

**...More Classifieds**  
**NOTICES**

The contiguous land area in Coke County, Texas being considered for the Zone designation contains approximately 9,201 acres, more or less, is generally located near the southeast corner of said county, near the community of Tennyson, Texas, and is more particularly described by the public records of the County Clerk of Coke County, Texas and the Coke County Appraisal District (to which reference is made for all purposes) as being part of the following land surveys of Coke County, Texas and contiguous land: (1) E. Cartledge Survey, Section 2, Abstract 1940; (2) E. Gallion Survey, Section 584, Abstract 770; (3) J. Dippel (a/k/

a Dipple) Survey, Section 632, Abstract 88/89; (4) V. Gross (a/k/a Goss) Survey, Section 628, Abstract 1410; (5) Washington CO RR (a/k/a WC RR CO) Survey, Section 119, Abstract 1466; (6) Section 631, Abstract 1246; (7) D.E. Sayner Survey, Section 116, Abstract 1449; (8) Section 630, Abstract 89; (9) Washington CO RR (a/k/a WC RR CO) Survey, Section 117, Abstract 750 (10) Section 629, Abstract 1247; (11) J.W. Sayner Survey, Section 114, Abstract 1953; (12) S. Sayner Survey, Section 114, Abstract 1559; (13) S. Sayner Survey, Section 112, Abstract 1450; (14) J.W. Henry Survey, Section 120, Abstract 1930; (15) C.H. Earnest Survey, Section 118, Abstract 1690; (16) J.D. Baker Survey, Section 112, Abstract 1903; (17) L.N. Taylor Survey, Section 18, Abstract 1364; (18) Washington CO RR

(a/k/a WC RR CO) Survey, Section 115, Abstract 748; (19) E. Thomas Survey, Section 127, Abstract 686; (20) Washington CO RR (a/k/a WC RR CO) Survey, Section 113, Abstract 749; and (21) S. Sayner Survey, Section 40, Abstract 1814.

At the public hearing, interested persons are entitled to speak and present evidence for or against the Zone designation. Following the public hearing, and at the aforesaid or a subsequent public meeting, the County may consider the approval and designation of all or part of the aforesaid land area as a tax abatement reinvestment zone. Notice of the aforesaid public meeting and hearing is being given by the County in the manner required by law.

Hal Spain, County Judge  
Coke County, Texas  
45-1tc

**Texas farmer testifies on ag economy**

by Jessica Domel  
Texas Farm Bureau,  
Multimedia Reporter

Even if a trade agreement is reached between the United States and China in the coming months, the nation's farmers and ranchers will likely need more aid to stay in business, according to a Texas farmer and rancher who recently testified in front of a Congressional subcommittee.

"The farm economy in the Coastal Bend of Texas is lousy. It's bad," Matt Huie, president of the Southwest Council of Agribusiness and a Beeville area farmer and rancher, told the House Committee on Agriculture's General Farm Commodities and Risk Management Subcommittee.

Huie, a Bexar County Farm Bureau member, grows cotton, corn and sorghum and raises livestock.

He told the committee 2018 was a tough production year. Although the Market Facilitation Program (MFP) was designed to help those impacted by trade tensions, it paid only on production. Those with low or no production didn't receive much help from MFP.

"For 2019, we look here at likely negative cash flows again, unless we make an extraordinarily large crop, because we don't have a price market where we can get that done," Huie said. "We got enormous exposure based on the value dropping in crop insurance. Despite crop insurance being a great tool, when you have a systemic decline in price, we have a systemic decline in what we're able to insure."

Historically, when commodity prices have been low, input prices have followed. But that's not the case lately.

To make matters worse, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) forecasts mostly lower crop prices for the upcoming year and record or near-record supplies.

The second-largest corn crop on record is forecast this upcoming year with ending

stocks expected to be the highest in 38 years. That is expected to push prices to \$3.30 a bushel.

If realized, that will be the lowest price in 13 years.

"The rest of the economy is doing well. So as our input costs have risen due to tariffs, due to industry consolidation, due to all other things in the economy booming, we're still trying to sell stuff for the same price we sold stuff for 30 or 40 years ago," Huie said.

Those factors combined make it difficult for farmers, ranchers and dairymen to earn a living, which could cause many to exit the business or make drastic changes to their operation.

"I think if the trade war ends tomorrow, this dispute will not be resolved," Huie said. "The bins are full. The warehouses are full. There's not a system in place to move that stuff out. We've got a world glut of grain."

Huie urged the committee to consider another program like MFP, with certain corrections, to help those farmers who are struggling due to ongoing tensions with China, Mexico and other trading partners.

"We're hopeful that can move forward," Huie said.

Congressman Filemon Vela of Texas, chair of the subcommittee, said a successful national economy cannot exist when such a vital component hurts the way farmers operate.

"The numbers paint a rough picture," Vela told the subcommittee. "USDA forecasts net farm income level for 2019 to be only 77 percent of the annual average for 2000 through 2017. It's down 50 percent from 2013 alone."

Farm debt is at a record high, and the national debt-to-asset ratio has climbed nationally for six years.

Farm debt as a proportion of annual farm income is at a 32-year high at 97 percent.

Trade tensions with China have been rising after a period of negotiations between the two nations.

The United States on Friday, May 10, raised the tariff it levies on \$200 billion in Chinese exports from 10 to 25 percent. The president then instructed the U.S. Trade Representative to move forward with potential new tariffs on the remaining Chinese exports to the U.S.

In return, China has announced another round of



**Medalists!** Mackenzie Galicia (left) and Kailey Freeman were the first and second place medalists at the Robert Lee Junior High Golf Tournament held on May 6, 2019, at Mountain Creek Golf Course.

retaliatory tariffs.

The Trump administration and the U.S. Department of Agriculture are in discussions about another round of MFP

assistance.

The full hearing is available here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5BKrOgIFWqI>.

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