

Vol. 130, No. 06

Friday, August 18, 2017

Letter provides necessary information to residents

letter because I live in Precinct 2 and it was sent to the registered voters in Precinct 2 by their commissioner, Paul Williams. After reading it, I asked Commissioner Williams if I could include it in this week's issue of The Observer/ Enterprise because so much of the information provided within the letter pertains to all the residents of Coke County. He graciously gave his permission for it to be included.

The special session of the Texas Legislature ended on Wednesday, after this issue was At presstime, the printed. "property tax bill" mentioned in Commissioner Williams' letter had not been sent to Governor in Robert Lee or give me a call. Abbott. However, the following We will have several hearings quote from one of our most powerful Texas legislators is quite telling on how severe this 2017. bill could be for our county. "The cities and counties refuse Bill 2, so I look forward to county spends your hard-earned working with the governor and dollars. Constitutionally, in the the lieutenant governor to shove it down their throat in a special county's session." Rep. Dennis Bonnen, mandated, meaning that Coke Chairman Ways and Means, County "shall" expend tax May 15, 2017]

from Paul **Commissioner:**

When I ran for County Treasurer,

[Editor's Note: I received this Commissioner of Precinct 2 a few years ago, I made only a couple of promises - I would not lie to you, and I would know the budget. I apologize in advance for the length of this letter. I have a lot of information for you that I believe is essential. I want each of you to know that I ran for the office because I love this community, I love living here and I desired to serve you in a more substantial manner.

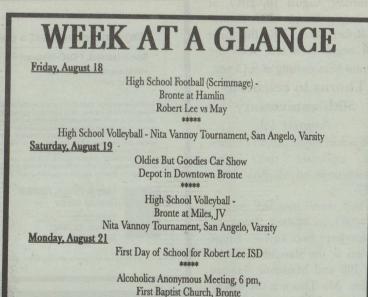
I am writing this letter to keep you informed as to the goingson of your Coke County government. All numbers will be presented as approximations. Should you want to review the details, please feel free to drop by the Coke County courthouse and meetings prior to the new budget year starting October 1,

One of the more frequent conversations that I have with to accept any version of Senate folks is questioning how the State of Texas most of the expenditures are dollars on a variety of offices et To the folks of Precinct 2 al. Examples of these offices Williams, are the County Judge, County Clerk, Tax Assessor, Sheriff, Auditor, JP,

Back to School for Bronte & Robert Lee! Bronte - August 23rd Robert Lee - August 21st Blackwell started on August 17th.

Schedules for the 2017-2018 School Year for each of the schools are posted at EverythingCokeCounty.com.

Constable, and the Commissioners. Your Precinct 2 budget next year will represent about 7% of the total budget of Coke County. In Precinct 2, our Road and Bridge budget for 2017/2018 is proposed at \$189,000. We now have 1.5 road hands for each precinct (I am told that some years ago there were 4 hands for each precinct) and we have about 90 miles of roads to maintain. In 2016, (Continued on page 8)



Football Pages beginning September 1

season in Coke County officially begins September 1 when the Bronte Longhorns host the Roby Lions included on the 2017pages at at 7:30 pm. The Robert Lee Steers will take on the Panther Creek Cougars at home, also at discontinue your sponsorship, 7:30 pm. The Blackwell Hornets are beginning their season with a road game against the Paint Rock Indians at 7:30 pm With the beginning of football

season, the annual "Football

Sponsor" pages will begin in the

September 1 issue of Observer/Enterprise. All 2016 sponsors will be the same price as last year. If you have a change or wish to please call the office at (325) 453-2433 by 12 noon Monday, August 28.

A complete list of the 2016 sponsors is included below.

Bronte

Pitcock Properties, Jerrod Pitcock 325/ 650-4079; Shaffer

Monument Company; Texas Best De-Flooding & Carpet Cleaning, Bob & Patti Frazee; Glenn-Bivins Insurance Co., Marilyn, Lucretia, & Lanette: First National Bank in Bronte, Member FDIC; Crazy T Greenhouse; Bronte Health & Rehab Center; Tom's Tire, Lube & Detail, 473-2400, cell 473-8534; Ivey Motors; Larry's Automotive Repair; Marty Boyd, Coke County Constable;

(Continued on page 8)

As people move to Coke County, it's sometimes difficult to determine where to go and who to talk to at the local government offices. Each week, The Observer/Enterprise will highlight one or more of these offices. These highlights will include the services performed at that office and an introduction to the people who make that office work.

Tursuay, Mugust 22	High School Volleyball -
Wednesday, August 23	Clyde at Bronte, 5 pm, 9th, JV, V
	First Day of School for Bronte ISD
	High School Football Scrimmages Christoval Cougars at Bronte
Friday, August 25	Robert Lee Steers at Water Valley
	High School Volleyball - "A" Showdown, Bronte, Varsity
Saturday, August 26	High School Football Scrimmage Blackwell, 6 pm
Sill-omA-Smo	High School Volleyball - "A" Showdown, Bronte, Varsity
Provided	Everything
Ву	COME
	COUNTY
Everythi	ngCokeCounty.com

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THE OBSERVER/ENTERPRISE

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> SUBSCRIPTION RATES Per Year in Coke County ... \$30.00 Per Year Elsewhere in Texas ... \$35.00 Per Year Outside of Texas ... \$37.00



Car Show set for Saturday in Bronte

The 9th annual Oldies But Goodies Car Show is set for this Saturday, August 19, 2017, at the depot in downtown Bronte. This annual is held in conjunction with the annual Bronte Volunteer Fire Department fundraiser lunch, also at the depot.

Registration for the show begins at 8 am. Funpick is at 10 am and judging is at 1 pm. Event organizers urge everyone to come celebrate when people and cars were. "Classic"

RLJH Cheerleaders to host Run/Walk Saturday

The Robert Lee Junior High Cheerleaders will host at 5K Color Run and a 1K Walk on Saturday, August 19, 2017, at Mountain Creek Golf Course in Robert Lee. The first heat will begin at 8 am, with the second heat starting at 9:15 am.

Thorns to celebrate 50th anniversary August 19

Ron and Fayne (Zoller) Thorn will celebrate their 50th anniversary on August 19th, 2017.

They were married August 19, 1967, in Midkiff, Texas, by Pastor Jerry Bob Taylor. Fayne Thorn is the daughter of the late Bill and Maudene (Harris) Zoller. Mr. Thorn is the son of the late Cliff and Mildred

a social gathering at the Bronte Housing Authority Community Room on Northeast Rail Road from 2 pm to 4 pm on Saturday, August 19, 2017. All are welcome to come celebrate the occasion, visit and enjoy light refreshments.

Blackwell tag orders due August 22

All students planning to show lambs and goats this next season at the local, county (Nolan), and major shows need to order their lamb and goat tags by August 22, 2017. Contact Mr. Barnett with your order.

Ag leases to be covered in workshops

By Kay Ledbetter After such a positive response last year, four new Rancher

Leasing Workshops covering grazing, hunting and livestock leases are scheduled across the state by the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service.

The free programs are funded by the Southern Extension Risk Management Education Center, said Tiffany Dowell Lashmet, AgriLife Extension agricultural law specialist in Amarillo.

