

Coke County students enjoy Wildlife Conservation Day

The Coke County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) hosted the eleventh annual Coke County Conservation Field Day on October 2, 2019. NRCS personnel from the San Angelo team, with the help from volunteers, hosted the learning stations of the outdoor classroom. Through the gracious monetary donations from our co-sponsors, students and adults were provided a Conservation Field Day T-shirt and a hot dog lunch.

Bronte and Robert Lee students met at the beautiful Wildcat Mountain Ranch, owned by Tony and Hollis Farris, and the weather was perfect! Their day of hands on learning began at 9 am.

Wade Day, NRCS Rangeland Specialist, with assistance from Derrick Fuchs, NRCS District Conservationist, hosted Station 1. At this station, students learned about controlling, maintaining, and growing deer

populations. They played "Oh, Deer" to demonstrate how the changing availability of shelter, water, and food can alter the populations of our local deer herds. They were also able to see how hunting can be used as a tool to control the number of deer in a certain area.

At Station 2, Grant Teplicek, NRCS-GLC, and Mark Sides, Coke County NRCS District Conservationist, took the students on a nature walk so they could learn to identify native plants. Mr. Teplicek discussed how different species of plants provide food and habitat to deer and quail. The students also learned how to identify potential nesting sites of quail in bunch grasses.

Morgan Runyan, Texas Agri-Life agent, with help from Skyler Rainwater, hosted Station 3. At this station, Mrs. Runyan talked to students about how water moves. A great way to demonstrate this was the use of an obstacle course, the students



had to wind around and go through tunnels. The reward for good movement was candy, always a favorite!

Station 4 was the inside of the Farris Lodge, where the students were treated to a tour from Mark Wright and Noel Gregston. Mr. Wright and Mr. Gregston showed students mounts of various animals, including a buffalo, greater and lesser Kudu from Africa, and a bear. Here the students were able to observe the skulls of several animals and learn about how their distinct features help them in the wild.

At Station 5, Game Wardens

Michael Jaramillo and Randall Mullins, gave the students a gun safety short course. They explained the importance of proper handling and how gun safety is the responsibility of everyone. They had various firearms to show kids the different working parts and the names of the different components. Each student left with a handout.

After lunch the students settled down to a visit from Lewis "Kip" Moore, a graduate student of ASU in Entomology. He brought with him cases of various native insect species, both students and adults were

fascinated by the many different insects. Mr. Moore also brought along a live walking stick, praying mantis, black widow, and cockroaches. The cockroaches were a big hit with the students since they could hold them and have the cockroaches crawl on them. Mr. Moore discussed how each insect is beneficial in its own unique way.

All of the students, teachers, and volunteers seemed to have really enjoyed their day of outdoor learning. As a result of all the happy faces, Coke County SWCD is looking forward to hosting next year's event.

Blackwell VFD to host Fish Fry

The Blackwell Volunteer Fire Department is holding their 8th annual fish fry at the fire station on FM 1170 in Blackwell Saturday evening, November 2.

They will begin serving at 5 pm. The "All You Can Eat" affair will feature fish, fries, hush puppies, coleslaw, dessert and a drink. Cost of the meal is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children 10 and under.

Ballinger Hunters Dinner slated for November 2

November 2, at the Ballinger Community Center located on Crosson Avenue, the Ballinger Chamber of Commerce will have the Annual Hunter's Appreciation Dinner. This event is put on every year to show the hunters coming in from all around appreciation for them spending their time and money in the Ballinger community.

The doors open at 4 pm, followed by the barbecue dinner at 6 pm. The meal will consist of brisket, smoked ham, and sausage, with homemade beans, and homemade desserts, and of course all of the trimmings (potato salad, pickles, jalapenos, onions, etc.). There will be vendors, raffles, knife grab bags and a silent auction inside the Community Center. Come out and join us; we will kick this party off at 4 pm and go until 10 pm. Let Ballinger show you why we are the "Greatest Little Town in Texas".

Ranchers Workshop slated for November 11

The Coke County Ranchers Workshop will be held Monday, November 11, 2019, at the Robert Lee Rec Hall.

Registration will be held from 8:30 am until 9 am, with the program set for 9 am until 2 pm. The registration fee includes lunch and CEUs will be available. Please call the Coke County Extension Office at (325) 453-2461 to RSVP.

Sterling County Hunters Dinner set for November 16

The annual Sterling County Hunters' Appreciation Dinner will be held on Saturday, November 16, 2019, beginning at 6:30 pm. The event will be held at the Sterling County Community Center. A beef fajita supper with all the trimmings will be served. The public is encouraged to attend.

Raffle tickets will be sold for

the chance to win one of a selection of high quality guns. Guns will be raffled that evening, but you do not have to be present to win.

Local and area businesses will also have booths available. For more information, contact the Sterling County Extension Office at (325) 378-3181.

Range Revitalization Workshop set for November 14

The Coke County Extension Office will hold a Range Revitalization Workshop on Thursday, November 14, at the Robert Lee Rec Hall from 1:30 pm until 4 pm. The registration fee includes CEU's.

Please call (325) 453-2461 to RSVP.

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Hornets add anther to the win column

Due to an early season cancellation, Blackwell found a game for their open date by hosting Lubbock Kingdom Prep. A Christian college preparatory school that has previously played other public six-man schools, the Warriors brought an undefeated team to town. They would return to Lubbock with a loss after

dropping to the Hornets 70-42.

Blackwell started off the scoring when senior Joel Guia intercepted a Warrior pass and returned it 32 yards for a touchdown. After a Mickey Toasaksiri PAT, the Hornets led, 8-0. However, Kingdom Prep scored twice with successful PAT's to go up 16-8. Blackwell tied it at the end of the first quarter on Guia's 5 yard TD.

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