

Local student attends Farm Bureau Youth Leadership Conference

Attending the Texas Farm Bureau's 50th annual Youth Leadership Conference (YLC) held at Tarleton State University, June 17-21, was James Roberts.

James was sponsored by the Coke-Sterling County Farm Bureau. He joined more than 353 high school juniors and seniors from over 132 counties across the state.

The purpose of the conference is to provide the students with a better understanding of their American heritage, the capitalistic free enterprise system, and to inspire leadership development, according to John Ross Copeland, president of the Coke-Sterling County Farm Bureau.

During the weeklong event, three areas are emphasized: Patriotism, Leadership and Responsibility. Students discuss topics such as the free enterprise system, constitutional government, Americanism, Leadership and goal setting, and are encouraged to meet with school and civic groups upon their return home to share what they've learned.

"We are extremely proud to celebrate the golden anniversary of this important program, which aims to encourage and develop the future leaders of Texas," John Ross Copeland said.

Tarleton State University President Dr. Dominic Dottavio welcomed students to campus at Monday's opening session, along with special guest Chance Cerda, Tarleton's student body president and an YLC Alumnus. Afterwards, Vernie R. Glasson, executive director of Texas Farm Bureau, presented "Farm Bureau - Your Host."

Jim Sartwelle, TFB Director of Public Policy and Dr. Roger Hanagriff, Agricultural Leadership, Education, and Communications Professor of Texas A&M University, each presented sessions on "Basics of Free Enterprise," Ronald Trowbridge, former assistant dean at Hillsdale College in Michigan, presented two-part sessions on "The Constitution," Lou Kennedy, a professional development consultant, led a session on "Professionalism in Life," and Gary Evans, a registered investment advisor, offered advice on "Managing Your Money."

Gary Montgomery, a motivational communica-



James Roberts

tor and story-teller from Louisville, Kentucky presented sessions on "Public Speaking" and Sandra Grant, a communications instructor at Midwestern State University assisted students with their group president speeches and hosted the entertaining Mr. YLC contest. Special evening events included a presentation on Tuesday by Trent McKnight on "My Life Story...So Far!" and on Wednesday a music/devotional performance by Mark Swayze. In addition, students participated in a program called "Congressional Insight," which allowed them to simulate a Congressional office and election.

At Thursday evening's banquet, Gary Montgomery shared his personal message of "Living with an I Can Play attitude!"

Students who complete the Youth Leadership Conference and have given a speech on free enterprise to at least five groups will have taken the first step towards qualifying for the Free Enterprise Speech contest, which awards more than \$27,500 in scholarships. After qualifying, students compete at the district level and the winners advance to finals at the TFB Annual Meeting in San Antonio in December. In addition, all 2013 district speech contest winners will have the opportunity to travel to Washington, D.C. with TFB representatives.

Farm bill ensures safety of American food supply

Passage of a full, five-year farm bill is important to the safety and security of America's food supply, according to John Ross Copeland, Coke-Sterling County Farm Bureau president.

"Farming is risky due to unpredictable weather, the drought and a fluctuating market," John Ross Copeland said. "Without an effective safety net, farmers across the country could be forced to leave the business entirely."

Fewer American farmers would mean an increase in the amount of food imported from other countries, John Ross Copeland said, and without the checks and balances employed in our food system, an uncertainty of safe and abundant food.

"The best way to ensure the health of our supply is to support the American farmers who produce it," John Ross Copeland said.

The farm bill recently passed by the Senate reforms farm programs and assists farmers with tools like crop insurance to manage the risk associated with agriculture. The House will begin debating its farm bill proposal later this month.

The current farm bill expires Sept. 30. Without a new farm bill, legislators will have to approve an extension to keep the country from reverting to 1949 farm legislation.

Court decision good for private property rights

A decision by the Texas Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals is good news for property owners in Coke County.

The Texas Ninth Court of Appeals in its Crosstex v. Reins Roads Farm decision affirmed that property owners have the right to challenge common carrier status and the eminent domain power that comes with it in court, said John Ross Copeland, Coke-Sterling County Farm Bureau president.

The decision does not mean that pipelines will be more difficult to build, John Ross Copeland explained, because the same court upheld the common carrier status of the TransCanada Keystone pipeline. These decisions do mean that pipeline companies cannot have free rein to build pipelines with no accountability to the landowners they affect.

"The bad actors will have to defend themselves in court," John Ross Copeland said. "Those who respect private prop-



Coke County 4-H Members attend District 7 Leadership Lab! Two Coke County 4-H members traveled to Sacramento, New Mexico, June 25-28 with approximately 100 other 4-H members from the area. Aaron Cervenka and Darby Duncan were the two Coke County representatives. At the conference, the youth were exposed to the District 7 4-H Council elections, parliamentary procedure, and public speaking. While at the camp, the youth also got to experience a challenge course (ropes course) as well as fun filled evenings of dancing and games.

erty rights and operate in good faith can continue to build Texas' energy infrastructure."

John Ross Copeland said ill-advised legislation in the just finished session of the Texas Legislature would have left these critical issues to the Texas Railroad Commission.

"The decisions by the Ninth Circuit Court demonstrates our system works," he said.

crackers are out, the loud pop of the packing material was very satisfying. The gazebo was the site of the cookie treats and stomping for the 4th. The plastic can now be recycled. Story Hour is Wednesday, at 10:00 a.m.


If electronics are too much, a library book can quietly take you away, entertain you, and give your brain the challenge it needs to stay fit. Library cards are free. Check-out is easy and a 24/7 book drop is available. Books returned to the Main Street Market in Bronte will make their way back to the library. Call 453-2495 for information.

*Check Out
Coke County
Library*

The Coke County Library Story Hour group celebrated the 4th of July by listening to a story, making red, white and blue wind socks, and making lots of noise stomping on plastic, air-filled packing pieces. Since fire

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Celebration of Life



The family of
**Janet S.
Hurley**
would like to invite
everyone to join
them in a
celebration of her life.

Saturday • July 27 • 1:30 to 3 pm
Bronte Housing Authority
Recreation Room
115 NE Railroad Street • Bronte

If you have a story or favorite memory please come
and share it with her family & other friends.