"Last year, 100 percent of participants said they would recommend these programs to a friend, so we decided to offer them in more locations," Lashmet said.

The schedule will be:

- Aug. 22, noon-4 p.m., Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension Center, 1102 E. Farm-to-Market Road 1294, Lubbock.

- Sept. 1, 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m., Hildebrand Equine Complex, 3240 F&B Road, College Station.

Sept. 19, 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m., AgriLife Extension office for Frio County, 400 S. Pecan St., Pearsall. - Oct. 19, 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m., Tom Green 4-H Center, 3168 N. U.S. Highway 67, San Angelo.

Lashmet said lunch will be provided by two sponsors: Ag Workers Insurance for the Lubbock, College Station and San Angelo programs, and Security State Bank for the Pearsall program.

Participants will need to RSVP at least one week before the meeting they will attend to Kim Garcia, 806-677-5626 or kim.garcia@ag.tamu.edu.

Each workshop will address the legal risks associated with agricultural leases, Lashmet said. The goal is to educate



landowners and producers on the importance of utilizing written leases as risk a management tool.

Joining Lashmet on the program will be AgriLife Extension economists from around the state.

"We will discuss the potential legal implications of failing to have a sufficient written lease and the potential legal issues and litigation that the development of written leases can help avoid," she said. "The workshops will also familiarize participants with key terms and provisions that should be considered in lease negotiations."

Participants will receive a leasing handbook that covers legal issues, designing lease payment structures and calculating payments, landowner liability, as well as checklists and sample lease forms for negotiating lease agreements.

VP to raffle **Honda ATV**

A new Honda ATV is being raffled off by Vision with a Purpose for their Hunters BBQ this year. The event is being held Saturday, November 4, at

the Robert Lee Rec Hall. Tickets for the raffle will be \$50 each and entry to the BBQ is \$12 each. Watch for further information. Don't miss the chance to win this extraordinary prize. Proceeds from the raffle and the BBQ will be used for Robert Lee's community park

(325) 473-3291

Preacher David Lewis

324 S. Franklin • Bronte (325) 473-4811

424 S. Washington • Bronte

(325) 473-2331

5 pm Worship

(325) 473-3281

Forgiven Ministries

6 pm Youth

Bronte

10:55 am Worship,

Central Baptist Church

Dale Patterson, Pastor Sun. 10 am Sunday School

11 am & 5 pm Worship First Baptist Church

Corner of Washington & Holmes

Rev. Everette Boyce, Pastor

Sun. 10:00 am Sunday School

11:00 am Worship

improvements.

Bronte Lions preparing annual program

The Bronte Evening Lions Club is gearing up for this year's Longhorn football season by beginning preparations for the 2017 football program.

If you would like to be a part of this program, available at each home football game, please contact a member of the Lions Club or call Lions Club President Reese Braswell.

RL Cemetery

needs assistance

There are several curbed lots at the Robert Lee Cemetery whose owners are unknown. These lots are in Sections 2, 3, 7 and 10. The lot in Section 2 includes the name "Spencer" in the curbing.

Anyone who has information on the ownership of these plots is urged to call George Grim at (325) 453-9902. The ownership of the plots will revert to the cemetery association if not identified by September 1, 2017.

Donations needed for fire departments

The Robert Lee and Bronte Volunteer Fire Departments are requesting donations of water and Gatorade in preparation of the upcoming fire season.

Donations may be dropped off at the City Hall in each city or with any fireman. Your support of the area's Volunteer Fire Departments is greatly appreciated.

Area Churches Invite You to Worship

Bronte **Bronte Church of Christ**

Robert Lee Bible Baptist Church PO Box 938 • 9th & Austin PO Box 346 • 118 S. Jefferson • Bronte Robert Lee, John Fiore, Pastor Sun. 10 am Sunday School, Sun. 10 am & 6 pm, Wed. 7 pm 11 am Worship, Emmanuel Pentecostal PO Box 683 •1019 Colorado City Hwy Pastor Tim Wood (325) 453-2360 Sundays 2 pm, Thursdays 7 pm First United Methodist Church PO Box 144 •9th & Chadbourne Robert Lee • (325) 453-2417 Cyndi Weidner, Pastor Sun. 10 am Sunday School Sunday 9:45 am Sunday School. 11 am Worship, 5 pm Choir Practice Iglesia Bautista Betel 101 Houston • Robert Lee Sun. 9:45 am • Sunday School 11 am Service • Bible Study Wed, 6 pm Wednesday 7 pm Prayer Meeting First United Methodist Church

Southside Church of Christ PO Box 698 • 8th & Houston Robert Lee (325) 453-2176 Recardo Reyes, Preacher Sun. 10 am, Sunday School 11 am & 6 pm, Worship

Wed. 6 pm, Worship Northside Church of Christ

PO Box 508

(Walls) Thorn. Mrs. Thorn is retired from Bronte ISD after teaching special education for twenty-seven years. Mr. Thorn served in the U.S. Army Reserves and is retired after forty years of water well and windmill service, farming, and ranching.

The Thorn family were residents of Bronte for 35 years from 1981 to 2016. They have two sons, Cory Thorn and his wife, Tammy of Bronte, Texas; Casey Thorn and his wife, Erin of Leander, Texas. They have three grandchildren, Paul McConnel of Austin, Texas; Kellie Thorn of Bronte, Texas; and Macy Thorn of Leander, Texas.

Mr. and Mrs. Thorn will celebrate their anniversary with

Glenn-Bivins Insurance 325-473-6791

GlennBivinsUsa@aim.com

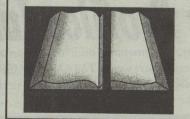
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1 / W. Main, Bronte **Russ Frasier**, Pastor Sun. 10 am Tuesday 6 pm Table Time St. James Catholic Church 215 N. Washington, Bronte (325) 365-2687 Rev. Hubert Wade, Jr., Pastor Sun. 5 pm 4C Cowboy Church Texas Theater, Dowtown Bronte . Pastor James Brunson Sunday, 10:30 am

<u>Coke County</u> Pecan Baptist PO Box 542 •12 miles West of Robert Lee on Sterling City Hwy (325) 453-2065, Bill Hood, Pastor www.pecanbaptist.org Sun. 10 am, Sunday School 11 am & 7 pm, Worship



9th & Chadbourne • Robert Lee (325) 453-2685, (806) 543-2118 or (325) 473-1053 Services: Sun. 10 am Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church 601 W. 10th, Robert Lee (325) 365-2687 Rev. Hubert Wade, Jr., Pastor Sat. 6 pm **Robert** Lee Baptist Church PO Box 493 •22 W. 11th (325) 453-2724 Danny White, Pastor Sun. 9:45 am, Sunday School 11 am & 7 pm, Worship Wed...> 7 pm, Prayer Meeting Victory Assembly of God (325) 453-2208, PO Box 638 6th & Houston, Robert Lee Rev. Irving Smith, Pastor Sun. 9:45 am, Sunday School 10:45 am & 6 pm, Worship Wed. 6 pm, Bible Study Tennyson Tennyson Baptist Church Hwy 277 • Tennyson (325) 473-2040 Sun. 9:45 am, Sunday School

