

## More public hunting opportunity available this fall

If you want to hunt this fall, particularly for deer or dove, but have a limited budget or are new to the state, Texas Parks and Wildlife (TPW) offers hunting opportunities through its public hunting program.

In Texas, where most of the land is privately owned, and access for hunting is a limited commodity, funding and affording a place to hunt can be difficult for the average hunter. TPW provides reasonably priced public hunting access to 1.2 million acres of land that is owned, managed or leased by the department.

Hunters have several options available from TPW, including application for high-end guided package hunts on private land through the Big Game Texas Hunts program and entry into special drawings for self-guided hunts on state parks, wildlife management areas and some private ranches.

In addition, hunters can pursue a variety of game throughout the season on more than one million acres of public land and 90,000 acres of leased private land - primarily for dove hunt-

ing and small game - for the price of a \$40 Annual Public Hunting Permit.

The annual hunting permit is now available wherever hunting licenses are sold. Permit holders receive through the mail a map booklet detailing available public hunting lands along with supplemental information on 137 public dove hunting areas.

This year, more than 6,000 hunters will be selected to participate in special big game hunts on TPW-managed lands. Through an application process, hunters can select from among 15 different hunt categories and choose a preferred hunt date and location from 38 state parks and 29 WMAs.

There's even an option for selecting who will be included in the hunt if drawn - up to four hunters can apply together on one application as a group. Youth-only hunt categories are open to hunters between the ages of 8 to 17 at the time of application. All hunt positions are randomly selected in a computer drawing from all completed entries received by deadline.

Because the special drawing deer

hunt categories have become so popular, this year TPW has added two new categories, offering 200 hunters the chance to participate in a management deer hunt on private land. In one category, hunters can apply to hunt for a management buck (usually having forked antlers with eight or fewer points), while the other category offers a chance to take a spike buck and an antlerless deer.

The Big Time Texas Hunts (BTTH) program offers some of the finest premier guided hunts in the state. Proceeds from BTTH, which offers \$10 applications for special drawings for premier hunting trips, pay for additional public hunting opportunities and wildlife conservation work in Texas. Last year TPW received 79,439 entries for the 25 positions in special drawing hunt categories:

- Texas Grand Slam, a once-in-a-lifetime package of four separate hunts for desert bighorn sheep, white-tailed deer, pronghorn antelope and mule deer.

- Texas Exotic Safari, hunts for a combination of exotic species on the Mason Mountain Wildlife Management Area.

- Texas Whitetail Bonanza, 20 guided hunts of three to five days on ranches. This year, winners will be allowed to bring a partner along, and both will be able to take a quality buck.

- Texas Big Time Bird Hunt, a whirlwind series of hunts for the winner and three guests, including a two-day quail hunt, two days of prime pheasant hunting in the Panhandle and two days of dove hunting. The winner can also take one hunting partner on a spring turkey hunt.

- Texas Waterfowl Adventure, a series of up to four separate hunts, including geese on the coastal prairie and in the Panhandle, and ducks in East Texas and along the coastal marshes.

In its fifth year, the program has grown in popularity and generated substantial funding for the state's wildlife conservation programs. "Last year, as a result of the BTTH program we were able to put \$400,000 into providing additional public hunting opportunity and game conservation and research in Texas," said Herb Kothmann, TPW public hunting program director.

Consequently, two additional deer hunting categories have been added to the BTTH program this year, includ-

ing:

- Texas Premium Buck Hunt, with one winner and a hunting partner each getting an opportunity to take a quality buck on a premier hunting ranch.

- Texas Heritage Hunt, offering 10 winners a chance to take a quality buck. Each hunter must also take a youth hunter (age 8 to 16) who will also be allowed to take a buck.

All BTTHs packages include food, lodging and a hunting guide. Applications for the hunts are \$10 each and are available wherever hunting licenses are sold or by phone with a major credit card at 800-895-4248. Persons 18 and older may apply as many times as they like.

As you begin making plans for the upcoming hunting seasons, there are some deadlines to keep in mind in order to participate in the public hunting program. Bowhunters have until Aug. 22 to apply for special drawn public archery hunts. Entries for the general (gun) season deer hunts must be completed by Sept. 12. Deadline to apply for the BTTHs is Nov. 3.

Application booklets are available at some TPW offices. The map booklet will be included with permits bought at TPW offices and mailed within 10 days for permits bought at retail outlets. The information on drawings for hunts by special permit, as well as printable application forms, will be available on line in Aug at <http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us>.

