



Letter Of Intent! Bailey McGlothlin, a 2014 Blackwell High School graduate, has signed a Letter of Intent to run cross country at Clarendon Junior College. Shown with Bailey are (from left) Bailey's father Jeff McGlothlin, Coach Don Jones, and Bailey's mother Diane McGlothlin.

4-H....Making the best better

By Morgan Runyan
Texas AgriLife Agent
With the summer 4-H activities kicking off with State 4-H Round-up I thought it would be a great idea to outline some of the opportunities 4-H can offer the young people of Coke County. 4-H can be defined as a community of young people across America who are learning leadership, citizenship and life skills. 4-H is about having fun, learning, exploring and discovering. In 4-H, young people make new friends, develop new skills, become leaders and help shape their communities. There are a variety of ways to get involved in the 4-H program. Some of the most common projects areas are livestock, photography, and food and nutrition. Livestock projects help to develop animal husbandry practices, livestock

selection, health, and care in addition to showing at local, county, state, and national shows. Photography encourages self expression and provides opportunity for career exploration and promoting 4-H. Food and nutrition helps 4-Hers to learn to make healthy food and lifestyle choices. All of these projects are very important to Coke Co and I hope that we can keep them going strong.

A few projects that have gained recent popularity are shooting sports, consumer decision making, Ag product ID, and horticulture. The Shooting Sports Project is a comprehensive introduction to shooting sports safety and the fundamentals of archery, pistol, rifle, shotgun, muzzleloading, and hunting. The Coke Co. Shooting Sports club has competed and performed well at a variety of matches. They have also been commended on their

safety practices. Consumer Decision Making gives youth the opportunity to make wise decisions when shopping. Consumer Decision Making is a judging contest designed to teach kids to observe, compare and make consumer based decisions based on facts. 4-Hers use their consumer knowledge to rank similarly based products to fit a given scenario. Kids learn to organize their thoughts and to defend their decisions in oral reasons. Ag product ID is a contest to help 4-Hers learn more about the products they use every day. This contest helps to expand knowledge of the agriculture product industry. 20 Texas agricultural products are selected and exhibited at separate stations. Contestants select the correct identification of each product from four possible answers. The horticulture project is a hands-on project that incorporates

community and volunteer service with learning about plant growth, environment horticulture and ecology, fruits and nuts, landscape design, soil and water, insects and diseases, vegetables and herbs, and life skills and career exploration.

These are just a few of the opportunities that are available to our youth here in Coke Co. For more information on any of the projects listed about please go to texas4-h.tamu.edu or contact the Coke Co. Extension office.

Check Out Coke County Library

As I searched "reading" on Pinterest, I found an article that offers some good advice on how to make reading a part of your family time. Reading time is especially valuable if you have kids, and even more valuable during the summer time. With almost three months of vacation away from school, it is important to keep those reading skills sharp! Some suggested activities are: read bedtime stories, play board games, visit your local library, read a recipe and cook something yummy together, create a comfy reading space in your home, and put your child in charge of reading the grocery list at the store. These are just a few ways to incorporate reading (and some math, too!) into their summer time. Library hours: Monday-closed, Tuesday 8-12, Wednesday 8-4, Thursday 1-5, Friday 8-12.

TxDOT seeks input on transportation plan

Statewide series of open-house meetings will address future transportation needs, solutions

Starting today, the Texas Department of Transportation will host a series of 25 statewide public meetings to welcome citizens' feedback on a long-range plan for the state's future transportation needs.

The public meeting in San Angelo will be held Monday, June 16, 2014, from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm at the San Angelo Visitor Center in the River View Room. The Center is located at 418 W. Avenue B in San Angelo.

"With our population growing at such a rapid rate and with federal funding being more unpredictable than ever, planning for the future will be increasingly critical as we strive to meet our state's future transportation needs," said retired LtGen J.F. Weber, USMC, TxDOT executive director. "We encourage the public to join us and to provide input so we can best align available resources with areas of need."

The Texas Transportation Plan (TTP) 2040 will define TxDOT's long-range goals for all transportation modes — roadways, transit, rail, ports, aviation, pedestrian, bicycle and freight. The plan also will address the state's aging infrastructure and offer solutions for managing and prioritizing transportation funding and assets.

An interactive investment tool and exhibits outlining the statewide initiative will be presented at each meeting. Participants are invited to ask questions and provide written comments on the direction of the plan, which is scheduled to be completed and ready for public hearing and adoption by the Texas Transportation Commission this fall.

A schedule of meetings and related information can be found here or at www.txdot.gov by searching for TTP 2040.

Unlimited Wireless Internet

with all new LTE technology is now available in this area.

All new technology with faster speeds. Twice the speed at the same price! Starting at only

\$29.95 per month

Get your first month **FREE***



Call **800-695-9016** to see if you're included in this new coverage area.



Free Installation • 10 Free Email Accounts
Free Local 24/7 Tech Support • Free Virus Filtering
Free Spam Filtering • Free Parental Controls

*For a limited time only, with one year contract. Certain restrictions apply.