

Annual Meeting.

All district winners will receive a \$1,000 cash award from Farm Bureau Bank.

**Excellence in Agriculture Contest**

The EIA Contest rewards TFB members who are involved in agriculture but don't make the majority of their income through production agriculture.

Eligible applicants include farm store managers, crop consultants, agricultural educators and those who are employed by an agricultural business or agency.

"Agriculture needs farms and ranches, but it also needs the businesses and industries that support farmers and ranchers," Hall said. "The EIA Contest recognizes members who are involved in ag-related careers but still make time to be involved in production agriculture."

The state winner will receive a UTV, sponsored by Southern Farm Bureau Life Insurance Company; a \$5,000 cash prize, sponsored by Farm Credit Bank of Texas, and expense-paid trips to both the TFB Annual Meeting and AFBF Annual Convention.

# TFB grant program awards funds to Texas 4-H club projects

Applications are now open for Texas Farm Bureau's (TFB) 2021 Clover Cash grant program, which supports Texas 4-H activities at county, district and state levels.

"Clover Cash creates more opportunities to help 4-H programs connect kids with agriculture," Coke County Farm Bureau president John Ross Copeland said. "This gives programs at local, district and state levels different opportunities to interact with students as they seek to learn more about agricultural production in Texas."

Qualifying projects should help students understand food, fiber and fuel production and the importance of advocating for agriculture, as well as provide a hands-on experience for all members.

At the county level, four grants up to \$500, four grants up to \$750 and three grants up to \$1,000 are available.

Four grants up to \$1,500 each will be awarded at the district level, and three grants up to \$2,000 each will be awarded for state projects.

Extension agents or adult leaders of any county, district or state 4-H program are eligible to apply. Funds will be disbursed by Texas 4-H Foundation to organizations only, not an individual.

"We're looking for projects that provide hands-on experiences and ideas that really engage students," Mia Balko, TFB associate director, Organization Division, said. "Proposals that received funding last year involved things like vermiculture, hydroponics and cooking classes. The more interactive the project is, the better. Kids like to learn by doing, and this is a great opportunity to secure funding for innovative project ideas."

For the application to be considered, students must be directly engaged in the educational component of the project. A timeline of the project, a list of all community partners and a detailed budget with estimated expenses must also be included in the application.

Applications should be submitted via a Google document and are due by



**Summer Fun!** Coke County children and adults celebrate the summer holiday with some fun at the Bronte Pool.

midnight on June 30. Grant winners will be announced this summer.

For more information and a link to the application, visit <https://texasfarmbureau.org/youth/youth-opportunities>.

Questions may be directed to Balko at [mbalko@txfb.org](mailto:mbalko@txfb.org) or 254-399-5037.



**Rise to the Occasion**

By James M. Decker

In 1955, the Texas General Land Office was embroiled in scandal. A scheme of fraudulent land dealings would see twenty people indicted and longtime Land Commissioner James Bascom Giles would serve

two years in state prison for his role in the affair. In stepped a new Land Commissioner by the name of James Earl Rudder. Rudder promptly reformed the lending program at the heart of the scandal. He reformed the agency's finances. He expedited processes for land purchases and oil and gas leasing. He boosted badly marred employee morale. He undertook the preservation of the agency's historic land records (which was a shocking oversight for many years). It was an impressive bout of public service for anyone, it is but the third greatest act in the public service career of James Earl Rudder.

Rudder's greatest national fame comes from his actions in the D-Day invasion that took place 77 years ago, on June 6, 1944. A native of Brady, Rudder was a student at John Tarleton Agricultural College and Texas A&M and a teacher and coach at Brady and at Tarleton before he was called to service with the U.S. Army. Leading the Second Ranger

Battalion on D-Day, the group known as "Rudder's Rangers" was given quite a task. They merely needed to land at Pointe du Doc, France, scale some 100-foot vertical cliffs while facing withering German machine gun fire, and destroy the gun emplacements so that Allied forces could secure a beachhead. If they failed, then one of the most important invasions in world history might fail. No big deal, right? The Rangers suffered 50 percent casualties and Rudder himself was wounded twice, but the battalion succeeded and fought off counterattacks for two days until reinforcements arrived.

After the war, Rudder was called to serve again, for six years as mayor of his hometown of Brady. After taking office as Land Commissioner in 1955, he would win re-election in 1956 and serve until 1958, when he left for a position at his alma mater, Texas A&M. He was then named president of the university in 1959.

*(Continued on next page)*

**CONCHO VALLEY COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY**

**Robert Lee Courthouse**  
Thursday, July 8th  
2 pm-4 pm

We are a non-profit that helps people pay their rent and utility bills and transition out of poverty.

We will be set up to answer your questions and take your applications

Call us at (325) 653-2411 or visit [cvcaa.org](http://cvcaa.org) for more information

**Pick Up Your Issue!**



- Bronte - Shirley's Place & Bronte Supermarket**
- Robert Lee - Coke County Feed & Ranch Supply**
- Blackwell - Jerry's Tool Shed**

**Email your news or pictures to [ObserverEnterprise@gmail.com](mailto:ObserverEnterprise@gmail.com) or call/text to 325-453-2433.**

**Drop boxes also available at Shirley's in Bronte and Coke County Feed in Robert Lee.**

**MOVING SALE**

**Saturday, June 19**

**8 am - 4 pm**

**1250 Ratliff Road, Bronte**  
*(approximately 7 miles south of Bronte, turn left on Ratliff Road and go 2 miles)*

**Household items,  
furniture, holiday decor,  
LOTS more!**