

...BISD board minutes
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There were no items to discuss or amend regarding the 2021-2022 budget.

Mr. Siler presented the District Bilingual Program Evaluation. All school districts are required to conduct a bilingual education or English as a Second Language program annual evaluation in accordance with TEC 29.053, collecting a full range of data to determine program effectiveness to ensure academic success. David McWright made the motion to approve as presented, with Josh Schoenfield seconding. The motion passed with a vote of 5 - 0.

David McWright made the motion to approve the information presented by Tax Assessor Collector Robin Burgess, according to Tax Code Section 26.09(e). Ashley Braswell made a motion to approve as presented and was seconded by Lynsey Coalson. The motion passed with a vote of 5 - 0.

The November meeting will be held on November 18, 2021, at 6 pm.

Josh Schoenfield made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Lynsey Coalson seconded. The motion passed with a vote of 5 - 0. The meeting adjourned at 7:51 pm.

Local farmers feeling pinch of high fertilizer prices

Local farmers are experiencing sticker shock as the price of fertilizer continues to climb. Already up as much as 200% year-over-year, the cost of fertilizing crops is expected to get even more expensive in 2022.

COVID-19-related supply chain disruptions have tightened supplies of commercial fertilizer and increased its price. “The inputs they use to make fertilizer often come from overseas. When ships are backed up at ports waiting to unload, it’s not just consumer goods like electronics and household items sitting on those ships,” John Ross Copeland, Coke County Farm Bureau president, said. “It’s also things like urea ammonium nitrate, UAN, which is necessary to make the fertilizer used on row crops like corn or wheat.”

Other factors such as increased manufacturing and transportation cost and higher demand have contributed to the soaring price of fertilizer, as well. A recent study by Texas

A&M University shows feedgrain farmers can expect to pay about \$128,000 more in fertilizer costs this year, on average. Farmers rely on commercial fertilizer to help boost crop yields, increasing their ability to feed more people using the same amount of land, John Ross explained. Without fertilizer, crop yields would be drastically lower, with scientists estimating anywhere from a 30-50% reduction in productivity. “We can and do use production practices like crop rotation, minimum till or no till, cover crops and other conservation practices to return nutrients to the soil and enrich the soil, but farmers must use some sort of fertilizer to ensure our crops are productive enough to be profitable,” John Ross said. “We’re working to feed people, but a farm is also a business. Like any business, we have a break-even point we must exceed to stay in business longterm. Fertilizer is one of the inputs that may be costly, but necessary.”

New Report Shows
Hunting Accidents
in Texas are at
a Record Low

Hunting-related accidents in Texas are at an all-time low since Hunter Education became mandatory in 1988, according to the 2021 Texas Hunting Accident Report released by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD).

Of more than 49,000 certifications in 2021, Texas experienced only one fatality and 11 accidents statewide, according to the report.

“In 2021, three quarters of the incidents were what we call ‘swinging on game outside of a safe zone of fire,’” said Steve Hall, the Hunter Education Coordinator for TPWD. “This is the most common mishap in Texas besides careless handling in and around vehicles. The cardinal rule of hunting and shooting safety is keeping the muzzle of a firearm always pointed in a safe direction.”

This marks a significant decrease since 1988, when more than 18,000 Texans received their Hunter Education certification but reported 12 fatalities and 70 accidents throughout the state. As more Texans have taken to the field and obtained their Hunter Education certification, these numbers have greatly improved. Even prior to Hunter Education becoming mandatory in 1988, TPWD has offered hunter education courses since 1972, certifying nearly 1.5 million students. Today, Hunter Education is required for every hunter in Texas (including out-of-state hunters) born on or after September 2, 1971. The minimum age for certification is nine years of age and



Counselor of the Year! Bronte ISD Counselor Daisy Sanchez was recently awarded the Multi-Level School Counselor of the Year award by the Texas School Counselor Association.

certification is good for life.

There are two course options for anyone who needs to take Hunter Education. The basic classroom course includes six hours of instruction plus skill exercises, a review and then a final exam. These types of courses are most often held in schools or in an indoor venue. The online course, combined with a field course, has two parts: a free online course that should be completed first, and then the field portion that

typically takes a minimum of four hours to complete. The field course contains a presentation on ethical and responsible hunting, participation in a hunting skills trail, a live-fire exercise, a review of regulations and a final exam.

There is also an online-only course that is restricted to anyone 17 years of age or older. Online coursework varies from two to four hours depending on pre-knowledge, age, reading level and other factors.

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