Call 800-792-1112 toll free for information.

## Highlights

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city of McKinney has undertaken a project to plant 50,000 crape myrtles in public areas and medians over the next decade.

### Don't Mess With Texas

These four famous words, the unofficial slogan of Texas, previously only had been available on bumper stickers and plastic vehicle trash bags.

Now, however, for \$25 in addition to your vehicle registration fee, you can buy "Don't Mess With Texas" custom license plates.

The slogan has been around since 1985, specialty license plates since 1965.

## Benefits

dependents who are 65 or older. They must be family members of veterans who have permanent and total service-connected disability, who died of a service-connected condition or who were totally disabled from a service-connected condition at the time of death. They also must have Medicare coverage.

"This improved benefit is part of VA's effort to make sure families of disabled veterans have health care when the veterans can no longer provide it," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Anthony J. Principi. "I'm delighted we can provide prescription outpatient medication coverage, a benefit not offered by Medicare."

Beginning Oct. 1, CHAMPVA will pay benefits for covered medical

## Raider Football Action!



Date	Team, Place & Time
Sat., Aug. 18 .....	9th grade vs. Bellville (scrimmage), Here, 5 p.m.
.....	JV vs. Royal/Bellville (scrimmage), Here, 6 p.m.
.....	Varsity vs. Royal/Bellville (scrim.), Here, 7:30 p.m.
Thurs., Aug. 23 .....	9th grade at Cuero (scrimmage) 5 p.m.
.....	JV at Cuero (scrimmage), 6 p.m.
.....	Varsity at Cuero (scrimmage), 7:30 p.m.

## County 4-H archery project to get underway

The Colorado County 4-H Archery project will get underway, Tuesday, Aug. 28, beginning at 7 p.m. at the Columbus Junior High School cafeteria. The archery project is open to boys and girls, third grade through 18 years of age, throughout Colorado County.

Interested individuals may stop by the County Extension office, 316 Spring St., Columbus, to secure enrollment forms. Forms must be completed and turned in at the meeting Aug. 28. A \$1 fee will be charged to cover supplies and other expenses.

Attendance at the first meeting is

mandatory. Both the participants and parents should attend. The aspects of archery safety will be discussed along with equipment and targets. A shooting schedule will be determined as well.

Live archery instruction and participant shooting will start the following week and will last for five weeks. Participants will shoot once each week under the supervision and instruction of certified archery coaches serving as volunteer 4-H leaders.

For additional information, contact the County Extension office at 979-732-2082 or 732-2530.

## Fair

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<henneke@fbtc.net>.

In addition, cowboy and cowgirl competitions at the Ag Complex rodeo arena have been scheduled for the afternoon and evening.

Youth barrel racing is set for 1 p.m. Later in the day, at 6, riders will compete in a wild and woolly bull buck-out. Novice ropers from throughout Colorado County will test their skills at a round-robin roping, following the bull buck-out.

Tickets at the gate for all the day's activities are \$10 per person, \$5 for children six to 12 and children under six are free.

Advance tickets for \$8 are available at Potter's Western Store, Columbus; First National Bank in Eagle Lake; M-G, Weimar; Bernardo Farm & Ranch, Sheridan Dairy Delite; Frank's Friendly Service in Rock Island; and Larry's Super Serv, Gar-

wood. One ticket is good for all Fair kick-off events. Gates to the Complex open at 10 a.m.

Proceeds will benefit the Fair Youth Scholarship fund which has awarded over \$22,000 to 31 students the past five years. Last spring, the Fair Association increased their county-wide high school scholarships from nine to 12, or four per campus.

In addition, this year's Colorado County Fair Queen Pageant scholarship total has been increased from \$1,500 to \$4,250.

"It's our intent to keep growing and increase the number of scholarships available to our youth," Colorado County Fair Association Executive Director Pamela Potter said.

Donations for the auction are being accepted through Aug. 25. Anyone wishing to make a donation may call the Fair office at 732-9266.

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CHAMPVA beneficiaries and providers who have filed claims with CHAMPVA.

People over age 65 who've never been eligible for CHAMPVA can request an application from the VA Health Adm. Center (HAC), P.O. Box 469028, Denver, CO 80246-9028.

