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BCISD students compete at UIL meet

Blackwell Junior High had 12 students compete at the district UIL meet held at Mertzon. BJH, as a school, finished in second place. Individual results are as follows:

7th Grade Chess

5th) Karter Cummings

8th Grade Chess 2nd) Matthew Shipman, 4th)

Dylan Taylor, 1st Team) Blane Crosson, Matthew Shipman, Dylan Taylor

8th Grade Calculator

2nd) Matthew Shipman, 6th) Blane Crosson, 2nd Team) Luz Cano, Matthew Shipman, Blane Crosson

7th Grade Dictionary

3rd) Karter Cummings, 3rd Team) Jesus Gonzalez, Shelby Rasco, Karter Cummings

8th Grade Dictionary

4th) Matthew Shipman, 3rd team) Luz Cano, Autumn Clark, Matthew Shipman **7th Grade Editorial**

1st) Karter Cummings, 5th) Talia Campos

8th Grade Editorial

2nd) Matthew Shipman

7th Grade Impromptu 6th) Talia Campos

- **8th Grade Impromptu** 2nd) Chris Geick, 3rd)
- Dusty Boyd

7th Grade Listening

5th) Karter Cummings 7th Grade Maps, Graphs, and Charts

Young Farmers and Ranchers Conference slated for March

by Justin Walker The future of Texas agriculture starts now with the next generation of farmers and ranchers.

Texas Farm Bureau's (TFB) Young Farmer & Rancher (YF& R) Conference is designed to equip young leaders in agriculture with the tools needed to increase their agricultural advocacy efforts and help with farm and ranch decisions. 6th) Karter Cummings 8th Grade Maps, Graphs, and Charts

lst) Matthew Shipman, 3rd Team) Dusty Boyd,Dylan Taylor, Matthew Shipman 8th Grade Mathematics

2nd) Matthew Shipman, 3rd Team) Blane Crosson,Chris Geick, Matthew Shipman

7th Grade Modern Oratory

8th Grade Modern Oratory

4th) Autumn Clark, 5th) Luz Cano

8th Grade Number Sense

3rd) Matthew Shipman, 3rd Team) Blane Crosson, Luz Cano, Matthew Shipman 8th Grade Oral Reading

3rd) Luz Cano, 5th) Autumn Clark

7th Grade Ready Writing 4th) Karter Cummings
8th Grade Ready Writing 3rd) Dusty Boyd, 5th)

Matthew Shipman **7th Grade Science**

6th) Shelby Rasco

8th Grade Science

lst) Matthew Shipman, 2nd Team) Chris Geick, Ethan Morris, Matthew Shipman 8th Grade Spelling

3rd Team) Luz Cano, Autumn Clark and Dylan Taylor **7th Grade Social Studies**

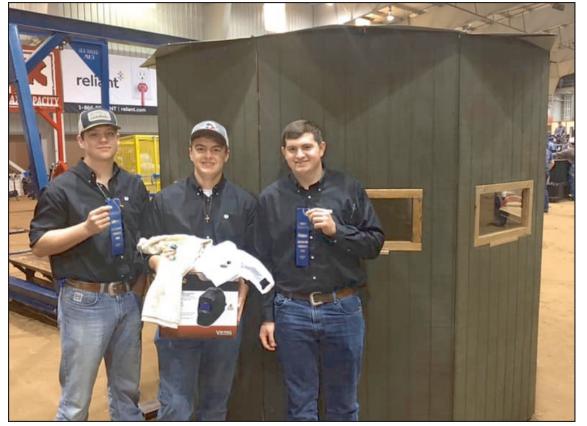
1st) Karter Cummings 8th Grade Social Studies

3rd) Ethan Morris, 2nd Team) Blane Crosson, Dylan Taylor, Ethan Morris

legislative updates and tour agricultural entities in the Waco area.

"Young farmers and ranchers will take back information they can use on the farm," Whit Weems, TFB director of Leader Development, said. "They'll also build relationships, expand their networks and, hopefully, be inspired to continue to advocate for agriculture."

The conference will feature to a the Collegiate Discussion Meet, Roo as well as breakout sessions Tex which will focus on issues college opt students and young agricultural abil advocates are facing. par Attendees will learn about and and discuss topics such as T agricultural advocacy, food and feat health, Young Farmer & and Rancher activities, commodity V updates and leadership to p development. one



Winners! The Robert Lee High School Ag Mechanics team poses with their class winning deer blind at the San Angelo Stock Show and Rodeo.

The conference is open to college students and young farmers and ranchers ages 18-35. Registration closes February 27.

More information on the conference can be found at texasfarmbureau.org.

Texas State Parks Reservation System unveils new features

Planning a day or overnight trip to a Texas State Park just got easier with new online features available in the Texas State Parks reservation system. The new options allow visitors to reserve a specific campsite, buy day passes in advance and buy or renew a Texas State Parks Pass online.

"We are excited to introduce these helpful features to park visitors and provide a new way to efficiently schedule a trip, either for the day or overnight, to any Texas State Park," says Rodney Franklin, Director of Texas State Parks. "These options give park goers the ability to plan their perfect state park vacation, no matter where and when they want travel." The system includes online features that are mobile-friendly and easy to use. Visitors now have the option to purchase day use passes up to month in advance, one

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guaranteeing access to parks even during busy times like weekends and holidays. The new "Save the Day" pass helps address the growing issue of visitors not being able to get into a popular state parks due to overcrowding.

Day passes for some of the more popular parks have specific arrival time slots. Visitors to parks such as Balmorhea State Park, Brazos Bend State Park, Enchanted Rock State Natural Area, Garner and Government Canyon State Natural Area can select an arrival time and have the peace of mind knowing they can get in to the park.

Anyone planning overnight trips at a Texas State Park can now choose a specific site when making reservations up to five months in advance. Photos and details of campsites, shelters and cabins are available online, so campers can pick their site before arriving at the park. Visitors can search for sites by specific parks and site types, see photos of the site before making their decision and see details for each site including utilities, parking pad length and width, and amount of shade.

Larger families and groups can also select and reserve neighboring sites, so they can enjoy the outdoors together.

Parkgoers can also renew or purchase a Texas State Parks Pass online. With a Texas State Parks Pass, an entire vehicle of guests gets unlimited visits to more than 90 Texas State Parks with no entry fee for 12 months.

Texas State Parks are making every effort to make the reservation system upgrades as smooth as possible.

(Continued on page 7)



The event is set for March 29-31 at TFB's Conference and Training Center in Waco and the Hilton Waco.

The conference will feature a variety of speakers addressing current issues impacting the next generation of Texas farmers and ranchers.

The program begins at 6 pm on Friday, March 29, and ends at 11:45 am on Sunday, March 31. Registration for the conference will take place from 3 pm to 6 pm on Friday.

Conference attendees will hear from keynote and motivational speakers, participate in breakout sessions on commodity issues and



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