11:00 am & 6 pm, Worship Wed. 6:00 pm Prayer Meeting



As people move to Coke and an introduction to the consecutive years have passed County, it's sometimes difficult people who make that office to determine where to go and work. who to talk to at the local This week, we are highlighting government offices.

highlights will include the officials. services performed at that office

a few of the offices of our Each week, The Observer/ county government. The table Enterprise will highlight one or above shows the relationship more of these offices. These between the voters and the

County Constable Marty Boyd Elected 2010

Constables are certified peace transactions of the office and is officers and, along with their responsible for property seized or deputies, have all the money collected by court order. enforcement powers of any other peace officers and often officials, the constable has participate actively in criminal investigations. In many communities, constables focus including the authority to hire on truancy cases. Not only does and fire personnel and direct a constables perform traditional their daily activities. The law enforcement functions, the constable also has authority to constable also serves as bailiff determine how to use all other for the justice courts, serves resources allocated to the office subpoenas and other process during the budget process. and plays an important role in Texas Constitution • Article 5 making sure the judgments rendered in civil cases are (h) The commissioners court of

As with all elected county ultimate authority over the operations of the office,

Section 18

satisfied. The constable also has a county may declare the office duties related to keeping of constable in a precinct accounts of the financial dormant if at least seven

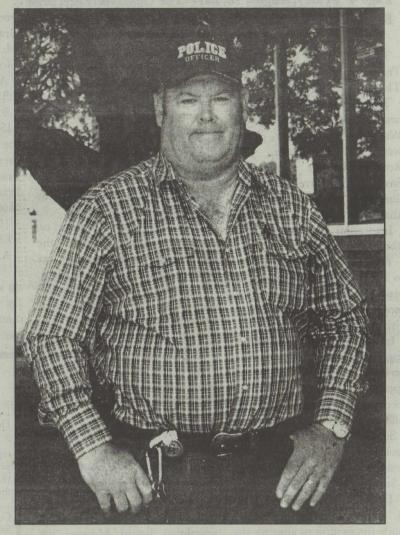
person was elected to fill that office, or during that period a person was elected to that office, but the person failed to meet the qualifications of that office or failed to assume the duties of that office. If an office of constable is declared dormant, the office may not be filled by election or appointment and the previous officeholder does not continue to hold the office under Subsection (a) of this section or Section 17, Article XVI, of this constitution. The records of an office of constable declared dormant are transferred to the county clerk of the county. The commissioners court may reinstate an office of constable declared dormant by vote of the commissioners court or by calling an election in the precinct to reinstate the office. The commissioners court shall call an election to reinstate the office if the commissioners court receives a petition signed by at least 10 percent of the qualified voters of the precinct. If an election is called under

since the end of the term of the

person who was last elected or

appointed to the office and

during that period of time no



Constable Marty Boyd is the owner of B&B Enterprises in Bronte. He and his wife Missy have two daughters, Cheyenne Boyd Vasquez and Whitney Boyd, and one grandchild.

this subsection, commissioners court shall order the ballot for the election to be printed to permit voting for or against the proposition: "Reinstating the office of Constable of Precinct No.

the that was previously declared dormant." The office of constable is reinstated if a majority of the voters of the precinct voting on the question at the election approve the reinstatement.

Commissioners Court minutes posted

The Coke Commissioners Court met in special session Tuesday, July 25, to approve the TAC Insurance moved to terminate the contract 2017, at the Courthouse in rates for 2017/18 as presented. Robert Lee. Present were County Judge Roy Blair, Commissioner Sefcik. Precinct 1 Commissioner Donald Robertson, Precinct 2 and Precinct 4 Commissioner agreement for Coke Joe Sefcik.

Commissioner Marshall Millican was absent.

Commissioner Williams opened with prayer and the pledge to the flag.

A public hearing was held to discuss the SB 1~85~District Court Records and Technology Fund and the Archive Fee. County/District Clerk Mary made the presentation to the Court and the public. No action was taken.

County Robertson. Motion carried.

Commissioner Williams moved The motion was seconded by

Motion carried. Commissioner Sefcik moved to carried. Commissioner Paul Williams, accept the TCDRS plan

Sefcik. Motion carried.

Commissioner Robertson with Unum Life Insurance effective 12/31/2017. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sefcik. Motion

Commissioner Williams moved to adopt the Sheriff's and County retirement plan for Constable's fee for 2018 as Judge Blair announced the 2017/2018. The motion was required under TLGC section presence of a quorum. Precinct seconded by Commissioner 118.131. The motion was

seconded by Commissioner Robertson. Motion carried. Commissioner Sefcik moved to

adopt the proposed budget for 2017/18. The motion was seconded by Commissioner

Robertson. Motion carried. Voting for were Commissioner Robertson Pct. #1. Commissioner Williams Pct. #2, Commissioner Millican Pct. 3

(Continued on Page 3)



The public hearing was adjourned at 9:10 am.

The regular session opened at 9:11 am.

Commissioner Williams moved to approve the minutes for the July 18, 2017 meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Robertson. Motion carried.

No action was taken on the burn ban.

Commissioner Sefcik moved to accept the donation of \$100 from Robert Prentice for the Robert Lee Pool. The motion was seconded by Commissioner

Ron & Fayne Thorn celebrate 50 years of marriage at a reception in their honor on

Please join our family on this

joyous occasion when our parents

Saturday, August 19, 2017 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Bronte Housing Authority Community Room Bronte, Texas

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floyd@floydcpetittinsurance.com

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Robert Lee ISD Board posts minutes

The Robert Lee ISD Board of Trustees met in regular session Thursday, July 20, 2017.

The meeting was called to order at 12 noon by President Members present Washam. were Wes Washam, Jeffie Roberts, George Grim, Tom Sawyer, Irma Torres and Beverly Sinclair. Erin Oleksiuk was absent.

Invocation and pledge led by Tom Sawyer.

Tom Sawyer made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 15, 2017, meeting. The motion was seconded by George Grim. 'All voted for.

Irma Torres made a motion to approve the financial reports as presented by Robin Allen and to approve the bills. It was seconded by Beverly Sinclair. All voted for.

Supt. Hood and David O'Dell gave reports on the elementary and high school campuses.

Supt. Hood recommended the T-Tess Calendar for 2017-2018 as presented. Jeffie Roberts made the motion to approve the calendar, seconded by Tom Sawyer. All voted for.

Supt. Hood recommended the District Appraisers for 2017-2018 to be himself, Lee McCown and David O'Dell. Beverly Sinclair made the motion to approve appraisers as presented, seconded by George Grim. All voted for.

Supt. Hood recommended adopting the RLISD Responsible Use Policy for 2017-2018 as presented. George Grim made the motion to approve the Policy, seconded by Jeffie Roberts. All voted for.

Supt. Hood recommended T.R.E.A. for RLISD Property/ Casualty Insurance for 2017-2018. Irma Torres made the motion to approve this recommendation. It was seconded by Tom Sawyer. All voted for.

Supt. Hood recommended the 2017-2018 Food Service Bid remain with Gandy's. Beverly Sinclair made the motion to Pritchard- 72 votes, Margaret approve Gandy's bid, seconded by Jeffie Roberts. All voted for.

workshop for the 2017-2018 budget.

approving the waiver for Accelerated Instruction. Beverly Sinclair made the motion to approve this recommendation. It was seconded by Irma Torres. All voted for.

