

Farm bill negotiations to resume in January

Farmers and ranchers can cross a new farm bill off their Christmas list because the top farm bill negotiators conceded a final deal will not be reached before the end of the year.

Debate has continually centered on the commodity title, nutrition title and dairy provisions.

“Outlines for a five-year farm bill include savings from both commodity and nutrition titles, while expanding on crop insurance alternatives,” said John Ross Copeland, Coke County Farm Bureau president. With no farm bill passed this year, the House did approve a short-term extension of current farm programs through Jan. 31, John Ross added.

Farm bill negotiators seem positive a final agreement will be reached in January for a full conference vote.

“It is imperative to Texas farmers and ranchers that Congress pass a full, five-year farm bill in January. It should provide a strong safety net to support farmers and ranchers to continue to safely grow affordable food and fiber for all Americans,” John Ross said.

Local leaders discuss, pass policy at annual meeting

Texas Farm Bureau (TFB) voting delegates passed policy regarding agricultural issues facing the Lone Star State and the nation during the organization’s 80th annual meeting in San Antonio.

“Roads, private property rights and water were the top concerns during the policy session of the largest farm organization in the state,” said John Ross Copeland, Coke County Farm Bureau president. Resolutions adopted at the TFB annual meeting become policies that guide the organization throughout the coming year, John Ross added.

Delegates attending the meeting from Coke-Sterling County Farm Bureau were John Ross & Autumn Copeland, Alonzo & Kay Robbins and Jerrod & Amber Pitcock.

The national resolutions passed by voting delegates in San Antonio will be sent to the American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) annual meeting for consideration. Resolutions approved by AFBF voting delegates at the annual meeting in January will provide a roadmap for the national organization in 2014.

West Coke County Hospital Board Meeting detailed

By Pat Stephens
The Board of Directors of the West Coke County Hospital District met in regular session December 18, 2013. President Mary Bessent called the meeting to order at 10 am, and declared a quorum was present. Other Board members present were Dessie Kendall, Sarah Green, Pat Stephens and Pat Carwile. Monica Toney, Administrator, and Janie

Munoz, BOM, were also present at the meeting.

Dessie Kendall gave the invocation. The minutes from the previous meeting were approved, and absent members were excused.

In the census count, there are currently 36 residents in the facility as of the meeting date. The Board went into Executive session at 10:03, and returned to regular session at 10:40.

Personnel were discussed, and the Board voted to implement some new policies for the handbook. These changes will be listed in the regular minutes. In the staffing update, Gloria Witten resigned her full time DON position, requesting part time employment on weekends. Tracy Blair Corley has been hired to fill the position of DON. The Board welcomes Tracy to that position. Due to the resignation of Don Owens, Asa Ruth has been named to the position of Operations Manager, and Gayla Reyes will hold the position of Housekeeping Supervisor. Daniel Reyes has been hired as Custodian at RLCC, and the Board extends a sincere welcome to these employees in their respective positions.

Under Capital Improvements, the Board discussed Accounts Receivable in depth, and voted to accept the financial statements. A new bookkeeping system, Matrix, has been purchased to replace Quikcare. Monica Toney has been named as Investment Officer for WCCHD.

Future agenda items were discussed and the next meeting will be January 28, 2014. Everyone is invited and encouraged to attend.

The month of December passed by in a flurry this year, and it was busy and joyful for the residents and staff. Some of them went on the Christmas light tour in San Angelo, and enjoyed dinner at Henry’s. The residents also enjoyed various other entertainment throughout the month; a Christmas party at the facility, carols sung by Sterling Myer’s Elementary children’s choir, the Concho Cloggers of San Angelo, gifts presented by members of the Pecan Baptist Church, and also personal care gifts from Susan Pentecost, which were sponsored by various community members. Jim Gross came from Bronte to sing, and the Spanish Club from RLHS sponsored the monthly birthday party for the residents. The employees at the facility also enjoyed a Christmas party, at which time the longevity bonus checks were distributed, along with other prizes donated by various businesses and members of the community. December was indeed a month of Christmas activities and blessings shared by all.

Looking at the calendar for January of a brand new year, there was a New Year’s party January 3rd at 3:30 in the dining room, and the monthly birthday party will be January 21st at 3:30. This month’s birthday honorees are Elaine Norvell, Edith Blackwell, Tonja



Farm Bureau Leaders Attend Texas Farm Bureau Annual Meeting! Representing Coke-Sterling Farm Bureau as voting delegates at the 80th Texas Farm Bureau annual meeting December 7-9 in San Antonio were John Ross and Autumn Copeland, Alonzo and Kay Robbins and Jerrod and Amber Pitcock.

Discussion of the latest agriculture issues, recognition of top county Farm Bureaus and individuals and evaluation of the organization’s policies was the task for more than 1,020 delegates from 144 organized county Farm Bureaus. County delegates voted on proposed policy changes during the meeting’s business session. Farm Bureau policies reflect the needs of local farmers and ranchers and direct the state’s largest farm organization. Approved recommendations on national policies advance to the American Farm Bureau Federation annual meeting to be held in January in San Antonio.

Addressing the delegates were TFB President Kenneth Dierschke of San Angelo and Vernie Glasson, TFB executive director. The business session covered the final day of the meeting. The last order of business was the election of president, Kenneth Dierschke.

Hubbard, Ettie Hubbard, and Kenneth Harper. Happy birthday to all! There will be the usual church services at 3:30 pm, at the facility, brought by the various community churches, and the Methodist Entertainment at 3:30 each Monday. The monthly Sing-a-long will be January 31st, and everyone is invited to come join in the fun.

Have a happy and blessed 2014!

School Board Members honored

January 2014 is School Board Recognition Month, a time to thank the 7,300 locally elected leaders who deeply care about the success of all Texas children. These dedicated men and women serve without pay on local boards. Each year the Texas Association of School Boards (TASB) encourages education and community leaders to show appreciation to these people for their unflinching commitment to the students in their charge.

“Please join me in recognizing the service of local boards as they strive for excellence in our public schools,” said James B. Crow, TASB executive director. “The long hours and enormous responsibilities of school board service often are not visible to those who may not fully understand the challenges facing public education. Yet, these local trustees embrace hard work as they demonstrate compassion and concern for the success and well being of every Texas

student. They work closely with high standards for student parents and educators to success. develop sound education policies in their districts and set

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