen counties were added to those having the Jan. 9-24, 1988 season. Counties that already had the late season are Webb, Maverick, Duval, Zapata, Zavala and Dimmit.

Fishing yo-yo's banned

A statewide prohibition on the use of fishing yo-yo's was adopted by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission in its public hearing recently.

Yo-yo's are spring-loaded reeling devices used primarily on limblines.

They already were prohibited in salt water. The freshwater ban will go into effect September 1.

Nick Carter, chief of inland fisheries, told the commission the regulation is needed to prevent mortality of

fish that can be pulled above the water surface by the yo-yo's. Use of yo-yo's is especially harmful in waters where minimum or maximum length limits on certain game fish are in effect, Carter said.

Hunting seasons and bag limits for mourning and white-winged doves for 1987-88 will be virtually the same as last year, but the special teal duck season will be one week later than in 1986.

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission adopted the early-season migratory bird hunting seasons and bag limits in a public hearing in Austin on July 23.

The commission accepted a recommendation by the department staff to set the nine-day teal duck season for Sept. 19-27. The change was made because department records indicate greater numbers of teal will be present in the state for the later season.

Teal bag limits will remain unchanged from 1986, at four teal in the aggregate per day and eight in possession. Shooting hours are sunrise to sunset.

No changes were made in season lengths or zone boundaries for mourning and white-winged doves.

The North Zone mourning dove season is Sept. 1-Nov. 9; the Central Zone season is Sept. 1-Oct. 30 and Jan. 2-11; the South Zone mourning dove season is Sept. 20-Nov. 18, except in the Special White-winged Dove Area, where the season is Sept. 20-Nov. 14.

The winter season for mourning doves in the South Zone will be Jan. 2-11.

As in the past, the white-winged dove season is on the first two complete weekends in September, which this year is Sept. 5-6 and 12-13. Shooting hours during the four-day white-winged dove season again are noon to sunset. Shooting hours during the mourning dove season in all zones is one-half hour before sunrise to sunset.

A 36 white-winged dove stamp is required in addition to a valid hunting license to take white-wings anywhere in the state.

Dove bag limits also are unchanged from 1986, at four doves in the aggregate per day and eight in possession.

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Alligator tag issuance boundaries, rates set

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department officials have announced general boundaries within which alligator tags may be legally hunted during the September 4-30 hunting season. This September marks the fourth consecutive alligator harvest season since statewide alligator management planning was initiated in 1984.

Alligator tags for the 1987 season will be issued on a quota basis to landowners or their authorized agents. Tag quotas are based on estimated alligator populations. Some 1,760 tags will be available for issuance in 1987 — an increase of more than 600 tags from 1986 when 1,150 tags were available.

"The quota increases have resulted from inclusion of additional hunting areas, higher survey counts and full implementation of allowable quota rates under the management plan," said Bruce Thompson, TPWD alligator program.

Public interest in alligator hunting has similarly increased and a growing number of interested hunters are finding it more and more difficult to arrange hunts or locate available tags.

To help potential alligator hunters in 1987, the TPWD has prepared a list of counties for possible alligator hunts that are available to the public. Copies of the list may be obtained by writing to: Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, 4200 Smith School Road, Austin, Texas 78744, or by calling 1-800-792-1112.

The areas to be hunted and numbers of permits in each are as follows: Ausco County: Metate Creek County; Manor Lake (23); Brazos River Club (8); Big Slough (9); Harris Reservoir (5); W.H. Black Lake Reservoir and Slough (7); Bar X Lakes and Slough (4); Eagle Nest Lake (1); Tennesse Hunting Club (5); Mallard Lake (3); Austin Bayou Reservoir (3); Bell Lake (1); Bieri Lakes (2); Halls Bayou (1); Chubb Lake (1); Stubbfield Lake (1) and Mojo Lake (5); Calhoun County: Guadalupe Delta Marsh (4); NW of Powderhorn Lake (5); Black & Jones Bayou (10) and Coloma Creek (3);

Colorado County: Eagle Lake (18) and Eagle Lake Gravel Pits (6); Fort Bend County: Dry Creek (9); Worthington Lake (7); Pecan Bend Subdivision Lake (2); Harrison and Anderson Oxbow Lakes

(5); Lake Olympia (2); Kitty Hollow Lake (2); Meyers Lake (2); Henderson County: Koon Creek area (18); Matagorda County: Donaldson Lake (4); Big Boggy (5); Peyton Creek (5); Cane Bayou Lakes (9); Mad Island Slough (19); Robbins Slough (29); Caney Creek (1); Little Boggy (13); Gulf area (2); Oyster Lake (4); Matthews Lake (2); McMullen County: Jamboree — Morrill Ranches (4); Refugio County: Nagley (2); Victoria County: Adler Lake (2); Linn Lake (1); McDonald Bayou (2); McFaddin Marsh (3); Bass Lake (2).