Supt. Hood recommended a new 3-year plan for CAS Workers Compensation Renewal. Jeffie Roberts made the motion to approve the renewal. It was seconded by Tom Sawyer. All voted for.

Supt. Hood gave his report on summer maintenance, the special called meeting to set tax rate and adopt budget, elementary numbers, audit, myCollege Options report and read thank you notes.

The next regular board meeting will be Thursday, August 17, 2017, at 5 pm and the special called meeting will be Wednesday, August 30, 2017, at 5 pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:10 pm.

Bronte ISD Board posts minutes

The Bronte ISD Board of Trustees held a regularly scheduled Board Meeting on May 11, 2017. Those in attendance were:

Board Members: Shane Kelton, David McWright, Blake Braswell, John Seales, Ashley Braswell.

Administration: Tim Siler, Josh Barton, Jenny Baker

Guests: Maureen Youngblood, Heather Middleton, Reese Braswell, Crystal Blevins.

1. PRAYER: The meeting was opened at 7:11 pm with a prayer by David McWright.

2. ROLL CALL AND QUOROM: ESTABLISH Quorum was established with five members present. Jodie Arrott and Josh Schoenfield were absent.

3. AUDIENCE ITEMS: No audience items.

4. CANVASS THE RESULTS OF THE ELECTION: The results of the May 6th election were as follows: Jodie Arrott- 109 votes, John Seales- 85 votes, Kinley Charlesworth- 57 votes. John Seales and Jodie Arrott were Supt. Hood held a budget elected to the Bronte ISD Board of Trustees.

5. ISSUE CERTIFICATES Supt. Hood recommended the OF ELECTION: Certificate of 2017-2018 proposed tax rate as Election was issued to newly presented made by Blake Braswell. Seconded by David McWright. Ayes: 5, Nayes: 0, Motion passed.

7:33 pm.

APPROVE BILL 9. LISTING: Motion to approve the bill listing for April as presented was made by Ashley Braswell and seconded by Blake Braswell. Ayes: 5, Nayes: 0. Motion passed.

PRINCIPAL'S 10. **REPORTS:**

A. Update on Activities on school activities. The end of the year is in full swing with many different activities taking place. Bronte has advanced to 128 in 7th-12th grade.

State in both track (Girl's 4x200 Meter Relay) and girl's golf. Elementary will be having an AR 300 Point field trip, Field A break was taken from 7:30- Day/ Wacky Water Day, an AR Party in the Park, End of the Year Award Ceremony, and Kindergarten Graduation. Sports, Ag, and Band will all be holding their end of year banquets. Both the 4-6 Band and High School Band will be performing concerts. The 7-12th grade will be competing in a BBQ Cook-off. The 8th grade will have their promotion on Mr. Barton gave an update Thursday, May 18th. Mr. Barton

11. SUPERINTENDENT'S **REPORT:**

A. Graduation

Graduation will be at 7 p.m., May 19th in the new gym.

B. New Board Member Training, June Board Meeting Dates

To be determined at a later date.

C. Financial Update Mr. Siler presented the finances of the district to the Board.

District appears to be on-track financially for this year's budget. While we are spending more than we have in years past at this point, we have had some exciting also presented the BISD student expenditure's including advancing counts. 261 total students, to state in Volleyball, Track, and including 133 in elementary and Golf. Taxes also seemto be ahead of schedule.

ROBERT LEE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT 1323 Hamilton, Robert Lee, Texas 76945

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Children need healthy meals to learn. Robert Lee ISD offers healthy meals every school day. Breakfast costs \$2.00 lunch costs Pre k-6 \$2.75, 7-12 \$3.00. Your children may qualify for free meals or for reduced-price meals. Reduced price is \$.30, for breakfast and \$.40 for lunch. If you received a notification letter that a child is directly certified for free meals, do not complete an application. Let the school know if any children in the household attending school are not listed in the letter.

The following questions and answers will provide additional information on how to complete the application. Complete only one application for all the students in the household and return the completed application to Samantha Burns, 1323 Hamilton, Robert Lee, Texas. If you have questions about applying for free or reduced price meals, contact Shanna Freeman, (325) 453-4555 or by email at samantha.burns@rlisd.net.

1. Who can get free meals?

• Income-Children can get free or reduced-price meals if a household's gross income is within the limits described on the Federal Income Eligibility Guidelines.

• Special Assistance Program Participants- Children in households receiving benefits from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR), or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), are eligible for free meals.

• Foster-Foster children who are under the legal responsibility of a foster care agency or court are eligible for free meals.

· Head Start, Early Head Start, and Even Start-Children participating in these programs are eligible for free meals.

· Homeless, Runaway, and Migrant-Children who meet the definition of homeless, runaway, or migrant qualify for free meals. If you haven't been told about a child's status as homeless, runaway, or migrant or you feel a child may qualify for one of these programs, please call or Aaron Hood at 325-453-4555. • WIC Recipient-Children in households participating in WIC may be eligible for free or reduced

price meals.

2. What if I disagree with the school's decision about my application? You should talk to school officials. You also may ask for a hearing by calling or writing to Aaron Hood, 1323 Hamilton, Robert Lee, Texas 76945 or call (325) 453-4555.

3. My child's application was approved last year. Do I need to fill our another one? Yes. An application is only good for that school year and the first few days of this school year. Send in a new application unless the school told you that your child is eligible for this school year.

4. If I don't qualify now, may I apply later? Yes. Apply at any time during the school year. A child with parent or guardian who becomes unemployed may become eligible for free and reduced-price meals if the household income drops below the income limit.

5. What if my income is not always the same? List the amount that normally received. If a household member lost a job or had hours/wages reduced, use current income.

6. We are in the military. Do we report our income differently? Basic pay and cash bonuses must be reported as income. Any cash value allowances for off-base housing, food, or clothing, or Family Subsistence upplemental Allowance payments count as income. If housing is part of the Military Housing Privatization Initiative, do not include the housing allowance as income. Any additional combat pay resulting from deployment is excluded from income.

7. May I apply if someone in my household is not a U.S. citizen? Yes. You, your children, or other household members do not have to be U.S. citizens to apply for free or reduced-price meals.

8. Will application information be checked? Yes. We may also ask you to send written proof of the reported household income.

9. My family needs more help. Are there other programs we might apply for? To find out how to apply for other assistance benefits, contact your local assistance office or 2-1-1.

If you have other questions or need help, call: Samantha Burns, Food Service Manager, (325) 453-4555. Si necesita ayuda, por favor llame al telefono: Samantha Burns, (325) 453-4555. Sincerely,

\$1.04 M&O, \$0.42 I&S for a total tax rate of \$1.46. Tom Sawyer made the motion to approve the proposed tax rate as presented. The motion was seconded by Jeffie Roberts. All voted for.

Supt. Hood recommended approving the 2017-2018 ESC Contracts as presented. Jeffie Roberts made the motion to approve the presented contracts. seconded by Tom Sawyer. All voted for.

