

and never need to buy a Texas hunting or fishing license again. Entries are \$5 each and can be purchased online, by phone or at any license retailer. The first entry deadline is September 30.

When making their purchase, license buyers can also add a donation of \$1, \$5, \$10 or \$20 to help support the Hunters for the Hungry program or the Fund for Veterans Assistance. Donations to the Hunters for the Hungry program provide hunters with a way to donate legally harvested deer to

participating processors. The processed meat goes to local food banks to feed Texas families in need. Donations to the Fund for Veterans Assistance program provide grants to veteran service organizations and nonprofit charitable institutions, assisting veterans and their families at the community level throughout Texas.

For frequently asked questions about Texas hunting and fishing licenses, visit the TPWD website.

TFB testifies before House on border security

Texas Farm Bureau (TFB) testified before the Texas House of Representatives Committee on Homeland Security and Public Safety, sharing concerns about the ongoing crisis at the Texas-Mexico border.

During the interim session, state lawmakers are studying the issue to prepare for the next legislative session that gavel in January 2023.

“The crisis at the Texas-Mexico border is a critical issue that is negatively impacting the families and livelihoods of those farming, ranching and living along the border,” TFB District 13 State Director Brian Jones said. “As the crisis continues, we are disappointed in the lack of action from the federal government in putting forth solutions that would address this problem.”

Jones noted that farmers and ranchers have faced threats to themselves, their families and their employees.

“Over the last several years, farmers and ranchers throughout South Texas have increasingly encountered tragic situations of finding dead bodies on their property, having vehicles broken into or stolen, facing home breakins or being faced with armed individuals crossing through their land,” he said. “Often, this occurs in rural remote locations with no cell phone service and law enforcement being an hour away, at best.”

Another concern shared by farmers and ranchers along the border is the damage to fields and farming infrastructure such as fences, watering equipment and other machinery and farm equipment.

“Law enforcement or border patrol personnel must often engage in high-speed car chases of illegal immigrants,” Jones said. “To get away from authorities, sometimes illegal immigrants will drive through agricultural property, damaging fences and fields. Similar disturbances occur by those who cross by foot with reports of cut fences and broken watering troughs. When these instances occur, farmers must quickly make repairs and, unfortunately, incur significant ongoing costs in the process.”

The crisis along the U.S.-Mexico border threatens their personal safety, overwhelms local resources and causes serious financial hardship and

disruption.

“The current situation on our nation’s border is unsustainable for hardworking farm and ranch families who work to feed and clothe the world,” Jones said. “It is critically important for the federal government to recognize the seriousness of the issue and develop a plan to stop the drastic increase in illegal immigration, which is posing a major risk to our state and nation.”

TFB continues to advocate for a long-term solution to the illegal immigration crisis that will effectively help farmers and ranchers in border towns and counties.

For more information on border security impacts, visit TFB’s webpage at texasfarmbureau.org/border-crisis-impacts.

Big Time Texas Hunts, Entries Open for 2022-23 Season

This season, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department’s (TPWD) Big Time Texas Hunts (BTTH) program is offering Texans some of the very best hunting opportunities in the state. Ten premium guided hunt packages are offered in this year’s Big Time Texas Hunts drawing.

In the last 25 years, Big Time Texas Hunt participants have helped raise more than \$18 million to fund wildlife research, habitat conservation and public hunting access. The 2021-22 hunting season was the biggest revenue producing year for the program, raising over \$1.32 million.

Conservation efforts funded by Big Time Texas Hunts include desert bighorn sheep restoration work in West Texas, thousands of acres of brush control work across the state for the benefit of species like mule deer, pronghorn and quail, along with multiple grassland restoration projects. Public hunting efforts include the funding of numerous public hunting leases and the purchase of hunting equipment like ADA accessible blinds for a number of Wildlife Management Areas (WMA).

“Hunters pay for conservation and the BTTH program is the perfect example of that,” said Kevin Mote, TPWD’s Private Lands and Public Hunting Program Director. “In our 26th year, we are extremely excited to continue offering hunters an opportunity at once in a lifetime hunting opportunities and raising important wildlife

conservation funding at the same time.”