Additional areas in Chambers, Jefferson, Gulfview, Liberty and Orange counties will be eligible for tag issuance and hunting.

Thompson said tag quotas are established based on summer survey results and they may vary among different types of habitat and possibly within single-ownership tracts. "These quotas will determine the number of tags available for all tracts of alligator habitat within the issuance area," said Thompson.

"Applications for tags may be made at times and places specified by the TPWD. Other limited areas also may be considered by the department for alligator tag issuance if additional information substantiates the presence of harvestable populations of alligators."

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During the whitening season, the bag limit is 10 white-winged, mourning and white-tipped doves in the aggregate including no more than two white-winged and two white-tipped doves per day. Possession limits are twice the daily bag limit.

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"The restaurant industry is responding to the consumer demand for more nutritional and lower calorie meals," says Dr. Dymple Cooksey, a nutritionist with the Texas Agricultural Extension Service.

"Fast food chains are especially making an effort to attract health conscious people." Many fast food chains are trying to improve the nutritional value of their products by cutting back on sodium and fat. A few chains have switched to using polyunsaturated fats in their deep fryers in efforts to gain public approval and patronage, Cooksey points out.

Salad bars, pizza and a variety of ethnic foods can be nutritious and low calorie if high calorie toppings aren't added. According to Cooksey, "Eating fast food doesn't have to be a high-calorie, fatty experience."

Fink's Variety closes doors Saturday

Fink's Variety Store, 215 East Main, in Eagle Lake will be closing its doors this Saturday, August 8.

Bill and Betty Fink are trying to sell the building and its contents to anyone interested because they want to start traveling again. Every item is on sale for 50% off the regular price.

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BACK TO SCHOOL SPECIAL SECTION IN THIS ISSUE

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Commissioners vote funds to continue investigation

Broussard case going back to grand jury

New evidence indicates cash involved with bonds also will be presented

The state's investigation of Colorado County sheriff Jim Broussard will be presented to the next term of the new county grand jury scheduled to be seated next month, according to Jim Vollers, special prosecutor.

Vollers said Monday afternoon — after he and district attorney Bud Kirkendall met with commissioners court in Columbus to discuss whether the county should pay for a special investigator — that he may or may not ask the Sept. 8 session to review the case. It will depend on the time it takes to prepare the case based on new information. He did say the case would be presented as soon as possible.

That information was revealed Monday during the regular, twice-monthly meeting of Colorado County Commissioners Court. After long "debate" on whether commissioners were being fiscally responsible, or were trying to block the case by not approving about \$2,500 in payments for a special investigator, county judge Lester Cranek broke a deadlock by voting to pay the investigator.

Commissioners Sonny Spaniel and Jerome Wicke voted to pay the investigator and continue the investigation, while commissioners Bud Strunk and Otto Loessin voted against such payment.

Tight end and line backer Johnnell Doyins and center and defensive tackle Michael Rhodes "are imposing figures on either side of the line. Guard Twayman Boone and tackle Mark Kurcherka, both 230-pounds, will be an important factor too.

Practice for the teams can begin Monday, August 10. Later this month the teams will scrimmage before opening their five non-district games.

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investigator's services ordered by the grand jury last winter, but began to question those bills when commissioners learned the investigator was working after the grand jury was dismissed.

District Attorney Bud Kirkendall said the grand jury foreman could confirm that the jury told Kirkendall to continue the investigation, and that is why the work continued.

However, Cranek said, "Some of the media may have interpreted from action of the court that commissioners court opposed certain actions, and that is the reason they took action they took." He said the accusation that the court, lead by himself, was trying to block the investigation or the prosecution was absurd.

