

Coastal Bend CATTLE GUARD

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Disability-related emergency preparedness webinar rescheduled to March 11

by Kay Ledbetter

Texas A&M University System

The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service Family and Community Health unit's Texas Military Program webinar on preparing disability-related items and individuals for emergency situations has been rescheduled.

The "Going Beyond the Checklist in Emergency Preparedness – Taking Action" webinar initially scheduled from 10-11 a.m. on Feb. 17 will now be at the same time on March 11 due to the rolling power outages and weather issues, said Rachel Brauner, AgriLife Extension program specialist in Bryan-College Station.

The program is free and open to the public. Attendees must RSVP in advance and then check email for instructions to join the session.

"Caregivers can play a vital role in assisting families living with disabilities as they plan and prepare for disasters," Brauner said. "Participants will gain the knowledge and understanding, especially disability-related, needed to encourage families to take action now, before disaster strikes. Through an interactive

session, military service providers and caregivers will learn essential steps to help build family resilience."

Developing a disaster plan/kit

Crystal Lyons will be the guest speaker. Lyons is a disability consultant specializing in accessibility and Americans with Disabilities Act-related issues. Dedicated to disability integration, she develops and provides training and coaching for various entities, including local governments, transit agencies, centers for independent living and emergency management organizations.

Lyons will help:

- Identify essential and disability-related items that belong in a family disaster kit.
- Explain the importance of a written family disaster plan.
- Describe at least three vital documents that may help in disaster recovery.
- Discuss ways to build family resilience.

Continuing education credit will be available for social workers, licensed professional counselors, licensed marriage and family therapists, board-certified patient advocates, case managers and certified family life educators.

Comptroller's office secures temporary waiver of restrictions to help with diesel fuel supply

Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar announced recently that, in partnership with Gov. Greg Abbott, the Comptroller's office has lifted state restrictions on the use of dyed diesel fuel for vehicles on Texas roadways and suspended requirements to pay the state motor fuels tax on dyed diesel.

Hegar also announced that the Comptroller's office has secured a temporary waiver from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) to waive penalties and help clear the way for off-road diesel fuel to be used by on-road vehicles in all 254 counties to ensure the availability of reliable fuel sources for disaster relief.

Diesel fuel meant for off-road use only, such as in farm and construction equipment, isn't taxed. Since 1994, federal law

has required such diesel fuel to be dyed bright red to signify its taxability status. Using dyed diesel on the highway, or knowingly selling it for such use, is illegal under both Texas and federal law.

If vehicles powered by dyed diesel fuel are used on highways, the operator or the person selling the fuel must pay the federal tax of 24.4 cents per gallon that is normally applied to diesel fuel for highway use. The IRS will not impose penalties for failure to make semimonthly deposits of this tax. The state motor fuels tax of 20.0 cents per gallon is temporarily waived.

"The state motor fuels tax waiver, and the IRS penalty waiver, will help ensure fuel supplies for vehicles used by emergency responders, power com-

panies and others to transport supplies and respond to the needs of Texans affected by this unprecedented winter storm," Hegar said. "Supply chains for fuel sources have been disrupted, and it's critical that we get fuel into these vehicles. Our disaster recovery can't be hampered by concerns about whether the diesel has been taxed for on-road use."

The IRS penalty waiver is retroactive to the beginning of the storm and covers the period of Feb. 12, 2021, through Feb. 26, 2021. The suspension of state restrictions and the suspension of the requirement to pay state motor fuels taxes on dyed diesel is in effect from Feb. 12, 2021, until Feb. 26, 2021, unless otherwise terminated by the Office of the Governor.

Expo to host BLM wild horse and burro event

The Bureau of Land Management will hold a wild horse and burro adoption event in Beeville March 5-6 at the Bee County Expo Center.

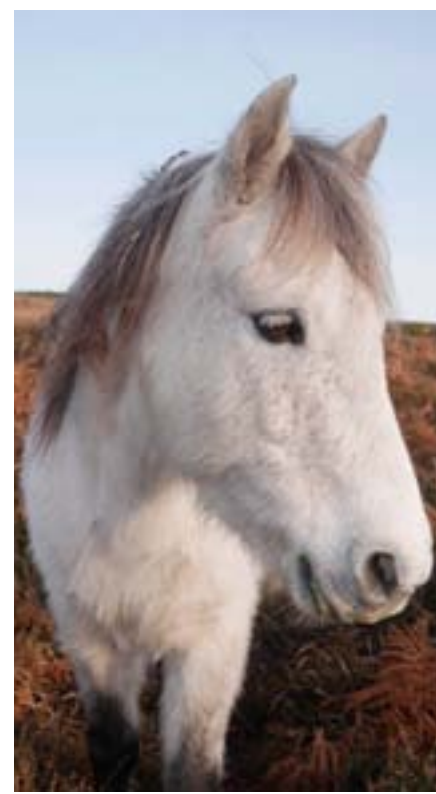
The two-day event, featuring 110 wild horses and burros, will begin at 10 a.m. on Friday, March 5. Adoptions will be held from noon-6 p.m. on Friday, March 5, and from 8 a.m.-

As part of their efforts to find every horse and burro a good home, the BLM now offers up to \$1,000 to adopt an untrained animal. This adoption incentive will be offered for every animal in Beeville.

The animals offered at the event are adult and yearling horses and burros that once roamed free on public lands in the West. The BLM periodically removes excess animals from the range in order to maintain healthy herds and to protect other rangeland resources. The adoption and sale program is essential for achieving these important management goals. Since 1973, the BLM has placed more than 240,000 of these animals in approved homes across the country.

BLM staff will approve applications onsite. To qualify to adopt, one must be at least 18 years old, with no record of animal abuse. Qualified homes must have a minimum of 400 square feet of corral space per animal, with access to food, water and shelter. A six-foot corral fence is required for adult horses; five feet for yearlings; and four-and-a-half feet for burros. All animals must be loaded in covered, stock-type trailers with swing gates and sturdy walls and floors. BLM staff will be on hand to assist with the short application process.

The Bee County Expo Center is located at 214 South FM 351, Beeville, Texas. For more information, call 866-468-7826 or visit www.blm.gov.



noon on Saturday, March 6. Animals are eligible for adoption. Inquire with BLM staff onsite for more information.



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