Supt. Hood recommended Equalizing Wealth for the 2017-2018 school year based on Chapter 41 of the TEC by purchasing Attendance Credits. Irma Torres made the motion to approve this recommendation. The motion was seconded by George Grim. All voted for.

elected board member, John Seales

6. ADMINISTER OATH OF OFFICE TO NEWLY ELECTED BOARD MEMBERS: Jenny Baker administered the Oath of Office as a Notary Public to John Seales.

7. REALIGNMENT OF BOARD TRUSTREES- After every Trustee election the Board must realign officers. New officers elected are Shane Kelton-President, Blake Braswell- Vice President, and Ashley Braswell- Secretary. Each officer was unanimously elected to the position with 5 ayes and 0 nayes.

8. READING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Minutes were presented and Supt. Hood recommended read. Motion to approve as Food Service Manager

Annually

Samantha Burr

Family

INCOME ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES FOR DETERMINING FREE AND REDUCED PRICE BENEFITS Effective From July 1, 2017, To June 30, 2018

Monthly Twice per Month **Every Two Weeks** Weekly

Size	Free	Reduced	Free	Reduced	Free	Reduced	Free	Reduced	Free	Reduced
1	\$15,678	\$22,311	\$1,307	\$1,860	\$654	\$930	\$603	\$859	\$302	\$43
2	\$21,112	\$30,044	\$1,760	\$2,504	\$880	\$1,252	\$812	\$1,156	\$406	\$57
3	\$26,546	\$37,777	\$2,213	\$3,149	\$1,107	\$1,575	\$1,021	\$1,453	\$511	\$723
4	\$31,980	\$45,510	\$2,665	\$3,793	\$1,333	\$1,897	\$1,230	\$1,751	\$615	\$876
5	\$37,414	\$53,243	\$3,118	\$4,437	\$1,559	\$2,219	\$1,439	\$2,048	\$720	\$1,024
6	\$42,848	\$60,976	\$3,571	\$5,082	\$1,786	\$2,541	\$1,648	\$2,346	\$824	\$1,173
7	\$48,282	\$68,709	\$4,024	\$5,726	\$2,012	\$2,863	\$1,857	\$2,643	\$929	\$1,322
8	\$53,716	\$76,442	\$4,477	\$6,371	\$2,239	\$3,186	\$2,066	\$2,941	\$1,033	\$1,471
9	\$59,150	\$84,175	\$4,930	\$7,016	\$2,466	\$3,509	\$2,275	\$3,239	\$1,138	\$1,620
10	\$64,584	\$91,908	\$5,383	\$7,661	\$2,693	\$3,832	\$2,484	\$3,537	\$1,243	\$1,769
11	\$70,018	\$99,641	\$5,836	\$8,306	\$2,920	\$4,155	\$2,693	\$3,835	\$1,348	\$1,918
12	\$75,452	\$107,374	\$6,289	\$8,951	\$3,147	\$4,478	\$2,902	\$4,133	\$1,453	\$2,067
or each a	udditional fami	ly member add:	a name	and the second	1 28 miles			· · · · ·	01 0423	
The second	+ \$5,434	+ \$7,733	+ \$453	+ \$645	+ \$227	+\$323	+ \$209	+ \$298	+ \$105	+ \$149

The Observer/Enterprise Friday, August 18, 2017 Page 5

D. Legislative Update

Mr. Siler advised funding is still the main legislative issue. House Bill 21 is in the Senate today. Session will be closing soon, but is no closer to have anything done. Mr. Siler stressed the important of the A-F accountability needing to change. He also advised a bill is being presented that will affect the start dates of schools if passed, but does not believe it will.

12. DISCUSS/APPROVE BANK DEPOSITORY CONTRACT: Bronte ISD sent out a request for bids for a Bank Depository Contract. Bronte ISD has been with The First National Bank of Sterling City previously and FNBSC came back with a bid with no changes from the previous contract. David McWright made a motion to approve the contract with The First National Bank of Sterling City and Blake Braswell seconded. Ayes: 5, Nayes: 0. Motion passed.

13. DISCUSS/APPROVE 2017-2018 LUNCH PRICES: Each year the District is required to set the prices for meals served through the cafeteria. The prices are set using the price adjustment calculator provided in the grant application. Bronte ISD, as are all ISD's, are required to maintain an acceptable average as deemed by the USDA. In order to stay in "compliance", BISD needs to have an average of \$2.69. To do that, Bronte ISD needs to increase prices to:

\$2.75 for the elementary and \$3.00 for the high school. Ashley to approve all the Tax Deed increase the lunch prices as Seales seconded. Ayes: 5, Nayes: presented and John Seales 0. Motion passed. seconded. Ayes: 5, Nayes: 0. Motion passed

These items require a closed SESSION, IF NEEDED: Ashley meeting as authorized by Braswell made a motion to offer Section 551.001 through a 1-Year Probationary contract 551.146 of the Texas to Brooke Long. Blake Braswell Government Code. The Board' seconded. Ayes: 5, Nayes: 0. entered, into executive (closed) Motion session at 8:02 pm and came out McWright made a motion to at 8:42 p.m.

A. Personnel

appointment, employment, Motion passed. evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline or dismissal of a None public officer or employee.

Coach/Teacher Position District's legal counsel regarding Nayes: 0, Motion passed. legal issues related to real Meeting adjourned at 8:47 pm. property. (Texas Government Code Sections 551.071 and 551.129)

DISCUSS/APPROVE 15. ASSISTANT BOYS COACH/ TEACHER POSITION: David McWright made a motion to Lee. extend Kerwin Rawls a 1-Year Dual Assignment Contract. Ashley Braswell seconded. Ayes: 5, Nayes: 0. Motion passed.

DISCUSS/APPROVE 16. TAX DEED CONVEYANCES AS LISTED:

- A. Parcel 659
- B. Parcel 6498
- C. Parcel 1012
- D. Parcel 6852
- E. Parcel 6618

Ν Metal Construction, LLC* **General Construction** Concrete Metal Buildings **Free Estimates** Jeff Waldrop (325)234-8134 Cliffy Reed (325)234-0132

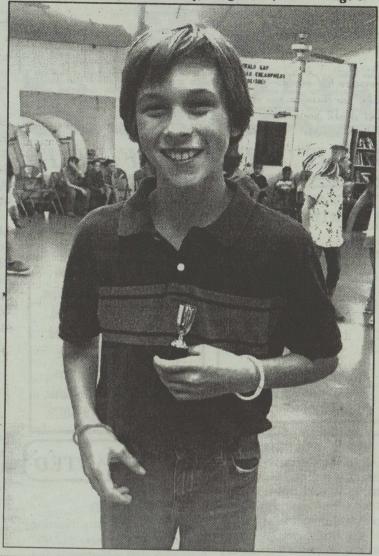
Blake Braswell made a motion Braswell made a motion to Conveyances as presented. John

17. CONSIDER POSSIBLE ACTION ON MATTERS 14. EXECUTIVE SESSION: DISCUSSED IN EXECUTIVE passed. David offer a Term Contract to Daisy Sanchez. Blake Braswell 1. To deliberate the seconded. Ayes: 5, Nayes: 0.

