

...More Classifieds

candidate, the date of the regular filing deadline for a candidate's application for a place on the ballot.

b. For a write-in candidate, the date of the election at which the candidate's name is written

in.

c. For an appointee to an office, the date the appointment is made.

6. Be registered to vote in the territory from which the office is elected on the date described at item 5, above.

31-1tc

Wildlife experts ask for public help in reporting bat mortality events

Last winter, White-nose Syndrome (WNS) was detected in bats in 18 counties in central Texas and the disease has continued to spread. The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) is monitoring its progression through the state and is asking for the public's help to understand how WNS is affecting vulnerable bat populations.

"Last year, we received reports of bats dying or acting strange from around the state" said Nathan Fuller, a TPWD bat biologist. "Unfortunately, we expect the same thing to happen this winter and we are asking Texans to be on the lookout for distressed bats. Texas is a big state and we can monitor bats much more effectively with more eyes out there looking for bats."

WNS is a fungal disease that affects hibernating bats during the winter. As the name suggests, WNS presents as a white, fungal growth on the ears, nose and wings of hibernating bats. Researchers believe that the fungus that causes WNS, *Pseudogymnoascus destructans*, was inadvertently introduced to North America from Europe sometime in the mid-2000s.

Fuller says that winter is a dangerous time for bats as, after hibernating for a few months, bats with WNS start to run out of fat in January or February.

"Once this happens, bats often leave their roosts in search of food or as an attempt to escape the disease and unfortunately, the animals usually don't survive," said Fuller. "However, if we know where bats are in the most trouble, we can enact measures to protect the survivors and give

them a chance to recover."

The pathogen that causes WNS is thought to be spread by bats through contact with other bats or contact with contaminated surfaces. The fungus grows optimally in low temperatures and as a result, remains in bat hibernation sites long after they have left their roosts in the spring.

Since the first observation of WNS in upstate New York in 2006, the disease has spread throughout North America. Wildlife experts believe that millions of bats have succumbed to the disease. The actual number is unknown because of the difficulties associated with monitoring bat populations. The disease is not a risk to humans.

Bats are a critical part of the Texas ecosystem, with more than 30 species of bats calling the state home.

"Bats provide billions of dollars in pest control services by eating insects that damage crops," Fuller said. "Without bats, food costs could increase. They are also sensitive to environmental contaminants and other damage and so they can act as indicators of ecosystem health and function."

TPWD is asking the public to send reports of dead bats that are found to wns@tpwd.texas.gov.

Those sending a report are asked to include a general location and, if possible, a photograph. Biologists say that people should not handle live bats or bat carcasses with bare hands.

Common sayings rooted in farm wisdom

By Jennifer Dorsett
Texas Farm Bureau

Have you ever questioned the sender's intent or the suitability of a gift, only to be told "Don't look a gift horse in the mouth?"

Or maybe you've heard someone say, "She won't be back 'til the cows come home," to describe an unknown, but

lengthy, amount of time.

Even in our increasingly urban modern America, we use a variety of phrases that are rooted in agriculture.

Most of the time, we don't put much thought into these sayings, but there's some good farm wisdom to be found in these common phrases.

Don't look a gift horse in the mouth

Merriam-Webster defines this saying as "to look in a critical way at something that has been given to one."

In a nutshell, this phrase means if someone gives you something for free, don't question it too closely and just be thankful.

(Continued on next page)

NOTICE OF DEADLINE TO FILE APPLICATIONS FOR PLACE ON THE BALLOT
(AVISO DE FECHA LÍMITE PARA PRESENTAR SOLICITUDES PARA UN LUGAR EN LA BOLETA)

Notice is hereby given that applications for a place on the Robert Lee ISD School Board Trustee (name of political subdivision/party) (Regular/Special/Primary) Election ballot may be filed during the following time: (Circle one)

(Se da aviso por la presente que las solicitudes para un lugar en la boleta de la Elección

(Regular/Especial/Primaria) de Robert Lee ISD School Board Trustee se pueden presentar (marcar una con círculo) (nombre de la subdivisión política/partido)

durante el siguiente horario:)

Filing Dates and Times:
(Fechas y Horario para Entregar Solicitudes)

Start Date Wed., Jan. 18, 2021 End Date Fri., Feb. 12, 2021
(Fecha Inicio) (Fecha Limite)

Office Hours: 8:00 a.m - 3:30 p.m weekdays except Fri., Feb 12, 2021 til 5:00 p.m.
(Horario de la Oficina)

Physical address for filing applications in person for place on the ballot:
(Dirección a física para presentar las solicitudes en persona para un lugar en la boleta)

Robert Lee ISD
Administration Office
1323 Hamilton
Robert Lee, TX 76945

Address to mail applications for place on the ballot (if filing by mail):
(Dirección a donde enviar las solicitudes para un lugar en la boleta (en caso de presentar por correo))

Robert Lee ISD
1323 Hamilton
Robert Lee, TX 76945

Aaron Hood
Printed Name of Filing Officer
(Nombre en letra de molde del Oficial de Archivos)

[Signature]
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Deadline to submit information to The Observer/Enterprise is Monday at 5 pm.