Veterans and family members can also call toll-free, 1-888-289-2411, to obtain the latest recorded information, leave a change of address, or request information to be mailed to them. This phone line is available 24 hours a day. Inquiries may also be e-mailed to [hac.inq@med.va.gov](mailto:hac.inq@med.va.gov).

Updates about "CHAMPVA for Life" and other benefits information will be posted to VA's HAC web site at [www.va.gov/hac](http://www.va.gov/hac).

## Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Increase

The Colorado County Commissioners' Court will hold a public hearing on a proposal to increase total tax revenues from properties on the tax roll in the preceding year by 8.5 percent. Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property and the tax rate that is adopted.

The public hearing will be held on August 27, 2001, 9:30 a.m. at the County Courtroom, Courthouse, Columbus, Texas.

FOR the proposal: A.G. Jamison, Doug Wessels, Herbie Helmcamp, Tommy Hahn, Darrell Gertson

AGAINST the proposal:  
PRESENT and not voting:  
ABSENT:

The following table compares taxes on an average home in this taxing unit last year to taxes proposed on the average home this year. Again, your individual taxes may be higher or lower, depending on the taxable value of your property.

	Last Year	This Year
Average residence homestead value	\$56,231	\$59,941
General exemptions available (amount available on the average homestead not including senior citizen's or disabled person's exemptions)	\$11,246	\$11,988
Average taxable value	\$44,985	\$47,953
Tax rate	.39150/\$100	.39/\$100
Tax	\$176.12	\$187.02

Under this proposal, taxes on the average homestead would increase by \$10.90 or 6.2 percent compared with last year's taxes. Comparing tax rates without adjusting for changes in property value, the tax rate would decrease \$0.0015 per \$100 of taxable value or 0.4 percent compared to last year's tax rate. These tax rate figures are not adjusted for changes in the taxable value of property.

### Criminal Justice Mandate (for counties):

The \_\_\_\_\_ County Auditor certifies that \_\_\_\_\_ County has spent \$ \_\_\_\_\_ in the previous 12 months beginning \_\_\_\_\_ for the maintenance and operations cost of keeping inmates sentenced to the Texas Department of Criminal Justice. \_\_\_\_\_ County Sheriff has provided information on these costs, minus the state revenues received for reimbursement of such costs.

### Enhanced Indigent Health Care Expenditures (use if applicable):

The \_\_\_\_\_ spent \$ \_\_\_\_\_ from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ on enhanced indigent health care at the increased minimum eligibility standards, less the amount of state assistance. For current tax year, the amount of increase above last year's enhanced indigent health care expenditures is \_\_\_\_\_.

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

A Public Hearing on the Colorado County 2002 Budget will be held at 9:10 a.m. on August 27, 2001, in the County Courtroom located on the first floor of the Colorado County Courthouse, Columbus, Texas.

The salaries for the elected officials of Colorado County are proposed to be increased to the following in the 2002 Budget:

ELECTED OFFICIALS	SALARY-2001	PROPOSED-2002	INCREASE
County Judge	\$34,320.00	\$36,000.00	\$1,680.00
*Note (1)			
County Commissioner-each	\$34,518.00	\$36,000.00	\$1,482.00
County Clerk	\$32,904.00	\$34,218.00	\$1,314.00
District Clerk	\$32,904.00	\$34,218.00	\$1,314.00
County Tax Assessor/Collector	\$32,904.00	\$34,218.00	\$1,314.00
County Treasurer	\$32,904.00	\$34,218.00	\$1,314.00
Sheriff	\$34,518.00	\$37,620.00	\$3,102.00
Justices of the Peace			
Precinct No. 1	\$26,760.00	\$28,368.00	\$1,608.00
Precinct No. 2	\$18,300.00	\$19,398.00	\$1,098.00
Precinct No. 3	\$18,300.00	\$19,398.00	\$1,098.00
Precinct No. 4	\$18,300.00	\$19,398.00	\$1,098.00
Constables			
Precinct No. 1	\$5,700.00	\$6,042.00	\$342.00
Precinct No. 2	\$5,700.00	\$6,042.00	\$342.00
Precinct No. 3	\$5,700.00	\$6,042.00	\$342.00

\*Note (1) The County Judge's proposed increase does not include juvenile board salary of \$4,800 annually and state salary supplements of \$10,000 annually. No change proposed in these salaries.

The proposed 2002 Budget is on file in the County Clerk's office for public viewing at the County Courthouse, Columbus, Texas.

*A.G. Jamison*  
A.G. Jamison, County Judge