

4-H holds raffle for trailer

All the Coke County 4-H members and FFA kids from Robert Lee and Bronte are selling raffle tickets for a chance to win a 2011 S & H 5' x 14' x 6' 6" Rawhide Stock Trailer.

The drawing will be held at the conclusion of the Coke County Junior Livestock Show on January 21, 2012. You do not need to be present to win.

Small Business Saturday is coming

The Better Business Bureau is reminding people that Saturday, November 26, is Small Business Saturday. Resting eagerly between Black Friday and Cyber Monday, it is a chance, and effort, to urge consumers to shop local, and support those non-chain shops that dot our neighborhoods.

"It's great to have a day that's completely dedicated to the success of our small businesses and it's even better to think that the success of this day could lead to the growth and prosper of the small businesses in the days and years to follow," said Stephen A. Cox, president and CEO of the Council of Better Business Bureaus on the organization's website. "I'd like to encourage our consumers to take advantage of this day and show support to the small businesses in their community."

Texas farmers and ranchers travel to Washington amid farm bill talks

Agricultural disaster assistance and a workable safety net are on Washington lawmakers' minds after Texas Farm Bureau (TFB) leaders recently traveled to the nation's capital to visit with congressional leaders as they draft farm bill legislation.

"The 2012 Farm Bill is critical to the success of agriculture in Texas," said David Stubblefield, who represents parts of West Texas as a TFB state director. "While lawmakers work to trim ballooning deficits, farmers and ranchers are concerned they will go too far in cutting programs vital to our nation's food security and independence."

Stubblefield was accompanied by the TFB board of directors led by President Kenneth Dierschke, Vice President Dewey Hukill and Secretary-treasurer Billy Bob Brown.

The group of farmers and ranchers from the Lone Star State spent several days visiting offices on Capitol Hill and expressed concerns over epic drought conditions and unfavorable long-term forecasts.

"This dry year is a perfect example of why American farmers need safety net programs like crop insurance," Stubblefield said. "We also understand we have to take

our share of cuts and we are ready to do that."

Already, the state has lost an estimated \$5.2 billion in crop, livestock and timber damage from drought and wildfires this year.

TFB leaders met with key members of the House and Senate agriculture committees as they worked to submit a proposal to the Select Committee on Deficit Reduction. That proposal includes \$23 billion in agriculture cuts, including the direct payment program.

"We are trying to make the best of a bad situation," Stubblefield said. "We hope the agricultural leadership in Congress comes up with suitable recommendations for the super committee's consideration. After visiting with several key players we are cautiously optimistic."

FSA accepting Loan applications

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) is now accepting applications for Emergency Farm Loans resulting from damages and losses caused by wildfires occurring from August 30, 2011 and continuing.

Nolan County has been named as primary a county where eligible farmers may qualify for FSA EM loan assistance. Fisher, Scurry, Coke, Mitchell & Taylor Counties have been named as contiguous counties where eligible farmers may qualify for FSA EM loan assistance. Farm Loan Manager, Justin B. Holland, asks farmers who want to apply for emergency loans to submit their applications as soon as possible. The deadline for applications is 7/3/2012, but if farmers wait too long, a backlog will develop and cause delays.

Generally, farmers who have lost 30 percent of their



Veterans Day Celebration! Bronte ISD was proud to host a Veterans Day assembly and celebration Friday, November 11, 2011 at 9 am to honor all men and women who have served in the military. Along with patriotic selections from the Bronte Elementary School music and band classes, the assembly consisted of student written essays read by Darby Duncan, daughter of Quinda and Mark Duncan, and Hailey McKinney, daughter of Amy and Joey McKinney. Guest speaker, retired veteran Bryan Swecker of Bronte, spoke to the student body, community members, and the assembly's special guests, Coke County veterans. The Bronte High School Student Council provided a reception for veterans and their families following the assembly.

production due to designated disaster are eligible for emergency loans. The FSA office is located at 103 W. Florida Avenue in Sweetwater, Texas.

IRS offers farmers and ranchers extension

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) recently announced an extension of replacement period for livestock producers who have been forced to sell animals due to the drought.

"The livestock industry has suffered \$2.06 billion in loses, as ranchers have sold off cattle due to lack of forage and escalating supplemental feed expenses," said Coke-Sterling County Farm Bureau President John Ross Copeland. "This tax

extension will help ranchers rebuild their herds."

If livestock (other than poultry) held for any length of time for draft, breeding or dairy purposes is sold because of weather-related conditions, the capital gain on the sale does not have to be recognized if the proceeds are used to purchase replacement livestock.

"This year's drought has forced a lot of cattle out of Texas," John Ross Copeland said. "Every little bit will help when it rains again and ranchers begin to restock."

Please consult a tax specialist for more information or full details can be found at the IRS website, http://www.irs.gov/irb/2010-41_IRB/ar08.html.

 ★ Noel & Co. ★
 ★ will be offering Smoked Meats ★
 ★ for Thanksgiving. ★
 ★ Smoked Turkey, 12-14 lb. average \$35 ★
 ★ Smoked Ham 7-8 lb. average \$35 ★
 ★ Orders will be ready for pick-up ★
 ★ between 1 & 5 pm November 23. ★
 ★ Orders must be in by 5 pm November 18. ★
 ★ (325) 453-2149 ★
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HOLIDAY CLOSING NOTICE
 All facilities of this bank will close at 3 pm
 Wednesday, November 23, and will be
CLOSED
Thursday, November 24th
 In Observance Of
Thanksgiving Day

 Please plan your banking requirements during regular banking hours to avoid any inconvenience.
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