18. CORRESPONDENCE:

19. ADJOURNMENT: Blake 2. Discuss Assistant Boys Braswell made a motion to adjourn the meeting and David 3. Seek advice from the McWright seconded. Ayes: 5,

> Let's Dance! Tristan Grantham won the Limbo Contest at 4-H Camp recently. Tristan is the son of Austin and Shaunna Grantham of Robert



PUBLIC HEARING CITY OF BRONTE NOTICE OF 2017 TAX YEAR PROPOSED PROPERTY TAX RATE

A tax rate of \$0.436351 per \$100 valuation has been proposed for adoption by the governing body of the City of Bronte. This rate exceeds the lower of the effective or rollback tax rate, and state law requires that two public hearing be held by the governing body before adopting the proposed tax rate.

The governing body of the City of Bronte proposes to use revenue attributable to the tax rate increase for the purpose of meeting the Fiscal Year 2018 budget.

PROPOSED TAX RATE PRECEDING YEAR'S TAX RATE EFFECTIVE TAX RATE ROLLBACK TAX RATE

\$0.436351 per \$100 \$0.420109 per \$100 \$0.404029 per \$100 \$0.436351 per \$100

The effective tax rate is the total tax rate needed to raise the same amount of property tax revenue for the City of Bronte from the same properties in both the 2016 tax year and the 2017 tax year. The rollback tax rate is the highest tax rate that City of Bronte may adopt before voters are entitled to petition for an election to limit the rate that may be approved to the rollback rate.

YOUR TAXES OWED UNDER ANY OF THE ABOVE RATES CAN BE GALCULATED AS FOLLOWS: Property tax amount = (rate) x (taxable value of your property)/100



The oldest business in Coke County!

For assistance or detailed information about tax calculations, please contact: City of Bronte 114 S. Washington Street, Bronte, TX 76933 (325) 473-3501 brontetx@wcc.net

You are urged to attend and express your views at the following public hearings on the proposed tax rate:

First public hearing will be August 24th, 2017 at 6:30 PM and the second public hearing will be September 21st, 2017 at 6:30 PM at City Hall, 114 S. Washington Street, Bronte, TX 76933.

Crystal L. Blevins City Secretary & Municipal Judge Page 6 Friday, August 18, 2017 The Observer/Enterprise



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R CHR	CONTRACTOR OF STREET, SAVES	Stand Street Street	AND STREET, SOUTH STREET, S	No. of Column States of Columns, St	CONTRACTOR OF THE OWNER	1

BLACKWELL CISD

Is accepting bids for gasoline and diesel to be used in school vehicles for the 2017-2018. school year. Bidder must furnish two 1,000 gallon on-site tanks for dispensing fuel. Bidder must be responsible for all tax exempt documents. Blackwell CISD reserves the right to accept or reject any and/or all bids.

For more information, contact Abe Gott, Superintendent, PO Box 505, Blackwell, Texas 79506, Phone: 325-282-2311.

Deadline for accepting bids is August 25, 2017, at 2 pm. Winning bid will be approved at August 30, 2017, board meeting. 05-2tc

PUBLIC HEARING CITY OF BRONTE PROPOSED FY 2017-18 BUDGET

The City of Bronte will hold public hearings on the Proposed 2017-18 Budget on Thursday August 24th, 2017, at 6:30 p.m. and Thursday September 21st, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. in City Hall, 114 S. Washington St., Bronte, Texas.

<u>06-1tc</u>

SMALL TAXING UNIT NOTICE

The CITY OF ROBERT LEE will hold a meeting at 6:00 p.m. on September 11, 2017 at the Robert Lee City Hall, 6 E 7th Street, Robert Lee, Texas to consider adopting a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2017. The proposed tax rate is \$0.460000 per \$100 of value.

The proposed tax rate would increase total taxes in the City of Robert Lee by 4.34%

<u>06-1tc</u>



JOE ASH • BROKER/OWNER www.amcwesttexasranches.com

New Listing - 1214 Chadbourne Street, Robert Lee, Texas. 2 BR/1 BA home that has been rebuilt inside and outside. Excellent repair. Close to school. This is good starter home

New Listing - 202 W. 17th Street, Robert Lee - Brick Home, Metal Roof - This is a 2 or 3 BR/2 BA home. Carpeted, but has hardwood floors. Storage building (3). One storage building has 2 roll doors that can be used for a garage. Good repair FOR SALE - Located at 122 W. 11th St., Robert Lee, 2 BR/1 BA, All floors covered with laminated wood Metal Windows Central Heat and Air, Stove, refrigerator, dishwasher, wash SOLD with the house. Carport and Good repair. storage building, Water well is sufficient to water the yard. Fenced back yard. The House is in good repair and close to school. HOUSE AND LOTS lo SOLD have been reduced i \$75,000 to \$69,000. This house is across one street from the school. have been reduced in price from

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY

Hardware Store - 801 Austin St., Robert Lee, Texas, buildings, lots and inventory Houses located at: 564 Lake Shore Circle, Cedar Cove//112 West 12th ST, close to school, good location//224 W. Riley St., Bronte, Tx.-Starter home. Call for information on other Tracts of land for sale.

... Commissioners **Court Minutes**

(Continued from page 3) was absent and Commissioner Sefcik Pct. 4.

Williams Commissioner moved to approve the District Court Records Technology Fund and Archive Fee Plan. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sefcik. Motion carried.

County/District Clerk Mary Grim reported that she, Tax A/ C Josie Dean and Deputy Tax A/C Randi Hardesty would be attending the Secretary of State

Election Seminar in Austin next week.

There being no private road work requests, no action was taken.

Commissioner Sefcik moved







Your News

Email

and Pictures

by Monday

at 5 pm

for that week's

newspaper.

PROPERTIES

Farm & Ranch, Commercial, & Residential **Real Estate** Texas General **Certified Appraiser**

Jerrod Pitcock, Broker

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260 +/- ac Price Ranch Located just west of Robert Lee this ranch has a good combination of recreational land and productive grass land for livestock. It has good access from Hwy 158 and an access point of Wilcate Rd.

1053 +/- ac This ranch is located in Schleicher County, between Mertzon and Eldorado, Texas. The property is in native pasture land with moderate brush cover. Property would serve well to run cattle, sheep or be used for hunting

2353 +/- ac, This ranch is just over 3 sections and is located between Eldorado, TX and Mertzon, TX. This ranch is fenced and cross fenced and is well suited for a running livestock or a recreational hunting ranch. There is approximately 95 acres in cultivation and the remaining portion of the ranch is in native pasture. Give us a call to schedule your showing.

400 +/- ac, Located in Schleicher County, between Mertzon and Eldorado, Texas. The property is in native pasture land with moderate brush cover. Property would serve well to run cattle, sheep or be used for hunting

530 +/- ac, This 530 acre show place in Hamilton County, Texas, has unlimited potential. There is a lot of surface water with 7 lakes/ponds. There is a good combination of open pasture and brush cover for wildlife habitat. This is a great property within an 1.5 hour drive to the Metroplex.

shot! Additional adjoining acreage available with barn, RV cover, house and outbuildings! \$1,350/acre.



