



**Carnival Time!** The Robert Lee Pre-K and Kindergarten were treated to a Carnival at the RLHS Football Field Tuesday, May 22, 2012. The event was put on by the teachers with lots of help from the parents! Zach and Kenzie enjoy the Prize Walk during the carnival.



## COUNTRY AGENTS NEWS

By James R. Jackson

AgriLIFE EXTENSION Agent

Being your county extension agent I feel that part of my job is to make known the opportunities that exist in the Texas 4-H program. 4-H offers the traditional opportunities such as stock shows, food show, photography contest and the fashion show, which are some of the traditional well know 4-H programs; however, there are many non-traditional programs/opportunities that Texas 4-H offers today that I feel have the possibility to change a young person's life.

Texas 4-H program offers numerous natural resource educational events that allow you to gain insight about the issues that society faces today regarding natural resources, learn better stewardship of our natural resources and gain insight about careers in the natural resource field. A few of the projects that 4-H offers is plant ID and range evaluation/judging these projects

are put on as contests where the counties form a team that represents the county at the district level and the winners advance to the state contest at Texas 4-H round-up. The newest 4-H natural resource project is known as the WHEP program (Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Program). This program is designed to educate youth where they can develop a wildlife management plan, while developing life skills such as critical thinking, public speaking and problem solving skills. These concepts are thought by the way of contests that are held at the district and state levels. Any of the 4-H natural resource projects would be beneficial to youth desiring a career in any natural resource field.

One 4-H program that deserves special attention is Texas 4-H Congress, this event is held biennial on the even-numbered years at the Texas Capital in Austin, Texas. The objective of this

event is to educate 4-H'ers on the state's political system. Each 4-H member that attends plays the role of a senator, representative, press corps or lobbyist for the duration of the mock congress. Each 4-H attendee is required to submit a bill prior to arriving at congress that will be debated in committee and will go through the congressional system throughout the week of congress. This 4-H event offers a fun interactive way to educate 4-H'ers about the state's political system and would be beneficial to a 4-H member desiring a career in any type of public service.

A program that is a strong

**The Observer/Enterprise** tradition in Coke County is the Shooting Sports program. This program had a great run last year competing at the 4-H shooting sports extravaganza at the Texas 4-H Center in Brownwood, Texas. Currently this program is on a summer break; however, they will be shooting again in the fall. Some of the many benefits of this program are learning gun safety, critical thinking, and self defense.

A program that every 4-H member can receive a benefit from is the Consumer Decision Making contest. In this project county 4-H

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teams compete in judging items that are used on a daily basis from cell phone plans to vehicles. The 4-H members are given a scenario where they must judge a class of items to determine what product best fits the individual's needs that are listed in the scenario. 4-H members that participate in this project learn skills that would be a benefit in going into the sales and marketing industry while also learning how to get the best reward for the least amount.

These are a small sample of the projects that are possible in 4-H, whatever your interest is there is a 4-H project for it.

(Continued on page 7)

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