

Texas Midwest Day held at State Capitol in Austin

More than 100 people representing rural cities in the Texas Midwest region were in Austin on Feb. 3rd and participated in "Texas Midwest Day at the Capitol". Participants from Bronte included City Secretary Tammy Thorn and her daughter, Kellie.

Texas Midwest Community Network (TMCN) sponsored its eleventh biennial visit to the State Capitol during the Legislative Session. Highlights of the day included briefings by Jon Schnautz, Deputy General Counsel/Senior Policy Adviser and Brady Frank, Senior Budget and Policy Advisor with Speaker Joe Straus' Office and Drew DeBerry, Policy Director for Governor Greg Abbott. The delegation participated in a photo session on the floor of the House of Representatives, visited TMCN's lawmaker offices, and attended an evening reception at the Austin Club sponsored jointly by TMCN, the Brownwood Chamber of

Commerce and the Abilene Chamber of Commerce.

"Texas Midwest Day at the Capitol provides an opportunity for community leaders from our region to meet face-to-face contact with the lawmakers and their staff who represent us in Austin.," says TMCN President Virden (Ballinger). "Our presence provides a unified voice of the issues and challenges facing our rural West Central Texas communities –specifically water and transportation."

Texas Midwest Community Network is a 51 community regional organization covering 31 counties which represents 12% of all the counties in the state and a population of more than a half million people, equal to the 7th largest city in the state.

State Senators for TMCN include Troy Fraser-Dist. 24, Charles Perry-Dist. 28 and Craig Estes-Dist. 30. State Representatives include Andrew Murr-Dist. 53, J.D. Sheffield-



Dist. 59, Jim Keffer-Dist. 60, Drew Springer-Dist.68, James Frank-Dist.69, Susan King-Dist.71, Drew Darby-Dist. 72, and Dustin Burrows-Dist. 83.

TMCN 51 member cities are: Abilene, Albany, Anson, Aspermont, Baird, Ballinger, Brady, Breckenridge, Bronte,

Brownwood, Buffalo Gap, Cisco, Clyde, Coleman, Colorado City, Comanche, Cross Plains, De Leon, Dublin, Early, Eastland, Eden, Goldthwaite, Gorman, Graham, Hamilton, Hamlin, Haskell, Hico, Jacksboro, Knox City, Menard, Merkel, Miles, Munday, Ranger, Rising Star,

Robert Lee, Roscoe, Rotan, San Angelo, San Saba, Santa Anna, Seymour, Snyder, Stamford, Strawn, Sweetwater, Throckmorton, Tye, and Winters.

The accompanying photo is courtesy of Representative Susan King and Senator Charles Perry.

Solution available for unwanted items

The Bronte and Robert Lee Convenience Centers are the solution when local residents need to dispose of old mattresses, furniture and appliances.

The Convenience Centers are FREE for anyone in the county to use. The Cities of Bronte and Robert Lee are working hard to help reduce unwanted waste on county roadways and area properties.

Help keep our county clean by disposing of unwanted items appropriately.

The Bronte Convenience Center is located at the corner of North Washington and West Jackson and is open the first and third Saturdays of each month from 8 am until 12 noon. For more information, contact Bronte City Hall at 473-3501.

The Robert Lee Convenience Center is located at 101 West 1st Street, Fern Havin Park, and is open during the winter on the first Saturday of each month from 8 am to 12 noon. For more information, contact Robert Lee City Hall at 453-2831.

Local Judge attends seminar in San Antonio

Judge Grady Coulter was certified at the recent Twenty Hour Justice of the Peace Seminar held February 3-6, 2015, in San Antonio, Texas. The seminar was sponsored by the Texas Justice Court Training Center, a division of Texas State University, with offices in Austin, Texas.

The seminar is held for elected Justices of the Peace so they can fulfill their Continuing Judicial Education Requirements as set forth in Article 27.005 of the Texas Government Code.

The seminar addressed topics such as deferred disposition & D.S.C., juvenile criminal cases, failure to attend school cases, enforcement of civil judgments,

tenants' remedies, occupational driver licenses, mental health, commercial motor vehicle offenses, debt claim cases, specialized eviction issues, the justice of the peace's role in preventing DWI offenses, child welfare and disabilities, legal research, inquests, magistration, and enforcing criminal judgments.

TSCRA Statement on Withdrawal of EPA Interpretive Water Rule

The Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association recently made the following statement after the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the United States Army Corps of Engineers issued a memorandum withdrawing their Waters of the U.S. (WOTUS) interpretive rule.

"While I am pleased the EPA withdrew this component of their flawed water rule proposal, it doesn't address the overall issue and it actually wasn't their decision to take this action," said Pete Bonds, TSCRA President. "Instead, Congress had to pass a bill and force their hand to scrap this small part of the larger overreaching EPA water rule proposal.

"Ranchers and landowners across the country continue to speak loud and clear in opposition to EPA's attempt to control every drop of water on their land. I am disappointed that the agency continues to ignore the concerns of those who work extremely hard to feed our country.

"TSCRA applauds Congressional leaders for their continued efforts to rein in the EPA, and we appreciate the many cattle raisers and landowners who continue calling their elected officials to voice their concerns.

"This decision is a step forward; however, we still have our work cut out for us. There is

no doubt that the EPA will continue full force ahead to implement their larger water rule proposal. We must continue to be diligent and work to stop

them from implementing rules that create onerous government regulations that take away ranchers' and landowners' private property rights.

"TSCRA will continue striving to make sure rules harmful to cattle raisers and landowners are not implemented."

COKE COUNTY HARDWARE

(325) 453-2911, 801 Austin, Robert Lee, Texas

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(lawn mowers, weed eaters, chain saws)