BEAUTIFUL VIEWS add to this great ranch. Perfect for hunting, livestock, or just getting away! Electricity, well and rural water onsite. Rolling terrain with good interior roads for easy access to all areas of ranch. Barn and pens. Good cover for wildlife with cleared areas for that perfect shot!

Minerals are Negotiable! \$950/acre.

Melinda **McCutchen** (325) 473-8863

EQUAL HOUSEN

Ashley Braswell (325) 650-0615

B MLS

PitcockProperties.com ashley @ pitcockproperties.com melinda@pitcockproperties.com Jerrod Pitcock, Broker

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to pay the bills. The motion was seconded by

Commissioner Robertson. Motion carried.

Judge Blair adjourned the meeting.

Minutes of July 31 meeting The Coke County Commissioners Court met in special session Monday, July 31, 2017, at the Courthouse in Robert Lee. Present were County Judge Roy Blair, Precinct 1 Commissioner Donald Robertson, Precinct 2 Commissioner Paul Williams, Precinct 3 Commissioner Marshall Millican and Precinct 4 Commissioner Joe Sefcik.

The meeting opened with the pledge to the flag and prayer was offered by

Judge Blair. Judge Blair announced the presence of a quorum.

No action taken on the burn ban.

Commissioner Williams moved to approve the Elected Official's salary for 2017/18 as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Robertson. Motion carried.

Commissioner Millican moved to approve the Agreement with Net Data Corp. for hardware IT support maintenance . The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sefcik. Motion carried.

Commissioner Williams moved to approve a Tax Deed and property card for Trust Property in the City of Bronte from Texas Communities Group, all of lot #1 and Lot #2 in Block# 60 in the Original Town of Bronte, Coke County, Texas (R6621). The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sefcik. Motion carried .

No action taken on the tax deed and property card for trust property R1248. Judge Blair and Gayle Sisemore will do a little research on the

For our Bronte

property and it will be put on the agenda for the August 8, 2017, meeting.

Commissioner Williams. moved to approve the line item transfers for Precinct 2 Road and Bridge as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Robertson. Motion carried.

Commissioner Millican moved to approve the line item for

Precinct 4 Road and Bridge reported the reason for his line transfers as presented. The item transfers was to buy a motion was seconded by Commissioner Sefcik. Motion carried.

Commissioner Williams moved to approve the line item transfers for the Bronte Park as presented . The motion was upcoming public hearings . The seconded by Commissioner dates are not set yet. Robertson. Motion carried.

Commissioner Williams trailer.

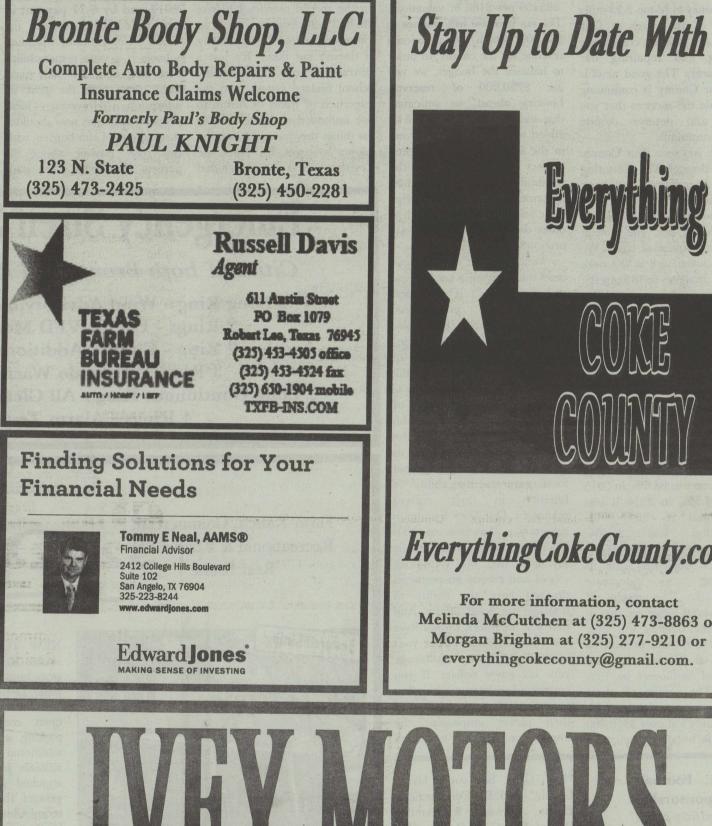
the West Texas Legislative Summit on August 1, 2017, in San Angelo.

Judge Blair reported on the 2

Grievance letters will be going out July 31st.

There being no private road The whole Court is going to work requests, no action was taken.

> Commissioner Williams moved to pay the bills. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Robertson. Motion carried.



EverythingCokeCounty.com

BBB

For more information, contact Melinda McCutchen at (325) 473-8863 or Morgan Brigham at (325) 277-9210 or everythingcokecounty@gmail.com.

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there is a **Drop Box at** SHIRLEY'S PLACE in Downtown Bronte

2015 Chevrolet Silverado 3500 Dually \$39,995 Let Ivey Motors help you #T725A Gray 2/Black Leather! Navigation & Bed Liner! Great Condition! with your service needs!! 2013 Ford Explorer XLT \$18,495 #6893A State Inspections * Oil Changes * Tires Silver w/Black Cloth! 79K Miles! Nice Family Ride! Vehicle Repair & Maintenance Special Financing Options Now Available! Ask for Chad! 2014 GMC Sierra 1500 SLE #T766A \$29,795 White w/Black Cloth! Crewcab! Navigation, Bed Liner, Bed Cover & Grille Guard! Only 41K Miles! Good Looking Truck! 453-4561 2012 Ford F-150 Lariat #6906A \$19,995 Ask For: Adobe w/Tan Leather! Navigation, Sunroof & Grille Guard! Great Shape! Cole Flanagan • Buddy Wallace • Kagan Maxcey

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· ... Letter (Continued from page 1)

Precinct 2 had over 50 inches of Due to rain. budget constrictions, the devastation to our precinct roads from these rains will take years to repair. My goal is to continue to repair our roads in the most efficient manner possible, and we are continuing to improve the equipment for the road hands increase safety and get more done with less labor. We did manage to utilize some state grant money to re-top 2.25 miles of one of the roads at Oak Creek Lake. We are continually patching and repairing our roads weekly. The good news is that your County is continuing to provide the services that you expect and deserve despite budget constraints.

Have you seen your County Park in Bronte? The Restoring Bronte Foundation has been instrumental in adding new playground equipment, exercise equipment, a disc golf course and a sand volleyball court. We drilled a water well in the park this year. It allows us to keep the swimming pool in great shape and water the trees at a minimal cost. The savings to the county from the water well are substantial - based on last year's water bills from the city, the well will pay itself off in one year or less.

