

**...More Classifieds**

**HELP WANTED**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Notice is hereby given that Coke County is accepting applications for a County Auditor. The salary for this position will be \$22,000.00 to \$27,869.00, depending on experience.

Applications can be picked up at the Auditor's Office in the Coke County Courthouse, 13 East 7th Street, Robert Lee, Texas.

Applications need to be received by Monday, March 2, 2015 at the Auditor's Office in Robert Lee, Texas.

Coke County is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

33-2tc

**CARD OF THANKS**

**THE FAMILY OF CHARLES SONNENBERG**

Would like to thank everyone for the kindness you have expressed during the last week.

All the cards, food, phone calls, visits, hugs, prayers and all the acts of love that have been shown are so appreciated.

A big thank you for being at our home for the celebration of life in memory of Charles.

You are why Charles loved living in Bronte.

LITTLE TOWN-BIG HEARTS

Dorris, Mike & Jaylon  
Chuck & Amy and Family  
Carla, Rick & Melissa

33-1tc

**NOTICES**

**NOTICE OF FILING DEADLINES**

The East Coke County Hospital Board of Directors hereby gives notice of filing deadlines for the May 9, 2015 Election. Two Directors will be elected for a term of two (2) years each. Candidates may file applications for inclusion on the ballot between February 17, 2015 and February 27, 2015. Applications and petitions may be obtained at Bronte Health and Rehab Center during normal business hours, 8 am to 4 pm, Monday through Friday. Any questions addressed to Fran Sonnenberg, Filing Officer.

33-2tc

**USDA Announces Funding for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Projects**

Agricultural producers and rural small business owners can now apply for resources to purchase and install renewable energy systems or make energy efficiency improvements. These efforts help farmers, ranchers and other small business owners save money on their energy bills, reduce America's dependence on foreign oil, support America's clean energy economy, and cut carbon pollution. The resources announced are made possible by the 2014 Farm Bill.

"Developing renewable energy presents an enormous economic opportunity for rural America," Tom Vilsack, Agriculture

Secretary, said. "The funding we are making available will help farmers, ranchers, business owners, tribal organizations and other entities incorporate renewable energy and energy efficiency technology into their operations. Doing so can help a business reduce energy use and costs while improving its bottom line. While saving producers money and creating jobs, these investments reduce dependence on foreign oil and cut carbon pollution as well."

USDA is making more than \$280 million available to eligible applicants through the Rural Energy for America Program (<http://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/rural-energy-america-program-renewable-energy-systems-energy-efficiency>). Application deadlines vary by project type and the type of assistance requested. Details on how to apply are on page 78029 of the December 29, 2014 Federal Register (<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2014-12-29/pdf/2014-30184.pdf>) or are available by contacting the USDA Renewable Energy Coordinator in Texas, Billy Curb, at [billy.curb@tx.usda.gov](mailto:billy.curb@tx.usda.gov), or call 254-742-9775 for more information.

USDA is offering grants for up to 25 percent of total project costs and loan guarantees for up to 75 percent of total project costs for renewable energy systems and energy efficiency improvements. The REAP application window has been expanded. USDA will now accept and review loan and grant applications year-round.

Eligible renewable energy projects must incorporate commercially available technology. This includes

renewable energy from wind, solar, ocean, small hydropower, hydrogen, geothermal and renewable biomass (including anaerobic digesters). The maximum grant amount is \$500,000, and the maximum loan amount is \$25 million per applicant.

Energy efficiency improvement projects eligible for REAP funding include lighting, heating, cooling, ventilation, fans, automated controls and insulation upgrades that reduce energy consumption. The maximum grant amount is \$250,000, and the maximum loan amount is \$25 million per applicant.

USDA is offering a second type of grant to support organizations that help farmers, ranchers and small businesses conduct energy audits and operate renewable energy projects. Eligible applicants include: units of state, tribal or local governments; colleges, universities and other institutions of higher learning; rural electric cooperatives and public power entities, and conservation and development districts. The maximum grant is \$100,000. Applications for these particular grants have been available since December 29 of last year and are due February 12.

The REAP program was created in the 2008 Farm Bill. Because of the success of the program, Congress reauthorized it in the 2014 Farm Bill with guaranteed funding of no less than \$50 million in annual funding for the duration of the 5 year bill. The 2014 Farm Bill builds on historic economic gains in rural America over the past six years while achieving meaningful reform and billions

of dollars in savings for taxpayers.

Since 2009, USDA has awarded \$545 million for more than 8,800 REAP projects nationwide. This includes \$361 million in REAP grants and loans for more than 2,900 renewable energy systems. When fully operational, these systems are expected to generate more than 6 billion kilowatt hours annually - enough to power more than 5.5 million homes for a year.

In late 2014, owners of K&J Woodworks, LC in Umland, Texas, used REAP funding to install a photovoltaic solar system. The system was completely installed and fully operational on December 5, 2014. Even though the month was cloudy and overcast, the system still produced 1,511 kWh of solar electricity and saved the business approximately \$220 during the billing cycle.

**Study Wildlife & Livestock - Earn A College Scholarship**

Interested in wildlife and/or livestock? Are you interested in earning a college scholarship? By participating in a Texas Brigade program, and sharing what you learn with your community, you are well on your way to one!

The Brigade mission is to educate and empower youths with the leadership skills and knowledge in wildlife, fisheries, and land stewardship to become conservation ambassadors for a sustained natural resource legacy. Cadet graduate, Sean Skweres says, "This is a very interactive and hands-on camp. Texas Brigades taught me numerous life lessons and helped me develop remarkable public

speaking and excellent problem solving skills."

This will be the 23rd year of the Brigades. The Texas Brigades program is seeking 170 first-class youth leaders. The application deadline is March 16, 2015 and may be found at <http://www.texasbrigades.org/Applications/applications.html>.

Participants are selected through a competitive application process. Helen Holdsworth, Executive Director, says they are looking for youth ages 13-17 years of age. Texas Brigades is also accepting applications for adult volunteers. No experience is necessary, but applicants should have a strong interest in learning about wildlife, natural resources, livestock, and/or the environment. "We are looking for those with an interest in learning and then sharing what they have learned with their communities," reports Holdsworth.

The 4.5 days camps are held on private ranches across the state. "These landowners open their gates to us for five days, allowing us to utilize the land as a living laboratory. Natural resource professionals give of their time to mentor the youth. This is a valuable networking opportunity," she said.

The cost of the camp for youth applicants accepted into the program is \$400, but scholarships and financial assistance are available. "We do not want the fee to be a barrier to anyone. We have donors who are willing to support the youths' educational experience," says Holdsworth.

For more information, call 855-TXBRIGS or 210-556-1391 or email [hholdsworth@texas-wildlife.org](mailto:hholdsworth@texas-wildlife.org).

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Ask For:

**Randy Flanagan • Buddy Wallace**

