

her annual visit. (If you know you know.) She thought, to save time, I will land at DFW airport and drive a ways and stop in Weatherford and spend the night. That way I will be closer to San Angelo and will easily make my 10:00 a.m. meeting. Don't they have maps at the home office? Needless to say she arrived in time for an after lunch meeting. She was the butt of several jokes that day. Soon after this episode, a new memo came from the home office saying all out of state travel will require over night stays the night before scheduled meetings or activities. We joked it should have been named the xxx ruling. Life makes us laugh.

I hope this tourist, late for the Octoberfest, and the distance challenged executive never meet up and plan a trip. Have you ever done such things? What were they? These events are less spontaneous than a 'hold by beer' moment, but they are still fun to watch as they unfold. Laugh at yourself to stay humble.

Be Well, Gary Karschner

**Texas celebrates National Hunting and Fishing Day**

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) asks Texans to invite their friends and family into the outdoors to celebrate National Hunting and Fishing Day (NHF) on September 28.

This annual holiday, celebrated on the fourth Saturday of September, recognizes hunters and anglers for their contributions to wildlife and conservation.

Governor Greg Abbott issued a proclamation supporting the special day, saying in part, "Hunting and fishing offer a variety of individual, as well as collective, benefits. Being able to provide for yourselves and your loved ones is an innate drive, and to this end, hunting and fishing are unrivaled. These activities also deepen relationships with loved ones and with nature itself, boosting one's mental and emotional wellness. Moreover, there are numerous economic and ecological benefits that these activities provide to a state that prides itself on its robust economy."

Hunters and anglers primarily fund the state's wildlife management programs through the purchase of hunting and fishing licenses, stamps and endorsements, as well as through taxes paid on hunting and fishing equipment, motorboat fuel, firearms and ammunition. License purchases generate millions of dollars for conservation programs that benefit both game and non-game species statewide. According to a 2022 study, the total economic impact in Texas amounted to a combined \$27.6 billion for hunting, fishing and sport shooting activities.

"The significant contribution made by Texas' outdoors women and men toward



**Stars!** Robert Lee Elementary students named as Stomper's Stars for Week Four have recently been announced. They include Pre - K - Huxton Roberts, Kindergarten - Josiah Albo, 1st Grade - Baylee Worthington, 2nd Grade - Harrison Turner, 3rd Grade - Sabrie Esquell, 4th Grade - Sadie Maddox, and 5th Grade - Alex Martinez.

research and species management is one of the reasons why the tradition of hunting and fishing in Texas has endured for generations," said TPWD Executive Director David Yoskowitz. "Without the help of Texas' hunters, anglers, and landowners, biologists would not be able to complete critical projects aimed at preserving and maintaining the state's natural spaces and wildlife population. This year, in honor of National Hunting and Fishing Day, I invite all Texans to take a hunter education

course, attend a neighborhood fishing event and learn how participating in these activities aids in conserving the environment and our native species."

For many years, the proportion of people who hunt and fish in Texas has lagged behind huge increases in state population. While Texas experienced a pandemic-influenced surge in outdoor recreation, it hasn't created a significant long-term increase in the total number of people participating in hunting and

fishing, which could spell problems for natural resource conservation in the future. Conservation is mostly funded by these participants.

In 2021, TPWD launched the Texas Recruitment, Retention and Reactivation (R3) Strategic Plan to connect more Texans to outdoor recreation and carry forward

these time-honored traditions to future generations. Continued participation in fishing, boating, hunting and shooting sports helps fund efforts such as fish stocking, access and habitat improvements, and mentored hunting programs, which introduce new hunters to the sport in a safe environment.

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