

**Blackwell VFD
Fish Fry slated for
November 4**

The Blackwell Volunteer Fire Department is holding their 6th annual fish fry at the fire station on FM 1170 in Blackwell Saturday evening, November 4, 2017. 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.

**Hunters Appreciation
Dinner hosted by the
Ballinger Area
Chamber of Commerce**

November 4, 2017, at the Ballinger Community Center located on Crosson Avenue, the Ballinger Area 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 this year’s event 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, 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”.

**Sterling County
Hunters’ Appreciation
Dinner set for
November 11**

The annual Sterling County Hunters’ Appreciation Dinner will be held on Saturday, November 11, 2017, beginning at 6:30 pm. The event will be held at the Sterling County Community Center. A fajita supper with all the trimmings will be served. The public is encouraged to attend.

One dollar 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.

**Red Hat Society to
meet November 7**

The Red Hat Society will meet at 11 am on Tuesday, November 7, for the Sorosis Club Potato Bake. The meeting will be held at the First United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall in Bronte. This is a worthy fundraiser and the food is always delicious. We encourage you to purchase a ticket (you can purchase a ticket at the door).

Go vote, come eat and have

fun with us. Hope to see you there!

**CCSWCD hosts
Conservation Field Day**

by Erin Oleksiuk,
District Technician, CCSWCD
The Coke County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) hosted the tenth annual Coke County Conservation Field Day on October 18, 2017. The event was co-sponsored by the Natural Resources Conservation Service, Texas Agri-Life Extension, The Coke County Underground Water Conservation District, The First National Bank of Sterling City in Bronte, Robert Lee State Bank, Bronte Grocery, Wal-Mart, Sam’s Club, and Market Street. NRCS personnel from the San Angelo team and the Zone Office, 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 hotdog 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.

Ryan McClintock, NRCS Wildlife Biologist, with the assistance of Wade Day, 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



Conservation Field Day! Fifth and sixth grade students from Bronte Elementary and Robert Lee Elementary recently attended the 10th annual Conservation Field Day. This event is hosted by Coke County Soil and Water Conservation District.

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, Preston Irwin, NRCS Rangeland Specialist, and Mark Sides, Coke County NRCS District Conservationist, took the students on a nature walk so they could learn to identify native plants. Mr. Irwin 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 AgriLife agent, with help from Grant Teplicek, NRCS-GLC, and Kandice Everitt, Texas AgriLife agent, hosted Station 3. At this station, Mrs. Runyan talked to students about quail.

She gave them information on how they forage and store food and their habitat. She used the game, “Run for your Life”, to show students how quail protect themselves from predators while searching for food. Each little quail left this station with a bag a candy!

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. Stoney Newberry, Texas Parks and Wildlife Biologist, showed the teeth of deer and how they are used in determining the age of the animal.

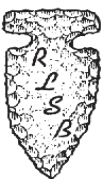
At Station 5, Game Warden David Hopkins gave the students a gun safety short course. He explained to them the importance of proper handling and how gun safety is the responsibility of everyone.

(Continued on page 7)

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*will be offering evening dinners on
Thursday, Friday, and Saturday evenings,
from 4 pm - 7 pm, as well as an expanded
menu, beginning November 2, 2017!*

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