In terms of revenue - twenty years ago, oil valuations accounted for approximately 90% of your county's total revenue. In 2014, oil's contribution was 63.6%, in 2015 it was 54.5%, in 2016 it was 41.5% and in 2017 oil's contribution was 35.9%. Reviewing these numbers shows that oil's depletion rate is continuing to decrease exponentially. The results of these financial issues are that in 2016, Coke County lost over \$400,000 of, revenue because of oil, and we lowered the total number of employees by 19% overall. The results of these financial issues are that in 2016, Coke County lost over \$400,000 of revenue because of oil, and

... Football **Sponsorships**

(Continued from page 1) Addona's Restaurant; Bronte Grocery; Concho Realty, Becky Clendennen, 325/650-9729; Bronte Body Shop, 123 N. State, Bronte 473-2425; Floyd C. Petitt Insurance, Robert Lee & San Angelo; Hal Spain, Coke Treasurer; Wayne County McCutchen, Coke County Sheriff; Coke County Cowboy Church

we lowered the total number of employees by 19% overall. It was a tough decision, but rightsizing staff and other cuts while still using \$240,000 of reserves allowed us to balance the budget without a tax increase.

This year's proposed budget is \$2.635 million, and we are losing \$260,000 in revenue. Therefore, we are proposing a 4% increase in the tax rate for the county. Last year's rate was .640837 per \$100 of valuations and this year's proposed rate is .685409 per \$100 of valuations. The tax increase will amount to \$86,000 worth of additional revenue for the county. In order to balance the budget, we will use \$250,000 of reserves. Looking ahead, we anticipate that additional valuations will be added to the tax role next year in the form of a new pipeline project and some of the windmills coming off their abatements. I am hopeful that these additions will be enough to offset the deficit budget we are proposing for 2017.

Well...now for the bad news (as if the notice of a tax increase was good): The Texas Legislature is in session. Currently SB1 and HB 4 labeled "property tax relief" are being considered. I beseech each of you to review the details of this legislation. I would be happy to forward you a series of documents dealing with this issue. But, in my opinion all this bill will do if passed in its current form is hamstring your local government's ability to function in their current manner(s). Our State Senator is currently a champion of SB1. Therefore, what he is actually saying is that our local city, school and county governments do not have the ability to manage our local affairs. And that you, as voters, do not have the common sense to fire your local officials if they mismanage your tax payer dollars. If you contact a legislator, ask him/her to oppose SB1 and or HB4 and then please emphasize the importance of passing legislation

"Let God be your Head Coach!" W.E.B. Construction, Edwin, Wyndell & Family; Robert Lee Care Center; Hal Spain, Coke County Treasurer; Wayne McCutchen, Coke County Sheriff; Pitcock Properties, Jerrod Pitcock 325/ 650-4079; Debbie Childers; Coke County Cowboy Church; Clawson Mechanical, Marty Boyd, Coke County Constable Blackwell Wayne McCutchen, Coke County Sheriff; Pitcock Properties, Jerrod Pitcock 325/ 650-4079; Armstrong, Backus & Co., LLP; Jerry's TOOL SHED, LLC; Glenn-Bivins Insurance Co., Marilyn, Lucretia, & Lanette; Shaffer Monument Company; Larry's Automotive Repair; Paul & Kay Gothard; First National Bank in Bronte, Member FDIC; Bronte Body Shop, 123 N. State, Bronte 473-2425; The Sanderson Family; Coke County Cowboy Church; Bronte Grocery Store; Marty Boyd, Coke County Constable

that prohibits the State of Texas from imposing a mandate on your local governments without total funding provisions.

Consider this from Ben Zeller, Victoria County Judge: "As a conservative Republican county judge in a growing county, I'm concerned by Sen. Paul Bettencourt's property tax plan, Senate Bill 1. Entitled the Texas Property Tax Reform and Relief Act of 2017, it failed to pass during the regular session, but is again under consideration in the special session. I believe the bill will never live up to its promising name. Unfortunately, it doesn't cut taxes. It's just a distraction from a problematic school finance system, and the eagerness of many in Austin to use unfunded mandates to pay for things they haven't found the money to cover. For years, the Legislature has quietly shifted

the burden of paying for schools onto local property taxpayers like you and me. However, there's nothing quiet or subtle about the big increase in property taxes coming our way. While this tax increase is hidden, lurking under Rider 3 of the Texas Education Agency budget, at least it's in plain English: Property values and the estimates of local tax collections on which they are based shall be increased by 7.04 percent for tax year 2017 and by 6.77 percent in tax year 2018.' Under the Texas Constitution, funding schools is a state responsibility. Not long ago, the state paid more than half the cost of education. However, local property taxpayers now shoulder the majority of this burden, with the state paying about 38 percent of the tab. As state

funding for schools has diminished over time, local property taxpayers have made up the difference, increasingly being treated like a credit card with no limit. Counties like ours collect taxes on behalf of local school districts, and as the messenger bringing the tax bill, we're often blamed when school taxes go up. SB 1 takes the blame game further, and we shouldn't fall for it." Ben Zeller Victoria County Judge

To my friends in Precinct 2, thanks for allowing me to serve you as your Commissioner, I am enclosing a business card with my contact information for your convenience. Please feel free to contact me. Find me on Facebook and Twitter.

Sincerely

Paul Williams - Commissioner, Precinct 2, Coke County Texas "God Bless Texas'

Emergency Siren Signals Cities of both Bronte and Robert Lee 1 Long Ring - Wind Advisory over 60 mph 2 Rings - Fire or VFD Meeting Another 2 Ring - Call for Additional Firefighters 3 Rings - Tornado Warning 1 Long Continuous Ring - All Clear for Tornado 4 Rings - Alarm Test Farm-Ranch, Commercial,

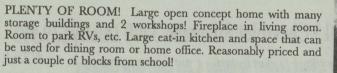
Recreational & Residential Real Estate



NEW TO MARKET! Over 2700 square feet in this large 4 bedroom 2 story home with 2 full baths and 1 half bath! Living room with space for the whole family and a large kitchen with open concept dining! Trailer/Boat parking, workshop, storage building, an additional lot with pens ready for animals, plus lots of yard space! 1 car attached garage and 2-car detached garage! Tons of storage and plenty of room! Close to the school or to the field for those Friday night lights!

Robert Lee

Daryl's Body Shop; Shaffer Monument Company; Robert Lee-Silver Lions Club; Ivey Motors; Glenn-Bivins Insurance, Marilyn, Lucretia, & Lanette; Robert Lee State Bank, Member FDIC; The Best Connection. For All Your Automotive Needs!: D.J.'s Merle Norman Studio, Debbie McCabe; Concho Realty, Becky Clendennen, 325/ 650-9729; Bill & Linda Burns; Floyd C. Petitt Insurance, Robert Lee & San Angelo; Robert Lee Baptist Church,





O

OPPORTUNITY

PERFECT HOME FOR WEEKEND GETAWAY IN THE COUNTRY AND NEAR LAKE! Landscaped and fenced yard comes complete with storage buildings, two covered RV sheds, chicken pen, greenhouse, outdoor shower and more! Well and rain water catch systems! Began life in 1978 as an open concept mobile home, but is now attached to beautiful den complete with wood burning stove! Both master and second bedroom have bathrooms! Enjoy the outdoors and area's wildlife from the wrap around covered porch!

Please call us if you are considering selling Melinda **McCutchen** your home, land or business! (325) 473-8863 PitcockProperties.com ashley @ pitcockproperties.com, melinda@pitcockproperties.com Jerrod Pitcock, Broker

Ashley Braswell (325) 650-0615 RATION MLS

