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Friday, September 1, 2017

TPWD sets another long dove season

by Hal Spain

I don't know how this year's dove season could be better than last year, but this year promises to be even better, with the continued good growing conditions that began last year and have continued this past spring and summer. Texas Parks and Wildlife officials are expecting another great year for dove hunting, and they have set this year's dove season to match last year's ninety day season.

As to numbers, I have seen an increased number of mourning doves in the area due to the good feeding conditions. I am also seeing some flocks of whitewing doves zooming in and around deer feeders recently. Also, in recent years we have experienced a large increase in collared doves, and this year is no exception. This adds up to a pretty good forecast for the upcoming season.

As in most good dove hunting years, some of the best hunting opportunities will be at the very beginning of the season. Once those birds get some hunting

pressure, they'll be off to a safe zone, where they don't get shot at so much. If conditions get right to bring some northern birds into our area, we'll have some real hunting opportunities.

Friday morning, September 1, 2017, will mark the beginning of the new dove season in Coke County and throughout the Northern and Central zones of Texas. The Northern dove hunting zone is basically the area above Interstate 20, with the Central zone being bordered on the north by Interstate 20 and on the southern end by Interstate 10. The South zone is below Interstate 10, and their season does not open until September 22.

The lengthened season in our area (Central Zone) will run from September 1 through November 5, 2017, with an additional late season running from December 15, 2017 through January 7, 2018. In the North Zone the season will run through November 12, 2017, with their late season set for December 15, 2017 through

FOOTBALL FRIDAY NIGHT!



**Robert Lee Steers
vs. Panther Creek Panthers**

Friday, September 1, 2017

7:30 pm

Robert Lee

**Bronte Longhorns
vs. Roby Lions**

Friday, September 1, 2017

7:30 pm

Robert Lee



**Blackwell Hornets
vs. Paint Rock Indians**

Thursday, September 1

7:30 pm

Paint Rock

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Friday, September 1

High School Football -
Bronte Longhorns vs Roby, 7:30 pm
Robert Lee Steers vs Panther Creek, 7:30 pm
Blackwell Hornets at Paint Rock, 7:30 pm

Saturday, September 2

High School Volleyball -
Bronte vs San Angelo Christian Academy, 11 am, JV, Varsity

Monday, September 4

Labor Day Holiday Closings -
Coke County Courthouse, Bronte City Hall,
Robert Lee City Hall, Bronte ISD,
Robert Lee ISD, Blackwell CISD

Alcoholics Anonymous Meeting, 6 pm,
First Baptist Church, Bronte

Tuesday, September 5

Robert Lee - Silver Lions Club Meeting, 6:30 am,
Victory Assembly of God, Robert Lee

High School Volleyball - Bronte at Clyde, 9th, JV, Varsity

Thursday, September 7

Red Hat Society Meeting, 11 am, Golden Corral, San Angelo

Junior High Volleyball - Bronte at Miles, 5:30 pm

JV Football -

Robert Lee Steers vs Grady, 6 pm
Blackwell Hornets vs Highland, 6 pm

Friday, September 8

High School Football -
Bronte Longhorns at TLCA, 7:30 pm
Robert Lee Steers at Grady, 7:30 pm

Saturday, September 9

High School Volleyball -
Bronte at Early, 10 am, 9th, JV, Varsity

Blackwell CISD Homecoming
High School Football -
Blackwell Hornets vs Brooksmith, 7:30 pm

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December 31, 2017. The South Zone (if you are hunting south of I10, is set for September 22 through November 8, 2017, with the late season December 15, 2017 through January 21, 2018. Daily bag limit is 15 mourning, white-winged, and white-tipped doves in the aggregate, to include not more than 2 whitetips. Possession limit is three times the daily bag limit. Don't forget that there is no limit on collared doves; however, you will want to leave plumage on these birds for identification purposes.

Legal shooting hours are from one-half hour before sunrise to sunset. Don't forget to plug those autoloaders and pump shotguns, as dove are considered migratory birds, and plugs must be in place so that the firearm can hold no more than three shells.

A new hunting license will be required to hunt this fall, along with a \$7.00 migratory game bird stamp if you will be hunting dove or waterfowl, plus another \$7.00 stamp if you will be hunting upland game birds, which include quail, turkey, and pheasant. If you will be hunting waterfowl, you will also need to purchase a \$25 migratory game bird stamp endorsement (duck

stamp).

Hunting and fishing licenses are a little more challenging to find in Coke County this year. To my knowledge, Cindy's in Robert Lee and Live Oak Lodge at Oak Creek Lake near Blackwell are the only two locations that are selling licenses in Coke County. Please let us know if there are other locations, and we'll add them to the list and let folks know.

Don't forget to pick up a copy of Texas Parks & Wildlife's Outdoor Annual, which is the bible concerning hunting and fishing regulations for the new year. This year's edition, it seems, has been delayed; however, I finally picked one up at Cindy's in Robert Lee this

morning (Tuesday, August 29).

Best of luck in your upcoming hunting endeavors. Don't forget to make safety your primary concern as you take to the fields this fall.

Senator Perry to hold meeting in Robert Lee Wednesday

State Senator Charles Perry will be holding a town hall meeting in Robert Lee on Wednesday, September 6, 2017 from 5 pm to 6 pm at the Robert Lee Rec Hall, located at 150 County Park Road. The Senator will be talking about the recent 85th Legislative Session and will take questions and listen to concerns from the constituents in the area.

*Please have a
Safe & Happy
LABOR DAY
Weekend!*