"We opposed a blank check," Cranek said, adding that the commissioners did not oppose the investigation.

While there were exchanges between Cranek and Kirkendall concerning their careers, Cranek told Kirkendall that, "All this had publicity would not have happened" if Kirkendall had come to commissioners earlier in the year and requested funding for the investigator. "I am convinced this court would have satisfied your need to do what you have to do."

"Somehow we got on opposing sides of the fence and got to throwing sticks at each other. I don't know who should have crossed the fence first," Cranek said.

Commissioner Spaniel told Kirkendall he couldn't understand why the DA didn't approach commissioners not to reveal the findings in the case, but to say there would be a need for a special prosecutor. "It really turned me off when we were told by a special judge that handled the case, who instructed the court to pay, rather than you coming to the court to give us some reasoning... When it comes to money, I think we are entitled to know prior to when you go to a judge asking that he instruct us to pay."

Spaniel also said that he "was just trying to give you (Kirkendall) some impression of why I am concerned about approving some of this." He said he has been in business for many years and that he requires a true, itemized statement. "I certainly don't want to interfere with the case," Spaniel said.

Another comment by the Eagle Lake commissioner was that he took "objection that you (Kirkendall) indicate the judge (Cranek) leads the court. No one leads Mr. Spaniel. I am my own man."

Executive session

When prosecutor Vollers began explaining why he needed the work of

the investigator, he began to distribute information developed for the case. One sheet given to commissioners and Cranek listed checks written on the sheriff's account; it was titled "Expenses appearing to be for other than county business."

Another sheet listed items Vollers said the sheriff purchased with his personal money, then took reimbursement from county funds. It totaled \$16,264.99.

Vollers explained that the items which were investigated are out of the realm of a regular CPA, and need the experience and expertise that his investigator has.

As Vollers continued to discuss the case, judge Cranek stopped him, saying such information should be discussed in an executive session. In such meetings, the public is not allowed to hear what is discussed. Cranek said he felt Broussard's constitutional rights were being violated because the information was made available in an open meeting.

Commissioner Otto Loessin agreed, and made a motion at 12:10 p.m. that the court declare an emergency meeting and post an agenda for a closed-door session that would begin in two hours.

After that motion was approved, county tax assessor-collector Evelyn Thomas questioned whether the court should have a closed-door session. She told the judge, "I felt like for some reason you are trying to stop these people from investigating... how are we protected as citizens against people if the (investigation) is blocked?"

Kirkendall also told the court he felt an emergency executive session could not be called. Cranek said the closed-door would be called under the Texas Open Meetings Act that allows the public to be excluded from discussion about personnel matters.

When the emergency agenda was posted, it was clear that it was in proper in that the Open Meetings Act requires the act's exclusion paragraph to be stated and that an explanatory topic also be included. The emergency agenda only said "Executive Session," with no topic.

During the lunch break, The Headlight consulted with an attorney in the Dallas-Fort Worth area with the Freedom of Information Foundation. That attorney said that the court should not hold such a meeting because of the improper agenda, but that it also was his opinion that the court could not claim the "personnel" exclusion under the Open Meetings Act. He said the sheriff was not answerable to the commissioners as an employee, that he was hired directly by the public, and thus did not qualify as personnel. The attorney said a temporary restraining

order could have been sought to prevent the meeting, or that if it was held, each member of the court could be charged with a misdemeanor violation that carries a penalty of up to \$500 and a short county jail term.

Commissioners resumed their regular meeting at 1:15 p.m., tackling that, and the court split 2-2. Cranek cast the deciding "aye" vote.

During that final discussion Vollers told the court, "I can't tell you will be necessary to get the case to the grand jury. I will use his vote judiciously."

He said the investigator will be looking at jail records which the court ordered taken July 15 by the Texas Rangers. He said the investigator will be analyzing the bond records because there were a large number of cash bonds taken by the sheriff. He also said they will be trying to reconstruct records of certain receipts because a "receipt book prior to 1985" was destroyed.

Cranek called three times for a second to the motion, but there was none, so Spaniel's motion died. After additional discussion commissioner Jerome Wicke made a similar motion, including that the bills presented to the court be better itemized before being paid. Spaniel seconded that, and the court split 2-2. Cranek cast the deciding "aye" vote.

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