Some of the popular hunts included in this year’s drawing include an Exotic Safari, where the winner and a guest will have a chance to hunt gemsbok and scimitar-horned oryx at Mason Mountain WMA - plus win a Browning X-Bolt Hunter .270 rifle with Leupold scope being donated by McBride’s Guns in Austin, the Texas Grand Slam which offers the winner four separate hunts for desert bighorn sheep, white-tailed deer, pronghorn, and desert mule deer, and the Ultimate Mule Deer Hunt, a three-to five-day hunt for mature mule deer in the Texas Panhandle.

Big Time Texas Hunts entries are available online for \$9 each or for \$10 each at license retailers, or by calling 800-895-4248. The deadline to purchase entries is October 15 and winners will be announced

within two weeks.

Don’t go wild taking sunflower photos

By Julie Tomascik

You might have seen them growing along Texas highways and back roads this summer. That bright, oh so sunny field of sunflowers.

It’s a hardy crop that can survive this Texas heat. But can sunflowers survive Texans?

What do I mean by that, you ask. Well, Texans love a good photo of Texas agriculture. Sunflowers, wheat fields, cows and a good, old rustic barn make a great backdrop for any picture.

Texans do it for the gram. To get the perfect selfie. Or that beautiful family photo.

But it’s trespassing when you walk into that field of sunflowers or wheat on the side of the road. And it could be damaging to the crop.

Farmers invest their time and money into growing their crops, and sunflowers are no exception.

When you walk into their field, take a photo or cut off one of the flowers, you make think it’s harmless. But it’s in fact causing damage.

Let that sink in for a minute.

Damage to the crop, potential damage to the field if it’s wet and damage to the farmer’s bottom line.

That harmless activity of taking a photo or taking a plant can represent a financial loss to the farmer. If every person that stops takes a sunflower or parks on the edge of the field, the damage quickly adds up.

And you’re trespassing. That isn’t the Texan thing to do in a state where we hold private property rights so dear.

You never know what you could encounter in those fields and pastures.

(Continued on page 7)

ROBERT LEE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

1323 Hamilton, Robert Lee, Texas 76945

Dear Parent/Guardian:

We are pleased to inform you that Robert Lee ISD will be implementing the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) under the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs for School Year 2022-2023. In CEP schools, applications are no longer required.

Schools that participate in CEP provide healthy breakfasts and lunches each day at no charge for ALL students enrolled in that CEP school during the 2022-2023 School Year.

If you need more information, please call Aaron Hood, Superintendent, 1323 Hamilton, Robert Lee, TX 76945, 325-453-4555, aaron.hood@rlisd.net.

Sincerely,
Aaron Hood

STERLING COUNTY COMMISSIONERS’ COURT NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Commissioners’ Court Meeting Room
609 4th Ave.
Sterling City, Texas 76951

MONDAY, September 12, 2022 – 8:30 A.M.

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, we invite all attendees to advise us of any special accommodations due to disability. The Sterling County Commissioners’ Court meeting room is accessible to person with disabilities. If assistance is needed to participate, please call the office of County Judge, Deborah H Horwood (325) 378-3481. Please submit your request as far as possible in advance of the meeting you wish to attend.

WHAT: Public Hearing regarding Sterling County’s Budget for Fiscal Year 2022-2023

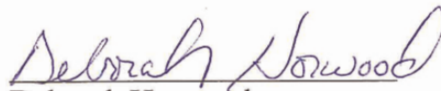
WHO: The Commissioners’ Court of Sterling County

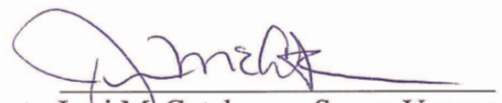
WHEN: Monday, September 12, 2022 – 8:15 a.m.

WHERE: First Floor of the Sterling County Courthouse, Commissioners’ Court Meeting Room, located at 609 4th Ave., Sterling City, TX

AGENDA: 1. Open Meeting and Determine Quorum
2. Take Public Input Concerning the Sterling County’s Tax Increase for Fiscal Year 2022-2023
3. Adjourn Meeting

Posted this the 19th day of August, 2022.


Deborah Horwood
County Judge
Sterling County, Texas


Attest: Jerri McCutchen or Sonya Venzor
County Clerk Deputy Clerk

NOTE: The Commissioners’ Court of Sterling County may discuss, deliberate and take all appropriate action on any matter listed on this Agenda. Items on this Agenda may be taken out of the order listed. Any testimony before the Sterling County Commissioners’ Court may be taken under oath pursuant to §81.030 of the Local Government Code.